

Central Middle School Newsletter



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Muscatine Community School District

Mission: Ensuring excellence in Education for Every Student.

Critical District Assigned Tasks—Supported by the MCSD School Board:

1. Increase the literacy levels of all middle school students, as they enter MHS
2. To add rigor back into our system (50% Increase in College Readiness by 2016)
3. To reduce the number of Freshman F's by 50% by 2016.
4. To have a greater % of student's algebra ready by the time they enter MHS.

CMS Mission Statement: Believe, Achieve & Grow

- CMS believes in a culture of student success
- CMS students will achieve at high academic levels
- CMS will help students grow personally, emotionally, and socially.

Special points of interest:

-



Pictured above at BizTown City Hall left to right:

IRS Agent Gwen Kuhl, Mayor Madison Petersen and Town Treasurer, Micah Smith

CMS Friends & Families,

I want to take the time to express my appreciation to all of you for the support you've given our staff over the course of the school year. Whether it's volunteering, working with us on discipline issues, or working with teachers to help make sure your children excels, you are always there! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support and encouragement!

I do want to mention some important things for you to be aware of:

1. Grades/Report Cards will go out AFTER Winter Break, not before. We project that you will receive the report cards around January 8th.

2. Sixth grade parents - you will receive a letter in the near future that will explain that we will be implementing a no backpack rule in the 6th grade, starting in January. They may bring items to school in backpacks, but not carry them between classes. The letter describes in more detail the rationale for the decision. This is a pilot for us, so we will monitor it for a month to make sure that we have not put too much of a burden on our students. This rule is already in place at West and we want to see how functional it is for us at Central.

3. Clarifying Programs and Terms

a. LST (Lunch Success Time) - This is where students go for not completing work. Students are assigned to go to LST until they have turned in all their work and are passing their classes.

b. 8th Period MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) - This is offered to students (on a rotational schedule throughout the week) in the areas of math and reading/LA. Students struggling with key concepts will get extra support so that they may be successful in class.

c. Math and Reading Plus Classes - Offered during an exploratory period for students that have significant learning gaps in math and reading. Our goal is to remediate the gaps, while still having them in regular math and reading/LA classes.

d. Geometry and Algebra Exploratory Classes - We offer these for our advanced students in mathematics that want more challenge in preparing them for HS math. These classes do not replace other math and geometry classes, but enhance student understanding in these important areas. Students are selected by aptitude and interest.

e. Morning Silent Study Room - This is something that we are experimenting with that offers students a quiet time in the morning to prepare for the day. We just started it within the last week and will be running it on Thursdays and Fridays. If there is enough interest, we may expand the time.

f. Ricochet Program through the ISU Extension Service - Several of our students are participating in an ISU Program called Ricochet, which promotes student leadership.

g. At-Risk Program Outreach - We are using our building at-risk teachers to support LST (listed above), for academic support, and to intervene and help students, which are struggling with attendance. If you get a call from one of our teachers, please understand they are just trying to help!

h. PBIS (Positive Behavior Instructional Supports) - This is the backbone of our conduct expectations at CMS. It focuses on students being "Respectful, Responsible, & Ready". We focus on this terminology when we deal with students.

4. Be looking for our new "CMS Counselor's Webpage". Sheila Kinyon, our new CMS Counselor, has developed a new webpage that we will be linking to our current CMS Webpage. It will offer parents a lot of great information on how to help support your middle school student's needs.

We do many other things for our students from going to Biz Town for JA, to field trips to the Putnam and college campuses, to cultural fairs in our gymnasium! We even have a CMS Talent Show that offers many of our students a forum to display their unique and wonderful talents.

Our goal remains to offer your child an outstanding educational service that will motivate them to be successful at MHS and beyond. Again, thank you for your support in helping us assure your children will be successful at Central Middle School.

Mr. Hogenson, CMS Principal



7th grade students enjoying gears activity during the 7th grade field trip to the Putnam Museum in Davenport.

