



BULLPUP PRESS



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS BY DR. JOE HUTCHESON

A message from MCMS:

Your child's success is the most important thing to us here at MCMS! Each day, our teachers strive to meet the 3 R's...Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. Back when you and I were in school, the 3 R's meant Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. How times have changed...research has proven that student success is directly related to Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships. Let's see how.

Rigor – Having high standards in our classes and pushing our students to excel will help ensure our students are prepared for high school and college. Remember...if you shoot for the stars and don't quite make it...you will still hit the moon. We must encourage our students to expect a lot from themselves.

Relevance – We must strive to make sure that the education we are providing our children is relevant to their needs. Back when I was in middle school, our entire math program was centered on the metric system. At this time in history, the metric system was supposed to be used throughout the entire world and the U.S. wanted to make sure its citizens were prepared. As you can see, the metric system never replaced the English system we still use today. Relevant today is to stay on-top of the latest technological advances and encouraging our students to use them to their advantage. We work to make sure our education incorporates things that are relevant to our students today.

Relationships – Have you ever belonged to a club or sport? What did you think of your coach? You probably would do anything for your coach. He or she really pushed you and instilled a desire in you to excel. I remember my 8th grade coach...I would have run through a brick wall for him...because he made me believe I could do anything I set my mind to. He inspired me. Our teachers at MCMS know the benefits of "connecting" with our students. We have to be approachable and willing to be someone they can count on.

What do we do now?...good question.

We must begin to understand that the most important thing in your child's life is his or her education. That portion of their life begins at 7:50am each morning. It is imperative that students have time to go to their locker, get a drink of water and take care of any school business by 8:00am. School begins at 8:05 and that is when they need to be sitting in class ready for the day. Too many times, we have students just being dropped off at 8:05. This puts them in class after 8:15.

Next, we must begin to expect excellence from our students 24 hours each day. Excellence should be demonstrated at home as well as at school.

And finally, plan. *If we fail to plan, you will plan to fail.* Where do we want our students, academically... next week...next semester...next year? Let's work together to develop a plan for your child. We want them to be the best they can be...just like you.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- GRADE LEVEL INFORMATION
- MEDIA CENTER NEWS
- CONNECTING WITH THE ARTS
- BULLPUP UPDATE
- IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT NEWS

Don't forget that if you are not already receiving the weekly email update all you need do is send Ms. Outram your email address at nicole.outram@morgan.k12.ga.us and she will add you to the list. It is a great way to stay informed about what is happening at MCMS.

If you are interested in tutoring or getting involved in any way, please

contact Wes Dozier. We are always looking for great volunteers. Have you recently moved into the area? Call or email Mr. Dozier (wes.dozier@morgan.k12.ga.us) and let him sign you up as a volunteer, and we will add you to our email newsletter list.

Please contact the school for further information. Our number is 706-342-0556.

PTO (PARENT-TEACHER-ORGANIZATION) NEWS



PTO would like to thank everyone who helped make the Fall Book Fair a success. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time.

The Valentine's Dance is Friday, February 13 from 6—8 pm. The theme is "So you think you can Dance". Chaperones are needed, and we would love for you to attend!

PTO would also like to remind parents of a great opportunity to help MCMS. You can link your Ingles card to MCMS or your Target Red Card to MCMS. Go to target.com/community for your Red Card. Ask your local Ingles store about linking your Ingles card.

The next PTO meeting will be on February 9, 2009 at 9:00 AM at MCMS. Everyone is invited to attend.

Kristi Arienzo (404-274-2245) dkarlenzo@bellsouth.net



OUR WONDERFUL BUSINESS SPONSORS

MCMS would like to say thank you all to our wonderful business sponsors:

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President Obama is proposing several reforms in Education.
I have listed some below to help keep you informed of these changes.



No Child Left Behind Reform

Obama has said that he believes in the overarching goal of this federal law—ensuring that all students can meet high standards—but contends that the law has significant flaws that must be addressed. He proposes to provide additional funding for states to develop improved assessments that measure higher-order thinking skills. He has also called for the accountability arm of No Child Left Behind to focus on incentives for school improvements rather than sanctions for failure and to consider measures beyond just reading and mathematics assessments.

