

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- March 2015

Superintendent Comments

Hopefully the worst of winter is behind us and spring is right around the corner. I would like to thank everyone for their patience when having to deal with the schedule changes associated with the winter season.

I realize these schedule changes create issues for families. Rest assured the decision to cancel school or change the calendar is never taken lightly. I have outlined the steps the District has implemented when deciding if a schedule change is necessary due to inclement weather. Those steps can be found at:

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

Referendum Informational Meetings Scheduled

The District has scheduled two informational meetings for the upcoming education fund referendum. The first meeting will take place Monday, March 2 in the high school cafeteria. The second meeting will take place in the grade school gym on Tuesday, March 3. Both meetings will begin at 7:00. We encourage your attendance at one of these meetings in order to gain a better understanding on the need for the increase.

An informational sheet has also been created to answer some of the Frequently Asked

Questions the District routinely hears. That fact sheet can be found at:

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

5 Essentials Survey

The Maroa Forsyth School District is once again participating in the 5-Essentials Survey that as required by the Illinois State Board of Education. If you are interested in participating in the survey it can be accessed by following the link below.

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

Vision 20/20

The Board of Education recently approved a resolution in support of a new school reform initiative entitled Vision 20/20. Vision 20/20 student-centered vision for the future of education in Illinois. It focuses on four policy priorities: highly effective educators, 21st century learning, shared accountability, and equitable and adequate funding. The initiative was developed based on the input and efforts of educators from across the state, based on unprecedented collaboration among the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO), the Illinois Principals Association (IPA), the Illinois Association of Regional

Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), and the Superintendents' Commission for the Study of Demographics and Diversity (SCSDD).

The priorities of the four pillars are listed below.

Highly Effective Educators

- Recruit and Retain High Impact Educators
- Provide Relevant Professional Development

21st Century Learning

- Develop the "Whole Child"
- Preserve Instructional Time
- Invest in Early Childhood Education
- Link Students to College and Careers
- Expand Equity in Technology Access

Shared Accountability

- Expand Educator Role and Responsibility in State Governance
- Implement a Differential Accountability System
- Restructure Mandates

Equitable and Adequate Funding

- Fund Education Based on Local Need
- Stabilize State Funding for Education
- Enhance District Flexibility to increase Financial Efficiency

More information on Vision 20/20 can be found at:

http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/vision20-20Policy_Brief.pdf

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth High School

"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"



Principal's Message

The winter season is wrapping up here at MFHS. Boys' & Girls' basketball as well as wrestling have finished up their season, but our scholastic bowl team continues on. They recently won the Masonic Sectional in Riverton, so they are our most recent sectional champs.

Though January and February can be a long stretch, our teachers appreciate them because they give them the most consistent time for uninterrupted instruction. These two months are pivotal for many of our students and I'm proud to say that most of our students have taken advantage of this opportunity. Our teachers have been working hard developing their best practices such as Socratic seminar, student-led discussion, and implementing writing assessments that meet CCSS. Though this development will continue, it gets harder in March as our schedule is anything but normal.

We will administer the ACT to all juniors on March 3rd. When they are completed with the exam (approximately 1:00) they will be dismissed for the remainder of the day. On March 9th, 10th, 12th, and 13th we will conduct the PBA portion of the PARCC test for ALL students enrolled in English III or Algebra II. This test is the first of two tests these students will take. If you are not familiar with the PARCC assessment, you can

find more information at <http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC1-pager-parents9-18-13.pdf>

Mr. Stewart put this broad overview together, which you may find a little easier.

<http://youtu.be/FI6-MHITvRQ>

Activities

2015 All-State Participants (January 29-31)

Lindsey Austin--All-State Choir

JT Grider--All-State Choir

Emilee Oliver--Honors Choir

Emily Ma: All-State Orchestra

Saturday, March 7th

IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Argenta-Oreana HS

Participants from choir:

Sierra Taylor, Lynzee Campbell-Vanzant, Samantha Bennett, Jared Anderson, Alexis Diaz, Paige Wendt, JT Grider, Maddie Berry, Emily Weiss, Lindsey Austin, Kelse Sharpe, Madeleine Hubbard, Carly Hitchens, Calli Crawford, Emilee Oliver, Eva Georgopoulos

Participants from band:

Maha Arshad, Katerina Gorou, Michael Hong, McKenzie Aubry, Emaan Dawood, Leia Jones, Alex Fleming, Johanna Thompson, Matt Nalefski, Britta Braden, Aubrey Laskowski, Brandon Goede Dakota Walker, Braden Thornton, Ian Tanzyus, Alex Kuhn, Emilee Oliver Brandon Kane

Classical Concert

Thursday, March 5th @ 7:00pm (HS Band/Choir)

Tickets for West Side Story

--Go on sale March 9th in the HS Office

West Side Story

Friday, April 10 @ 7:00pm

Saturday, April 11 @ 7:00pm

Sunday, April 12 @ 3:00pm

High School Cafetorium

April 18th

IHSA Organizational Contest (@ Rochester HS)

May 7

Choral Spring Concert/Senior Spotlight

Other Dates:

Spring Break- 3/28-4/5

Senior Exams- Odd hours 5/19 & Even hours 5/20

Graduation-5/22/7:30 pm

Finals- Even hours 5/26 & Odd hours 5/27

Special People of the Month for Jan. & Feb.

