

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- January 2016

Superintendent Comments

Welcome Back! I hope everyone found some time to rest and relax over the Holiday Break. The Maroa Forsyth School District is looking forward to an exciting 2016.

PARCC Testing Results

The District received the PARCC scores from the spring of 2015 administration in early December. The individual results for participants have been provided to the parents. If you have specific questions about your child's performance, please do not hesitate to contact your building principal or the unit office.

As for the District results, they were very similar to what we expected to see. The overall percentage of students meeting the benchmarks was significantly lower than on the previous standardized testing. However, this was expected due to the changes in the testing procedures and the content of the assessment. This first administration of the PARCC assessment will serve as the baseline for future administration of the test.

The District did score above the state averages in the reading and math portions of the PARCC at all grade levels in which the assessment was administered. The District also compared extremely well when comparing with area Districts. To review the District's performance on the PARCC assessment, please visit the [Illinois School Report Card](#).

School Report Card Summary

The School Report Card has recently changed as the result of increased reporting requirements within the State of Illinois. While the new format does not allow the information to be presented in a printed format very easily, it includes an increased amount of information. I would encourage you to spend some time reviewing the information. The link is included in the previous section of this newsletter. I have summarized some of the high points of the information in the passage below.

The Maroa Forsyth School District is comprised of 3 buildings with an enrollment of 1196 students. The student body is 82% white, 8.4% Asian, 4.8% black and

approximately 5% Multi-racial, Hispanic, Pacific Islander or American Indian. The District currently has low income percentage of 23.4%.

The District currently employs 70 certified teachers. The teaching staff is 77% female, 23% male with 64% of the faculty possessing a Master's degree or higher.

The District has an operating expense of \$9441 per pupil with 83% of the revenue coming from local sources, 15% from state sources and less than 2 % from Federal sources.

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 continue to rotate the location of the meeting between the High School Cafetorium and the Grade School over the next several months. The January 11th, March 14th and May 9th meeting will take place at the high school in Maroa. The February 8th, April 11th, and June 13th meetings will be held at the grade school in Forsyth. All meetings begin at 7:00.

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth High School

"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"



Principal's Message

First semester is in the books! A preliminary check of our students' academic achievement is positive. However, if you have a child that is struggling, please contact Mr. Adreon for a possible referral to our Student Success Team. If they have failed a class, please contact Mr. Holthaus for a plan to recover the credit as soon as possible.

MFHS is excited to announce that our December board meeting, the board of education approved our proposal for three different pathways for online learning. Students can use online learning for credit recovery through Illinois Virtual High School at a discounted rate, take additional courses that are not currently offered at MFHS, or take dual credit courses through RCC. For more information about our online offerings please contact Mr. Adreon or Mr. Holthaus at your convenience.

MFHS faculty and staff are gearing up for April, which has quickly becoming known as our "testing month". Both PARCC and the ACT are conducted during this month and they each pose their own scheduling challenges. This year the PARCC test will test Biology students as well as English III and Algebra II students. All of our juniors are currently going through six weeks of ACT test prep and all

of our PARCC students will be working through online practice exams to become familiar with the process.

Student Spotlight

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS!!!
Congratulations to this year's class of Illinois State Scholars. This is the largest number of Illinois State Scholars we can remember having.

Braden, Britta
Dugger, Molly
Hall, Madeline
Hasnain, Isra
Hoffman, Alexa
Hubbard, Madeleine
Kirby, Luke
Kureishy, Mohamad-Haris
Ma, Yuxing
Marz, Nathan
Patel, Parth
Perujo, Niklas
Walker, Dakota
Weiss, Madison
Wendt, Kyle
Willis, Reid



Each honoree receives a premium parking spot for second semester and their



Award Portrait above their locker.

Special People of the Month(s)

STUDENTS:

November: Kate Beckmeyer
December: Jared Anderson

VOLUNTEERS:

November - Andy Campbell
December - Sam Hubbard

ATHLETES:

November- Parker Barrett
December- Aaron Agee

November- Tyana Brock

December- Hannah Rudsinski

EXTRA EXTRA

Take a look at the Maroa student body from 1915 in the picture donated by Nelson Smith's (class of '39) family and blown up and displayed by Tina Horve. The picture is on display for the school year in our athletic hallway for the year and then will be moved to our library. 100 YEARS!! Come in and take a look at it during one of our winter events!



TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

I hope everyone had a great winter break and a Happy New Year. Before we left for break, the middle school held a class competition to see who could raise the most money for charity. The "Jam the Jars" competition was sponsored by the Student Council and as a school we raised \$2563. The 6th grade won the competition by bringing in \$862. All funds raised are donated to the Maroa Christmas Project who provides meals and gifts for local residents in need during the holidays.

During January we will start a few academic activities the students can get involved in. First will be our Spelling Bee. The students will have their grade level and the Unit Spelling Bee over the next month. We will also be having our History Bee this month as well. The Math Counts team begins practice and will compete at Millikin in a math competition with area schools in February. Finally, 7th and 8th graders can sign up for the Scholastic Bowl team which will also begin later this month.

I wanted to remind everyone that second semester parent/teacher conferences will be on February 10th and 11th. 2015 PARCC scores were sent home before break and if you have any questions feel free to bring the results to P/T conferences. This year PARCC testing will be held at the MS on April 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21. Please make every effort to have your students in attendance on the days they are tested.

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

PBIS News

Any student who received less than 2 referrals during 2nd Quarter, fully participated in the celebration on the last day of the semester. I am very pleased to report that 94% of all the middle school students met their goal and were able to participate in the 2nd Quarter Celebration.

Next week the students will receive a few refreshers on some issues that need to be improved upon during second semester. Hopefully these refreshers will help the students have a great second semester.

One common issue after break is students no longer have their agenda books. We do have some extra agenda books in the office that can be purchased for \$5. You can also purchase calendar books to use in place of the agenda. It is very beneficial for all students to have a place to write down assignments.

Athletic News

Both the 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball teams are having successful seasons. Both teams will begin regional play later this month. The 7th graders will play their regional at Heyworth starting January 23rd. We will host the 8th grade regional at MFMS starting January 30th.

The volleyball teams opened their seasons this week and play in the Eureka Tournament on Saturday. We will be hosting the 7th and 8th grade GAB Volleyball Classic on January 23rd. This tournament will be played in the high school and starts at 8:30 am. To end the season we will host the 7th grade regionals and the 7th Grade State Volleyball Tournament.

Track practices will begin at the beginning of March. Anyone wanting to participate in track must sign up on-line and have a current physical on file in the middle school office. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders can participate in track.

Important Dates

January

8th: Report Cards sent home
9th-14th: 7th and 8th Grade Okaw Tournaments
18th: No School
23rd: 7th and 8th Grade Volleyball Classic @ HS
30th-8th Grade Basketball Regional @ MFMS

February

3rd: 2:03 Dismissal
5th:- Mid-Term
10th: 2:03 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30
11th: 2:03 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30
13th: Math Counts competition
15th:-No School
25th:-Volleyball 8th Grade Night

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

I hope everyone had a relaxing and refreshing break and are ready to get back to school.

We are beginning our preparations for the PARCC test which all students in third, fourth, and fifth grades will take in April. This test will measure students' knowledge in English/Language Arts and Math. This year students in fifth grade will also take a Science assessment. More information on these tests will be out in March.

As the weather is beginning to get colder, it is very important to remind students to have appropriate hats, coats, and gloves here at school. When the playground is dry, we will be outside until the wind chill is below 10 degrees. Please make sure your child has these things at school so they can enjoy recesses with their friends.

Leader in Me News

The Leader in Me monthly focus is Think Win-Win. This is an important skill for students to continue to practice and learn in and out of school.

We are going to be passing out our second quarter awards soon. This time we will also be passing out a few other rewards for students. For every certificate a student receives they will also get their name put into the drawing for the other prizes.

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.

Bus Stop Safety

Student safety is the highest priority of our school district. When students are waiting at the bus stop they need to be off of the roads. Students should be paying attention and wait to approach the bus until the driver opens the door, and the stop arm is out. Students should then get onto the bus in a single file line.

Younger students should have an adult there to help them when the bus arrives. These younger students should also have someone meet them from the bus stop.

We want all students to safely be able to get to and from school.

Winter Conferences

Winter conferences are scheduled for February 10 & 11. Conferences are from 4:30-7:30 both nights. School dismisses at 2:13 on these days as well as February 12. Information about these conferences will be coming home with students.

Important Dates

January 18-No School
February 8-Book Fair opens
February 10-Parent Teacher Conferences (2:13 dismissal)
February 11-Parent Teacher Conferences (2:13 dismissal)
February 12-2:13 Dismissal
February 12-Valentine's Day Parties