



# MCMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

## Educating Today for Tomorrow's World

August 1, 2018

Tracy Beam, Principal  
816 East Grant Highway  
Marengo, Illinois 60152



Marengo Community Middle School Office: 815-568-5720

Transportation Director: 815-596-1667

Grant Intermediate School: 815-568-7427

Transportation Department: 815-568-0778

District 165 Office: 815-568-8323

Locust Elementary School: 815-568-7632



*"Your success will be my greatest achievement."*  
~ Author Unknown

### Welcome Back to the 2018-2019 School Year

The first day of school for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. We will dismiss at 1:20 P.M. on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Regular school hours will resume on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Middle School Regular School hours are:**

\* Classes start promptly at 7:35 A.M., the school day ends at 2:29 P.M.

#### **Middle School Office: 6:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.**

You might want to set your alarm clock this weekend to make sure it is working properly. Let's make it a great 2018-2019 school year by being at school on time.

#### **MCMS Drop-off Supplies**

Please visit us during our "Drop-off Supplies" open house on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00 P.M. Parents and students are welcome to tour the building, visit classrooms, try their locker combinations and drop-off school supplies. Students may want to bring their class schedule and walk from room to room at this time; especially our incoming sixth graders. Teachers will be working in their rooms doing final preparations, and while it is not a time to review academic curriculum, you will be able to put a face with a room number and location!

#### **School Store**

The school store will be moving to the Library! Items from the school store will be available during supply drop off on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 P.M. The school store will be open from 7:10 - 7:30 A.M. on school attendance days.

#### **MCMS Picture Day**

Color Portraits will be here on **Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>** to take your 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student's picture. Order forms will be sent home with students on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. In order to receive a picture package, payment/order form must be returned to the middle school on or before August 27<sup>th</sup> to your 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher. SMILE PRETTY!



Welcome Back MCMS Students  
Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
and New Students to

Marengo Community Middle School!

It's Back to School Time! We are looking forward to reconnecting with our families & students and have planned another educational and activity packed year. Please check the MCMS website often for upcoming field trips, events, and special days.

#### **Student arrival/Students being dropped-off by cars:**

Student doors will open at 7:00 A.M. All students coming into the building will be directed to go **immediately** to the cafeteria. Prospect Street drop off procedures apply: The driveway/parking is one way going north.

**Please pull up as far as you can** to allow others behind you room to drop off their student/s, and please have your child exit the car once you are stopped so the flow can keep going. Classes begin at 7:35 A.M. Anyone coming into the building after that will be issued a tardy slip.

#### **End of day/Student pick-up by car:**

Student dismissal is at 2:29 P.M. Car riders and walkers will be held in the cafeteria until the busses have departed. Car riders will be released next. Prospect Street pick up procedures apply: The driveway/parking is one way going north. Overflow parking will be in the Grant circle. **NO** cars are allowed to stop on Prospect Street. **Please pull up as far as you can** to allow others behind you room to pick up their student/s so the flow can keep going with cars leaving. Walkers will be released once the cars have cleared the driveway. Students who are walking will be released from the North end of the building, closest to the crossing guards at Prospect and Washington Streets.

#### **P.B.I.S.**

The First Day of School is on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>! During study halls the first full week of school, students will be taught about the Positive Behavior Incentives System (PBIS). Students will learn school-wide expectations in many areas including classrooms, hallways, lunchrooms, busses, bathrooms, and the library. This is a school wide, year-long program with an assembly on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> during study hall.



Welcome to New Staff at  
Marengo Middle School

Jennie Adamson  
Alex Castellanos  
Olivia Creasy  
Haley Gifford  
Katrina Kane  
Bonnie Novak  
Roberta Simons

#### **Student Packets Mailed Home**

Student packets will be mailed the week of August 6<sup>th</sup>. Please do not expect them to arrive at your home prior to August 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have moved over the summer you will be required to provide two proofs of residency (driver's license, tax bill or utility bill, etc.). We will not accept a cell phone bill. Please send this into your child's school and add the name of your child(ren) to the documents you send in. Please be advised that these will NOT be returned to you.

