



# Mustang Memo

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

## Interest Survey

We are considering having a middle school boys volleyball team in the Spring. If your child would be interested in this please fill out the survey linked here:

[Boys' Volleyball Survey](#)

## Picture Day Coming Soon

Please see the flyer attached. If the link in this newsletter doesn't work please try the flyer attachment.

<b>No School (Professional Development)</b>	<b>September 20</b>
<b>Primary (K-2) Parent Coffee with the Principal</b>	<b>September 25</b> 8:00 am, Grammar School Commons
<b>Family Fun Movie Night - Prize night from Mustang Mini Marathon</b>	<b>September 26</b> 6:00 - 8:00, Addenbrooke Field
<b>Middle School (Spring Semester 23) Honor Roll Trip</b>	<b>September 27</b>
<b>October Count Day</b>	<b>October 1</b>
<b>PreK-8th Grade Picture Day (wear red polos)</b>	<b>October 1</b>
<b>Grammar School Conferences</b> (sign-up genius to schedule time)	<b>October 1-16</b>
<b>Dad's Book Club</b>	<b>October 2</b> 7:45 - 8:15 am, Library
<b>K-5, Staff vs. Student Dodgeball Games</b> (\$20 to participate, register ahead of time)	<b>October 3</b> 1:30 - 2:15, K-2 vs. Staff 2:30 - 3:10, 3-5 vs. Staff
<b>K-8 Assembly (1st and 4th Recitation)</b>	<b>October 4</b> 8:10 am, Gym

# Supporting Middle School Students to become Independent

As children move into their adolescent years, it becomes increasingly essential to nurture their independence and provide them with the skills needed to tackle the challenges of middle school. A key component of this is teaching them to stand firm and advocate for themselves.

During adolescence, middle schoolers experience significant emotional and social transformations. They may confront peer pressure and anxiety over being judged by others. Additionally, many of them grapple with low self-confidence and assertiveness. Recognizing these challenges is vital for creating strategies that support their development.

Fostering self-awareness and self-esteem is fundamental to encouraging independence. Urge middle schoolers to practice self-reflection and express themselves genuinely. Encourage positive self-talk and self-acceptance to enhance their confidence.

Cultivating a growth mindset is equally important. Teach them that effort and resilience are powerful tools, stressing that mistakes provide valuable opportunities for learning and growth.

Active listening is a key component of effective communication. Motivate middle schoolers to listen attentively and with empathy. Introduce techniques like paraphrasing and asking clarifying questions to ensure comprehension.

Assertive communication is essential for self-advocacy. Middle schoolers should learn how to express their thoughts and feelings respectfully and may need to practice this often.

Assist middle schoolers in identifying problems and setting goals. Guide them in recognizing and defining their challenges, helping them establish realistic and achievable objectives.

Encouraging teens to analyze options and make informed choices is essential. Empower them to brainstorm and evaluate potential solutions, fostering a sense of ownership over their decisions.

Middle schoolers should learn to identify their needs and rights. Help them understand their rights and responsibilities, encouraging them to express their needs and seek support when necessary.

Adults should cultivate a sense of belonging and acceptance crucial for middle schoolers. They need to be encouraged to be inclusive and respectful of all viewpoints so that in groups they can learn to collaborate. While working with the teachers and other adults emphasize the importance of independence and self-advocacy.

Teaching middle schoolers to stand tall and advocate for themselves is a crucial aspect of promoting their independence. By nurturing self-awareness, effective communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and self-advocacy, we can empower them to face the challenges of middle school with confidence. Remember, supporting student growth requires a cooperative effort among parents, educators, and the community.

