

JC McKenna Middle School School Newsletter

October 2018

JC McKenna Families,

September has been full of learning and fun. The students are off to a great start and are adjusting to their back to school schedules. Student council meetings will be beginning with all grade levels soon as will several of our other clubs such as FPS, Spanish Club and Blue Notes to mention a few. Our athletic teams have been busy with practices and are half way through their seasons. Homecoming week was full of fun and excitement. Our students participated in a week of dress up days followed by two pep assemblies on Friday. Our high school senior athletes and their perspective coaches came on Friday morning to talk about what homecoming means to them. The athletes and the band students did a wonderful job at our assembly. We hope to be able to continue this new tradition next year.

The afternoon assembly highlighted our middle school athletes and band members along with some fun games of tug-o-war and dodgeball. Our dodgeball challenge will be continued at a later date as we ran a little short of time. Overall, we were impressed with the students' enthusiasm and their participation in the activities. We hope that everyone enjoyed the week and we look forward to having lots more fun as a middle school this year.

Here are a few basic reminders to help your student be successful this year:

Help them to be on time and at school each day

Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible

Remind your child that they need sleep

Ask about homework and follow up by checking Skyward and contacting teachers if necessary

All of our students have received a student planner/assignment notebook to help them write down assignments. Encourage your child to use this each day for every class. It will help them figure out a priority list and help you to know what is going on at school.

Contacting JC McKenna Middle School

Main Office Hours

7:15am-3:45pm

Telephone Extensions:

Principal, Mrs. Dobbs.....882-3302

Attendance Voicemail .882-3301

School Guidance Counselor:

Mrs. Holm.....882-3304

School Social Worker:

Mr. Czerwonka.....882- 3346

307 S. First Street

Evansville, WI 53536

Fax: 608-882-5744

Website: jcm.ecsdnet.org

Success club has started on Wednesdays after school for any students that need a quiet place to work and/or need some teacher support on assignments. The Team Time teacher will contact you directly via email or phone if your child is being asked to stay.

Thank you for sharing your child with us each day. Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have a concern or a positive comment that you would like to share. Don't forget to like us on Facebook!

Important Dates

No School (Prof development).....Oct 8

7th grade Field Trip.....Oct 10

6th Grade News

6th Grade Team

Mr. Tom Bethke 882-3328
Math
bethket@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Sarah Bessonny 882-3330
Social Studies
mckittricktr@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Colin Langan 882-3323
Reading/Language Arts
langanc@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Renae Smith 882-3322
Reading/Language Arts
smithre@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Greg Vossekuil 882-3329
Science
vossekuilg@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Jo Ann Mumm 882-3339
Business & Information Technology
mummj@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Erica Mitten 882-3314
Special Education
baxterp@evansville.k12.wi.us

- Welcome back to school! We are so excited to see that the 6th graders are becoming familiar with all of their new surroundings and middle school procedures. It has been a great start to the year!!!
- Parents please continue to sign and check over your child's assignment notebook. This helps everyone stay informed about what is being assigned for homework as well as any upcoming tests or projects. Team Time teachers check for signatures daily.
- Grades are posted online. Please use Family Access to find your child's grades. It takes about 1 week turn around time for teachers to post grades. If you have not signed-up for Family Access please contact Melinda Molloy at the District Office.
- Parent /Teacher Conferences are November 8 and 13 from 3:30 to 8 pm.

Homework Help!

- 6th Grade Success Club meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. This club is staffed by 6th grade teachers. Students with late work will be asked to attend by Wednesday. Contact your child's Team Time teacher if you have any questions. We take pride in providing many opportunities for students to complete work or even skill work.

Science

Welcome to 6th grade physical science! I am very excited to have your student in my class. We will be studying both chemistry and physics concepts throughout the school year.

As we progress through the year students will learn different ways to take notes and different ways to study the material that is presented to them.

Eventually each student will have an online textbook with items that will enhance their abilities to learn and understand physical science.

Students main homework for this class

will be to study the concepts learned for 15 minutes a night. This is an important skill for all students to learn how to master.

If you have any questions please feel free to email me at any time! I hope everyone has a good school year!



