

Shelby Middle School

Positive Attitudes Welcome Success

Tim Tarvin, Principal
Chris Zuercher, Guidance Counselor

April 2011

Principal's Corner

Danke, grazie, merci, mahalo, gracias...in other words, thank you! I know I addressed the whole testing issue in last month's newsletter, but I just wanted to thank you all one more time. The support and cooperation that you continually provide for your sons and daughters is paramount to their success on the achievement assessments and the middle school staff and I am very appreciative of your assistance. Now, if you have any questions about the test schedule or the tests themselves, please give us a call at your convenience.

7th and 8th Grade State Achievement Assessment Schedule

7th Reading Thursday, April 28
7th Math Wednesday, May 4

8th Reading Wednesday, April 27
8th Math Tuesday, May 3
8th Science Thursday, May 5

Heads up, eighth grade parents! In just a few short weeks you're going to come home from work, walk through your front door and your house will be eerily quiet. Well, maybe not eerily quiet, but it will be quieter than what you are used to, that's for certain. That's right; on the 11th of May we will be taking 150 of our 8th graders to Washington, D.C. for their class trip. This trip is the capstone of their middle school experience and is understandably a cultural and educational gold mine for teachers, students and chaperones alike. That being said, I also understand that sending your teenager off on a trip such as this is tempered with a little bit of trepidation. However, please be assured that we have taken every precaution imaginable to help ensure a safe and rewarding trip for everyone involved. Still, if you have any questions or concerns between now and May 11th please feel free to call, email or just stop by the middle school when you get a chance. Oh, one more thing. Every student should have received a packet of information at our D.C. orientation meeting back in November. If for some reason your son or daughter has "misplaced" his or her packet, swing by SMS and we'll get you another one.

Spring will be upon us before we know it, but of course we live in Ohio and therefore, we must have patience. In the meantime, enjoy some quotes about this schizophrenic season and we hope to see you soon at one of our many spring activities.

~"In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." Mark Twain

~"April is a promise that May is bound to keep." Hal Borland

~"Spring is when you feel like whistling even when you have a shoe full of slush." Lewis Grizzard

~"You can't see Canada across Lake Erie, but you know it's there. It's the same with spring. You have to have faith, especially in Cleveland." Paul Fleischman

~"If I had my life to do over, I would start barefoot earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall."
Nadine Stair

HAPPY
EASTER



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



Track is the only sport offered by SMS in the spring. The track team has ten meets between March 28th and May 11th, including home meets at the high school track on April 4th, April 7th, April 11th and April 29th. The April 29th meet is the Shelby Middle School Relays, which features 7 teams. Other highlights of the schedule include an invitational at Ontario, Crestview, and the N.O.L. meet at Upper.

This years track coaches are Charlie Ridenour: coaching the distance runners, Ed Ingle: coaching the boy sprints, Brian Hughes: coaching the girl sprinters, and Colton Penwell: coaching the throwers. Practices and meets are at the track facility behind the high school. Please remind your child to take care of our facility out there. We have a nice building and we want to keep it that way. In the building there are no lockers for our middle school athletes to use, so make sure your child does not have valuables with them. There are many kids in and out of the building, and even though our coaches do a good job of monitoring it, things can still happen.

Just a reminder to parents that if you plan on taking your child from a meet, you must have a paper signed from the office ahead of time. The track coaches emphasize that the athletes need to be there to cheer on and support the other participants. However, there are times when a child needs to go home with a parent and that is fine. Just please go through the proper procedure to do so.

Behavior, leadership, and academics are important parts of being a Shelby athlete. Part of the responsibility an athlete assumes when he or she becomes part of a Shelby Whippet team is to be a model citizen. Please help the Shelby coaching staff by emphasizing these points to your student athlete.

Good luck and have a great track season!!



GUIDANCE NEWS

It is great that most of the 9th grade schedules are in. Any schedules that are still out, will be completed by the staff. We had a good response to the 9th grade honor English, with about 20 students turning in all parts of their applications. Unfortunately, not everyone will be accepted into this class. The high school English teachers will let us know who has been accepted by late April or early May.

In May, Pioneer will have its non-traditional days for boys and girls. These are days where boys see jobs that in the past have been dominated by females and girls do the same thing, but they look at jobs that have been dominated by males. Only 2 or 3 boys and girls will be able to go, so they should listen to the announcements for how they can participate.

Eligibility questions: Shelby High School students no longer get a free pass to play sports during the fall of their freshman year. The last grading period for the 8th grade students will count for their eligibility in fall sports. A student must pass five classes to be able to play a fall sport at the high school. If a student does not pass at least five classes, they can not play fall sports. This is something that all 8th grade students should pay attention to. I will be in the classroom to talk to the students about this.

SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING OHIO ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENT

7th Grade - Reading - Thursday, April 28th
7th Grade - Math - Wednesday, May 4th

8th Grade - Reading - Wednesday, April 27th
8th Grade - Math - Tuesday, May 3rd
8th Grade - Science - Thursday, May 5th



**PARENT/TEACHER
CONFERENCES
Are
SCHEDULED For
Wednesday, May 4th
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**



Join Us

WASHINGTON, D.C. 8TH GRADE TRIP

**Leave: Wednesday, May 11th
Return: Saturday, May 14th**





MUSTANGS TEAM

MUSTANGS Interesting Quote on Effort:

No horse gets anywhere until he is harnessed. No stream or gas drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara is ever turned into light and power until it is tunneled. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined.

by Harry Emerson Fosdick

It is that time of year when many students need to refocus on their goals and the expectations that lie ahead of them. Effort is required in every class and the benefits of doing their schoolwork is available for all. Talk to your child about setting goals and being determined to reach them.

In social studies, students will be working on various on-line Middle Ages projects, which can be found at www.mrclarkms.com, moodle link. We will study the middle ages through the Age of Exploration. Projects that the students will be doing include catapults, boardgames, posters, or an illustrated manuscript.

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm....."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Language Arts students are composing our next writing piece – a persuasive essay. Additionally, we are continuing to prepare for the upcoming Ohio Achievement Test through the use of practice test-taking skill sheets.

In reading, we are preparing for the achievement test scheduled for Thursday, April 28th. We have been preparing all year so at this point we need to buckle down and show what we know! We are also reading non-fiction articles.

The MATH ACHIEVEMENT TEST is on May 4th. In math, students will be reviewing Measurement: Two and Three-Dimensional Figures. Students will be learning the Pythagorean Theorem, finding volume and surface area of 3-D figures. We will also be taking practice achievement tests to help prepare for the upcoming achievement test. Students have homework almost daily, so make sure they are spending some time on schoolwork, especially this time of year.

In regards to taking chapter tests in math, some parents have been asking about test taking strategies. Here are some tips to keep in mind when taking any math test.

1. Use all the test time given. Check over work.
- Every student is given two days (2 periods) to take a test.
2. DO NOT leave any questions blank.
3. On word problems, take a step-by-step approach.
4. Use your understanding of mathematics to get rid of wrong answers, instead of blind guessing.
5. Answer open-ended items completely. SHOW YOUR WORK!!!!
6. On test day, relax.



"Continuous effort is the key to unlocking our potential".

Quote by Sir Winston Churchill

Science classes, during the month of April, will begin to concentrate on test preparation within math, reading, and writing. The activities done in class will tie in with science. We will investigate potential and kinetic energy as the month closes out.

Nobody's a natural. You work hard to get good and then work hard to get better.

Effort Quote by Paul Coffey

Parents, please remember to check out your child's grades online and all homework assignments are posted on Progressbook at the Shelby Schools' website, just use your parent access code.

MUSTANG students of the month for February: Sydney Stone and Jacob Viers

MUSTANGS COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATES: The Mustangs team has been very busy helping others.

In February, the MUSTANGS raised enough money to purchase carnation floral arrangements for 40 Meals on Wheels recipients. A group of students were chosen to go with the Meals on Wheels delivery people to help distribute the meals and give each homebound person a bouquet for Valentine's Day. The homebound people were so touched by our thoughtfulness. We also sent a group of students to Shelby Pointe Nursing Home to deliver flowers to the residents and the students got to play BINGO with them. It was a fantastic Valentine's Day. Thank you to everyone who contributed vases and money.

The MUSTANGS team celebrated Pi Day on March 14th. In addition to learning about pi and the mathematical representation of 3.14, students brought in money to "vote" for a teacher to receive a pie in the face. Students put money in the jars of the teachers they wanted to be on the receiving end of a pie. At the end of the week, Mr. Hoover was the lucky teacher, receiving a pie in the face by our own Pi champ, Austin Martin, who memorized 165 digits of Pi. However, the Friends of the Blackfork Committee was the luckiest recipient of all, receiving the donations from our students! This committee of dedicated Shelby


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THE SHARKS TEAM

The 7th grade SHARKS math students are continuing their work with geometry. Their work includes working with perimeter, circumference, area, surface area, and volume. The 8th grade SHARKS math students are working with algebra. Their works includes solving multi-step equations as well as equations with variables on each side of the equal sign. We will soon start several weeks of review in preparation for the math achievement tests. Much of this will be done with worksheets based on questions found on previous math achievement tests.

