

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- March 2013

New ISAT Cut Scores

In late January, Dr. Chris Koch, Illinois Superintendent of Schools, announced an increase in “cut” scores used for the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), which is administered each spring to students in grade 3-8. These cut scores are used to determine a range of scores necessary to assign a student an overall level of “exceeds standards,” “meets standards,” “below standards,” or “academic warning” in the areas of reading and math.

The chart below shows the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the standards and how this year’s performance would look if the new cut scores were implemented this past spring.

	Current Reading Cut Scores	New Reading Cut Scores
3 rd Grade	87	78
4 th Grade	88	76
5 th Grade	90	78
6 th Grade	98	84
7 th Grade	85	76
8 th Grade	91	82
	Current Math Cut Scores	New Math Cut Scores
3 rd Grade	98	68
4 th Grade	97	89
5 th Grade	93	84
6 th Grade	95	80
7 th Grade	96	81
8 th Grade	93	78

The impact of these changes will be dramatic. Maroa Forsyth CUSD #2 will see an increase in the number of students not meeting the standards in 3rd grade math from 2% to 32%. Similar decreases in performance have been identified in all curricular areas that are evaluated by the ISAT testing.

The only piece of information that provides some comfort in these changes is that all Schools and Districts across the State of Illinois are subject to the changes, and typically, the Maroa Forsyth School District performs extremely well when compared to other Districts. So as we move forward with increasing standards and revamped testing procedures, please understand that the Maroa Forsyth School District is doing everything it can to maintain its quality performance on standardized testing as it relates to the performance both with the standards themselves and the comparison to other District’s in the area and across the State.

For more information on the changes to the standardized testing & reporting, please visit:

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/htmls/sat-cut-scores13.htm>

Calendar Waiver

The Maroa Forsyth School District will be holding a public hearing on a Holiday

Attendance Waiver at its March 11th Board meeting. The Holidays in question are:

- The second Monday in October (Columbus Day)
- November 11 (Veterans Day)
- The third Monday in January (The Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)
- February 12 (The Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln)
- The first Monday in March (known as the birthday of Casimir Pulaski).

The purpose of this waiver would be to provide the school district the option of holding school, scheduling teacher institutes, conducting parent teacher conferences, or conducting staff development activities on these dates in future years.

For each holiday that is waived, the person or persons honored by the holiday will be recognized through instructional activities conducted on that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance, on the first school day preceding or following that day.

Typically the District has attended school and honored the person(s) on Veterans Day, Lincoln’s Birthday and Casimir Pulaski Day. There are currently no plans to change from the structure that has been in place for the past several years.

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Maroa Forsyth High School



Principal's Message

As the winter season ends so begins the spring season. There will be no rest for many of our students as they jump from their winter activity season to our spring season. Though these times can be both exciting and hectic, I remind students to put their families and school work first. This is a common time of year for students to lose focus of their academic goals and begin to let their minds wander and priorities shift. Not too mention, "senioritis" begins to spread....even to the freshmen!!

While a few of our students may need redirected from time to time, the overwhelming majority have been fulfilling their academic responsibilities. Our Research Group just competed in the Bradley University Bridge Contest and had an invaluable experience. Though we didn't win, teams came away with a better understanding and a unique experience.

After spring break our Research teams will begin designing and constructing cardboard boats that will be tested as they transport faculty across the pond.

In addition to student activities and projects, the high school has been busy with faculty meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and handbook meetings. Despite the woeful weather, parent attendance at PT conferences

was good. The best way to keep tabs on your child is to be involved at school as we welcome any and all support.

Our handbook committee is comprised of parents and faculty members. Though several items were discussed, our grading scale was the biggest topic of discussion. If you would like input on this topic, feel free to contact me or one of the parent committee representatives, Katrina Hubbard or Wissam Hasnain.

School Improvement

ACT/PSAE sessions begin for our juniors during focused learning time on March 5th. Sessions are 28 minutes long and will run for five weeks.

Athletics & Activities

Maroa Forsyth FFA has a lot to be proud of its members over the last month. We have had Alex Ruwe excel and place 2nd overall in State Job interview contest, place 1st in Star Greenhand – Business, and win section record-book contest for Specialty Animal Production! We also have Ryan Scott who applied for and was recommended for his STATE FFA Degree. Ryan won his Record-book Area – Home and Community Development at the section level. Samantha Dale also received recommendation for her STATE FFA Degree and won her Record-book area in Diversified Horticulture for both

Floral design and Greenhouse management.



Other News

2013 MFHS State Scholars

A big round of applause to our Illinois State Scholars:

- Drew Aschermann
- Alex Blair
- Curtis Clawson
- Katelyn Clawson
- Christopher Cummings
- Matthew Leighton
- Niti Patel
- Jesse Quandt
- Sheetal Sethupathi
- Aaron Smith

Congratulations to our "People of the Month" for January!: Student of the Month, Jared Anderson (Fr.)- Male Athlete of the Month, Brock Elliott (Jr.) Female Athlete of the Month, Kaitlyn Snyder (Sr.), and Teacher/Volunteer of the Month, Kim Frederickson.