6th Grade Outdoor Education Day is Friday, September 28, 2018

Students will spend most of their day at Lake Leota Park in Evansville. Activities include kayaking, fishing, a scavenger hunt, outdoor games and a visit to the Nature Center. Students have been instructed to dress for the weather. An informational letter was sent home regarding Outdoor Education Day. Look for photos in the next newsletter. We are very thankful for the many community members who support our Outdoor Education Days. There will be 2 more Outdoor Days in June of 2019.

Language Arts



We have had a great start to our school year. The sixth graders have been busy reading many different

titles, and some students are already reading their 4th book! For Reader's Workshop, we are focusing on a Deep Study of

Character, and for the last two weeks, we have been considering complex character traits. Next week, we will begin to investigate how the setting of a story shapes characters. Eventually we'll analyze how characters help us identify the motif and theme of a story.

For Writer's Workshop, the sixth graders are drafting creative stories. We are focusing on editing for punctuation and

spelling as well as incorporating dialogue and accurately using quotation marks.

Sixth graders should read for at least 20 minutes for their ELA homework. Thank you for your support!

Math

Regular math classes are into Chapter 1 of our green math series called BIG IDEAS. The main areas of chapter 1 are numerical expressions and factors. This includes whole number operations, powers and exponents, order of operations, prime factorization, and GCF and LCM. In Chapter 2 students will work on fraction and decimal operations. All students have a textbook for a resource. Class work is followed up with practice work for homework. Homework is limited to about 10 problems which is started at the end of class. Remind your child to make sure they have their math folder for class.

Advanced Math class has been working in Chapter 1 of the red BIG IDEAS series. In chapter 1 we worked on integer operations and absolute value. This test will be completed by the end of September. Chapter 2 is the study of rational numbers and their operations. All students have a red textbook for a resource.

Class work is followed up with practice work for homework. Students (in most cases) will have time to start their work and ask questions before the bell.

KhanAcademy.org is a website that all students can use as a resource. Students can watch videos for grade level math, practice problems and play games. Please encourage your child to use Khan Academy outside of school. Students have computer access at JCM if needed. This is a wonderful free resource for all students and parents. Please have your child show you this valuable website. To date most children have been to Khan during class.

Mr. Bethke's website has a variety of math resources including YouTube video lessons from the current chapter for regular and advanced math classes. sites.google.com/a/ecsdnet.org/bethke-website/home

Social Studies

Sixth graders have started the year by diving into history right away. During our first unit, students get an introduction to American History by answering the simple question: What is history? They've been learning the differences between primary and secondary sources and how the story of the past comes from the people who lived it. Some wonderful oral histories came out of their family interviews about 9/11, and several took the opportunity to find a way to serve their communities. We've also been learning how Native Americans preserve traditions and adapt to change.

Next we will learn about the foundations of our government and the American Revolution. We'll spend time together learning about our democratic system of government and how it works while following this year's midterm elections to see democracy in action!

Computer Applications

With a few weeks into our class 6th grade students are doing a



Student avatars created as profile pics

at applying the correct ergonomic while mastering their keyboarding skills and increasing their speed. Students are challenged to use the touch-key method of keyboarding with the introduction of keyboard covers in our classroom.

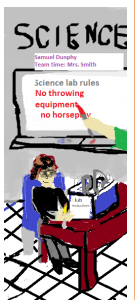
We recently completed our first Paint project. Students demonstrated their knowledge of many paint tools by creating a bookmark which can be used in SSR reading or Language Arts. Students also had fun creating an avatar to use as our profile picture, keeping us safe on the internet! More fun projects come.....Stay Tuned.....

routine, great job nomics



Bookmarks made by students, Pita G. and Sam

to



It's not all keyboarding and drawing in class - we have been busy learning how to organize our digital files and how to manipulate text using control keys!

