

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- November 2016

Superintendent's Comments

The Illinois State Board of Education recently released the School Report Card information to the public. I would encourage each of you to review the District's performance on state and standardized testing, as well as review how the District compares in many other areas including finance, demographics and staff. The summary to the report card can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4OUDKhXomo1TndOUWVrOUVpS2c/view>

For more detailed information, I would suggest visiting the state report card site at:

<http://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>

Inclement Weather Procedures

It is hard to believe we need to talk about winter weather procedures, but the calendar has hit November and those winter days will be here before we know it. The decision to cancel or delay school is never an easy one and one that is not taken lightly. Student safety is our top priority and will always be

the basis for our decisions. However, if we feel we are able to safely transport the students, school will be in session. In the event that school must be delayed or canceled, every attempt is made to make the decision by 6:15 on the morning in question. The District will use social media and the *School Messenger* phone, text and email notification system to inform students and their parents. The delay or cancellation information is also available through numerous media outlets. You may listen to radio stations: WSOY, Y-103, 95Q, WDKR, WEJT, and WHOW.

Cancellations and delays will also be reported to the three major television stations in the area. Those being: WAND, WCIA, and WICS.

Crisis Plan Training

The Maroa Forsyth School District in an active partnership with the Macon County Sheriff's Department, Maroa Police Department, Maroa Fire Department, and the Hickory Point Fire Protection District have developed a crisis plan to respond to a wide variety of emergencies ranging from weather related emergencies to violent intruder situations.

These plans are extremely thorough and detailed and have been used as a model for many other Districts within Macon County and beyond. When reviewing these crisis plans, we are constantly exploring the latest techniques or strategies for the District to consider should we have the unfortunate situation in which a violent episode were to occur within the District. One such strategy that has received increase attention as of late is ALICE Training. ALICE stands for *Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter & Evacuate*.

At a recent School Improvement Day the Macon Piatt Regional Office of Education and the Macon County Sheriff's Department provided District staff with an introduction to ALICE training. It was time well spent and provides the District with additional options should a situation occur.

It should be noted that ALICE training is not sole the basis for the District Crisis plans, but is another alternative for staff to consider based on the situation. For more on ALICE training, please visit their website.

<https://www.alicetraining.com/>

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Maroa Forsyth High School

"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"



Principal's Message

It is hard to believe we are starting to approach the holidays. With a little over 1 quarter under our belts, we have had a lot of great things going on at the High School. Our varsity Scholastic Bowl team is off to a 6-0 start and will be playing in the CISL Tournament this weekend. Last weekend the JV Scholastic Bowl team won their CISL tournament by going undefeated.

Last month our choir put on a great performance during their fall concert and we have received a lot of compliments on our band, especially how they play the other School Song at football games. Eva Georgopoulos, Alex Kuhn, Emily Weiss, Paige Wendt, Cameron Jones, and Anthony Lee all were selected to participate in Illinois Music Educators Association District Festival on Saturday, November 11th, at EIU.

As always, our FFA have been very active in the community including selling mums and making pork chop to serve to local farmers. Students throughout the school have been involved in other groups and clubs including the Speech Club, Arts and Crafts Club, and working on the Yearbook.

Last year, college bound Juniors took the ACT and did a fantastic job. The average score for Maroa-Forsyth students was 23.8. This year, instead of administering the ACT, the state has decided to

administer the SAT test. The test will be held at the High School and all Juniors will be required to participate. The ACT will not be offered at Maroa-Forsyth and if students want to take it, they will need to do so at an off campus site. For more information about the ACT see Mr. Holthaus. Also for this school year, the state has decided high school students will not take the PARCC exam.

Veterans Day

Next week we will be holding a very special assembly. We would also like to invite everyone to attend the Maroa-Forsyth Veterans Day Assembly on November 11th at 2:15. This year the Veterans Day Assembly will be held in the High School Gym with both the high school and middle school students participating. Student Council members are collecting the names of High School student's family members who are Veterans. They are also collecting information on Veterans who will be in attendance. Members of both the high school and middle school band and choir will be performing so we encourage parents to attend as well. There will be a welcome reception for all Veterans and their families at 1:30 in the high school cafeteria. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the FFA and Student Council.

Athletics/Activities

This year we have 184 students involved in athletics or an activity this fall.

Band- 29
Cheer- 11
Trojanettes- 12
Boys Golf- 3
Cross Country- 11
Soccer- 6
Girls Tennis- 9
Volleyball- 33
Football-70

Golf advanced three to the sectional round of the IHSA tournament, Dylan Flock, Zach Johnson, and Brooke Stewart.

Football completed the regular season 8-1 with a share of the Sangamo Conference Championship. They are currently in the IHSA State Playoffs.