Strengthen K-12 Education

To address the needs of our nation's public schools, Obama plans to double funding for the Federal Charter School Program to support the creation of more successful charter schools and address the dropout crisis by passing legislation to provide funding to school districts to invest in intervention strategies in middle school. Additionally, he will create a national "Make College A Reality" initiative that aims to increase students taking AP or college-level classes nationwide 50 percent by 2016.

Club News



Connecting With the ARTS!



Morgan County K-12 art programs will combine efforts with the Madison Morgan Cultural Center for two upcoming shows. Students will participate in the Portraits exhibit beginning in March. The center will also host the AFLAT annual art show...date to be announced. More information will be sent home with students who have art in the shows.

THE SCRAPBOOK CLUB

If you are in scrapbook club – please bring supplies. This is a fun group but everyone must provide their own supplies. Thanks Angie Howard



Congratulations to MCMS, the nation's, newest Lighthouse School

Bullpup Update

The MCMS Wrestling team finished their season at the top of the Piedmont Athletic Conference once again....Congratulations to Coach Mark Roper and the Mat Pups on an outstanding year.

The girls and boys basketball teams had a good year with the girls in a rebuilding year finishing 4th in the league.

The boys finished their regular season 2nd in the league and lost to Carson Middle School in the championship game. Congratulations to both teams on a good season.

All spring sports are underway, and this year we have new coaches in nearly every one. Baseball is being coached by Clark Mays who teaches at the MCHS, Courtney McCullough is the tennis coach, Greg Thompson, who teaches at Crossroads and is the new golf coach. Stacy Webb will be our girls' track coach this year, and Gary Gardner is our new boys' soccer coach. Good luck to all of our coaches and athletes.

The MCMS Archery team began practice this past Monday and competes in Perry on Friday, February 13th. We will take the biggest team ever with 24 participants. We will be competing in the State Archery in the Schools Program competition. Good Luck!!

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

Any student who plans on **TRYING OUT** for **ANY SPORT** must have **proof of insurance on file at school**. If you have any questions you can contact: Julie Jameson at julie.jameson@morgan.k12.ga.us, Milfred Franklin at milfred.franklin@morgan.k12.ga.us or the Main Office at the Middle School at 342-0556.



REPLACEMENT AGENDAS



The cost of replacement agendas has gone up to \$15.00. If you lose your agenda and have to purchase a new one it will now cost \$15.00. We are sorry for any inconvenience. Please make a note of the change in this area.

PAW PRIDE INFORMATION

PAW PRIDE reminders:

- € Be Respectful
- € Be Prepared
- € Be on time
- € Be on task
- € Be a follower of all school rules
- € Keep your agenda book with you at all times.

A PARENT'S SIGNATURE is required for all students. Parents are encouraged to check their child's agenda book daily and sign it at least once that week.

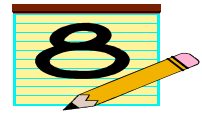
PAW PRIDE reward dates:

- € To participate in the 4 ½ week reward, students must earn the following puppy paw prints:
 - 1st 4 ½ week = 6 paw prints (**Week of September 8**)
 - 2nd 4 ½ week = 7 paw prints (**Week of November 17**)
 - 3rd 4 ½ week = 8 paw prints (**Week of February 9**)
 - 4th 4 ½ week = 9 paw prints (**Week of April 20**)
- € To participate in the 9 week reward, students must earn the following puppy paw prints:
 - 1st 9 week = 14 paw prints (**October 17**)
 - 2nd 9 week = 15 paw prints (**January 16**)
 - 3rd 9 week = 16 paw prints (**March 20**)
 - 4th 9 week = 19 paw prints. (**May 28**)

CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE FOR VALUABLE INFORMATION AT

[HTTP://WWW.MORGAN.K12.GA.US/MCMS/](http://www.morgan.k12.ga.us/mcms/)

8th Grade



Language Arts—

Language Arts teachers just recently attended a two day class on how to help students write right. The class incorporated effective strategies for teaching grammar. The teachers left the class eager and ready to prepare their students for this year's CRCT. 8th grade writing test scores should return around March. Teachers, as well as students, were pleased and ready due to the great preparations given by our Language Arts department.