6TH GRADE NEWS

Box Tops

Remember that Central Middle School collects Box Tops. Please encourage your friends, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers to save Box Tops, too. Each Box Top is worth ten cents, and that small change adds up quickly. The Box Top proceeds from this year will be used to fund reading incentives. Please save those Box Tops and be ready to turn them in for the next Box Top Challenge in January.

Sixth Grade News

Muskie Money

The sixth grade teachers continue handing out Muskie Money to recognize and reinforce positive behaviors demonstrated by the sixth graders. Students save their Muskie Money and then on the first day of each month during homeroom, students are allowed to use their money to purchase a variety of incentives. Check with your child to see what he/she has already purchased with Muskie Money and/or what he/she is saving to purchase with Muskie Money. Rumor has it that many are trying to save fifty Muskie Money to be a principal during homeroom.

Sixth Grade ELA News

Ms. Coffman's, Mrs. Sturms', Mrs. Larson-Walgren's, Ms. Knepper's, and Mrs. Woerly's classes have been busy this year working on the Iowa Core standards for language arts. Students are graded on the development of skills and knowledge, what they know and can do, relative to the established standards. Students are provided multiple opportunities to meet the standards and demonstrate proficiency. A proficiency scale is used to reflect learning. Additional information on standards can be found at Iowacore.gov under the parents and community tab.

Students are currently finishing a unit entitled Impact of Choices. Students have been exploring how character choices impact their lives through the reading of Tuck Everlasting, a well-written and thought provoking novel. Time has been spent working on the following literature skills in this unit:

- using the text to make inferences
- citing evidence to support answers
- determining the theme
- providing a summary
- identifying essential episodes
- describing character changes
- determining the meaning of words and phrases in a text
- analyzing the impact of word choice on meaning and tone
- identifying the point of view of a character and how it is developed in the text
- comparing and contrasting the experience of reading a text to viewing a video

Students are in the process of writing an argument writing on a topic presented in the novel that could impact their lives. Students will be sharing their argument through an Animoto presentation. Classmates will be voting on the best presentation with the winning presentations moving forward to an Academy Awards Event. Students have been working on the following writing skills in this unit:

- introducing a claim
- supporting a claim with clear reasons
- using relevant evidence
- establishing a formal style
- providing a conclusion
- editing for conventions
- using multimedia components in a presentation

Independent Reading Reminders

- We hope your child is spending time reading each day outside of class. The development of strong reading skills will reap many future benefits. Nothing beats curling up in a comfortable chair with a great book on a cold blustery day.
- Please note: All students are required to read at least three books independently each quarter. There are deadlines for each book designated in power school. We appreciate your support at home in meeting these deadlines .
- Don't forget about the 24 Book Challenge. Any child who reaches the 24 Book challenge this year will be treated to a special outing at the end of the year.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's reading teacher for any reason.

Thanks from ELA Teachers!

Thank you to all the sixth grade parents and guardians for sending an edible treat for the ELA activity. A special thanks to those who sent extra treats. The students really enjoyed playing the Tuck Everlasting game. Since each student ended up with a treat to enjoy, it was a fun and educational way to end the first semester.

Sixth Grade Social Studies News

On Monday, November 17 and Tuesday, November 18 the social studies classes of Mrs. Burger, Mr. McCormick, and Mr. LeClere participated in JA BizTown, a unique experiential education program operated by Junior Achievement of the Heartland. This visit is the concluding activity for the Junior Achievement curriculum, which encompasses important elements of community and economy, work readiness, financial literacy, and business management.

While visiting JA BizTown, each student became a town citizen and assumed a job in one of the town businesses. Students experienced economics first-hand by producing and/or selling products, receiving a paycheck, working as a member of a business team, repaying a business loan, shopping, and managing a personal bank account.

Students ran the following businesses: radio station, delivery center, newspaper, variety store, bank, tech shop, environmental store, city hall, professional office, factory, sports shop, supply center, café, and print shop. The two elected mayors for the town were Lupita Carrillo on Monday and Madison Petersen on Tuesday.

We are proud to brag about our Tuesday "factory employ-

ees" who impressed the JA BizTown employees with their generous donation of the total of their business profit to the non-profit donation center. We are also proud to brag that it was noted that our Tuesday bank employees were among the top five in the 15 year history of BizTown.

