

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- September 2015

Superintendent Comments

Welcome Back! It is hard to believe but the 2015-2016 school year is up and running!

Preliminary numbers show the District's enrollment at 1198 students. This is up slightly over last year's enrollment and is the largest enrollment the District has ever had.

I was very impressed with the way the school year has started. Each year, the transportation of the early elementary students is one of our greatest concerns. Mr. Kahler and the elementary staff have implemented a ribbon system in which the younger students have a small ribbon in the corresponding color to the bus route to assist with insuring students are placed on the correct bus. This ribbon system, as well as the buddy system used for our Pre-K students, has really helped in the efficiency of getting students on the proper bus for the ride home. I would like to thank Mr. Kahler and his staff for helping get the first few days of transporting the students off to a great start.

2015-2016 Calendar

In order to provide additional time for our staff to collaborate on the many school improvement initiatives that are currently in place, the District has implemented three early dismissals each semester. The dismissal time on these days will be 2:03 for the Middle School and High School and 2:13 for the Grade School. The dates for the fall semester are September 2, September 30, and November 4th. During the spring semester the dates will be February 3, March 2 and April 6th.

We will continue with the two full day School Improvement days as we have the past couple of years. There will be no student attendance on October 19th and April 18th.

Parent Teacher conferences are scheduled for the evenings of October 7th and 8th and February 10th and 11th.

The complete school calendar can be found at:

[http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/CAL20152016\(1\).pdf](http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/CAL20152016(1).pdf)

School Board News

The School Board hosts its monthly meeting on the second Monday of each month. In attempt to provide more access to the public the Board will rotate the location of the meeting between the High School Cafetorium and the Grade School gym over the next few months. The September 14th and November 9th meetings will be at the grade school. The October 13th (Tuesday due to the Columbus Day holiday) and the December 14th meeting will be at the high school. All meetings begin at 7:00.

School Safety

The School District takes the safety of the students and staff very seriously. In order to insure the District is prepared for certain types of emergencies that may arise, certain drills and walkthroughs are required. In addition to the typical fire and tornado drills, we must conduct a lockdown drill that involves the proper authorities. We have scheduled this drill to occur on October 6th in all buildings. There will be more information provided as we get closer to the actual drill.

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 2015-16 school year promises to be one to remember. Our current enrollment of 379 students is second only to the 2006-2007 school year when MFHS had 385 students. Once again, I am excited to receive an outstanding freshmen class (97 students)! We've heard good things about this class and so far they have lived up to their reputation.

I'd like to welcome five new staff members to MFHS. Mr. Kyle Tutt will be teaching several of our Social Science classes as well as coaching football, basketball, and track. Mr. Tutt taught at West Carroll the past couple of years. Ms. Sabbia (pronounced SAY-bia) will be teaching our Algebra and Geometry classes. She is a recent graduate of Illinois State University and student-taught at Eureka High School. Mr. Boynton will be our new Business and Consumer Ed. teacher. Mr. Boynton most recently taught at St. Teresa High School. Mrs. Mikesell will be teaching our Spanish classes. Mrs. Mikesell comes to us from the Holy Trinity school

system in Bloomington. Finally we have Mrs. Lidy, who will be our Band teacher. Mrs. Lidy comes to us from Argenta-Oreana High School.

School Improvement

This will be our fourth year of our Focused Learning (FL) and each year, based on student surveys, we've made a few changes. Last year we moved the FL period to the end of the day and that seemed to work much better for us. We felt strongly that this would help those students that depart school early for school activities stay caught up with their academic work. We have added "Math" and "Writing" centers that students can utilize to get assistance in those content areas. We gave our sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to sign up for the Focused Learning period of their choice last spring. They were able to choose between intramurals, athletic movement, Ag Shop, Zumba, and study hall. Incoming freshmen were then placed into study halls unless space in one of the other groups was available. I think these changes have worked out well so far and address our students' needs.