Payment of some type is expected if you do not apply for the lunch program. Lunch applications will be available with the child's information or a letter letting you know that you have pre-qualified.

#### **Registration Fees for 2018-2019:**

K-8- \$175.00

ECE-\$85.00

#### **Lunch for 2018-2019:**

Lunch- \$2.80 Reduced Lunch- \$ .40

Breakfast- \$1.50 Reduced Breakfast- \$ .30

Milk- \$ .50



Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, MCMS Academic Night will be from 6:30-8:00 P.M. This is an excellent opportunity to meet the teachers and experience the curriculum by following your students schedule.

Mrs. Beam will host an introduction to middle school at 5:30 P.M. in the auditorium.

#### **Absences**

Please remember to report your student's absence from school by calling the middle school office by 8:00 A.M. at 815-568-5720. If you are calling before school hours, please leave a message.

GO   
WARRIORS!

### Free/Reduced Application

These must be turned in as soon as possible to avoid any charges to your families account. Please note that if you do not reapply with the lunch **application in your packet**, you will be responsible for all fees also, which must be paid in full by April 1, 2019.



### Moving Out of District

If your student is not returning to District #165 for the **2018-2019** school year. Please stop in Marengo Middle School, Grant Intermediate School or Locust School office to fill-out the withdrawal form as soon as possible. These forms (NOTICE OF STUDENT WITHDRAWAL 2018) may also be found online and then mailed/faxed to the school your child(ren) would be attending for the **2018-2019** school year. Please refer to our website ([www.marengo165.org](http://www.marengo165.org)) for fax numbers/addresses for each school.

### Transportation Reminder for Parents

Parents/Guardians please note that if your child is being provided transportation by the district the PICK-UP time and the DROP-OFF time that you receive are within a **ten (10) minute window**. What this means is that a time of 7:00 a.m. for PICK-UP can be anywhere between 6:55 a.m. and 7:05 a.m. and will be considered to be on time. Please make certain your student is at their stop five (5) minutes before their scheduled pick-up time.

**Kindergarten and Pre-K parents/guardians**, if your child does not ride the bus, please do not bring them early, as their teachers are preparing for the day. For the safety of your child, transportation WILL NOT drop your Kindergartener or Pre-K student off if a parent is not present at DROP OFF locations. If this happens, the child will be returned to Locust School at the end of the bus driver's route to wait for parent pick-up.



Parents/Guardian: You must give transportation names/phone numbers of any designated adult(s) other than yourself that can receive your child at the drop off point. We will NOT release your child to anyone that you have not designated us to do so. Anyone you have listed as emergency contacts would be approved to receive your child at their drop off point.

**1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders** will be picked up and dropped off at their assigned stop. Parents DO NOT need to be present. These students will not be returned to the school.

If you have any questions about your students' transportation or a problem your student may have on the bus – please call, **Michele Frank, Transportation Director at (815) 596-1667 or Dena Montgomery, Transportation Department at (815) 568-0778**. We will always return your call, so please leave a message and we will get back to you. Thank you for helping us make the school year pleasant for your child.

### Safety Concern


Please remind your children if they are walking home after school, not to cross Route 20 in front of the school. Students should cross Prospect Street with the crossing guard (by Washington Street), walk up to Route 20 and cross at Locust Street where there is another crossing guard.

### Soccer

Soccer try-outs are August 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:00-4:30 P.M. The final roster will be posted in the office on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Unless otherwise arranged, you must attend all three dates. More information to follow during morning announcements.

~ Coach Viktora

### Volleyball

Reminder that sports physicals need to be in by the first day of tryouts. We will have tryouts Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> and names will be posted Wednesday night! 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball parents please sign up for remind text @weeks18 to 81010 More information will be given  during morning announcements.

Looking forward to a great season!

~ Coaches Weeks and Mayberry

### Cross Country

Cross Country practice will start Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. All students in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcomed to join! There will be an informational meeting during the first week of school. More information on that will be in the morning announcements. Looking forward to another fantastic season!

