

CLARENCEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

MAKING EDUCATION COUNT

August, 2014

Wendy Kellehan, Principal
Kevin Murphy, Assistant Principal

Main Office: 248-919-0270
Attendance Line: 248-919-0272
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Clarenceville Middle School Parents and Students,

I want to officially welcome all of you to the 2014-2015 school year! Summer is just about over and now we need to start focusing on the start of another exciting school year. We have been very busy here in our temporary office getting everything ready for the return of our teachers and students. Everything is progressing smoothly and we are looking forward to the first day of school on Wednesday, September 3, 2014.

I am privileged to have the opportunity to return this school year as your Principal. I feel honored to work with our highly qualified and dedicated faculty and staff, our wonderful students, and all of the supportive parents. The middle school years are critical times of development for students and families. I look forward in working with all of you to make this school year successful.

A series of changes have taken place in our building over the summer. The middle school office and Mr. Lengel's room are being completely renovated. Unfortunately for Mr. Lengel, he will not reap the benefits of the new renovations because the board room is being relocated to his room and he is moving to room 105. The renovation to the middle school office was made to provide a more convenient entrance for parents and visitors during school hours and to help us make the building more secure. We expect all renovations to be

completed in time for the start of school. Our new parking lot in front of the building will be completed sometime in September. Parents and visitors will no longer have to park at the south end of the building and then walk down to the north end to the middle school offices. Parents and visitors will be granted access by buzzing in at the north doors and then entering directly into the middle school offices. Besides the changes to our building, we have a couple of staffing changes this year. Please help me welcome Mrs. Kellie Coogan-Pietruszka. Mrs. Kellie Coogan-Pietruszka will be taking over Mrs. Sowders 7th grade math classes until she returns from family medical leave at the end of October.

This summer, our teachers have continued adjusting to the Common Core Standards and other curriculum changes. They have attended professional development trainings and are prepared to implement many new strategies to differentiate the instruction for all of our student's needs. Our teachers have been working hard preparing their classrooms and lesson plans that promise to make for another exciting and productive year at CMS. Huge thanks go out to our building secretaries Ms. Lee Bishop, Mrs. Michelle Chisholm, and Mrs. Stephanie Wilson, D.M. Burr custodians, District Maintenance Director Mr. John Woolston and the District's maintenance crew who have been working very hard to help us get ready for the start of the new school year.

I'd like to invite you to visit our district and school websites. Our website will serve as a

resource tool for all upcoming events, handbooks, important reminders, and you can catch up with our newsletters. I also invite you to sign up for our CMS Parent Remind 101. Whenever necessary I will send out text messages through Remind 101 to all parents who have signed up. Instructions on how to sign up are in the back to school packet.

Since we recognize that parents are their children's first and most important teachers, we need your cooperation and involvement to provide them with the best education possible. Take the time to talk with your children about their school experiences. Your interest and concern in their school progress will help motivate them to do their best.

Maintain contact with your children's teachers, as well as with me. Ask questions and communicate concerns so we can build a partnership which will ensure student success. Here are a few tips you can use to help your child get off to a good start this school year.

- Sit down with your child and set **goals**. Discuss the pros and cons of the previous school year and how some things can be changed.
- Carefully review all materials that have been sent home in this back to school packet. Complete and return any necessary papers or forms.
- Check the school dress code to ensure what your child is wearing to school is in compliance.
- Contact the school if your child has any special needs or circumstances teachers should be aware of.
- Discuss the importance of attendance and promptness with your child.

We are proud of the of the accomplishments of our students and staff and we will continue to make academic excellence our top priority. As we begin the new school year, we will focus on evaluating individual student needs, planning strategies to meet these needs, and implementing the appropriate lessons to propel students forward academically.

If you have any questions please do not

hesitate to call me at (248) 919-0406 or email me at wkellehan@clarencville.k12.mi.us. Your concerns and questions are very important and cannot be addressed unless I know about them. I look forward to having a great year working with you and your children!

DAILY MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Unless students are attending a.m. tutoring or have a meeting with a teacher or coach, they should be dropped off **no earlier than 7:30 a.m.** Between 7:30 and 7:50, 6th grade students will be on the gym stage, 7th graders in the gym bleachers and 8th graders in the cafeteria. **Any** student wanting breakfast may go to the designated area of the cafeteria. At 7:50, students are dismissed to go to their lockers and prepare for the day. **Class begins at 8:00. School ends at 2:56.** Unless students are under the direct supervision of an adult (tutor or coach), they must exit the school. Students not under the direct supervision of an adult must be off school grounds by **3:15 p.m.**

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

School will begin on Wednesday September 3, for all students. This will be a full day from 8:00-2:56 p.m. Upon entering the school, 6th graders will go to the stage area of the gym, 7th graders will report to the gym bleachers and 8th graders will report to the cafeteria. First period teachers will come to their respective students and take them to class. Schedule and technology agreements will be distributed and lockers assigned. Students will then follow their schedule for the remainder of the day.