Super job, 6th graders!

Thank you to all the staff that assisted with this activity and a special thanks to our parent volunteers:

Monday's parent volunteers:

Tuesday's parent volunteers: Alissa Birkhofer, Brian Birkhofer, Mark Galloway, John Kuhl, Steve Kundel, Nathan Petersen, Jennifer Petersen, Lisa Ramser, and Jim Stecher

Sixth Grade Math News

In Module 2, we are modeling division problems so that we can find patterns and relationships with multiplication.

Students will be writing story problems from the fractions that are solved. We continue to discuss the Habits of Mind that are used as we are working on any math concepts.

In Module 4, we are working on algebraic expressions. We have worked on order of operations with numerical expressions. We then discussed how to write algebraic expressions in a variety of ways, as well as creating our own story problems. The students will also make connections with how algebraic expressions can be used in everyday life. We continue to use our Habits of Mind in our discussions.

Sixth Grade Ag-citing News (Agriculture)

In the 6th grade ag classes, students have been learning about animals. They can tell you what kinds of animals are in ag, why we raise the livestock we do, and how to be safe around animals. They are currently putting what they have learned into powerpoints about a farm animal of their choice. Students are working on their good public speaking and leadership skills as they present these to the class. They are looking forward to a trip out to the Agricultural Learning Center to see a few of the animals we have discussed live and in person!

7th Grade News:

Seventh Grade Putnam Museum Field Trip:

On Friday, November 14, our 7th grade students traveled to the Putnam Museum in Davenport for a field trip to explore and experience a variety of science and social studies related concepts. Students had a full day of educational fun as they experienced the following stations.

Putnam's new Science Center where students experienced hands-on science by interacting with such items as simple machines, electricity and magnets, light and sound, a pull your own weight pulley system, a huge tug of war lever and a large magnetic wall to configure "hamster trail" tubes.

7th Grade Social Studies:

Our 7th graders are currently learning how pre-Columbian groups established cultural regions and civilizations in the Americas by using technology to modify their environment. This task is tied to the *Iowa Core Standard, H.6.3 Understand geography is used to interpret the past and the accompanying "I can" statement: I can describe how agriculture was the key development for the origin of permanent human settlements and civilizations.*

For their first Performance Task in Unit 2: Pre-Columbian Groups and Civilizations, students examined artifacts from several Native North American cultural regions and conducted short presentations of artifacts with student evaluations of the presenters.

Miss Burger's students completed an Agricultural Artifact Activity: A Corny Cook-off Competition. Corn is an important biofact which illustrates how pre-Columbian groups used agriculture as an environmental adaptation that allowed them to settle in one place ultimately giving rise to pre-Columbian civilizations.

When corn is transformed into a dish it becomes an important **cultural** artifact. Our students prepared, served and presented tasty corn dishes which demonstrated the versatility and importance of corn and the contribution of pre-Columbian peoples and our connection to them. Students practiced evaluation by acting as judges and scoring each other's dishes with specific evidence to support their scores. As a result, each of the four classes had one winning entry: Tammy Garrido - Corn Casserole, Carter Riley - Corn Casserole, Ruby Lopez - Corn Cheddar Muffins, Morgan Pelton - Almond bark popcorn. Each lucky winner received the world's first Corny Cook-off Certificate.

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We'll continue our study of pre-Columbian Americans with our next Performance Task which is a short narrative of an artifact that refers to a specific Maya job and its relative position on the social hierarchy pyramid. The narrative will answer the essential question: *How did the Maya social hierarchy pyramid affect daily life?*

Throughout our Unit 2 process, students will be compiling a portfolio for all their Performance Task work. The portfolio is Performance Task 5 and is the culminating task for our Engaging Scenario: As a member of the West Central Public Relations team, you have been appointed the task of creating a portfolio collection about artifacts of the pre-Columbian civilizations. As a member of the team for this project, you will be engaged in a variety of tasks that will help you to learn about pre-Columbian Americans and their artifacts and then participate in strategic planning for creating portfolios about the artifacts. The portfolios may provide products to be used as part of an online promotional campaign for the Museum in order to promote their mission and fundraising efforts.