Savannah Trip Update -

- Just a reminder that the 2nd deposit is due now, 3rd due the end of Feb, and final due the end of March. Students who are going on the Savannah field trip have to be present everyday of the CRCT, due to makeup testing being done during the trip.
- Doughnut sales (fundraiser for Savannah) Orders are being taken now and the money is due Feb. 10th. Pick up day is Feb 13th by 4pm; this is also an Early Release Day for students.

Lunch and Learn—

In order for students to meet and exceed the standards, they must complete all assignments in all classes. This includes all class work and all homework. Class work and homework serve as the students' roads to successful mastery of math, science, language arts, and social studies.

To encourage students to do their very best, and to take upon themselves the responsibility to complete all class work and homework, Mrs. A. Howard's team has instituted the "Lunch and Learn" program. Each day, homework checks are done in all academic classes. Periodically, class work is checked for completion, as well. If assignments are not completed, students are now offered the extra time during lunch to complete them during "Lunch and Learn." One or more of the content area teachers are available during "Lunch and Learn," to help students to successfully complete the assignments at hand.

So far, there has been a marked difference in students' efforts to complete their assignments across the entire A. Howard team! We consider the "Lunch and Learn" to be an excellent opportunity to make our students more responsible and more successful.



6th grade



M. Howard's sixth grade team is busy investigating types of rocks and is learning how to identify minerals! We didn't realize that rocks are used in so many diverse ways in our lives. If any of our students' family members or community members has a special interest and knowledge of rocks and minerals, we would like to encourage you to consider visiting our science class as a resource person for our students! We encourage parent participation in our classroom! Please contact Mona Howard through the MCMS school office if you are interested in becoming a guest speaker!

BULLPUP PRIDE

7TH GRADE TEAM NEWS



Mrs. Batchelor's Team is working toward several big events in the coming months. In Mrs. Potter's Science, students have been studying the systems of the body, while in Math, the students and Mrs. Adams have begun to study a new unit on integers. In Language Arts with Mrs. Cronin, students have begun a research project that will have several finished products. Using the Big 6 research skills, students began their project looking for information about different aspects of a country in Africa. From this information, students will develop an informational essay, a travel brochure, and compare and contrast paper. This unit will flow into one of the next units in Social Studies with Mrs. Batchelor, Africa! After students finish up with the Middle East, they will begin a unit on Africa, which will be even more exciting because we will get to connect to Africa in a unique way. On February 17, we will be going to the Civic Center in Atlanta to see King Tutankhamun and the Great Pharaoh's exhibit. We are also planning a field trip to Charlie Elliott in March. Because of a grant Mrs. Potter received from Target, the field trip to Charlie Elliott is free!! Please show your support to Target and sign our school up to receive special incentives from the store. There is a behavior plan in place for both field trips, and we want all of the students to have the opportunity to experience both trips.

Please check Infinite Campus for updates on your child's progress in school. If you do not have a log-in code for the parent portal, please come by the main office. All teachers are available by email and phone. Our webpage's will have up-to-date homework information, as well as other class announcements. Please check your child's agenda for homework, Paw Pride marks, or notes from the teacher, and talk to your child about their progress in class. We have several learning opportunities available for our children.

Please feel free to contact any of the teachers with any concerns, and let us know if you would like to volunteer in Reading, Language Arts, Science, or Social Studies because we would love you have you!

The McCullough Team is looking forward to two exciting field trips in March! Our first field trip will be on Tuesday, March 17, to the Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center. We will spend a mild spring day there, participating in activities related to the Life Science GPS we are studying. That trip is free, with special thanks to a field trip grant from Target and a school sponsor. Our next field trip is to the Atlanta Civic Center to see the King Tut Exhibit! On Wednesday, March 18, we will travel back in time and explore many ancient artifacts from the tomb of King Tut and other pharaohs of Egypt. That trip costs \$12 per student, and the money is due by Friday, February 13! Please get permission slips for both trips and money for King Tut in to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. Keep in mind, also, that there is a behavior plan in place for the field trip. Students who receive In-Team Suspension, In-School Suspension, or Out-of-School Suspension will not be allowed to go on either trip. If you would like to be a chaperone, please contact one of the teachers on the team through e-mail or by phone, and we can arrange it.

