



MMS Bullpup Express Newsletter



Brandon Simmelink, Principal
Ron Orsak, Assistant Principal
Phone 241-9450 Fax: 241-9456

McPherson Middle School
700 E. Elizabeth
McPherson, KS 67460

August, 2016



MMS EVENTS

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|--|---------------------------------|
| Monday August | 1 | | |
| Tuesday August | 2 | | |
| Wednesday August | 3 | | |
| Thursday August | 4 | | |
| Friday August | 5 | | |
| Saturday August | 6 | Enrollment at MHS | 9:00am to 2:00pm |
| Monday August | 8 | 6 th grade orientation BOE Meeting | 9:00am, 12:00, 6:00pm 7:00pm |
| Tuesday August | 9 | 6 th grade orientation | 9:00am, 12:00, 4:00pm |
| Wednesday August | 10 | | |
| Thursday August | 11 | All Sports Meeting @ MHS | 7:00pm |
| Friday August | 12 | | |

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|---------------------|----|---|----------------|
| Monday August | 15 | 7 th & 8 th New student orientation Fall Sports Practice begins | 1:30pm |
| Tuesday August | 16 | | |
| Wednesday August | 17 | First day of school early dismissal | 12:30pm |
| Thursday August | 18 | First full day of school | 8:10am- 3:10pm |
| Friday August | 19 | | |
| Monday August | 22 | BOE Meeting | 7:00pm |
| Tuesday August | 23 |  | |
| Wednesday August | 24 | School Picture Day Honors Choir Auditions | |
| Thursday August | 25 | Honors Choir Auditions | |
| Friday August | 26 | Bullpup Preview  | 5:00pm |
| Monday August | 29 | | |
| Tuesday August | 30 | VB 7/8 @ Goddard | 5:00pm |
| Wednesday August | 31 | | |



We would like to welcome our new MMS Staff for the 2016/2017 school year.

Brandon Simmelink, Principal

Mr. Simmelink is a graduate of Bethany College. Following his undergrad, he obtained his masters degree in School Leadership from Baker University. Mr. Simmelink has a wide range of experience, including eight years at Mayberry Middle Magnet School in Wichita, where he served as a sixth and seventh grade social studies teacher. He also was an assistant track coach and a head cross-country coach. Mr. Simmelink spent six years as the McPherson Middle School assistant principal and athletic director, before going to Hesston as Principal of Hesston Middle School where he served as the fifth through eighth grade building principal.

Ron Orsak, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

This starts my 15th year in education, and I'm thrilled to be doing so as an MMS Bullpup. I am originally from Texas and love Big 12 sports. My wife is an assistant principal in Wichita, and we have two sons. I graduated with my Master's in Education Leadership from WSU in 2015. This will be a great year and I look forward to becoming a part of the McPherson community!

Caley Cole-Robinson, Librarian

Our new librarian and media specialist for the middle and high school grew up in rural Kensington, Kansas and graduated high school from West Smith County Schools. She received her B.S. in Education from Kansas State University. After earning her undergrad degree Mrs. Cole-Robinson worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant while completing graduate requirements in the department of English. Upon earning her M.A. in English, specializing in Children's Literature in 2009, she spent the next 5 years in Phillipsburg, Kansas teaching 5th & 6th grade reading. In the summer of 2014, her husband and two daughters moved to McPherson. Mrs. Cole-Robinson truly believes 21st century literacy skills are life skills. She looks forward to advocating for literacy, collaborating with teachers, working to empower students to be confident in their pursuit of knowledge, and helping equip students with the skills they need to succeed.

Austin Russell, Assistant Band Director

Wendy Gottwald, Literature/Social Studies

John Montgomery, Physical Education/SPS

Tami Malm, School Nurse

Jodi Unruh and Ellie WIngert, Special Education

Melanie Mann, Orchestra

Lisa Goering, Grammar/Composition

Sarah Hendricks, Grammar/Composition & Bullpup Scholars

Jennifer Meagher, School Psychologist

Over the next two months we will continue to highlight our new staff for everyone. Welcome all to MMS!!



Guidance Office Information

There will be a slight change to the students served by our Guidance Counselors this year. They are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-------|
| Jeff Allmon | Last names | A – G |
| Joan Schieferecke | Last names | H – O |
| Kathy Button | Last name | P - Z |

Should you need to contact one of our guidance counselors, the direct number to the Guidance Office is 620-241-9470. Kathy Walline

ATTENTION 6th GRADE PARENTS

You and your 6th grade student are invited to join us for 6th Grade Roundup at McPherson Middle School. Students will get an overview of 6th grade and have a chance to ask questions. They will also get their agenda book, locker combination and class schedule. Please choose one of the following session times:

Monday, August 8th: 9:00, 12:00 noon, 6:00pm.

