

MJS Weekly Update

February 5, 2021

Dear MJS Community,

While it was a short in-person week here at MJS, it certainly was filled with excitement. A big thank you to our custodial crew for all their help with snow removal this week, especially our MJS crew led by Mr. Reina.

We got to welcome our new interim assistant principal this week, Ms. Debbie Iosco. Please be sure to check out her note to the community below.

Save the Date - On February 10, 2020, at 7 pm, the MJS PTO will be hosting its virtual meeting open to the public. Please join us for a very informative conversation about many upcoming events for students at MJS. A video link will be emailed home to all families and posted on our Live Feed the afternoon of the event.

Save the Date Take-Two - on February 11, 2020, Madison Public Schools, in partnership with Care Plus, is hosting a virtual wellness session titled "Creating Connections: How to Build Strong Family Relationships." A webinar link will be emailed home to all families and posted on our Live Feed the afternoon of the event.

Moving Your Child From In-Person to Remote to In-Person

We greatly appreciate it when the office is notified that you are keeping your gold or maroon cohort student at home for remote learning when it will be for more than one day. Please be aware that in cases of extended periods of remote learning by gold and maroon cohort students, there may be some time required for us to process return requests, possibly up to two weeks.

Have a great super bowl weekend,

Brooke Phillips
Acting Principal
Madison Junior School

phillipsb@madisonnjps.org

Message from our new MJS Interim Assistant Principal

Greetings MJS Community;

After 30 inches of snow and two remote days, I was finally able to spend time at MJS. I have already met such incredible staff and students and I am so excited to spend the next few months learning more about the amazing happenings at the Madison Junior School. My first day included being able to tour the building and actually reading in four different classrooms. Nothing makes a day brighter than getting to spend time with students. However, I'm not sure how many fans I made on Friday dressed in my Cowboys fan gear!

If there is one thing that I have learned after 43 years in education, it's the undeniable importance of creating and nurturing relationships. Please feel free to introduce yourself to me whenever we have the chance to cross paths and I will promise to do the same. I am hoping to be able to explore this amazing town someday very soon as it looks so inviting.

Best wishes for a wonderful Super Bowl weekend and Go Cowboys!

Warmly,
Debbie Iosso



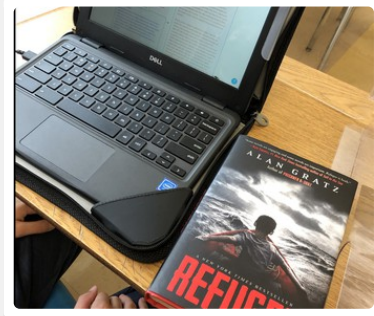
7th GRADE ENGLISH LITERATURE CIRCLE

As a follow-up to the recently finished historical fiction shared read-aloud [The King of Mulberry Street](#), students have selected and started reading a choice novel for the brand new literature circle unit called "Seeking Home." These novels continue the study of themes focusing on discrimination based on ethnicity and religion and the effects of poverty and homelessness. While [The King of Mulberry Street](#) gave historical background around the immigrant experience in America during the late 1800s/early 1900s, these new choice novels focus on CURRENT-DAY issues around immigration, poverty, and homelessness. These novels examine social justice issues from the perspective of diverse characters, written by diverse authors.

Students will be reading and doing note sheets independently, which prepares them for future writing tasks. They will be working on novel analysis activities in small groups using online break out rooms through various online platforms. Students are also analyzing the plot together by completing a collaborative multimedia project through the online platform Sutori. The unit will be capped off with a student-selected independent creative choice project to showcase their knowledge of the novel. Hopefully, all of this will help them better understand the issues through the eyes of characters their own age.

Additionally, students will do some non-fiction reading in Newsela to understand the history and underlying social justice issues associated with their chosen novels, such as the circumstances that prompt a country's citizens to leave and the difficulties associated with being a modern-day immigrant or refugee.

A big thank you to the MEF for supporting the purchase of the online platform Sutori and to the Madison Board of Education for supporting summer curriculum writing, which helped create this new unit and the purchase of these novels.