Orchestra News

Rock

Orchestra has

been working hard before school. Below is our next set of rehearsal dates. Please be aware

that these may change as we approach the time of the year when there might be delays or snow days.

For latest updates, please sign up for text reminders by texting @cmsrock14 to the number 309-731-4153. Rock

Orchestra will also go on a Holiday Tour of are nursing homes. Please be watching for more info to come.

Thursday, December 4

Friday, December 12

Our next Orchestra Concert will be on Tuesday, December 16 at 6pm in the CMS Auditorium.

Orchestra

Middle School orchestra students had a blast at their annual Bowling Party this past November!

CMS Rock Orchestra students who signed up will be performing at Holiday Stroll on December 5th.

Look for us at Carver trust on the corner of Iowa Ave and 2nd! December 12th.

CMS Rock Orchestra students who signed up will be going on Holiday tour on They will be visiting area nursing homes and businesses sharing some holiday music. The CMS Orchestra will have their concert on Tuesday,

December 16th at 6pm in the CMS Auditorium. Students should arrive at 5:30pm with their instrument and

music. Students MUST wear black on bottom, and white on top. Talk to Ms.

Blanchard if you need assistance with this. Santa hats, and other festive decorations

are encouraged A big congratulations goes out to McKenzie Lofgren and Sadie Fillmore who were

chosen to participate in the Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra in Ames on November 21st. Way to go!

The following CMS orchestra students were selected to participate in the South Eastern Iowa String Teachers

Association Honors Orchestra in January in Bettendorf. Congratulations! Tory Thompson, Bria Holthe, James Solt, McKenzie Lofgren, Sadie Fillmore.

BAND INFORMATION

CMS Winter Concert 2014 Event

The CMS Band Program has just finished it's annual Winter Band Concert. The groups that performed included the CMS 6-8 grade jazz band, 7th grade concert band, and 8th grade concert band with smaller performances between each group. A special thanks goes out to the following for helping making this concert extra special:

The CMS aquarium committee led by CMS science teacher Justin Johnson for serving coffee, hot chocolate and delicious tea. Also, the CMS Bands raised approximately \$2500 during our annual Fall Fine Arts Committee led my CMS Art teacher Teresa Randleman for the wonderful CMS Fall Fundraiser.

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Of the thirty students who participated the top ten sellers include:

Allyssa Gaeta: 57 Items

Isaiah Leza: 38 Items

Brady McDaniel: 36 Items

Mateo Rangel: 30 Items

Josalynn Jones: 27 Items

Sydney Dawson: 22 Items

Johnny Connor: 21 Items

Shelby Little: 17 Items

Joaquin Bobay: 17 Items

Anna Sparks: 16 Items

A thank you also goes out to families that donated including: A final thank you goes to Kindra Hill, one of our hard working CMS office staff, for helping us tabulate these figures.

Four Seasons Fundraising (based out of Norwalk, IA) is our fundraising company. We will work with them again in the Spring when we sell chocolate items. Stay tuned...chocolate items. Stay tuned...

SEIBA Honorband Auditions

SEIBA (South East Iowa Bandmasters Association) Honorband auditions are held every year at Fairfield on January 10th. Selection into this honorband include memorizing scales and preparing two or more musical selections.

Students compete for the opportunity to play in a large band with other talented musicians from all over the district. CMS Students who are preparing audition material include: on alto sax, Seth Metcalf on percussion, Ethan Sherer on trombone, Ody Orr on trumpet, McKennah Killian on flute, Lizzy Richardson on clarinet, Joaquin Bobay on percussion, Griffen Jones on trumpet, Dillinger Thomas and Mateo Rangel on clarinet. Good luck to all of you.