# In the Classrooms

Content we are learning:

Math

Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Algebra / Geometry
<p>This week we finished reviewing chapter 1- Factors. We also had a quiz on our multiplication facts. Great job parents! Many of the kids are passing and moving up. I am hoping that most will pass their 12s soon. Please keep practicing the multiplication facts. It really helps them with their math.</p> <p>Please remember I am having after school math on these dates until 4:00 PM.</p> <p>Monday, Sept 23</p> <p>Tuesday, October 1</p>	<p>Students will receive their <b>homework</b> packet on Monday to turn in by the end of the week. They are expected to finish one page a night. If a student turns in their packet late, it will be 5 points off for every day that it's late.</p> <p>Students will also be getting their <b>chapter one tests</b> back today. Check in with your child about what to celebrate and what could have gone better. I will be giving after school help on Mondays. Please have students check in with me to see what they can do to help their test grade if they did not pass the test. This is a great opportunity for students to reflect on their learning and to think about what habits will help them understand math better!</p>	<p>Chapter 2 starts on Monday. Students will need a graphing notebook for the next few chapters.</p> <p>Google Classroom is an important resource for all students. Video resources are uploaded to help with understanding of the concepts.</p> <p>Tuesday and Thursday afternoons I am available after school until 4pm to help students with any questions on homework.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 1 ALG 1- Expression and Equations:</b> Expression, Variables, Powers and Exponents, Order of Operation Equations, Word Problems that Lead to Expressions and Equations</p> <p><b>Chapter 1 Geometry - Points, Lines, Planes, and Angles:</b> Points, Lines, Planes, Segments, Rays, and Distance, Angles, Postulates and Theorems About the Above.</p> <p>These are the topics that advanced math will be exploring for the next couple of weeks. At the end of each section there will be homework assigned and at the end of each chapter there will be a chapter test. Google Classroom will have the notes for each chapter uploaded and the assignments posted the day I assign it to them. Geometry will be having their first test August 30th.</p>

## Language Arts (Reading and Writing)

Sixth- Mrs. Reynolds	Seventh	Eighth
<p><b>Reading:</b> We are continuing to read <i>The Iliad</i> and focusing on defining unknown vocabulary using context clues from the text. We are also continuing to study the Trojan War and its connection to Greek Mythology.</p> <p><b>Writing:</b> We are researching the government, economy, and education systems in both Athens and Sparta to write an informative essay on which city-state students would rather have lived in, if they were a child living in ancient Greece.</p>	<p>Reading- We are continuing to read <i>Call of the Wild</i> and had our first reading quiz. We will have our first reading vocabulary quiz next week. We are also working to identify themes in literature.</p> <p>Writing- We have begun working on writing our personal narrative rough drafts and are continuing to work on grammar, spelling, and conventions.</p>	<p>Reading - We will be reading chapters 4 &amp; 5 of <i>Animal Farm</i> this week. Our literature circle books connect in different ways to this novel and meet on Thursdays. Reading logs will be filled out Friday.</p> <p>Writing- We are revising our personal narratives and typing them. We are also finish our review of pronouns and will have a quiz later in the week.</p>

## Science

Sixth	Seventh	Eighth
<p>Students investigate light interaction with matter in a unit focusing on why seeing different things when looking at the same object happens. They explore weather phenomena, ask questions, conduct activities, and analyze shared experiences with classmates. Concepts include how objects act as mirrors and windows simultaneously, light transmission and reflection in one-way mirrors, and the interaction causing the one-way mirror phenomenon.</p>	<p>This week we have continued our study of Ecology and started to learn about and discuss the “why” of data analysis. Why do scientists collect data and compose scatter plots or line graphs? From the practical (i.e., staffing a business during peak business hours), to the research level (i.e., data from an ecosystem on population changes over time), we are looking for relationships, patterns and trends. From those relationships, patterns, and trends we may arrive at potential solutions to complex or simple problems that affect our world. We can explore and test those hypotheses to find out if our ideas lead to solutions and continue the scientific iterative process to make a difference. <b>We have also started doing Laboratory Notebook checks (for Practice and Participation grades). Some students still do not have a spiral notebook for Science; I would appreciate any help in that regard.</b></p>	<p>We continue our exploration of Forces and Mass. We continue to study Newtonian Laws and have been conducting group tests to Check for Understanding of these concepts. <b>We have also started doing Laboratory Notebook checks (for Practice and Participation grades). Some students still do not have a spiral notebook for Science; I would appreciate any help in that regard.</b></p>