DRESS CODE

Please check the dress code online before you purchase new school clothing. Although some items may be in "fashion," they may not be school appropriate. A couple of things come to mind, spandex leggings may not be worn without a fingertip length top, shorts, or skirt. Tank tops and shorts must be school appropriate. Jeans cannot have holes between the knees and waist. Please check out the website for more complete information.

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

Parents, please update your contact information (phone and e-mail) on the MiStar Parent Portal or by contacting the middle school office. We do a lot of communicating via phone, email, Remind 101 text messaging, and School Messenger utilizing the contact information we receive from you. We would not want you to miss something or not be able to contact you in case of an emergency because your contact information is not correct.

NOTES FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE

The Automated Attendance Caller: When a student is absent for any part of a day, a parent must excuse that student. If the student has not been excused, the parent will receive a call from the auto caller that same evening after 6:15 p.m. Please be reminded that we still need you to call each and every day your child is absent from school at 248-919-0272. Please remember that some mistakes on attendance emerge the following day and are not resolved until after the auto caller has made the call. Students should not automatically face consequences at home without checking with the school first. This happens most often when a student is marked absent for one class during the day. The number one reason is that the teacher takes attendance and then proceeds to teach the class. If a student walks in tardy, often times, they do not resolve it with the teacher and the absence stands until the next day. The attendance office resolves these issues as soon as possible.

NEW PARKING LOT

Sometime during the month of September, the new parking lot in the front of the building will be completed and ready to use. One of the biggest complaints and concerns we heard from parents and visitors was that our parking situation was very inconvenient and a potential security risk. Adding the new parking lot at the front of the building will make it much easier for parents and visitors who need to come to the middle school office during school hours. In-

stead of parking at the south end of the building and having to walk to the north end to the middle school offices, visitors will be granted access by buzzing in at the north doors and then entering directly into the middle school offices. **Use of this lot is prohibited for regular morning student drop-off (7:30-8:10 a.m.) or afternoon student pick-up (2:40-3:10). The only time this new lot is to be used during regular drop-off and pick-up times is when a visitor or parent/guardian has to come into the middle school to conduct school business. This lot is to be used for student drop-off and pick-up only if a student arrives to school late or needs to leave school before release time.**

DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

Cars dropping off students should enter the parking lot and drive single file behind the football fence. Once through the gate, cars can move into two lanes. Cars that will be going south, turning left on Middlebelt, must be in the left lane. Cars heading north on Middlebelt, turning right, must be in the right lane. Students should exit cars when the cars reach the entrance of the building. To speed up the drop-off process, two cars at a time should line up one behind the other in front of the building and drop off simultaneously.

PICK-UP PROCEDURE

The after school pick-up procedure varies slightly from the morning. Cars will still enter the parking lot and drive behind the football fence. Cars should form two lines parallel with the fence, but leaving the center lane open. Students may enter the cars from behind the fence at the point lining up with the concession stand to as far down as the southern most gate. Students MAY NOT wait for the cars to come to them. Students should enter the vehicles from the passenger side only. A car is permitted to leave the single file line as soon as the student has entered. The car will enter the center lane, proceed through the gate and exit the parking lot. This pick-up procedure will also be used for our monthly activity nights.

Please note:

- THE PARKING BARRICADES ARE THERE FOR A REASON. DO NOT DRIVE DOWN THE AISLES OF THE PARKING LOT OR EXIT THE PARKING LOT VIA THE SOUTH EXIT!
- DO NOT PARK ON MIDDLEBELT WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR STUDENT(S). WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP LINE DOES BACK UP ONTO MIDDLEBELT, BUT THE LINE MUST KEEP MOVING.
- PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS MUST BE KEPT FREE OF CARS AND PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF LINES MUST BE KEPT CLEAR AND MOVING. IF YOU NEED TO COME INTO THE BUILDING YOU WILL NEED TO PARK IN THE PARKING LOT. DO NOT PARK ANYWHERE BETWEEN THE PARKING BARRICADES AND THE BUILDING.