~ Coach Tihinen

**SPORT PHYSICALS ARE REQUIRED BEFORE TRY-OUTS START FOR THE SPORT.**

### Physicals/Medication Orders/Doctor

#### Notes

Sixth graders have you turned in your physicals, *booster and dental exams?*



All 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades need to show proof of having a Tdap booster on file at school. Sixth graders will need to show proof of having a second varicella shot, T-Dap to prevent pertussis and the meningitis shot. The meningitis shot was added for 2015-2016 and the first one is due in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and then again in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please check with your physician and turn in the required information.

We would like all the exam forms for the 2018–2019 school year turned in by the first day of school, Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. If your child will need medication orders (including over the counter medications like Tylenol), please obtain these orders from your doctor.

Attendance will be handled as per state code and Board Policy. If a student misses four (4) or more consecutive days, a note from the doctor is required for the days to be considered excused. If a doctor's visit cannot be made, you may bring your child to the school nurse for an evaluation, or other verification. (Please refer to page 20 in the Parent / Student Handbook for other attendance questions.) Good practice would be anytime your student goes to the doctor, dentist, or eye doctor get a note from them and turn it into the school office. The doctor note will be logged in the computer with their attendance. Thank you!



### MCMS Tardy Policy

We want to make sure that all parents are aware of our tardy policy here at MCMS. This is in reference to either tardies to school, or to individual classes. This is calculated anew for each quarter. It is as follows:

\*5 tardies = lunch detention

\*10 tardies = afterschool detention until 3:30 p.m.

\*15 tardies = alternative school day spent in the office

\*20 or more tardies = a decision based on review by administration

At any time, a student may be placed on a tardy contract to help minimize their tardies.

Another way we minimize tardies is through a **TARDY SWEEP**. During a “Sweep Week”, the consequences for being tardy will be different. We will announce when a sweep will be taking place, so the students will be aware.

During a sweep, each classroom teacher will close their door immediately after the tardy bell has rung. Any students still in the hallway will be given a ticket. This ticket will serve as their pass to class, as well as their assigned detention time (normally the following day). It will be the student's responsibility to inform their parents of this detention. These detentions will go until 3:30 P.M. If you have any questions about the tardy info, please feel free to contact Mrs. Beam, MCMS Principal at 815-568-5720.

### Wellness Policy

Belief Statement: The Board of Education of Marengo –Union Elementary Consolidated School District 165 is committed to providing a learning environment that supports and promotes wellness, good nutrition, and an active lifestyle and recognizes the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity and the capacity of students to develop and learn. It is our goal to help equip the students by encouraging life-long positive health habits. Please refer to our Parent / Student Handbook 2018-2019 page 17 for other information.



### Sports Physical

Sports physicals are required before try-outs start for the sport. A sports physical is good for one year and a routine physical can also be used for sports.



### Band Sign Up for Advanced Band

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer! I'm excited to get the band up and running again this year as I believe we will have a fantastic year! Students will need to listen to the announcements during the first week back of school. I am planning on having the band meeting during study hall sometime the week of August 20th, so please listen to the announcements! I will also be contacting past band members' families by email during that first week back to school with information as well. If you are joining band you don't have to wait until our first meeting! Sign up by downloading the extracurricular activities sheet off the district website and turn it into the school office or request a form from the office and turn it in. Also, this year I will be at Grant and the Middle School full time! This means that I can teach lessons before or after school so if your child is apprehensive about joining band due to missing too much class, I would be more than happy to arrange a specific lesson time for him or her. Please feel free to reach out to me as we can make anything work with the band program! If you have any questions about the band program or how to sign up please email Mrs. Johnson at [sjohnson@marengo165.org](mailto:sjohnson@marengo165.org). I'm looking forward to a great year in Advanced Band!

### P-A-L-S

As we continue our efforts toward a bully-free, kind, and tolerant school climate, we ask that parents join us in reminding our students about P-A-L-S and the importance of Respecting Property; All Others; Learning; and Self. We will continue with our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of the month that are selected by their teachers respecting P-A-L-S.

Marengo Community Middle School is looking forward to a great 2018-2019 school year!