Girls Volleyball won the Sangamo Conference Championship with a perfect 9-0 conference record.

Girls Tennis completed their second year of competition and continue to grow.

Boys Soccer played a lot of young players, and performed well. The future looks bright

Boys and Girls Cross Country set many personal records and the girls advanced to the sectional round of the IHSA tournament for the second year in a row finishing 10th.

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Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

The middle school students did a great job in the classroom during 1st semester and the staff is very proud of all the students at MFMS who made the First Quarter Honor Roll. To view the 1st Quarter Honor Roll please visit the middle school website at <http://bit.ly/2f0wlRh>. Soon the students will get to participate in an "Academic Celebration" to reward them for their hard work in the classroom. To fully participate in the "Academic Celebration", students must not get homework referrals for missing work during the months of October and November.

Next week will be one of the most exciting weekends for the Middle School all year. I would like to encourage everyone to come out and see this year's Middle School Musical, "High School Musical Jr". The choir will be holding two performances open to the public on November 11th and 12th at 7:00 pm at the HS. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can do so in the MS office.

I would also like to invite everyone to attend the Maroa-Forsyth Veterans Day Assembly on November 11th at 2:15. This year the Veterans Day Assembly will be held in the High School Gym with both the high school and middle school students participating. I have placed an Invitation for Veterans who would like to attend on the webpage. If you know a Veteran who is interested in attending, please have that information to me by November 10th. Members of both the high school and middle school band and choir will be

performing so we encourage parents to attend as well. There will be a welcome reception for all Veterans and their families at 1:30 in the high school cafetorium.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at brice.stewart@mfschools.net or call me at 794-5115. I will do my very best to get back to you in a timely manner.

PBIS News

The PBIS 1st quarter goal was to have less than 35 discipline referrals. I am pleased to report we met our goal by having 19 discipline referrals for the first quarter. As a reward, all middle school students had the opportunity to participate in field games. Congratulations to the 8th graders for winning the field competition. Our goal for 2nd quarter will also be 35 or less referrals. Students will have an opportunity to participate in the 2nd Quarter Celebration right before Winter Break if their goal is met again.

The students have also been receiving Star Bucks and Star Student awards for following our Code of Honor. In October, the students had the chance to use their Star Bucks on Candy, Subway gift certificates, and electronic lunches. However, students also have begun using their Star Bucks when they do not show Respect, Responsibility, and Effort. Some examples of this would be; Star Bucks for borrowing teacher supplies, being tardy to class, having gum or candy, and use of negative or rude language.

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

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

Athletic News

Congratulations to the girls' 7th and 8th grade basketball teams on great seasons. The 7th grade girls will begin regional play on November 19th and the 8th grade regional will begin the week of November 28th.

The boys' basketball teams open their season with a home game vs. Heyworth. The boys play Monticello, Tolono-Unity, Shelbyville, and Clinton at home during the month of November. Please come out and support the teams.

Volleyball season will be starting soon as well. Tryouts will begin in December and their first game is January 5th vs. Tolono-Unity. Anyone interested in trying out for volleyball needs to make sure they have a current physical turned into the middle school office. Parents will also need to register their students on-line as well.

Important Dates

November

11th-Veterans Day assembly
11th and 12th MS Musical 7:00
11th-2nd Quarter Midterm
14th-Girls' Basketball 8th Grade Night
23rd-25th-No School

December

6th-MS Band/Choir Winter Concert 7:00 at the MS
9th -MS Winter Dance 3:00-5:00
20th-End of 2nd Quarter
21st—Jan. 4th-No School

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Maroa Forsyth Grade School

Principal's Message

We have had a great fall at MFGS. The students are doing a great job of staying focused and working hard. Our teachers and students continue to work hard and demonstrate leadership characteristics.

Eventually, the weather will begin to get cold. We will be outside until the wind chill is ten degrees Fahrenheit. Make sure your child has the appropriate clothing for the weather.

We will be the polling place on November 8th. There will be an increased amount of traffic in the lot that day. We want everyone to know in advance so they are cautious to people crossing our parking lot.

Student Council

This year we are changing our focus from one trait of leadership per month to reviewing all seven traits all year. Our Student Council students are also reading about the seven habits of leadership to younger classes.

Our Student Council is working at creating posters to hang in our school. These posters will encourage kindness, acceptance, and being positive.

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. Ms. Smith 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 the 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.

Treats

When students are bringing in treats to celebrate their birthday, or for our three parties, it is important to remember these treats must be store bought and in their original container. Page 4 of the MFGS Handbook has the list of rules for bringing treats to school.

Important Dates

November 11-Veterans' Day Assembly (9:30 am)
November 17-2 & 3 Concert
November 23-25-No School
November 29-McTeacher Night
December 15-4 & 5 Concert

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