SIXTH GRADE OPEN HOUSE

The Open House for 6th grade students and their parents will be held from **6:30-8:30 p.m.** on Thursday, August 28. Please note: This will be the **only** Open House for 6th grade students. We invite parents and 6th grade students to join us beginning at 6:30 p.m. Schedule and locker assignments will be distributed and students will be able to practice opening lockers. The school photographers will be taking photos from 6:30-8:00 p.m., so bring your checkbook and the enclosed picture form if you are interested in purchasing a packet. All students must get photos taken. They will be issued ID cards at that time. At 7:30 p.m. we will meet in the cafeteria. After a brief presentation, students and parents will go upstairs to see classrooms and meet the teachers. Due to lack of space, we are asking that **only** CMS 6th graders and their parents/guardians attend. The Open House will cover:

student expectations for academics and behavior, student handbook, schedule information, curriculum and course expectations and parent volunteering opportunities.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE OPEN HOUSE

The Open House for 7th and 8th grade students and their parents will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3. Please mark your calendar for this very important function. There will be a Washington D.C. meeting immediately following the Open House for 8th graders.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

EMERGENCY CARDS AND CONCUSSION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – During the first week of school, your child will be bringing home an emergency card and a parent & student concussion acknowledgement form. Please help us by returning completed forms no later than Friday, September 5.

SCHOOL PICTURES – School pictures for 7th and 8th grade students will be taken on Thursday, September 11. Picture forms will be distributed to students during the first week of school. If you wish to purchase school pictures, please send the completed form and money with your child on the day of pictures. All students must have their picture taken for a school ID. If the ID card is lost, there will be a cost for replacement. ID cards are needed for lunch and admittance to after-school activities; especially for activity nights.

PRE-PAID LUNCH PROGRAM – Students are required to use a pre-paid account system for purchasing lunch. Each student will be issued an account number. Students must pre-pay by the week or month in the cafeteria **BEFORE** school begins for the day. Cash/checks cannot be taken while lunch is being served. The cashier will debit the student's account for the amount of the purchase. We recommend that parents send a check for \$20 to begin the pre-

paid account. (Account balances have been transferred from the elementary schools to the middle school). Forms for free and reduced lunch are included with this newsletter. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the middle school office on the first day of school (6th grade families may return forms at open house). A new form must be completed each school year.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker near his or her academic classes. Students **MUST NOT** use tape, adhesive stickers, or marker to decorate lockers. Students must only use their assigned locker. Students must **NOT** share their combination number. It is not possible to “break in” to a properly locked locker. The students are held responsible for the cost of items lost from a locker because it is their responsibility to keep their locker properly secured and private. Lockers are the property of the Clarenceville School District. If administration suspects that a student has brought an illegal or harmful substance into the building, this student’s locker will be searched.

GET INVOLVED

FRANKENMUTH FUND-RAISER – Our goal is to earn money for school activities and educational supplies not covered under the school’s budget. This year’s fundraiser is through Frankenmuth. We urge everyone to get involved by selling to friends, relatives and neighbors. With your cooperation we are confident that this year’s fundraiser will be a huge success. The sale will begin on September 23.

PARENT MEETINGS – These informal monthly meetings give parents an opportunity to discuss school-related issues and concerns with administration. The first parent meeting of 2014-2015 school year will be held on Monday, October 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the media center. The remainder of the meetings will be: 11/10, 1/12, 2/9, and 3/9.

ACTIVITY NIGHTS – Our first activity night will be held Friday, September 26, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The cost is \$4 with ID and \$5 without ID. If you are interested in volunteering please sign up to help at open house or orientation night. The remainder of the activity night dates will be: 10/24, 11/21, 12/12, 1/16 (fun fair), 2/6, 3/27, 5/1 and 5/29 (5th & 6th grade only).

AFTER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Do you need a fun, safe place for your middle school student to go after school? Clarenceville Middle School students are invited to attend the Jon Grant Youth Center (located at the corner of Grand River and Middlebelt Roads) beginning the first day of school. Clarenceville Schools will provide transportation from school to the youth center. All students must be picked up no later than 5:30 p.m. from the center. This program is \$50 for Farmington Hills/Farmington residents. Each new member will receive a photo ID card when he/she registers. Members will need this ID card to board the school bus, check in and out at the center and to check out games and equipment. Clarenceville students who are not residents of Farmington Hills/Farmington will need to pay a non-resident fee to use the after school program. The fee for nonresidents is \$70 per trimester which works out to be **ONLY \$1.20** per day. A special rate of \$175 for the entire year is available if you pay for and enroll your student at the beginning of the first semester, a savings of \$35 for the year. For more information, please call the Jon Grant Youth Center at 248-871-2829.

SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS PHYSICALS - Any incoming 7th and 8th grader interested in playing a sport at CMS during the 2014-2015 school year, he/she **MUST have a completed school physical form, blue emergency card and pay to participate money (\$50) on file in the office**

before you can participate in any practices. Physicals are considered current if they are dated after 4/15/14. Livonia Family Physicians (734-464-9540) will take walk-ins for any Clarenceville students needing a physical. You just need to call to make sure a doctor will be available. The cost is approximately \$20. Physical forms and any other information can be picked up at the Middle School Office.