6th
Grade
Team
Colors





6th
Grade
Team
Colors

7th Grade News

7th Grade Team

Mrs. Ann Alme 882-3325
Math
almea@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Bruce Curtis 882-3356
Science
curtisb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Carla Gomez 882-3348
Spanish
gomezc@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Beth Oswald 882-3342
Social Studies
oswaldb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. RuthAnn Yoerger 882-3349
Composition Literature
yoergerr@evansville.k12.wi.us

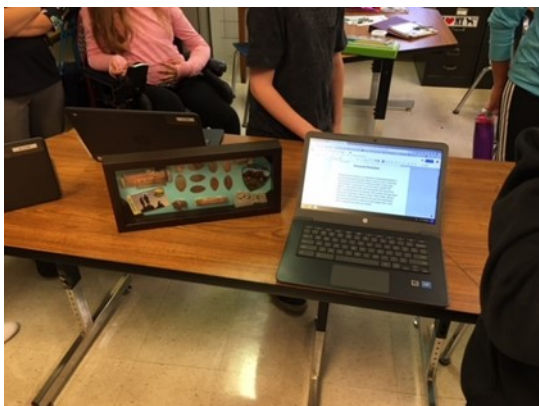
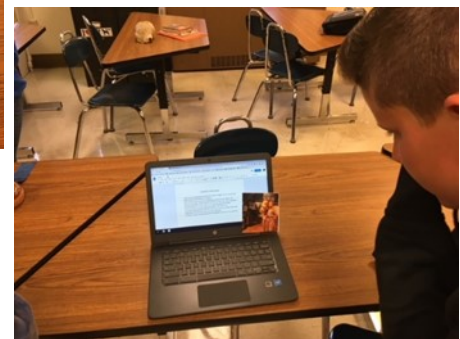
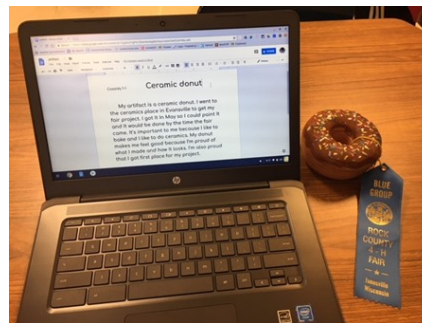
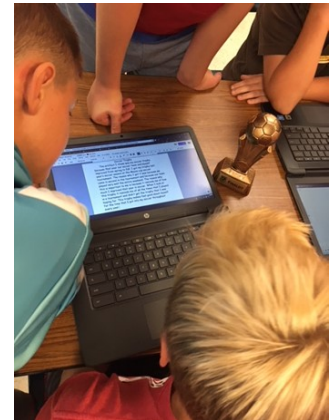
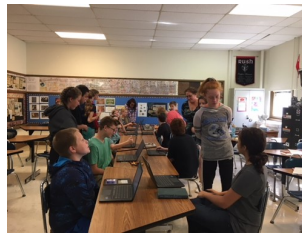
Mr. Dave Kopf 882-3319
Tech Ed/Stem
kopfd@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Kelli Ours 882-3324
Special Ed
oursk@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Mallory Isbell 882-3336
Special Ed
isbellm@evansville.k12.wi.us

Seventh Grade World History:

The Pop-Up Museum exhibit, "Stories of Seventh Graders" was a great success! By looking at their classmates' personal artifacts and reading the stories behind them, students learned what was important in the lives of seventh graders. Students shared artifacts and stories of family, friends, pets, childhood memories, awards and travels.



In 7th grade math the unit we are currently studying is integers. In this book students will learn to add, subtract, multiply and divide with both positive and negative numbers. When we finish integers we will be looking at rational numbers.

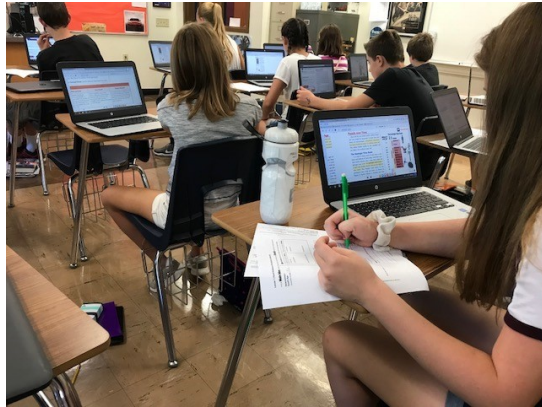
Technology Ed/STEM

What is Engineering, Technology

Students learn the steps of the Design Process and how to use the Design Process to solve problems in hands-on projects.

