



Helen A. Thompson School



Notes from the Principal

Dear Families,

March has arrived and it appears that winter has decided to stick around for a while longer. It is a busy time of year here at school and there are many important dates to remember over the coming weeks. Please note the changes that were made to the 2017-18 school calendar in order to make up for all of the snow days we have had to use this year. Beginning on March 19th, the 3rd graders will take the eMPowerME state testing. Fourth graders will be testing over the week of March 26th and fifth graders will take the test during the first week in April. While only our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are required to take the state tests, our entire school will support our test-takers! It is important for all of our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to attend school, to eat breakfast each morning and gets lots of rest during testing weeks (as always). If you would like to donate healthy snacks to your child's class during testing week(s), please contact your child's teacher.

The early release day on March 29th that was going to be used for Parent-Teacher Conferences has been changed to a full student day. We will offer conferences after school on March 29th and April 5th. Many teachers will offer addition days and times to meet with you. It is important for you to attend your child's conference and we will do our best to accommodate your schedules. We look forward to seeing you soon to discuss your child's progress over this second trimester!

Please plan to join us for our Gr. 3-5 Music Concert next Wednesday, March 21st at 6:30. The students are busy preparing and it is sure to be a wonderful showcase of talent!
Take care and we'll see you soon,
Kady Gould

School Telephone: 724-3930

School Fax Number: 724-3934

Transportation: 582-6663

District Web Page: msad11.org

School Hours:

8:10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

As a matter of safety, please do not drop students off before 8:10. There is no supervision on the playground

Dates to Remember

March

16th: Workshop day, no school for students

20th: Report cards go home with students

21st: Grades 3-5 Concert in HTS gym, 6:30 pm

(Please note the new date! Rescheduled from March 14th.)

29th: ~~Early release~~, Full student day!

29th: Parent-Teacher Conferences

April

5th: Parent-Teacher Conferences

11th: Spring pictures - *more info to follow!*

11th: Chorus students to HS for rehearsal, AM

11th: District Chorus Concert, 6:30 pm at GAHS

13th: Staff workshop day, no school

16th-20th: No school, Spring vacation

May

1st: Screening for incoming K students - *Update: There WILL be school for current K students on this date!*

9th: Early release, students dismissed at 1:30
Please note the new time!

10th: K-2 Concert in HTS gym, 2:00

23rd: Grade 5 Beginner Band to HS, AM

28th: Memorial Day, no school

30th: Grade 5 Beginner Band to HS, AM

30th: District Band Concert, GAHS Gym, 7:00

31st: REACH Showcase, 6:00 - 8:00 at GRMS

It's Time for Parent-Teacher Conferences!

Thursday, March 29th, 3:15 - 6:30

Thursday, April 5th, 3:15 - 6:00

To schedule your conference(s), go to

<https://www.pickatime.com/client?ven=11604240>.

If you are interested in scheduling a conference with our itinerants, please contact them directly at:

Music: Caitlin Geishaker cgeishaker@msad11.org

Art: Kathi Susi ksusi@msad11.org

PE: Beth Mazerolle bmazerolle@msad11.org



Pledge of Allegiance Hosts

Ashlynn M. And Dominic L. from Mrs. Nickerson's class and Rose A. from Ms. Hanley's class used the intercom to lead the school in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guidance Notes

Several of the classes are getting into the final portion of the Guidance curriculum this year- "Anger Management". It is also called "Emotion Management" as a reminder that all strong emotions need to be handled responsibly. Many times anger is just the tip of the iceberg and we are really feeling a jumble of feelings- hurt, sad, scared, worried, nervous, overwhelmed, frustrated, etc. I tell students that anger is a normal, acceptable emotion that everyone feels at some point in their life. It is OK to feel anger; however we also need to be responsible for our actions when we are feeling anger. We talk about the signals our body sends us to alert us that there is a problem. Talk with your child about their anger signals (what happens in their body when they are having a strong feeling). We also spend a lot of time discussing calming down and coping skills. Talk with your child about their choices for a calming down strategy. Not all the classes are at the same point in the program so some students may be able to answer these questions more completely than others. It is my goal to get all of the students to a point where they have the skills to stay in control of themselves, or be able to quickly regain control, when a situation arises that creates strong feelings in them. With the help of the caring adults in their lives these children will be our next generation of leaders and peacemakers. As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at jtourtlotte@msad11.org.

Joan Tourtelotte
("Miss T.")
School Counselor

Notes from the Kitchen

We are celebrating National School Breakfast, and cordially invite your students to join us in our celebration. We are offering a sit down breakfast each morning, and for the students that arrive later, we offer a grab and go bag breakfast with a different choice each day. We will have coloring sheets, stickers, games and prizes each day for students who come to breakfast for the month of March. We hope to see your child join us for their most important meal of the day: BREAKFAST! YEAH BREAKFAST!

The Golden Dustpan Award

Upper Pod: Mr. Smith & Mrs. Duncklee

Lower Pod: Mrs. Bannister & Mrs. Stevens



Pre-K & K Registration Time!

The Four Year Old Program is now registering students for the 2018 - 2019 school year. Children must be four years of age on or before October 15, 2018 and may not turn five before September 1st. Space is limited.

Kindergarten registration time is also here! Children must be five years of age on or before October 15, 2018. Please call 724-3930 for more information and for registration forms for either program!

Late Start Committee

You may remember seeing a letter from November of this year, making you aware that the district has formed a Late Start Committee, tasked with reviewing the positive and possible adverse effects of a later start to the school day for middle and high school students in MSAD #11, and the effects any changes would have on the elementary schools. We are looking at a multitude of factors including but not limited to: transportation, elementary school transportation and start times, athletic schedules, students attending classes at the Capital Area Technology Center in Augusta, child care before or after school, community opinion, and family impact.

The later school start time movement is a nation-wide trend, and is backed by many medical associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, and AMA, all of whom recommend adolescents start school no earlier than 8:30 am. Even backed by medical research, there are mixed opinions as to whether or not schools should or could change their current schedules. Because of this, we wanted the staff to begin thinking about the possibility of a change.

In February, the building principals began the conversation in their schools with faculty and staff. This month, we ask you as students, parents, and community members to begin thinking about your feelings on the topic, as well as how it may affect your family should MSAD #11 make a change in the future.

Please visit <http://www.msad11.org/o/central/browse/16042> to find more information and research on our website.