Young Musician's Honor Band The fifth annual Young Musician's Honorband will be held at College Community in Cedar Rapids on February 21st. Students in this honorband are selected by nomination and are geared exclusively toward

1st and 2nd year players. This is the only opportunity of it's kind that provides a quality honorband experience to younger players. More on this event soon to come. Upcoming Band Concert Thursday, March 5th, is our upcoming band concert. We will share a performance spot with the junior varsity band led by Kelly Preslin. Groups that will perform include: CMS 6th Grade Band, 7th grade band, and 8th grade band with smaller performances between the groups.

8th Grade News

8th grade ELA Update:

The 8th graders at CMS are in the midst of their second unit in ELA classes. It is called, "You have a voice!" It is all about personal power and teaches them that in order for a person to be powerful, they must be able to communicate effectively with others.

So far in performance tasks #1 and #2, we have focused on several different oppressed groups of people and have given them a voice by making a magazine cover, and "Fakebook" page.

In performance tasks #3 and #4 - students will evaluate a teacher broadcast about oppressed peoples and then make a news broadcast themselves. The standards we are focusing on this unit are:

RI.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RI.8.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

RI.8.8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

W.8.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.



Library News

The Book Battle Begins!

Last year's battle, pictured above, was a lot of fun. Registration for this year's battle will close soon. Students sign up with a team of 4. There are 16 books on the list and each person reads at least 4 books. The first book is due by Jan 7th. Extra battle books are available at Musser Public Library. Several teacher teams have signed up to play again. The Page-Turning Teachers are hoping to overcome their loss to the students last year but the Book Warriors (8th graders Alondra, Nikole, Caitlyn, & Lizzy) promise to hold onto their lead. They better watch out! The Fire-y Mustaches 2.0 (7th graders Ximena, Sadie, Christina, and Izzy) are searching for revenge.

Ag-citing News For 7th & 8th Grade Ag Students

In the classroom 7th & 8th grade ag students have been learning about the 6 major crops in the U.S. (Corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, oats and rice). They have done some research together in small groups and are wrapping up on filming short "news" videos giving special reports on the crop information they found.

One of the highlights for the ag classes is getting to go the Ag Learning Center (ALC) to practice "hands on" the things we are learning about at some point in the classroom. Lately at the Ag, we've been working with cattle and the 7th & 8th graders have been busy leading the animals around in the arena, learning how to halter them and work safely around them.

To help get everyone in the "holiday spirit", we also have taken a trip to the Ag shop at the high school to learn about making wreaths. Students got to jump in by cutting up pine branches, organizing material and learning what quality control means as they were making wreaths.



Happy Holiday's to our Central Middle School Families!!!
May your holidays be filled with family, and friends.
Please be safe, happy, and joyful !!



Central Middle School

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Muscatine, IA 52761
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WE ARE ON THE WEB

<http://www.muscatine.k12.ia.us/sites/cms.ht>; <http://www.muscatine.k12.ia.us/sites/cms.htm>

The representatives for the 2014-2015 Student Leadership Group (SLG) have been chosen.

For 6th: Anna Sparks, alternates: Aricka Ramser, Olivia Harmon.

For 7th: Thomas, McKenzie Lofgren, Seth Hoffmann, James Solt, Brady McDaniel, Carder Ames, Sadie Fillmore, Chloe Finn, Ryan Hoeper, Tamara Garrido, Callee Taylor.

The 8th: Vada Fridley, Kayla Scholz, Julia Moravec, Haley

Jarrett, Mateo Rangel, Tess Rauenbuehler, Carissa Johnson, Callie Kellett, Macey Rogers, Alys Burns, Elizabeth Richardson, Kaylei Fear, Bria Holthe and Erin Bramble.

The advisors for the SLG group are: Cara Shepherd, Lisa Fick, Lindsay Moeller, Lisa Paul, Teresa Randleman, Ashley Wiebe, and Denise Ness.

The SLG group had officer elections at their last meeting. The new president is Bria Holthe, Vice President - Julia Moravec, Secretary - Vada Fridley, 7th grade rep. - McKenzie Lofgren, and 6th grade rep. - Sofia Calderon.

Some of the things the SLG is considering doing for the 2014-2015 school year are:

- Dress Up Days
- Penny Wars
- Food Drive
- Week of Kindness
- Day of Caring