Science

Students are getting accustomed to the “flipped classroom”. Our current topic is Evolution and we will soon be starting Cells. Also, we are planning a field trip to UW-Madison on Wednesday, October 10th. Please be looking for a sheet coming home with more details.



Students in 7th grade Spanish are working on learning basic Spanish phrases and vocabulary. Students will be learning numbers, days of the week, months of the year, classroom objects, greetings and good-byes. Students will be creating a Spanish dialogue and sharing it with the class. They also will learn how to answer basic questions about themselves.



Now that the school year is underway, we have been busy establishing reading routines with trips to the LMC and reading self-selected books during class. We are also reading various short stories from two different anthologies. Students are responding to the stories and thinking about character’s traits, motivations, struggles, backstory, inner thinking, and relationships. These short stories will serve as mentor texts for Writer’s Workshop. All students are also engaged in writing a piece of realistic fiction during Writer’s Workshop, which half of the seventh graders are doing with Mrs. Yoerger and half are doing with Mrs. Gomez.



“Duct Tape Day” during spirit week!

8th Grade News

Composition/Literature

The 8th graders in ELA have started off strong this year as readers. We are currently in a reading unit called "A Deep Study of Character." Students have been working each day learning a new skill that they then apply to their thinking when reading. They have been using a reading notebook to keep track of the daily lesson and respond to their reading in. Books have been coming and going on the shelves in both my classroom and the LMC. Ask your student to talk to you about what he or she is reading.

Science

We are cruising nicely in our new eBook Earth Science textbooks, currently working on mapping and locations. Our next chapter is about Earth's structure – the crust, mantle, and core.

Spanish

Students in 8th grade Spanish have all chosen animal names for the year. They are now busy learning the vocabulary for members of the family, numbers past 60, and adjectives to describe people. Don't be surprised if your student starts calling you madre or padre during this unit!

World Geography

Students should have received a packet of information from the State of Wisconsin for a project of history and geography of our fine state. That project will end September and begin October along with some Native American history of WI and expanding regional US history and geography including National Parks.kp Have students practice geo locations on different websites including www.purposegames.com and www.sheppardsoftware.com.

Math 8

Students have been diving into our Big Ideas textbook. Chapter 1 deals with all types of equation solving. Students have had to review and apply all of their knowledge of integers and fractions, as well as order of operations. Our next chapter will be our first Geometry chapter of the year: Transformations.

Note: Both Math 8 and Algebra students have online access to their textbooks as well as bonus features like tutorial videos and online quizzes to help them. See www.bigideasmath.com. Your student has a sticker with their username and the format of their password in their assignment notebook.

Algebra

We started the year solving linear equations. October brings us to linear inequalities. All of their powers of "mathematical manipulation" will be used again with simple, compound, and absolute value inequalities!

8th Grade Team

Mrs. Katelyn Demrow 882-3351

Composition/Literature

demrowk@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Rich Fanning 882-3358

Science

fanning@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Kelly Fanta 882-3350

Spanish

fantak@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. John Hanson 882-3340

Social Studies

hansonj@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Gretchen Kopf 882-3343

Math

kopfg@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Trent Schmick 882-3335

ART

schmickt@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Brittany Shottliff 882-3315

Special Education

shotliffb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Art

Students have been drawing a self-portrait using the grid technique. The grid technique is a mathematical way of breaking down a detailed image into smaller squares of info so you can see and then draw each line or shape more accurately. They will be painting their portraits using a monochromatic color scheme (one color plus tints & shades).

Specials Classes

Specials Team

Mr. Kendall Buttchen 882-3316

Phy Ed/Health

buttchenk@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Darren Demmin 882-3309

Phy Ed/Health

demmind@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Leslie Ferrell 882-3320

Reading Specialist

ferrelll@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mr. Bob Harsevoort 882-3334

Band

harsevoortb@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Cathy Kruckenberg 882-3308

Phy Ed/Health

kruckenbergc@evansville.k12.wi.us

Mrs. Meghann Proper 882-3332

Vocal Music

properm@evansville.k12.wi.us

CHORUS NEWS

We are working hard to learn our songs for our December 17th concert. We start class with physical and vocal warm-ups, which will include some fun rounds this year. We are writing in our music a lot so that we don't have to spend time going over the same things each class. Optional chorus t-shirts will be available to purchase soon!