Bryans' Team Information

We are excited to be going on two fun and educational field trips in the next 6 weeks. Our first will be to the Atlanta Civic Center to see the King Tut Exhibit. We will be going on March 5th to learn more about King Tutankhamen. The website (http://www.kingtut.org/about_the_exhibition?location=atlanta) has a lot of information you can look at with your child to prepare him/her for the visit.

Please know that students who have more than 2 unexcused absences, have spent more than 2 days in ISS or have had OSS at all, will not be able to attend the field trip. The cost of the field trip is non-refundable. This was explained to the kids when the permission slips were handed out on January 14th.

On March 18th we'll be going to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield, GA. The students will take part in some fantastic Life Science activities, including fishing and pond Ecology. There is no cost for the students. Please look for the permission form coming home soon. Behavior will also affect a student's right to attend Charlie Elliot.



NEWS FROM THE GRADUATION COACH MRS. PICKLES

Parents, the world and its economy are changing fast. MCMS needs to support you and your children by providing the best education possible. We, as a community of learners, need to think of the future now. We do not need to wait until problems occur. We should be pro-active with our children's education. We need to make sure that our students stay active participants in their education and excited about learning.

Dropping out is **not** an overnight decision; it is an accumulation of factors that allows a child to drop out.

- In the state of Georgia over 2000 students (all diversities) drop out **before** the ninth grade.
- **Poor attendance** accounts for a large percentage of drop outs, and the issue of poor attendance crosses all socioeconomic communities and racial communities.
- It is the individual on the **margins of society** (home, school, community) that drops out.
- 81% of Georgia prisoners **did not complete high school**,
- Only 6% of the job force hires students **without a high school diploma** (that means 94 out of 100 jobs rejected). Think about our economy and the competition for jobs.
- A drop out **can earn** \$19,000 a year at best.

The number of drop outs increases to 40,000 by the high school level in the state of Georgia.

This is not a cultural issue or a society issue. It is a moral issue.

Let's work together to make every child count!



6TH ENRICHMENT NEWS



Congratulations to DAR essay contest winners: 1st place Chase Ortiz, 2nd place Henry Smith, and 3rd place Katelyn Carson. We are so proud of your accomplishments.

Now we are all working on the UDC essay contest: "The Lost Confederate Gold."

Also in language arts, students are working on biography book projects, persuasive writing, and using pronouns correctly in writing.

In 6th grade enrichment math, students are exploring 3D geometry. They are "filling and wrapping" prisms, cylinders, pyramids and cones. Sound interesting? Come join us in class for a hands-on, challenging math experience.

Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Simmons





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IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS

- **Early Release Day: Friday, February 13**
- **Intersession: March 9 – 13**
- **Report Cards: March 17**
- **CRCT Testing: April 14 – 21**

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Differentiated Instruction is an entire teaching philosophy grounded in knowing students and responding to their needs. DI employs thoughtful, purposeful flexible grouping. Sometimes students work alone, sometimes in pairs, sometimes as a whole class, and sometimes in small groups-depending upon demonstrated student need. DI means providing appropriate scaffolding to help all learners reach common learning goals. Lessons are grounded within a rich curriculum, and activities have to be held together by clear learning goals. Because differentiation is a philosophy of meeting a broad range of students' needs, only when students cease to be different will the need for differentiation disappear. Differentiated Instruction is a process which the teachers at Morgan County Middle School are committed to learn.

McCullough's team welcomes a student teacher!

My name is Mary Reagin, and I am a student teacher this semester with Mrs. McCullough's science classes. I am a senior at UGA and will graduate in May with a degree in Middle School Education with concentrations in science and mathematics. I am so excited to be able to have this opportunity to start my teaching experience at such a wonderful school. The teachers here are so helpful and creative, and I know that I am being prepared well for my future as an educator. I look forward to learning more this semester and helping out the wonderful students here at MCMS.



CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE FOR VALUABLE INFORMATION AT
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