

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- January 2017

Superintendent's 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 2017.

5 Essentials Survey

The Maroa Forsyth School District is once again participating in the 5-Essentials Survey that is required by the Illinois State Board of Education. This survey allows for parents, teachers and students to provide feedback on the District's Schools. The survey is open through the end of January. If you are interested in participating in the survey it can be accessed by following the link below.

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

School Report Cards

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recently posted 2016 school district report cards online at www.illinoisreportcard.com

The report card will include data such as student and teacher demographics, enrollment, district level-

financial information, graduation rates, etc. This is only the 2nd year that students in Illinois have taken PARCC so the availability of long term data is limited. Each school in the district has reviewed their students' PARCC scores, analyzed how students and groups of students did on specific standards, and have begun suggesting improvements as part of the District's School Improvement Process.

While the information presented at www.illinoisreportcard.com is valuable, there is some merit to the information that was presented in the previous report card format. This information can be found on the District's website. Personally, I find this information easier to compare over an extended period of time.

If you would have any questions, or would like to discuss the information on the Illinois Report Card Site or the previous report card format, please do not hesitate to call. I have attached the link to the school report cards.

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/repcard/index.htm>

The issue of school funding continues to be an area of concern, not only for the Maroa Forsyth School District but for District's around the state. The State's Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB) recently prepared a release "imploing the General Assembly and Governor to end *the State's* failure to adequately fund Public Education".

The release does a good job of explaining the student foundation level and how this level dictates the amount of money District's receive from the State of Illinois in revenue commonly referred to as General State Aid.

It should be known this foundation level has not been increased since 2010 and rarely has it been fully funded. This lack of full funding is commonly referred to as "proration". For the complete release please follow the link below.

<https://www.isbe.net/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1129>

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Extracurricular Scores/Info

School Funding

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Maroa Forsyth High School

"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"



Principal's Message

As of this Friday, first semester is finally completed! Even though we missed a day of school due to poor weather during finals, the students were able to prepare themselves and complete all finals. Hopefully your students' academic achievement was positive. However, if you have a child that is struggling, please contact Mr. Stewart for a possible referral to our Student Success Team. If your student failed a class, please contact Mr. Holthaus for a plan to recover the credit as soon as possible.

We do want to make everyone aware of tutoring that is available at school every week. Our National Honor Society provides tutoring a ½ hour before school every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They also provide tutoring for a ½ hour after school on Monday's and Wednesday's. If your student is struggling this is a great opportunity to get extra help.

Starting the week of January 9th, our Juniors will start SAT prep. Each junior will get an account for Khan Academy to help them prepare. We will have 5 different groups who will work with Mrs. Atherton and Mrs. Luedke over the next couple of months. All SAT prep will occur during our Focus Learning time but the students will also be able to access their Khan Academy accounts outside of the school. The

SAT will be given to all Juniors on April 5th. High School students will not be required to take the PARCC assessment this year.

On February 4th, the High School Student Council will be sponsoring a Winter Dance for all high school students. The dance will be held in the HS gym and it is NOT a formal dance. This dance will be from 7:00-9:00 and is an opportunity for all students to come to a dance and have a good time.

Finally, we would like to wish our WYSE, Math, and Scholastic Bowl teams good luck at their upcoming events. The WYSE team will compete in their regionals on February 1st and our Math team will compete on February 25th in their regionals. Our Scholastic Bowl team will start play in the LOEB league and we are excited to announce that they have once again qualified for Nationals in April.

Student Spotlight

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS!!!
Congratulations to this year's class of Illinois State Scholars.

Connor Aeilts
Neha Atluri
Tyana Brock
Scott Fawley
Dylan Flock
Najah Khan
Leah Peitzmann
Saama Salik
Savana Sparks

Each honoree receives a premium parking spot for second semester, have an

Award Portrait placed above their locker, along with other ways to recognize their achievement.

Athletics/Activities

Boys and Girls Basketball have many special events coming up in the next few weeks.

The girls will be celebrating their Pack the Place on January 19th. The girls play Monticello with the JV game starting at 6:00 and the Varsity to start at about 7:30.

On January 31st, we will celebrate the senior members of the girls' basketball team and choir members. The festivities will take place in between the JV and varsity game.

The boys will be celebrating their Pack the Place night on February 3rd and their Senior Night on February 10th. We will also honor senior members of cheer, Trojanettes, wrestling, and band on February 10th.

We are also very pleased to announce that we will be holding a 10-year anniversary for our basketball state championship team on January 24th. The reunion will take place at the varsity boys basketball game.

Band will be performing at the Decatur Youth Hockey game on January 18th for "Maroa-Forsyth Night". We have several students who participate in Youth Hockey program.

Please mark February 22nd at 6:00 on your calendars for the Spring Sports meeting.

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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 over \$3600. The 8th grade won the competition by bringing in \$1506. 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. The Math Counts team begins practice and will compete at Millikin in a math competition with area schools in February. Finally, 6th, 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 15th and 16th. Conferences will be an open setup just like the fall conferences, and you do not need to make an appointment.

This year PARCC testing will be held at the MS on April 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20. We will have make up dates but please make every effort to have your students in attendance on the days they are tested. Spring Break will be March 27-31 this school year.

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

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.

Unfortunately, we did not meet our goal of having 35 or fewer referrals during the 2nd quarter. To help remind our students of the expectations, this week the students received 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.

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

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 Meridian starting January 21st. The 8th grade regional will be at Lincoln on 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 21st. This tournament will be played in the high school and starts at 8:30 am.

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. On-line registration will be opened up in February and the coaches will send home information. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders can participate in track.

Important Dates

January

- 7th-12th: 7th and 8th Grade BBKB Okaw Tournaments
- 13th: Report Cards sent home
- 16th: No School
- 21st: 7th and 8th Grade Volleyball Classic @ HS
- 26th: District Spelling Bee
- 26th: Basketball 8th Grade Night

February

- 1st: 2:03 Dismissal
- 3rd-. Mid-Term
- 15th: 2:03 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30
- 16th: 2:03 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30
- 15th: Math Counts competition
- 20th-No School
- 21st-Volleyball 8th Grade Night

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Maroa Forsyth Grade School

Principal's Message

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

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. Please make sure your child has these things at school so they can enjoy recesses with their friends.

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. Students in fifth grade will also take a Science assessment. More information on these tests will be out in March.

Winter Conferences

Winter conferences are scheduled for February 15 & 16. Conferences are from 4:30-7:30 both nights. School dismisses at 2:13 on these days as well as February 17. Information about these conferences will be coming home with students.

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.

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. 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.

Kindergarten and Pre-K Screenings

Kindergarten Screenings are February 22 & 23. These screenings take approximately 20 minutes. Students eligible for kindergarten need to turn 5 on or before September 1.

Pre-K Screenings are scheduled for March 2 & 3. These screenings take

approximately thirty minutes. Students must be at least 3 at time of Pre-K enrollment.

We are taking appointments for both of these screenings. Please call the office to set a time to get your child screened.

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 at the bus stop.

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

Important Dates

January 13-Report Cards go home
January 16- No School
February 1-2:13 dismissal
February 6-Community Club meeting
February 13-Book Fair opens
February 14-Valentine's Day Parties
February 15 & 16-P/T Conferences
February 15/16/17-2:13 dismissals
February 20-No School

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