7th GRADE ENGLISH WE GOT BOOKS CHALLENGE

How it works: Every day students pick one afternoon time period during periods 789 and spend those 30 minutes reading an independent book. At the end of the period, students complete the form to log their minutes.

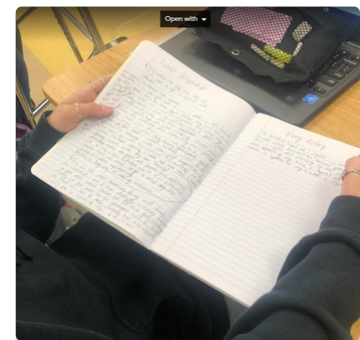
Multiple ways to win!: Every daily entry form equals tracking and raffle entry for prizes, so the more they read, the likelier they are to WIN!

1. Grade Goal: Team A vs. Team B. Which team has read the most books. The winning team will get to play DJ for the school.
2. Team Goal: If the team reaches the teacher's predetermined goal of the number of books read, every participating student will receive a bonus point in LA class.
3. Individual Winners: Will be celebrated in a school poster (choose 3 friends and teacher of your choice to appear with you)
4. Raffle prizes: Gift certificates to local businesses such as Crowley Cupcakes, Tons of Toys, Weenies, Romanelli's, Sugar Rush...a big thank you to the MJS PTO for donating these prizes.



7th GRADE WRITERS NOTEBOOKS

Yes, we are still using pencil and paper! Students are keeping their writing journals active this year and taking those needed screen breaks. In this photo a student is writing a response from the perspective of their book character, pondering what regrets their characters might have and their hopes for the future.

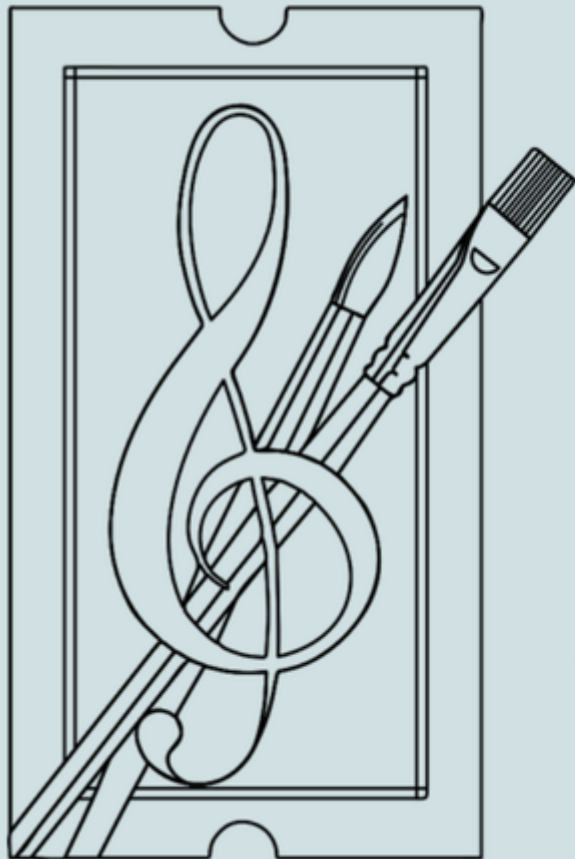




ASTEROIDS IN 7th GRADE ENGLISH?

Attention 7th Grade parents: if you find your child playing the "old school" Asteroid video game, do not worry! They are practicing their parts of speech. Finally, video games with a positive purpose. :)

Check out [this video](#) - be sure your sound is on.



Announcing this year's

Madison Summer Arts Program

Highlights include:

Band
Orchestra
Jazz Band
Instrumental lessons
Musical Theater
Vocal Coaching
Art

In-person morning program at MHS from June 28th - July 23rd

Can be combined with the STEAM camp for a full day of classes!

Flexible virtual lessons available throughout the summer.

Specific program information and registration form coming soon!

Questions?

Contact Kathleen McCormick
mccormickk@madisonnjps.org

IT IS SOUP-ER BOWL WEEK



MJS Student council is inviting you to a Soup-er Bowl Challenge. The top 3 advisories who bring in the most items for the food pantry will receive a coupon for a free ice cream at McCools for each student in that advisory.