Students of the Month- Emman Dawood/Kiersten Kapraun
Male Athlete of the Month- Blake Bryant/Kyle Wendt
Female Athlete of the Month- Alyssa Ashby/Hanah Rudsinski
Volunteer of the Month-Mike Mandrell/Becky Allsup

IHSA's Biggest Honor

Jairon Ritter has been named to the IHSA's 2014-2015 Academic All-State team. He is 1 of 26 members named to this team in all sports from all high schools in our state. He will be honored at their banquet in April and receive a scholarship. He follows Blake Grider ('01) and David Painter ('08) as our only recipients. In 7 years we may have another.



TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

During the month of March students throughout the state will participate in the first round of PARCC testing. PARCC testing is the new state test that is replacing ISAT this year. Students at the middle school will test between March 9th and March 20th. Below are the exact testing dates for each grade level.

8th: March 9, 10, 11, and 12

7th: March 12, 13, 16, and 17

6th: March 17, 18, 19, and 20

We would like to congratulate Shubha Verma and Rabya Hasnain on advancing to the Regional Spelling Bee. Rabya won the Macon County Spelling Bee for the 1st time this year.

We would also like to congratulate our Math Counts team on winning their regional competition. The Math Counts team will be competing in the State competition on March 7th.

We held our first History Bee this year and we have six students who have qualified to participate in the Regional History Bee in St. Louis. Those students are Rabya Hasnain, Lui Cole, Jerry Hong, Eli Benner, Devereux Betzer, and Shubha Verma.

Finally our Varsity and JV Scholastic Bowl team has gotten off to a great start again this year by starting 6-0. The team will be competing for the Okaw Conference championship on April 25th.

We would like to thank all the students who participated in our "Beat the Winter Blues" days or purchased a Candy Gram. Thanks to the generosity of our students, parents, and staff we were able to raise over \$1500 to put toward new

technology. Our ultimate goal is to purchase a Chromebook lab that could be used in all classrooms.

If you have questions or concerns feel free to email me at brice.stewart@mfschools.net or call me at 794-5115.

PBIS News

The middle school students have been doing a good job of meeting their PBIS expectations. Students who have less than 2 referrals during the 3rd quarter will be eligible to participate in the 3rd quarter celebration. Students who received 2 or more referrals will be withheld from part of the celebration but will be able to participate, just for a shorter period of time. The celebration will be held on March 27th and we will hold the annual staff vs. students volleyball and basketball games.

We recently did a tardy check and all students who were on time to 8th hour class were rewarded with some free time in the gym. The students have been doing a much better job of getting to class on time.

Students will soon be able to use their Star Bucks to bid on multiple gift baskets. Some of the gift basket themes will be movies, baseball, pizza, golf, ice cream, camping, and cupcakes

To find out more information about PBIS please visit our website at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/pbis/mfms/>

Athletic News

Both the 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams are having a great season and both teams won their conference championship. We will be hosting the 7th grade regional on February 28-March 5, and the 8th grade regional from March 7-March 12. We are also hosting the 7th grade 3A State Volleyball tournament at the HS on March 14th and 17th.

The track season will be starting on March 9th. 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 6 track meets this year including the IESA sectional and we 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://bit.ly/1DWb47f>

Important Dates

March

3rd-5th: 7th Grade Volleyball Regional @ MFMS

9th-20th: PARCC testing at the middle school

9th-MS track practice begins

7th-12th: 8th Grade Volleyball Regional @ MFMS

13th: End of 3rd Quarter

14th & 17th: 8th Grade Volleyball State Tourney @ MFMS

20th: Report Cards sent home

30th-April 6th: Spring Break

April

20th: No School

25th-Scholastic Bowl

Conference Match @ Monticello

29th-Scholastic Bowl regional

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

Spring is a very busy time at school. Many grades are coming up on their field trips. The spring concerts will begin soon. Spring break is also an exciting time for students. When we return from spring break we will have begun the fourth quarter.

The PARCC test will be starting for students in third thru fifth grade. This test will begin on March 9th and go through March 20th. Make-ups will be the following week. If at all possible, please make sure your children are at school on time so testing isn't interrupted. If students arrive late they will have to wait until the testing session is complete to rejoin their class.

We will be able to go out for recess some day! Between ice, snow, and extreme cold weather we have been inside for almost everyday for two months. We use the wind chill of 10 degrees as our minimum temperature to go outside. If the playground is ice covered or muddy we will not be outside. Once we are able to get outside, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather.

The School Improvement Day scheduled for March 16 has been rescheduled for April 20. This was done so we are in attendance on the days of the PARCC test.

Birthday Treats

The faculty and staff of Maroa-Forsyth Grade School enjoy celebrating birthdays with students. If you would like to bring a treat for your child's class there are some guidelines that must be followed:

- Treats must be store bought in original packaging
- Treats must be ready to serve (no teacher preparation)
- Teachers should be contacted at least one day in advance
- Treats must be delivered to office by 9:00 am

Party invitations are not to be brought to school to distribute.

Notes from the Nurse

All students in kindergarten or second grade need to have a current dental exam on file with the school by May 15th. Please be sure to either bring this form to school or send it in an envelope to Mrs. Letterly, our school nurse.

All students going to fifth grade will need to get a meningitis vaccine prior to starting sixth grade. This is a new requirement this year.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Letterly.

Drop-off/Pick-up Reminder

If you choose to drop off and pick up your children, we want you to remember the safety rules we have in place. A teacher will be outside in the mornings and afternoons to assist in arrival and dismissal.

If you would like to walk your student to or from door, 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. 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. Please have your child enter or exit your vehicle on the right (sidewalk) side. This is to ensure the safety of your child after they exit your car.

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

March 9-PARCC Begins
 March 16-Attendance Day
 March 20-End of third quarter
 March 30-April 3-Spring Break
 April 6-No school