FOOTBALL – Football practice will start the first full day of school, **Wednesday, September 3.** Practices this week will go from 3:00-5:45 p.m. (you must have a ride here promptly at 5:45). A full practice and game schedule will be handed out the first week of practice. **You must have a physical, blue emergency card and pay to participate money (\$50) in order to tryout. You can bring it to the practice on September 3.** Proper attire for practices are: shorts/sweatpants, t-shirt, and tennis shoes and/or spikes.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Girls basketball tryouts will start the first full day of school, Wednesday, September 3 at 3:00 p.m. **You must have a physical, blue emergency card and pay to participate money (\$50) in order to tryout.** Please remember to wear proper attire that is school appropriate: shorts, t-shirts and basketball shoes.

REMINDER TO PARENTS AND ATHLETES:

The pay to participate policy will be in effect, so along with your physical and blue emergency card you must also have a check for \$50 in order to participate. Please call if there are any problems with the policy or if you need more information. Any questions, please call the office at 248-919-0270 or call Mr. Alessandrini at 248-919-0279.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council is a service organization at CMS. Members are selected by their peers

from their advisory class. Students must have and maintain a 2.5 GPA and no “3’s” in citizenship. Student Council strives to promote student leadership and a positive school climate. Elections for Student Council will take place in advisory during the week of September 22-26. This gives students an opportunity to meet their peers and express interest in becoming a representative.

ProtectMIChild.com

Are your children safe while online? Michigan families, especially minors, are becoming inundated with advertisements from alcohol, tobacco, pornography and gambling marketers through different internet and cell phone inboxes. Texting their advertisements is the newest marketing effort that many of these companies are using. Thankfully, the State of Michigan offers a free program to stop adult advertisements from reaching e-mails, mobile phones (text messaging ads) and instant messenger IDs. The Michigan Child Protection Registry, like the federal Do Not Call List, is a free do-not-contact service for Michigan’s families and schools and can be located at www.ProtectMIChild.com.

As supporters of this registry, we would like to encourage you to sign your entire family up for the registry and inform your friends and colleagues about how they can protect children and families from unwanted adult advertising. To sign up only takes seconds. Just go to www.ProtectMIChild.com and keep your family safe.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Michigan Child Protection Registry?

The Michigan Child Protection Registry was created by the Michigan State Legislature in 2004 as a do-not-contact service for Michigan families. The Michigan Child Protection Registry is a free, state administered program that allows Michigan’s families to protect their households from adult-oriented messages.

2. What addresses are eligible for registration?

You can register e-mail addresses, mobile phone numbers (SMS), instant messenger IDs, and fax numbers.

3. What types of adult-oriented messages are my addresses protected from?

Family’s sign up their addresses are protected from messages that advertise pornography, tobacco, illegal drugs, alcohol, and gambling. The newest effort for these types of companies is to text their ads to any cell phone numbers they can find.

4. Does the registry only protect children?

No. The Michigan Child Protection Registry can include:

- Family addresses (both adults and children)
- Addresses in a household where a child is present
- School domains (students and educators)

5. How much does it cost to sign up my addresses?

This is a free program offered to residents by the State of Michigan.

6. How do I sign up my addresses?

Registering your addresses is quick and easy. Go to www.protectmichild.com, click “Protect Your Household Addresses”, and follow the steps to register your household addresses.

7. How can I send my friends information on how to register?

To send your friends, family, co-workers and neighbor’s information on how to register, simply send them a “refer a friend” e-mail after you register, and an automatic message on the Registry will be sent to their inbox.

8. How often do I need to renew the registration of my addresses?

Registrations last for three years with the option to renew at any time. You will receive a notification e-mail reminding you that the three year time period has expired.

9. Are my addresses safe?

Senders of messages are NEVER given registered addresses. Marketers and companies are required to submit their solicitation lists to the state, where all registered addresses are then removed and returned to the sender.

10. What if I receive an adult message after I sign up my addresses?

If you are contacted with a message to a registered address, you should submit the report to the Division of Consumer Protection. The process is easy and allows you to help the state investigate those companies who are not complying with Michigan’s Child Protection Registry Laws.

11. Which state office administrates the Michigan Child Protection Registry?

The Michigan Child Protection Registry is administered by the Michigan Public Service Commission and enforced by the State Attorney General’s Office.

Marketers pay a fee of .007 cents for each address they scrub to the state registry. Funds generated by the program are set aside to fund the Attorney General’s Office in the maintenance and upkeep for the program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/28 6th Grade Open House & School Pictures
6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 9/03 First Day of School – Full Day
7th/8th Grade Open House – 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Football Practice – 3:00-5:45
Girls Basketball tryouts – 3:00 p.m.
- 9/11 7th & 8th Grade/Staff Pictures
Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- 9/23 Frankenmuth Sales Begin
- 9/25 Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
- 9/26 Activity Night—4:00-6:00 p.m.
- 9/30 NJHS Induction—7:00 p.m.