

# MAROA FORSYTH

## Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- August 2014

### Superintendent Comments

Welcome Back! It is hard to believe but the 2014-2015 school year is up and running!

Preliminary numbers show the District's enrollment at 1188 students. This is up slightly over last year's preliminary enrollment. Classes across all sections range from a low of 67 (Seniors) to a high of 114 (Freshman), with the average being around ninety students per class. The wide discrepancy in class sizes at the high school does create some difficulty in the scheduling process. I would like to commend Mr. Holthaus and Mr. Adreon for their work on addressing these difficulties.

### Library News

Looking for a quick and easy way to ensure your student succeeds? Visit your local library and sign up for the most important school supply of all - a library card! September is Library Card Sign-up Month. Best of all, your library card is accepted at all area libraries. Just contact the public library in your community to find out more.

Maroa Public Library  
794-3005 [maroa.lib.il.us](http://maroa.lib.il.us)

Forsyth Public Library  
877-8174 [forsythlibrary.com](http://forsythlibrary.com)

Decatur Public Library  
424-2900 [decaturlibrary.org](http://decaturlibrary.org)

### School Board News

The Maroa Forsyth School Board would like to invite the residents of the Maroa Forsyth Community to the monthly school board meetings. The monthly meeting is scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 7:00 in the High School Library.

We also would invite you to explore the School Board webpage. This page contains the meeting, agendas, minutes, and packet materials as well as many other important pieces of information. The School Board portion of the District's website can be found at:

[www.mfschools.org/unit/board/index.htm](http://www.mfschools.org/unit/board/index.htm)

### Maroa Forsyth Merchandise

The Maroa Forsyth School District is proud to announce a newly formed partnership with Dale's Southlake Pharmacy and Colee's Corner Drug for all of your Maroa

Forsyth Spirit Wear and Trojan Merchandise needs. The Colee Family has been tremendous supporters of the Maroa Forsyth School District and we are very excited to enter into this arrangement.

### 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.

### Foundation Website

The Maroa-Forsyth School District Foundation has a new look to its website and many new upcoming community activities. We have also added a Facebook page (come friend us) and a Twitter account (@MFSDFoundation). You can check out the website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/mfdistrictfoundation/> or follow the link on the School District Unit Office page.

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth High School

*"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"*



## Principal's Message

Best start EVER! Thank you faculty, staff, students, and volunteers....this has been the best start to a school year I've ever experienced. Our experienced and dedicated staff, respectful students, and gracious volunteers have enabled us to start the school year off right. It's hard to believe that we have one week under our belts already.

The 2014-2015 school year promises to be one to remember. We welcome in a strong senior class that has character, personality, and outstanding leadership. Their presence in the classroom and hallways has already set the tone for the school year. We also graciously receive an outstanding freshmen class...MFHS' biggest ever...115!

I'd like to welcome two new staff members to MFHS. Chris Baxter will be taking over Mrs. Weedman's duties as business and Spanish teacher. Mrs. Weedman left to take a part-time administrative/part-time teaching position in her home town. Mr. Baxter's experience and knowledge will be an asset to our district. Also, we have Mrs. Heidi Beck. Mrs. Beck is filling the Family Consumer Science vacancy left by Mrs. Daggett who is enjoying her retirement after

spending 35 years as Trojan. Though Mrs. Daggett and Mrs. Weedman will be missed, Mr. Baxter and Mrs. Beck are happy to bring their expertise to us.

## School Improvement

This will be our third year of our Focused Learning (FL) and each year, based on student surveys, we've made a few changes. This year is no different; however, we've made a couple of significant changes. The first change you will notice is that we have moved the FL period to the end of the day. We felt strongly that this would help those students that depart school early for school activities stay caught up with their academic work. The second change we've made is to the Enrichment sessions of FL. We have added "Math" and "Writing" centers that students can utilize to get assistance in those content areas. We have also tied the remaining Enrichment sessions into a club theme. For example we will have a Human Rights League (HRL), Art, Yearbook, etc. Though Enrichment has changed a bit, Research and RTI will remain relatively unchanged.