### **MARENGO MIDDLE SCHOOL RESPECTS**



### Attendance and Tardy Policy

Just a friendly reminder about attendance and tardy policy:

- 5 tardies to class = lunch detention, note sent home with student
- 10 tardies to class = after school detention
- 15 tardies to class = alternative day in the office
- 20 tardies to class = Administration involved

Parents please remember that students are only allowed to have nine full or partial days unexcused or tardy to school out of 180 academic school days, before the Regional Office of Education is required to be notified. This includes when the student is on vacation as the absence is considered unexcused.

Please contact Mrs. Garrett with any questions, at (815) 568-5720, extension 168



### PE Attire

MCMS Booster Club is selling PE clothes for the middle school. If you are in need of PE clothes please stop at the middle school library. The shirts and shorts are \$10 each. Please make checks payable to: MCMS Booster Club

### Medical Services

Aunt Martha's is located at 3703 Doty Rd., Medical Bldg. 1, Suite 1, Woodstock. They also have an office in Carpentersville. They provide affordable care for children and adults of all ages and income levels. Their service includes primary care, dental, mental health, women's health, family planning and care coordination.

Aunt Martha's accepts most Medicaid plans and AllKids. The sliding scale make great care easy to afford. It is their policy that patients without the ability to pay will NOT be denied services.

Students and their family members call Aunt Martha's by phone 877-692-8686 or online at [www.auntmarthas.org](http://www.auntmarthas.org) Bi Lingual services are provided.

### Please Mark Your Calendar August

- 14 - 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade supply drop-off 2:00-5:00 P.M. - PE attire will also be sold by the Booster Club
  - 15 - First Day of School 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
  - 15-17 - Early Dismissal MCMS at 1:20 P.M.
  - 22 - cePTA at 5:00 P.M./Board of Ed at 7:00 P.M.
  - 22 - Introduction to middle school at 5:30 P.M.
  - 22 - MCMS Academic Night 6:30-8:00 P.M.
  - 27 - MCMS & Grant Picture Day
- September**
- 3 - No School - Labor Day
  - 13 - Booster Club meeting
  - 14 - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter mid-term
  - 21 - Mid-term Reports go home (academic concerns only)
  - 19 - cePTA at 5:00 P.M./Board of Ed at 7:00 P.M.
  - 26 & 27 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volo Bog
  - 28 - No School -Teacher Institute Day



### **Assemblies, Library Books, Kindergarten's Birthday Books, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade's Polar Express, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade's Challenger, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade's Chicago Excursion, and Much More!!**

cePTA is a charitable organization that depends on parent and staff volunteers. We would love to see some fresh faces and new ideas! Join us as we plan another fun, educational year with our students.

2018-2019 cePTA Meetings, **WEDNESDAY (5:00 p.m.)** at Marengo Middle School: August 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 28<sup>nd</sup>, No December meeting, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**cePTA will have an information table set-up at all Back-to-School events!**

**REMINDER: VISIT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WEBSITE ALL YEAR LONG FOR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION.**

[www.marengo165.org](http://www.marengo165.org)



Mission Statement: District #165's mission is to form a community partnership dedicated to providing a solid educational foundation that enables students to become confident, self-sufficient and productive citizens. Students shall have the academic and technological opportunities to achieve their full potential in a nurturing environment.

### Great News!!! From MCMS Booster Club

MCMS Booster Club will have an information table set-up on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00 P.M. for MCMS Open House. At that time, we will have PE attire available - \$10 shirt / \$10 shorts.

Make sure you pick up our FALL PLANT SALE flyer when you stop by to see us! We are offering an amazing assortment of fall mums, cabbage, kale, rudbeckia and grasses - are you ready to add some fall color to your yard. Next will be our annual Affy Tapple sale that will kick off September.

MCMS Booster Club Mission Statement: Every student attending Marengo Community Middle School has the opportunity to learn discipline, teamwork, and the achievement of goals through extra-curricular activities. "TODAY'S DREAM...TOMORROW'S TEAM"

With this statement in mind, we ask for your participation to join us throughout the year at one or more of our meetings. We would love to see some fresh faces and ideas! Next meeting, Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. MCMS Library.

"Coming together is a beginning - Keeping together is a progress - Working together is a success." ~ Henry Ford