Tuesday, August 9th: 9:00, 12:00 noon 4:00pm

We are looking forward to meeting our 6th graders and parents.

Jeff Allmon, Kathy Button and Joan Schieferecke
Guidance Office Staff

NEW 7th & 8th Grade Students

If you are a 7th or 8th grade student **new to our district**, the following information is for you.

You and your student are invited to join us for **New Student Orientation** at McPherson Middle School on **Monday, August 15th from 1:30-2:30**. Students will get an overview of McPherson Middle School, locate their classrooms and have a chance to ask questions. They will also get their agenda book, locker combination and class schedule.

We are looking forward to meeting our new 7th and 8th grade students and parents.

Jeff Allmon, Kathy Button and Joan Schieferecke
Guidance Office Staff



Community Service hours for 6th-8th graders are 5 hours per year.

Some community service ideas for students could be:

- *yard work for an elderly neighbor
- *volunteering for different activities at church: church dinners, bible school volunteer, etc.
- *raking leaves for people in your neighborhood
- *helping out at a daycare babysitting
- *volunteering at the Humane Society or other agencies
- *picking up trash in the afternoon

Students will need to have some sort of adult supervision to vouch for their hours. This can be their parent if their parents participate in their community service or are their witness. Otherwise, they will enter their supervisor's name, such as a pastor, someone they volunteered to babysit for, their neighbor, etc. Also, summer hours prior to the school year until May will count.



TECHNOLOGY EXPLORATIONS

Students who are taking any of the Technology Explorations classes this year will need to provide their own headphones.



Congratulations to the following girls who will be our 2016/2017 MMS Bullpup Cheerleaders

Football/Volleyball

Ashlon Stanford Brianna Leon
Demornea Berlanga

Jaiden Roff Kiya Richert Kyla Hagemann
Natalia Mendez Riley Baker Shelby Yowell
Sophie Blevins Taylor Young Tessa Boesker

Basketball/Wrestling

Addison Seidl Ashlon Stanford CeAnna Allen
Demornea Berlanga Megan Lulloff
Melissa Mintzer

Natalia Mendez Riley Baker Sophie Blevins
Taylor Casebeer Taylor Young Tessa Boesker



FOOD 4 KIDS

Because the most essential school supply is food

Food 4 Kids is a Kid-Friendly School-based Program—because the most essential school supply is food. Food 4 Kids was established for students who are food insecure and who are not getting sufficient food outside of school on a regular basis. The Food Bank provides food and supplies to Food 4 Kids schools in Kansas, which are operated in partnership with community schools. The Food 4 Kids program allows participating schools to receive food and backpacks from the Kansas Food Bank at no cost so that we can provide food to chronically hungry children.

FOOD 4 KIDS FOODBAGS CONTAIN:

Different foods designed to provide nutrition and calories for chronically hungry school children on weekends. Kid friendly foods that require no preparation. Kids can just “open and eat”.

FOR EXAMPLE: Peanut Butter (12-ounce jar) and a sleeve of crackers—Beans and franks (pop-top can)—Beef Jerky (1 ounce)—Cereal (1-ounce bowl or box)—Fruit cups (peaches, applesauce, etc.)—Raisins (snack-size boxes)—Pudding cups—Juice boxes (apple, orange, or other juice)—Milk (aseptic pack boxes that do not require refrigeration)—Cereal bars or granola bars

Please see your school counselor to sign up for Food 4 Kids at your school!! At MMS, please call Kathy Button, Jeff Allmon, or Joan Schieferecke at 620-241-9470.



NOTE FROM THE NURSE

There is a new policy for over the counter medications! Forms are available for online enrollment. For any students taking prescription medications, an order from the doctor with a parent signature must be provided before medication can be given. Medication must be in the labeled container/package that was dispensed by the pharmacy. Students are NOT ALLOWED to bring their own medication to the school nurse. If a parent is unable to bring the medication an adult designated by a parent may do it for you.

For any questions/concerns, call me at the Middle School, 620-241-9450 or email me at tami.malm@mcpherson.com.

I'm looking forward to a great year!

Adjusting to the New School Year help your child have a smooth start

by: Livia McCoy

The first day of school can be scary. Children wonder about how everything will go—"Will my friends still like me?" "Will I fit in?" "Do I look good?" This is normal and usually goes away within a few days. For some kids, though, it doesn't subside as quickly as parents would hope. For these children, parents may need to provide a little extra support. In general, the types of problems children have with adjusting to the new school year revolve around academic, social, or emotional issues. Here's a look at each.

