

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- September 2013

Superintendent Comments

The new school year is off and running. Initial enrollment numbers show the District has grown slightly. This pattern of slow-but-steady growth is something the District has experienced nineteen of the last twenty-one years.

We would like to welcome the new students and families to the Maroa Forsyth School District.

Maroa Forsyth Welcomes Five New Faculty Members

The Maroa Forsyth School District is proud to introduce our new faculty for the 2013-2014 School year. All of the individuals hired come to the District highly recommended and we are looking forward to having them become a valuable part of the Maroa Forsyth Community.

Heidi Adreon- Heidi will be the new Middle School Language Arts Teacher. Heidi comes to the District highly recommended from the Mahomet Seymour School District and we look forward to having her on staff.

Megan Callahan- Megan will be the new part-time grade school computer teacher. If Megan's name sounds familiar is because she has served the District as a Middle School Volleyball coach. Her coaching tenure includes a second place finish in the 2013 7th grade state tournament.

Rachelle Harbert- Rachelle will be teaching MS Math and will be assisting with HS Girls Track and MS Volleyball. She is originally from the Pana area and was a standout track athlete while attending ISU.

Maggie Perion- Maggie will be the new HS Spanish teacher. Maggie is a recent U of I graduate that has spent time studying Spanish abroad.

Josh Youngs- Josh is the new Band director for the District. Josh has been employed in Herscher as the assistant band director.

School Improvement Days

The Maroa Forsyth School District has changed the way we will implement school improvement activities for the 2013-2014 school year. In previous years, the District has had an early dismissal

once a quarter in which the staff implemented the school improvement initiatives. In order to provide the staff with more time for such activities and to minimize the interruptions to the "typical" student attendance day, the District has elected to go with two, full-day School Improvement days rather than the four half-day School Improvement days.

Therefore, on October 21, 2013 and March 17, 2014, students will not be in attendance. On these days the staff will be completing professional development and school improvement activities. A complete school calendar can be found at:

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/CA L20132014.pdf>

Athletic Passes

The Maroa Forsyth School District is offering an annual pass which will allow for admission to all district extracurricular activities (except tournaments). The cost for adults is \$50 and the cost for a student pass is \$35. A family pass can be purchased for \$150. Annual passes are good for all High School and Middle School regular season events.

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth High School



Principal's Message

Welcome back! We have hit the ground running by starting the school year with a full day rather than a half of day and I believe it really helped us get settled in quickly this year. Teachers are actively teaching and students are actively learning. We have a strong senior class this year and the freshmen seem very enthusiastic. This should make for another outstanding year and I look forward to working with you to help your child meet their academic goals.

Right now we have 311 students at MFHS, 182 of which are freshmen and sophomores. With big 7th and 8th grade classes, I expect our enrollment to rise to well over 375 in the next two years, which will certainly require some adjustments.

School Improvement

Focused Learning. Mrs. Cluver, Ms. Luedke and I spent some time this summer working out a different format for our Focused Learning. We have changed the units of study for our Enrichment groups from week-long units to quaterly units. We believe this will allow our teachers to go into

more depth and better reach the learning standards. It will also be less chaotic for our students and teachers. In addition, students will have some degree of choice in which units they will participate in, which should increase their enthusiasm and participation. The first session for Focused Learning starts September 9th.

Common Core State Standard Alignment: Our faculty, particularly Math and English departments, continue to work hard on aligning our curriculum with the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As previously discussed, this constitutes a big shift in what are teachers teach and how they teach it. The Science started are due to be approved this fall and we will begin preparing for those as well.



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SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Athletics & Activities

The fall athletic season is well underway with our

golfers already winning a couple of matches. Football and volleyball appear as though they will both field teams that will be very difficult to beat and cross-country looks to benefit from all the long runs they put in this summer.

Special thanks to our FFA chapter for helping spread the mulch you see in front of each one of the district's buildings. Mrs. Crouch and her crew always do a great job and are willing helpers.

Another special thanks goes out to Coach Jostes and ten of his football players for helping the custodians this summer by scraping the floors in the main entry. They too are always willing to help out.

Important Dates

- 8/23 Picture Day & Football Scrimmage
- 8/30 FB vs. Shelbyville
- 9/3 VB vs Heyworth
- 9/9 Focused Learning Begins



TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

The school year has gotten off to a successful start at the Middle School. The students have already survived their "TIKI Training" day and picture day. To help you keep up on Middle School news and events, please pay attention to the middle school website at www.mfschools.org/middle. Another way to receive middle school news is by following Maroa Forsyth MS on Twitter and Facebook.

I would like to make all parents aware of our Homework Club. Every Tuesday and Thursday students can stay after school until 3:30 to work on homework and receive help from teachers. Also, students who do not complete their homework will be assigned a homework club referral until their work is complete. Students who stay for homework club will need to arrange a ride home.

