

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- May 2012

Superintendent Comments

It's hard to believe that we are wrapping up another school year. It seems like we were welcoming in a new year a few weeks ago. As we approach the end of this year there are some important dates that I would like to mention.

Eighth Grade Graduation is scheduled for May 24. High School Graduation is scheduled for May 25. Both events will take place in the high school gymnasium and begin at 7:30 on the respective dates. Please stop by and celebrate this great accomplishment for our graduates.

We can't talk about closing the current school year without mentioning the upcoming school year. Registration will be held on August 7, 2012 in all buildings from 12:00-7:00. The teachers institute will be held on August 15, with the first day of student attendance being August 16, 2012.

2012-2013 Student Lunch Prices

According to Child Nutrition Reauthorization of 2010, implementation memorandum SP 39-2011, that was adopted in

the fall of 2011, schools must charge at least the reimbursement rate paid by the federal government for free and reduced meals for student lunches. If a district chooses not to do so, or chooses not to be in the process of reaching this rate, they forfeit their rights to the reimbursement for free and reduced lunches from the federal government. This current reimbursement rate at the federal level is \$2.46. Rather than requiring a significant increase at one time, the federal government has allowed Districts to phase in the increase. Our recommendation is to establish the lunch prices as follows in order to meet the requirements that have been described.

2011-2012 (Current)
 GS \$1.75
 MS & HS \$2.00

2012-2013
 GS \$2.00
 MS & HS \$2.25

2013-2014
 GS \$2.00
 MS & HS \$2.25

2014-2015
 GS \$2.25
 MS & HS \$2.50

2015-2016

GS \$2.25
 MS & HS \$2.50

2016-2017
 GS \$2.50
 MS & HS \$2.75

2017-2018
 GS \$2.50
 MS & HS \$2.75

This recommendation is tentative, based on current reimbursement rates. The schedule could change if the federal rate of reimbursement increases over the same period of time.

The Board of Education is expected to act on this recommendation at its May Board meeting.

Unit Office Joins Twitter

I encourage you to follow the District on Twitter as we attempt to keep you updated on the happenings in the District. We will pass along schedule changes, important dates, announcements etc.



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Maroa Forsyth CUSD #2



Common Core State Standards: Mathematical Practices

As the district transitions to the New Common Core State Standards parents may observe changes in academic expectations.

Over the next few months the district will share information regarding implementation and the changes required to be successful as the State employs new assessments of Standards beginning during 2014-2015 school year.

The New Common Core State Standards for Mathematics include two types of standards: one relates to content and the other to practice. This article presents the basis for the Standards of Mathematical Practice. As Standards occur in the classroom they will blend across practice and content. It was key to the development of the standards that Practices be identified separately to raise their importance in the development of students' ability to do mathematics.

The Standards for Mathematical Practice are often referred to as "habits of mind employed by proficient users of mathematics." Students delve deep into understanding mathematics in order to transition from concrete to abstract applications where the process to achieving the answer is important. This causes new

thinking regarding classroom practices and the kind of student

activity a parent might expect to see their child practicing at home. The emphasis is on problem solving, multiple valid solutions, communication of thought processes, mental models, and persistence.

"The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe varieties of expertise that mathematics educators at all levels should seek to develop in their students. These practices rest on important "processes and proficiencies" with longstanding importance in mathematics education." (CCSS, 2010)

These Standards are the next step in developing students' mathematical understanding that place an emphasis on student demonstrations of learning.

The eight Standards for Mathematical Practice that students are expected to do are:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

These Standards may be grouped into four groups:

one and six are likely to be experienced daily in classrooms and visible as students work on rigorous tasks. The remaining three groups will correspond with appropriate content standards: two and three reasoning and explaining; four and five modeling and using tools; seven and eight seeing structure and generalizing.

The Practices are considered K-12th grade, there is an expectation for application to be relevant to students' maturity and content. As your child advances through the school the sophistication of grade level experiences and expectations will increase.

The use of Mathematical Practices should help all students be comfortable with manipulating mathematics to gain a deeper understanding of content as they progress through school. Parents may hear their child discuss how they solved a problem, seek multiple ways to solve a problem, understand other approaches or ask, "Does this make sense?" This is all in an effort to expand the "habits of mind" to improve the students grasp of mathematics and solve real world problems.

Presently the district uses Measurements of Academic Progress (MAP) for universal screening, it is correlated to the New Common Core Standards. This allows the district to monitor alignment during implementation and make the necessary adjustments.



