



MIDDLE SCHOOL

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message

Dear McCutcheon Family:

The month of September has been very busy. Thank you to all of our families that attended open house. Also, special thanks to all of our teachers and educational support personnel. On Friday we were awarded the ALL-STARS grant, which provides funding for after-school activities. We hope to start the program very soon. More information will follow in the next couple weeks. In addition, we have applied for a creative schools art grant, which would help bring resident artists to our school. We should be hearing back about the grant in a few months. A special thanks to Ms. Petrakos, Ms. Vnoucek, Ms. Whitfield, Ms. Bakis, Ms. Gries, and Mr. Ruggles for their hard work and dedication in finding grants to support our after-school activities.

Yesterday, over 40 McCutcheon students attended the CPS High School Fair. Students truly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with high school representatives. Special thanks to Ms. Whitfield, Ms. Cooney, Mr. Ruggles and parents for escorting our students to the fair. We are very grateful for your support.

Progress Reports will go home with students on Friday. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. All of our teachers are available via email on our school's website. You are also welcome to come in or call to schedule an appointment. On that note, please mark your calendar for Report Card Pick-Up on November 12.

Thank you for all of your support. As always, please contact us if you have any questions. Go Mustangs!

Sincerely,

Jenn Farrell
Principal

Reading Mrs. Richardson

Language arts students begin the month with continued analysis of chapter, plot, setting and theme in their 1st quarter novels. The end of the month shifts focus to short texts and argumentative writing.

Reading Ms. Kallas

The 8th graders are wrapping up their novel ("The Catcher in the Rye") and recently reimagined the story's dialogue as text messages. 7th graders in Room 306 are almost finished with "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" and are learning about the Great Depression and the plight of African-Americans in the Jim Crow South. Finally, the 6th graders are reading "Tangerine" and have been researching different topics from the book. We're off to a great start!

Science Mr. Kovach

This month in middle school science class students will begin research for their Science Fair Project. Last year we had a great start to building up our middle school Science Fair to make it more fun and competitive for all the students. We sent 4 students to regional competition and they did very well. One of those students is now a high school student at the prestigious Latin School. Students will do experiments with studying microorganisms around the school such as bacteria as we enter the flu season--yah! Please check out information will be sent home in regards to your child's Science Fair Project assignments, as well as information about an upcoming free event to help students with their projects that will be at Northeastern IL University on Saturday, October 11th.

Social Studies Mr. Piotrowski

We are off to a fast start! The sixth graders will begin investigation of the continent of Africa. 7th grade will examine the colonization of North America, while the 8th grade will be drawn into understanding the causes for Civil War. Parents are encouraged to help their children keep their binders/notes organized and presentable. Each week, I'll be checking!

Math Ms. Hollis

This month in 6th grade we're going to continue working with rational numbers and then turn our focus to operations with fractions. In 7th grade, we're about to finish working with multiplying and dividing integers, which will be followed by focusing on different operations with rational numbers. In 8th grade, we will continue working with exponents and scientific notation, to be followed by proportional relationships.

Math Ms. Gutierrez

Hello! The 6th grades are working hard solving word problems using the greatest common factor and the least common multiple. The 7th graders just finished learning how to do all four mathematical operations with integers and will start to learn about rational numbers. The 8th graders are learning how to write large quantities and small quantities in scientific notation.

Sixth-Eighth Grade Diverse Learners Mrs. Magnuson

Fall is officially here! In Room 301 we will be learning about all things fall! We also have some exciting news. Room 301 is getting a classroom pet! This month we will focus on how to take care of our classroom pet. We will be responsible caretakers and can't wait to have our pet be a part of our classroom.

Sixth-Eighth Grade Diverse Learners Mr. Ursa

Resource Room is beginning their "Monthly Stars" end-of-the-month lunch club starting with October. Those who have done their work and behaved well during the month get to be treated to lunch at the end of the month.

Music Ms. Fitzgerald

Happy musical October!!! Fall music inquiry! Sounds are all important to music. Students will be working with sounds and timbres while investigating fall music ideas. Team participation and keeping up with our music activities are the best ways to get a wonderful grade. During September, students discovered many ways to unite and work together during music class and will be continuing this during October. Deep thinking and literacy are always a part of our musical studies.

Health Ms. Petrakos

Well, it's been a great few weeks. The students have been working on a manners course. We will continue working on feelings and building healthy relationships. The students will be bringing home a Healthy Calendar this month--please help them in their pursuit of healthy living. Finally, I wanted to mention that the students will be learning about sexual health this school year. Many topics will be covered but will vary based on the grade level. If you have questions please see me.

Art Mrs. Carag

Greetings! In art class for the past weeks we've been focusing on three elements of art: line, shape, and color. The primary grades worked on a line study drawing, identified geometric and organic shapes, and practiced tracing stencils. We are moving into color theory and students have been excited about painting. Middle school students created beautiful hand designs made of repetitive shapes and are experimenting with graphite pencils to create their value drawings.



REMINDERS

- ✓ School starts at 8:45 and ends at 3:45
- ✓ Please be in uniform



Congratulations to our September students of the month!

102- Ivan Patino
104- Edwin Rodriguez
110- Nia Aiken'Alridge
213- Jahir Martinez
211- Nancy Vo
210- Obsnet Aman
208- James Lim
207- Jalyssa Wilson
205- Tyrone Davis
206- Wendy Antunez
204- Brian Humphries
203- Carol Tran
201- Tatiana Soria
202- Marco Duran
301- Krystal Vera
302- Clarence Cardenas
303- Christian Salgado
304- Merari Velazquez
305- Sonia Ferrera
306- Lilien Le
308- Nancy Tran

IMPORTANT DATES

**October 13: Day of non-attendance
for students**