Academic problems may stem from the fact that your child is working with a new teacher. Last year's teacher learned that he needs structure and predictability to pay attention, but does this year's teacher know that? The expectations may be much greater this year than your child was expecting. For example, he might have forgotten some math skills over the summer, and his new teacher expects that he already knows them well. Some teachers have very active, busy classrooms, but your child works better in a quiet setting. Any one of these might be causing him to dislike going to school. The trick is to figure out what is causing his frustration and talk to his teachers about it.

Social Issues may be keeping your child from adjusting to the new year. If she tells you that she doesn't have any friends, her anxiety is almost certainly rooted in social problems. Children who enjoy being by themselves or with only one friend often do not have the skills to make new friends. Experts agree that children do not need to have a lot of friends to be healthy, but they do need at least one good friend. You can help your child make new friends by role-playing how to talk to someone new. She needs practice asking questions like "did you go anywhere during summer vacation?" or "Where did you go to school last year?" Conversation-starters like these can help break the ice.

Emotional issues might keep your child from adjusting to the new school year. He might be more afraid of change than others are. If you know this ahead of time, try to take him to the school to visit before the school year starts. If he is moving from a small building to a large one, he may feel insecure. It can take several weeks to feel comfortable getting to the right place at the right time. His teachers might be able to find a friend who can help him if needed.

It is possible your child's trouble adjusting to school has nothing to do with school itself. It might be coming from home. Consider whether anything in the household is the source of stress, like a recent move or a new baby. Whatever the cause, the key to a successful year in school is communicating with your child's teacher. Teachers want to help—so ask why she thinks your child is having trouble adjusting to school, and how to best solve the problem.

Make the Grade

with SCHOOL BREAKFAST

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR BREAKFAST
EVERYDAY!

BREAKFAST IS A GREAT WAY TO BEGIN EACH
DAY.

BREAKFAST IS AVAILABLE 20 MINUTES
BEFORE THE START OF THE SCHOOL DAY.
BREAKFAST IS FREE TO STUDENTS WHO
QUALIFY FOR FREE MEALS.
BREAKFAST IS \$.30 TO STUDENTS WHO
QUALIFY FOR REDUCED MEALS
BREAKFAST IS \$1.80 FOR ALL K - 12
STUDENTS

THERE ARE NEW OPTIONS ON THE MENU ITEMS
DAILY

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION, PLEASE CALL
BILL FROESE AT 620-241-9490.



Upcoming Events

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| September 2 | NO SCHOOL —Collab. Day | |
| September 5 | Labor Day— NO SCHOOL | |
| September 6 | Girls Tennis vs Derby North | 3:30pm |
| | XCountry @ Prairie Hills/Hutch | 4:00pm |
| | VB-7 @ Salina South | 5:00pm |
| | VB-8 vs Newton/Salina South | 5:00pm |
| September 8 | FB-8 vs Newton | 4:00pm |
| | FB-7 @ Newton | 5:00pm |
| September 12 | VB-7 vs Derby & Salina South | 5:00pm |
| | VB-8 @ Derby | 5:00pm |
| September 13 | Girls Tennis @ Derby | 3:30pm |
| | XCountry @ Goddard Classic | 4:00pm |
| September 15 | Girls Tennis vs Hutchinson | 3:30pm |
| | FB-7 @ Derby | 4:00pm |
| | FB-8 vs Derby | 4:00pm |
| | VB-7 & 8 @ Hutchinson | 4:00pm |
| September 17 | VB-7 "B" Trny @ Hutchinson | 9:00am |
| | VB-8 "B" Trny | 9:00am |
| September 19 | Girls Tennis @ Salina South | 3:30pm |
| | VB-7 @ Hutchinson | 5:00pm |
| | VB-8 vs Hutch/Salina Lkwd | 5:00pm |
| September 20 | Girls Tennis @ Maize South | 9:00am |
| September 22 | XCountry @ Rolling Acres | 3:00pm |
| | Girls Tennis vs Maize South | 3:30pm |
| | FB-7 vs Derby North | 4:00pm |
| | FB-8 @ Derby North | 4:00pm |
| September 26 | Girls Tennis vs Salina Lkwd | 3:30pm |
| | VB-7 vs Newton/Derby North | 5:00pm |
| | VB-8 @ Derby North | 5:00pm |
| September 27 | Girls Tennis @ Hutchinson Inv. | 9:00am |
| | XCountry @ Salina South Inv. | 4:00pm |
| September 29 | FB-8 vs Salina Lkwd @ MMS | 2:00pm |
| | Girls Tennis @ Newton Chisholm | 3:30pm |
| | FB-7 @ Salina Lkwd | 4:00pm |