- **All items need to be brought to Ms. Siso's office to ensure your advisory receives credit.**
- **The drive will run 2/1 - 2/12.**
- **Any questions please see Ms. Siso**

MADISON JUNIOR SCHOOL ATHLETICS

HOME OF THE JUNIOR DODGERS

MJSOA Lacrosse and Softball Sign Ups

The Madison Junior School Athletic Organization will be offering Boy's/Girl's Lacrosse and Girl's Softball which runs from March to May 2021. Please visit our website (www.mjsdodgers.org) to register your child and complete the health forms required for participation. The health forms need to be turned in to Nurse Skordinsky.

Please reach out to Matt Rossi (admadisonjuniorschool@gmail.com) with any questions or for more information. Please note the MJS Basketball and Volleyball programs will NOT be running this winter.



MEF Corner

If you're interested in a warm, cozy way to support MEF, tickets are selling fast for our "MEF Delivers Date Night to Your Door" fundraiser on February 13th. Get all of the details on this delicious dinner and place your order [HERE](#).

Let the Madison Education Foundation Deliver Date Night To Your Door!



This delicious night features fresh Italian food from PastaBox, clean-crafted wine from Scout & Cellar, and an entertaining and educational virtual class about the art of Italian cooking and wine.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2021

\$125 per couple

Place your order(s) at www.mefnj.org.

Madison & Harding delivery only.

Proceeds benefit MEF and support Madison Public Schools.



5 Ways to Motivate Yourself to Exercise during Winter



Physical activity releases feel-good brain chemicals, but it can be challenging to muster up the energy during the cold, dark, dreary Winter months. Here are a few tips to pry yourself from the cozy couch and get moving:

1. **Get on the floor:** We can reap the benefits of movement with something as low-key as some floor stretches.
2. **Go play outside:** Take advantage of this week's snowfall by building a snowman or going sledding. You'll get your heartrate up and do something with laughter.
3. **Give yourself a reward:** Working out may be significantly more appealing if there is a sweet treat or some other reward at the end.
4. **Make it a social event:** Bundle up and go on a socially distanced walk with a friend, or see friends online in a Zoom group fitness class. Group workouts provide increased accountability and a sense of connection that is so important right now.
5. **Nothing happens until something moves:** Don't know where to start? Just go for a walk. You can start off by taking a lap around the house. Tomorrow, it may be a walk around the block, then two. This may inspire you to try different forms of exercise. The most important part is getting started.



ORDER THE 20-21 YEARBOOK

Attention all MJS parents and guardians!

You still have time to order yearbooks, they are available for preorder online. The flyer for information about how to order is attached below! All yearbooks must be ordered online at www.jostensyearbooks.com.

[Click here for a PDF with more information](#) about ordering yearbooks.

Sincerely,
MJS Yearbook Advisors
Mr. E and Mrs. Young



MJS THIS WEEK

Monday 2/8 **A Maroon**

Tuesday 2/9 **B Gold**

Wednesday 2/10 **A Gold**

Thursday 2/11 **B Maroon**

Friday 2/12 **A Gold**

6th

HW Calendars

[6A Homework Calendar](#)

[6B Homework Calendar](#)

[6th Grade Periods 789](#)

7th

HW Calendars

[7A Homework Calendar](#)

[7B Homework Calendar](#)

[7th Grade Periods 789](#)

8th

HW Calendars

[8A Homework Calendar](#)

[8B Homework Calendar](#)

[8th Grade Periods 789](#)

MJS Link Bank

[MJS Bell Schedule](#)

[MJS Yearly Calendar - A/B Days - Color Cohort Days](#)

[MJS Morning Announcements](#)

[MJS Archive of Updates & Newsletters](#)

Upcoming Dates

February 10 - MJS PTO Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm

February 11 - MPS Virtual Workshop Series "Creating Connections: How to Build Strong Family Relationships"

February 15 - Schools closed - Presidents Day

March 2 - MJS Principal Coffee

I'd like to know about...

Please feel free to use this [Feedback Link](#) to ask Ms. Phillips to include certain information in a future update. It's helpful to know what you would like to learn more about.