Athletics & Activities

New last year was our MFHS Broadcasting team. In partnership with the NFHS and IHSA, MFHS has introduced Live Video streaming of our contests to the world. Luke Kirby (12th), Alex Kuhn (10th), Ty Martin

(9th) and Brock Evans (9th) have taken the lead on this project and are turning it into something special for MFHS. They are currently working on a broadcasting schedule for football and volleyball games. If you are interested in watching our contests live in the comfort of your own home, or if you have family members that don't live in the area, you may want to consider this option. Customers can choose from a monthly or annual rate. For more information about live streaming, you can go to our webpage at <http://mfhs.mfschools.net/>

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. 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! ☺

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Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

The 2015-16 school year has gotten off to a fantastic start at the Middle School. The students have already survived their "Basic 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 <http://mfms.mfschools.net/>. 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 would like to welcome 3 new teachers to our staff; Mrs. Craft (7-8 Math), Mrs. Hickey (6-7 Science), and Mrs. Lidy (Band). Everyone is looking forward to another great year at MFMS.

On September 9th "Real Encounter" stunt riding team will be at MFMS for a presentation on making good choices. We would like to thank The First Christian Church of Decatur for arranging this. Follow this link to view what they can do.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8n9LWJCqJ0I>

Don't forget to mark on your calendars that Parent/Teacher conferences will be on October 7th and 8th. 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 "Basic Training". 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 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 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 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/pbismfms/>

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 9th and the baseball team will begin regional play September 16th.

Spirit Squad practice will begin soon and Girls' Basketball practice will start on September 2nd. The basketball team will open their season by hosting the GAB Round Robin Tournament the week of September 21st. On-Line registration for both Spirit Squad and girls basketball is now open.

The boys' basketball team will begin their season the week of October 19th. Tryouts will be held on the 19th, 20th, and 21st. The boys' first game will be on November 5th at Heyworth.

Important Dates

September

- 2nd-2:03 Dismissal
- 8th-Girls' Basketball Tryouts
- 7th- No School-Labor Day
- 18th-Midterm
- 25th-Homecoming-2:03 Dismissal
- 30th-2:03 Dismissal

October

- 7th-P/T conferences-2:03 Dismissal
- 8th- P/T conferences-2:03 Dismissal
- 9th-2:03 Dismissal
- 12th-No School-Columbus Day
- 16th-End of 1st Quarter
- 19th-No School (School Improvement Day)
- 20th-HS/MS Choir Concert
- 23rd-Report Cards sent home

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Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

This has been a great start to the school year. The students have done a fantastic job of getting back into "school mode". It is hard to believe we are less than three weeks from mid-terms.

This year we have decided to have our fifth grade students read daily announcements. They come to the office and do the announcements and lead the school in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The students seem to enjoy this so far. After all fifth grade students get a turn, we will begin selecting fourth graders.

This year during our Leader in Me Boot Camp all classes took a group picture. We will be selling these pictures. An order form will be coming home next week.

We will be conducting our Curriculum-Based Measures (CBM) the week after Labor Day. The teachers use these results to make class groups, plan instruction, and track student growth. Teachers will share these results at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

We do not have PARCC results yet. We are hoping to have them back by conferences to share, but if not we will send them home as soon as possible.

It has been a great start and we hope to keep it going all year!

Leader in Me News

This year we have really changed our focus to building student leadership. We are working on getting our older students to help with younger students at times.

During our Boot Camp we paired older students with younger students. We are also having our older students be Bus Buddies again this year.

Each month we will have a Leader in Me Focus. This month is "Be Proactive". When the announcements are read each morning various ways students can be proactive are said.

Drop-off/Pick-up Reminder

This is a good time to remind everyone about arrival and dismissal procedures. If you choose 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. Mr. Luther 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 2-2:13 Dismissal
- September 2-Community Club Carnival
- September 7-Labor Day (no school)
- September 10-Picture Day
- September 18-First Quarter Mid-terms
- September 25-2:13 Dismissal (Homecoming)
- September 30-2:13 Dismissal
- October 2-Trojan Trot
- October 5-9-Book Fair
- October 7-2:13 Dismissal
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- October 8-2:13 Dismissal
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- October 9-2:13 Dismissal

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