Over the summer we had a number of changes to the middle school staff. We would like to welcome Heidi Adreon (6th/7th English), Rachelle Harbert (7th/8th Math), Jimmy Peck (6th/7th Social Studies), and Josh Youngs (Band) to our teaching staff.

Don't forget to mark on your calendars that Parent/Teacher conferences will be on October 9th and 10th. We are looking forward to a great year. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at brice.stewart@mfschools.net or call me at 794-5115

PBIS News

On the second day of school, the middle school students participated in "TIKI Training". TIKI stands for Teach It, Know it and the students went from station to station learning the rules and expectations for the middle school. To end the day the students got to participate in a game show reviewing the rules and expectations. We also reviewed the dress code by having the teachers model what not to wear.

This year the students will once again receive Star Bucks for following the middle school code of honor and displaying Respect, Responsibility, and Effort. The students should keep their Star Bucks to use on many different items throughout the school year including, candy, early pass to lunch, iTunes cards, and many others. If a student continuously shows Respect, Responsibility, and Effort, they may receive a Star Student Award that will be displayed on a bulletin board.

Each quarter we conduct a celebration in honor of our students following the Code of Honor. For the 1st quarter, if the student body receives 35 or less referrals, all students get to participate. If the student body gets more than 35 referrals, students who did not follow the Code of Honor will be withheld.

To find out more information about PBIS please visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/pbismfms/>

Athletic News

The softball and baseball seasons are well underway and will soon be coming to an end. The softball team will play in their regional on September 11th and the baseball team will begin regional play September 18th.

Spirit Squad practice has been going on since July and Girls' Basketball practice will start on September 5th. The basketball team will open their season by hosting the GAB Round Robin Tournament the week of September 24th. The Spirit Squad will perform for the first time on October 3rd.

The boys' basketball team will begin their season the week of October 21st. Tryouts will be held on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. The boys' first game will be on November 7th at Heyworth.

Important Dates

September

2nd-No School-Labor Day
5th-Girls' Basketball Tryouts
20th-Midterm

October

4th-Homecoming-2:03
Dismissal
9th-P/T conferences-2:03
Dismissal
10th- P/T conferences-2:03
Dismissal
11th-2:03 Dismissal
14th-No School-Columbus Day
18th-End of 1st Quarter
21st-No School (School Improvement Day)
22nd-HS/MS Choir Concert
25th-Report Cards sent home

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

We are through the first few days of school and everything is going great. The students have learned the routines and the expectations for all of the areas of school. Even lunch and dismissal are going very smoothly. Congratulations to all of our students and teachers for working so hard to make the start of the school year go so well.

At MFGS we will be conducting the Curriculum-Based Measures (CBM) on all students in the next couple weeks. This is a one-minute reading fluency screening for second through fifth grade. Students in kindergarten and first grade will take a few one-minute screeners on pre-reading skills. These assessments really help us target students' individual needs. Shortly after Labor Day students will also be taking the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in reading, math, and language usage. These tests are computer based and adapt to each student.

During Parent-Teacher Conferences in October you will receive the report on the 2012-2013 ISAT scores. This year the cut scores were drastically changed. It is now much more difficult to receive a Meets or Exceeds. We will know more about our scores and how they compare to area schools as they are released to local media.

PBIS News

PBIS Basic Training was done in the afternoon of August 20th for Third through Fifth grade. Students in kindergarten through second grade are going over our expectations for each of our "Hot Spots". As the school year progresses we will review these Hot Spots as needed. The Basic Training ended with an assembly.

Each month we establish goals for areas to concentrate. For September, we will focus on reducing the number of Bus Referrals for last year. We will track the number of bus referrals on a bulletin board for students to see. Each month students will be made aware of the goal and the incentive for meeting this goal.

Students can also earn Trojan Treasures. These rewards are given to students for demonstrating Respect, Responsibility, or Effort. Students have a menu of items they can trade their Trojan Treasures for. Some of these items are Buffalo Wild Wings gift cards or a lunch trip to McDonald's. We would really like to thank the local businesses that have donated to help us support our PBIS initiative.

Drop-off/Pick-up Reminder

This is a good time to remind everyone about arrival and dismissal procedures. If you chose to drop off and pick up your children, we want you to remember the safety rules we have in place. Mrs. Galvin or Miss Bruner will be outside in the mornings and afternoon to assist in arrival and dismissal.

If you would like to walk your student to or from school, please make sure you park in the lot and walk through the crosswalk. Do not park in the drop-off/pick-up line. If you want to stay in your car and have the students meet you in car line please stay in the right lane and have your child enter or exit your car when you get near the crosswalk. Please do not pull in front of the crosswalk. The daycare bus parks past the crosswalk and if other cars pull through it blocks the rest of parents from being able to exit our lot.

Thank you for following these safety procedures. These rules are in place for the safety of children and parents alike. If you would like to discuss these procedures please contact the office.

Important Dates

September 12- Picture Day
September 20-Trojan Trot
October 4-2:13 Dismissal
October 9-11-2:13 Dismissal
October 24-2/3 Concert

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