## Athletics & Activities

We have 175 students out for a fall activity at this time.  
Dance-15  
Cheer-15  
Golf-7  
Vollyeball-28  
Soccer-14

Cross-Country-11  
Band-24  
Football-61

Golf started their season on Tuesday and split with Monticello & Clinton. Football opens up the season on 8/29 @ Meridian. Volleyball is home vs. Heyworth on 9/2. Soccer takes on Decatur Christian @ W-L on 8/25 and Cross-country opens up on 8/26 @ St. Thomas More in Champaign.

## Other

As you know, we have been selling season tickets to our home football contests. Season tickets are \$65 each and each pair sold comes with a parking pass, which gets you closer to the gate. The top two rows of our home bleachers are painted blue and are individual marked. We have sold approximately 80 of the 100 seats available. If you are interested in purchasing season tickets, please contact the high school athletic office.

Other than our season tickets, there is no reserved seating. Blankets or stadium seats can not be placed for a game until the gates open at 5:30.

## Special People of the Month

They are ALL special right now! ☺

# 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 "HERO 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](http://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.

We are very happy to have our entire teaching staff from last year back with us again this year. Everyone is looking forward to another great year at MFMS. One of the challenges the staff faces this year is the transition to the new state assessment. The students will no longer take the ISAT test but instead take the PARCC test. Information about the PARCC test will be provided to parents and students throughout the school year.

If you have questions or concerns feel free to email me at [brice.stewart@mfschools.net](mailto:brice.stewart@mfschools.net) or call me at 794-5115.

## PBIS News

On the second day of school, the middle school students participated in "HERO Training". HERO stands for Hear It, Expect it, Receive it, Own 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 watching the No-No Style Show.

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, silent auction items, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 may be withheld for part of the celebration.

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

## Athletic News

The softball and baseball seasons are well under way and will soon be coming to an end. The softball team will play in their regional on September 10<sup>th</sup> and the baseball team will begin regional play September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Spirit Squad practice has been going on since July and Girls' Basketball practice will start on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The basketball team will open their season by hosting the GAB Round Robin Tournament the week of September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Spirit Squad will perform for the first time on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The boys' basketball team will begin their season the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>. Tryouts will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The boys' first game will be on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Home.

## Important Dates

### September

1<sup>st</sup>-No School-Labor Day  
8<sup>th</sup>-Girls' Basketball Tryouts  
19<sup>th</sup>-Midterm  
19<sup>th</sup>-Homecoming-2:03  
Dismissal

### October

8<sup>th</sup>-P/T conferences-2:03  
Dismissal  
9<sup>th</sup>- P/T conferences-2:03  
Dismissal  
13<sup>th</sup>-No School-Columbus Day  
17<sup>th</sup>-End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
20<sup>th</sup>-No School (School Improvement Day)  
21<sup>st</sup>-HS/MS Choir Concert  
24<sup>th</sup>-Report Cards sent home

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Grade School



## Principal's Message

We have had a great start to the school year. Everyone seems to be getting comfortable with the new schedules and routines within the school. Students have really done a great job coming into this school year ready to learn!

We will be conducting our Curriculum-Based Measures (CBM) screenings after Labor Day. All students at the grade school participate in these screenings. Teachers use this information to plan instruction and make groups in their classrooms.

This school year all students will be taking grade level assessments. These assessments were written by their teachers and will replace the NWEA MAP test that students have taken for the past few years. The results from these tests will be discussed with you at conferences.

During Parent-Teacher Conferences in October you will receive the report on the 2013-2014 scores. This year the test was changed from being 30% based on the Common Core Standards to 100% based on the Common Core Standards. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. The goals for each month will be created based on the issues we notice within the building. 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.

## New Staff Member

Laura Mandernach was a late addition to the District when our Pre-K population showed a dramatic change. We are very lucky to have her & we wish her the best.

## 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. Teachers will be outside of the school in front of the building in the mornings. Mrs. Meier will be in front in the afternoons.

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 10-Band rental night  
September 11-GS Picture Day  
September 19-2:13 dismissal  
October 3-Trojan Trot  
October 8 & 9-2:13 dismissal