## History

Sixth - Mr. Mey	Seventh - Mr. Satchell	Eighth - Mr. Satchell
<p>We will wrap up our desert unit with an in class writing assignment over the next few days.</p> <p>In our next unit, students take a deep dive into how the wild ways of ancient Greece and Rome have shaped Western society like no other civilizations in history. Think democracy in Athens and other Greek city-states!</p>	<p>Students learned about the Spanish-American War this week. This topic, along with the building of the Panama Canal, are preparing students to learn about World War I</p>	<p>We are currently preparing to attend International Towne on October 24th. Students are completing a variety of activities that have to do with international trade. One topic we explored was how a t-shirt is made from the growing of cotton to the sale of the product.</p>

## Latin - Miss Lafferty and Mr. Roe

Sixth- Ms. Lafferty	Seventh and Eighth- Ms. Lafferty/Mr. Roe
<p>We are continuing to learn about first declension nouns in Latin .</p> <p>Chapter 4: Quiz on September 11th/12th</p>	<p>We are currently working through chapter 2 of the Oxford Latin text. This chapter focuses on translating simple sentences from Latin to English and vice versa.</p>

## Art - Mrs. Troudt

Sixth	Seventh	Eighth
<p>Art to Remember! Fundraiser!! We have begun our art to remember drawings. These are based on our "Love for Colorado"</p>	<p>Art to Remember! Fundraiser!! We have begun our art to remember drawings. These are based on our "Love for Colorado"</p>	<p>Art to Remember! Fundraiser!! We have begun our art to remember drawings. These are based on our "Love for Colorado"</p>

## Choir - Mr. Hovorka

We have been Learning the fundamentals involved with singing in a choir. This week we have done student lead Warm-ups. Some of the pieces we are working on in the upcoming weeks are; "Somewhere over the Rainbow", "American Tears" and "Homeward Bound"



## Orchestra - Ms. Smith

We are continuing to practice reading music and working as an ensemble. We are learning exciting and spooky music in preparation for halloween!

## Physical Education - Mr. Vessey

Students should bring a water bottle and wear appropriate shoes each day. Please send your student to school with sunscreen as we will be outside as much as possible. We are currently in our wiffle ball unit.

# Other Happenings

## What is going on in Middle School - Special Events and Updates

**Honor Roll Trip:** On September 27th, the 62 honor roll students who received a 3.50 or higher will get to go mini-golfing. Students will be bring home a permission slip and these will be due back with payment by September 23rd.

# SPORTS Next Week

**9/21**

- **4:00pm Cross Country: Middle School Meet vs. Northfield @ TBA**

**9/24**

- **4:30pm Soccer: Boys Middle School League vs. DSST: College View @ Riverside Soccer Fields**

**9/25**

- **4:30pm Soccer: Boys Middle School League vs. Kipp Sunshine Peak Academy @ Addenbrooke Classical Academy**
- **5:30pm Volleyball: Girls Middle School League vs. DSST: College View @ KIPP Sunshine Middle School**

# End Notes

Dress Code Reminders: [Dress Code Full Document](#)

**Seventh and Eighth Grade Washington DC Trip** : Parent information meeting, September 19th at 5:00 in the Middle School Commons. Deadline to sign-up is September 24, 2023.

Please be aware that tardy letters will be emailed today and tomorrow, if you are receiving one it means an after school detention.

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## FREE TUTORS

Lockheed Martin is available to help every Tuesday!

When: Tuesdays 6:00pm-7:00 pm

Where: ACA High School  
(3rd grade-12th grade)

- o No sign-up necessary, drop-ins welcome
- o Please arrive no later than 6:30
- o Remember your Chromebook/ needed materials (math book)

Tutors can help with:  
Homework: Math/Science  
Test Preparation

**Fall Dates:**

**September 24**

**October 1**

**October 8**

**October 15**

**October 22**

**October 29**

**November 5**

**November 12**

**November 19**

**December 3**

**December 10**



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