Maroa Forsyth High School



Principal's Message

Though all the months of the school year are busy, May always seems to be the busiest and go by the quickest. We wrapped up our ACT/PSAE testing at the end of April and have been very busy meeting with students about their academic progress.

Junior & senior students have also been busy taking Advanced Placement exams. For those of you that are not familiar with Advanced Placement classes, they are also known as AP classes. AP classes are junior/senior level courses that are instructed at a much higher rate of rigor than regular high school courses. Course content and standards are strictly regulated by The College Board and a strong performance on the AP exams can potentially allow students to opt out of entry level college courses. To find out more about Advanced Placement courses, you can contact Mr. Holthaus at holthaut@mfschools.org or me at adreons@mfschools.org

Mr. Holthaus and I have also been meeting with students to workout any scheduling conflicts they may have for the 2012-2013 school year. While we try to offer a diverse and comprehensive list of course offerings, the number of students requesting a certain class is what determines if we offer the class, or how many sections of the class we need to offer. If you have any questions regarding your child's schedule

or how the scheduling process works, please contact Mr. Holthaus or me.



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School Improvement

The high school faculty has been working diligently on developing a daily schedule that will allow us to deliver differentiated instruction to different levels of learners. The initiative is titled "Focused Learning" and will allow our faculty to teach mini-units of instruction on interesting topics. The instruction will be narrow in focus, but deep in concept/practice and be tied to the common core state standards. Students will be in one of three groups: Research, Enrichment, or Recovery. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

National Honor Society Members Announced

Congratulations to the newly inducted members of the National Honor Society!

Drew Aschermann, Bryce Gilbert, Kelsie Becton, Matthew Leighton, Taylor Butler, Heather Lopez, Curtis Clawson, Kady Mahaffey, Katie Clawson, Inas Mahmoud, Riley Claypool, Emma Morrison, Daniel Coombs Niti Patel, Chris Cummings, Jesse Quandt, Shae Doolin, Sheetal Sethupathi, Jacob Ejankowski, Aaron Smith, Emily Floyd, Christian Telle, Aaron Ford, & Gabby Werren.

NHS members are required to maintain a 4.5 gpa, perform 25 hours of community service and write a two page paper on how they demonstrate the values of an NHS member.

Other News

I also encourage you to follow me on Twitter as I attempt to keep you updated on the happenings in the high school. I've recently tweeted podcast, pictures of student work, important dates/events, etc.



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Important Dates

- May 16 Baccalaureate 7:00pm Maroa United Methodist Church
- May 17 & 18 Senior Finals
- May 19-21 Senior Trip
- May 21 & 22 Finals
- May 22 FFA Banquet
- May 23 Academic Awards Night
- May 25 7:30 Graduation

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Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

Congratulations to the Scholastic Bowl team on their conference and regional championship. I would also like to congratulate the 6th grade choir, and the 7th and 8th grade choir on the 1st place at Organizational Contest. The 6th grade band and 7th and 8th grade band also did an excellent job at Organizational Contest, both earning a 2nd place.

As we wind the year down we have multiple events going on over the last few weeks. Our next dance will be held on May 11th from 3:00-5:00. The Spring Choir Concert/Talent Show will be on May 8th at 7:00 in the High School Cafetorium. The Middle School Awards assembly will be on May 17th at 2:00 and parents are invited to attend. Finally, 8th grade graduation will be held on May 24th at 7:30 in the high school gym. Graduation practice will be held on May 22nd from 9:30-10:30. All 8th grade students may leave school after practice is over but they must arrange their own ride home.

To help improve communication between school and home, we have started a Maroa Forsyth Middle School Facebook page. You can access the Facebook page through our website or you can search Maroa Forsyth MS on Facebook. Once you find our page, simply "Like" it to receive middle school news on your Facebook news feed. If you like Twitter better, follow us @MaroaForsythMS.

Looking towards next year, don't forget registration will be on August 7th from 12:00-7:00.

The first day of school will be on August 16th. All incoming 6th graders need to make sure they have a 6th grade physical, Tdap immunization, and a dental exam.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at stewartb@mfschools.org or call me at 794-5115

PBIS News

Recently all students who did not receive a referral during the month of March got to participate in a Dodge Ball competition as a reward. 260 out of our 275 students were eligible to participate. This month all students who did not get a referral for missing homework will get a chance to participate in the monthly reward.