It is hard to believe that it is spring already, and both classes are working on their research papers. They spent a week researching Cedar Point for seventh grade and Washington D. C. for eighth grade. We still continue to prepare for the OAA even though there is no separate writing test, it is combined with the reading test.

In 7th grade world  history students just finished a chapter on Arabia. In this chapter students studied the history of the Islamic religion and how it was started. They also learned that the location of Arabia made it a center of trade because it was located between three continents. Many countries using the Silk Road or trading in India would travel through this territory and trade as well. This passed on many goods as well as customs to other parts of the world. This is one of the leading reasons why the Islamic religion is the second largest in the world today. The students will study Africa next, and then Europe and its colonization of North America.

In 8th grade history, students have finished discussing the Indian Removal Act and why it took place. The Native Americans were forced off of their homelands east of the Mississippi River and relocated to lands west of the Mississippi River. They were removed because as America expanded they wanted the fertile land to farm. Some of this land was located in the heart of the "cotton belt" and Americans wanted the land to make money. The most popular relocation was known as the "Trail of Tears". The Cherokee Indians were relocated from Georgia to Indian Territory in present day Oklahoma. Students will continue to study the expansion of the United States and how we gained California and Texas. After that we will look into the causes and the battles of the Civil War.

The SHARKS 7th and 8th grade reading students are really focused on reading achievement test preparation. Please encourage your child to be reading at home on a regular basis!

**CANCELLED
EARLY DISMISSAL
SCHEDULED
FOR
APRIL 6TH
WILL BE A FULL DAY OF
SCHOOL!**

**SCHEDULING PAPERS
For Next Years
8th Graders
Will be Sent Home
on April 1st.
They Should
be Returned
ASAP!**

(Mustangs - continued from page 3)

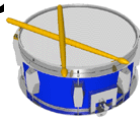
residents will use the donation to continue their efforts in downtown Shelby. In the spring we will be helping the group plant flowers in the flower boxes downtown.

Lastly, here is an update on the pull tabs, We have collected **THREE FULL BOXES OF TABS** (copy paper boxes) That is **AMAZING!** These tabs will be delivered to The Cleveland Ronald McDonald House at the end of the school year. A single pull tab may seem unassuming at first, but each little pull tab that was saved for the House will be added to millions more - resulting in thousands of dollars for the Family Fund. Thank you to all who continue to keep pulling for families who are faced with medical issues.





NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Upcoming events for band students.

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event: Band and choir students are currently preparing for the Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event, which will be held on Saturday, April 9th at Ontario High School. Soloists and ensembles will get schedules with specific performance times during the next few weeks. Those who are participating that day are expected to wear their black dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes with their red music polo. Specifics will be sent home soon, with students who are participating in this event.

Spring Concert: the middle school spring concert is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th at 7:30 PM in the Shelby Middle School Auditorium. Watch for more details as the date approaches

8th grade band members - those students interested in trying out for the Shelby High School Flag Corps should see ICAL for dates of help sessions and tryouts.

Memorial Day Parade: Both 7th and 8th grade bands will be participating in the Shelby Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30th. Please mark your calendars for this now.

For the most updated music department calendar, please visit www.shelbyk12.org/band and click on Calendar - dates for the 2011-12 school year are now available!

SAVE BOX TOPS!



SMS is collecting them. The next collection date is May 6th and will be for 8th grade students only! Money earned will go into the general account for the Washington, D.C. trip.

SPRING BREAK

NO SCHOOL

APRIL 18 - 22



THE EAGLES TEAM

During the month of March, the Eagles' language arts classes wrote a friendly letter that was written from an Irish immigrant point of view. A historical fiction piece, it was a review of what the students covered in social studies class. We also worked on an interdisciplinary unit on job applications. Our last writing piece was an expository paper on the rock cycle. The Eagles language arts classes also continued their work on the parts of speech. Writing and revision techniques are the center of attention for April. Homework is posted on the Shelby web site. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me anytime.

The EAGLES students will spend the next few weeks studying multi-step equations and inequalities. They will work with variables on both sides of an equation as well as systems of equations. This will be followed with the graphing of linear equations. Topics will be slope, intercepts, lines of best fit, to name a few. The Ohio 8th grade math achievement test will be given on May 3rd. For the most part, students seem confident. I'm sure they will all be glad when this test is over.

We are in the home stretch now. Ohio Achievement Assessments are on the way and students have been reviewing materials for the test. Students will begin reading our last novel of the year called *Hoot*. *Hoot* is about a boy named Roy, who is new to his small Florida community and becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

In science, we finished a unit on earthquakes and volcanoes. Currently, we are beginning our preparation for the Achievement Test in May by reviewing past concepts as well as concepts from this year. Students take a pre and post-test with a series of mini-lessons between each of the two assessments.