KEVINKROWS.com
SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY



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Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

The Middle School has had a number of exciting things happen over the past couple of months. Here is a list of a few accomplishments we are very proud of:

- Yasir Hasnain won the County Spelling Bee and Neha Verma placed 3rd. Both will compete in the Regional Bee on March 16th.
- MFMS was given the Academic Excellence Award for the 3rd straight year by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- The Math Counts team won their regional competition for the second straight year and will compete at the state competition on March 9th.
- 75% of the student body made High Honor Roll or Honor Roll for 2nd quarter.
- The 7th Grade Volleyball team won their conference tournament and regional tournament.
- The Scholastic Bowl team has gotten off to a great start.

Please remember ISAT testing will be held March 4th-March 11th. It is very important your student is at school on these days, but if they are sick, they will get a chance to make up their test.

Finally, I would like to encourage all middle school parents to take a few minutes to fill out the 5 Essentials Survey. This survey is being provided to parents across the state by the Illinois State Board of Education. You can use the following link to take the survey

<https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/login/>

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

PBIS News

The middle school students have been doing an outstanding job of meeting their PBIS expectations. It appears the students will be under 30 discipline referrals for 3rd quarter and they will achieve their quarterly goal for the 3rd time. Our 4th quarter goal will be 25 or less referrals.

All students who did not get a homework or discipline referral in the month of February got to participate in a class competition featuring "Minute to Win It" games on February 28th as a reward. Students will continue to be recognized for not getting referrals throughout the rest of the school year.

The 3rd quarter celebration will be held on March 22nd. We will hold the annual staff vs. students' volleyball and basketball games. Our quarter goal is 30 referrals or less.

Athletic News

Both the 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams have had great seasons. The 7th graders won their regional and will play in the sectional on March 4th in Pana. The 8th grade will play their regional at Heyworth starting on March 5th.

The track season will be starting on March 4th. Track practice will be held every day after school unless there is a meet or the coaches cancel.

Practice is usually done around 4:30. Remember, anyone wanting to participate in track must have a current physical on file in the middle school office. We will be hosting 5 track meets during the month of April and will be looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer contact Coach Peters or Coach Livingood. To view the track schedule you can go to <http://www.mfschools.org/middle/info/track.pdf>

Important Dates

March

- 4th-11th-ISAT testing at the middle school
- 4th-7th Grade Volleyball Sectional @ Pana
- 4th-MS track practice begins
- 5th-8th Grade Volleyball Regional @ Heyworth
- 8th-End of 3rd Quarter
- 15th-Report cards sent home
- 23rd-Band/Choir Solo and Ensemble Contest
- 25th-April 1st-Spring Break

April

- 6th-Scholastic Bowl Conference Match @ Sullivan
- 19th-4th quarter midterm
- 24th-Scholastic Bowl regional
- 27th-Band/Choir Organization Contest

May

- 4th-8th Grade trip
- 7th-Choir Concert/Talent Show @ HS
- 10th-Spring Dance 3:00-5:00
- 16th-MS Awards-2:00 (Parents are welcome to attend)
- 21st-Band Concert @ MS
- 23rd-8th Grade Promotion 7:30 @ HS

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Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

We are finally getting some winter weather and it is almost spring. We are outside as much as possible for recess, and we want students to make sure they are dressed accordingly. As spring finally gets here and we are outside for recess make sure that your students have a jacket or coat so they are comfortable enough to enjoy their recess time.

Students in grades 3-5 are beginning the ISAT exams on Monday, March 4th. These exams are very important to track the progress we are making at meeting the Illinois State Standards as well as the Common Core State Standards. Please make sure your students get plenty of sleep and a good breakfast before coming to school. If your student is brought to school late and his/her class is testing they will wait in the office until his/her class has a break in testing to join their class.

As we get into spring we have a lot of concerts, class plays, field day, and other activities. Students really enjoy having family at these events. If you are available to come have lunch with your student they also enjoy that. We ask that if you are coming to have lunch that you bring lunch for only your child.

PBIS News

PBIS is going great. We are having students turn in Trojan Treasures several times per week. Many students have already turned in over 100 Trojan Treasures this year. We celebrated our Monthly success last week with Hot Chocolate for the classes with the most Class Trojan Treasures.

For March we are working on having the best possible behavior before and after school in the cafeteria, gym, and on the way to and from the buses. Students will get Trojan Treasures for showing proper behavior in these and other locations.

From the Nurse

Mrs. Sally Letterly, our school nurse, would like to remind parents of the medical requirements. Letters were sent out to parents who needed to get their children dental or vision exams. These exams are required by the state and must be completed.

There are several habits to assist students in staying healthy. Students should frequently wash their hands to help prevent the spread of illnesses. A good rule to follow is for them to wash their hands for the entire time they sing Happy Birthday.

Birthday Treats

The faculty and staff are happy for students to celebrate their birthday at school. We want to remind parents of the guidelines for treats at school. Treats should be pre-arranged with the teacher and dropped off at school before 9:00 in the morning. Please make sure the treats are pre-packaged and ready to serve. We also want to make sure that students are not bringing balloons or decorations. Balloons and flowers can't be taken on the bus.

We do not allow invitations to be passed out at school. Names and addresses can be found in the school directory provided by the Community Club each fall.

Important Dates

March 8-End of 3rd Quarter
March 13-11:40 Dismissal
March 15-Report Cards sent home
March 21-K-1 Concert
March 25-April 1-Spring Break
April 3-Kindergarten Readiness Program Informational Meeting (6:00)
April 19-4th Quarter mid-terms sent home

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