To celebrate a great year, the PBIS team has planned two different activities for the last day of school. The 8th graders will participate in the 8th grade breakfast with all the food prepared by the 8th grade teachers. The 6th and 7th grade will be taking a trip to Clinton in the morning to watch a movie at the Clintonian Theater.

We have had another great year at the middle school and a big reason for that is our PBIS team. I would like to give a big thanks to our team members for all their hard work and especially to Mrs. Johnson, our team leader, for everything she does.

Athletic News

The track season will quickly be coming to an end. The sectionals will be on Saturday, May 12th and the State meet will

be on Friday, May 18th and Saturday, May 19th in East Peoria. The season ending track awards will be handed out during morning announcements on Monday, May 21st.

Any students wanting to participate in athletics next year needs to make sure they have a current physical on file in the office. Physicals are valid for one year. DMH will be providing physicals to Maroa Forsyth students on June 21st, at the High School starting at 1:00. To set up an appointment, email Dianna Richardson at richardd@mfschools.org

The first day for baseball and softball tryouts next year is July 30th. Spirit Squad tryouts will be held shortly after school starts. Any incoming 7th and 8th grade students are eligible to tryout. If we do not have enough 7th and 8th graders to fill the team, 6th graders will be allowed to tryout. The students will be receiving more information about tryouts before school is out. Please pay attention to our website during the month of July for updates about tryouts.

Important Dates

May

3rd-Band Concert @ MS

5th-8th Grade trip

8th-Choir Concert/Talent Show @ HS

11th-Spring Dance 3:00-5:00

17th-MS Awards-2:00 (Parents are welcome to attend)

22nd-Last day of school

24th-8th Grade Graduation 7:30 Report Card Day

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Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

I can't believe we are preparing for the end of the school year already! We have a lot of events still coming up to be excited for at MFGS. The fourth grade musical is May 17th at 7:00. The Community Club is providing inflatable obstacles courses and slides again for students on May 21st. Each grade will have an hour to play on these. The students really appreciate the generosity of the Community Club to fund this day. Students in grades kindergarten through second will have their field day in the afternoon on the 21st as well. Third, fourth, and fifth grade will have their field day on May 22nd. There is no school on May 23rd for our Teacher Institute. On Thursday, May 24th, students may come in to pick up their report cards between 8:15 and 8:45. Please remember that buses don't run on report card day.

While students are enjoying their summer it is important that they retain what they have learned. If students read daily it will greatly help them retain their skills. The libraries in both Maroa and Forsyth have summer reading programs for students.

Registration for next year will take place on August 7th, from 12:00-7:00 at the grade school. Class lists will

be posted on the front doors of the grade school at 10:00 a.m. on August 13th. School begins on August 16th with a full day.

PBIS News

PBIS has been an integral piece of our school improvements for 2011-2012 and it will continue to be important next year. First, to celebrate some of the accomplishments of PBIS for this year-we received Start-Up Recognition for our PBIS efforts, we reached many of our monthly goals this year, and we were able to reward many students with Trojan Treasures and Class Treasures this year.

Next year we want to make our PBIS efforts more visible in the school. We are going to be making more signs for expectations for each common area of the building. We are working on getting a way for students to know an expected volume level for each area of the building. Finally, we are going to be setting up more ways for students to accumulate and use our Trojan Treasures so everyone gets to earn more than a chance to put their names on the RESPECT board.

As we make our improvements for next year we will also be starting to get parent input for PBIS. Look for ways to get involved with our PBIS program early next fall.

Congratulations!

As we come to the end of our school year it is important to recognize a couple teachers who are retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Mary Olmstead and Mrs. Cindy Hanes are both getting ready to enjoy their retirement after this year. Mrs. Olmstead teaches second grade, and Mrs. Hanes teaches kindergarten. Both of these teachers have been dedicated to the students of Maroa-Forsyth for many years. The students, faculty, and parents will all miss both of these teachers very much.

We would also like to welcome Miss Jessica Dickerson as a kindergarten teacher. Miss Dickerson has been a part of our building for two years as a student teacher and long-term sub in two different positions.

Important Dates

May 16-Kindergarten field trip
 May 17-4th grade concert
 May 21-Inflatable day at school
 May 21-K-2 field day
 May 22-3-5 field day
 May 23-Teacher Institute
 May 24-Report Card Day
 8:15-8:45

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