GENERAL MUSIC/MUSIC APPRECIATION

6th Grade is learning about "The Star Spangled Banner." We are watching lots of different performances, including Jimi Hendrix and Whitney Houston.

7th Grade is studying different genres of music and where they come from.

8th Grade is finishing up a google slide presentation called The Soundtrack of My Life, featuring music for different important events in their lives. Next we will be learning about music from different parts of the world.



Be there!

A note from pupil services...

Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with the following ideas.

Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your student needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.

Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible. If you can't, try to arrange them for lunchtime.

It is easier for students to get up on time for school if they have at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure they put away electronic devices so they aren't tempted to stay awake to read messages or play games.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% of more of the school year (as few as two days per month). In a policy brief by Linda Olson (from the Baltimore Education Research Consortium) studies indicate that:

- Students who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely to be chronically absent than students who were absent fewer than 2 days
- Students who missed more than 4 days were over 16 times as likely to be chronically absent than students who were absent fewer than 2 days

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees



WORKERS
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

Dear family members of middle and high school students,



Public · Police · Private Sector
Working Together to Solve & Prevent Crime

Last year our school district began a partnership with the area crime-stoppers. In an effort to prevent crimes, increase community and school safety and solve crimes we talked with students about a new phone app. The app is called P3 and is available to download for free for apple and android devices. It can also be used on desktop/laptop computers.

Our hope was to encourage students to have the app on their devices – so if they had a concern they could share it (those notices go to law enforcement if it is a crime related issue, school administrators if it is a student safety concern and others if it is a community safety concern).

As we implement this and encourage students to report their concerns—we realize the impact that the changes to the cell phone practices at both the middle and high school have. While students are not carrying their phones with them throughout the school day, we would like students to share and report their concerns when they are able to use their devices. We wanted to send out this communication because we believe in the benefit of the P3 app. We encourage you to talk with your son or daughter about the importance of reporting situations if they believe there is a safety or mental health concern or to report a crime. It can be much easier to intervene to prevent something from happening rather than addressing the after-effects.

We strongly are encouraging students and family members to download and have the app. The crime-stoppers organization has given the high school and middle school gift cards to reinforce having and using the app. We plan to be giving out the gift cards at random to students at athletic or school events where they are able to use their cell phone.



We appreciate the cooperation of students, parents and community members as we all work towards school and community safety.

Joanie Dobbs (School Principal, J. C. McKenna Middle School)

Jason Knott (School Principal, Evansville High School)

News from the LMC

Dear Parents,

The Middle School Library Media Center has a wide selection of materials available to students in a variety of reading levels. In addition to fiction books, we also have non-fiction, bilingual and reference books, magazines, audiobooks, playaways, DVDs and graphic novels that are available to students. The LMC also offers a wide range of technology devices available for students to check-out during the school day such as Chromebooks and Laptops. In addition, the LMC offers free databases for our students to assist them with research projects and homework, available on the Middle School LMC [webpage](#). Textbooks and ELA novels are also checked out to students through the LMC.

If a student does not return his/her library materials by the item's due date, they will not be allowed to check out another item until the overdue item(s) is returned or a replacement fee has been paid. It is very important for our students to learn to be responsible for their library materials and fines and fees will be assessed if a book is damaged or lost. Your assistance in helping remind your child to return their materials on time is appreciated.

Students will receive regular notices via email on Tuesdays, if they have anything overdue. Invoices will also be distributed for damaged or lost materials. Please follow-up with your student(s), to see if they have anything overdue or if they have a fine/replacement fee to pay.

Thank you for your help in making a responsible library patron of your child.

~Mrs. Abby Beyerl, K-12 Library Media Specialist & Mrs. Amy Zastoupil, LMC Clerk

Mission Statement

“Educating and engaging the whole student”

To create a stimulating, caring and socially responsible environment that encourages students
to reach their individual potential

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Evansville Community School District prohibits harassment or discrimination against any pupil in any program or activity on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other basis protected by law.

EEF Grants Over \$6,000 to Evansville Teachers

The Evansville Education Foundation (EEF) recently awarded over \$6,000 in grants to Evansville teachers. Proceeds from EEF fundraisers like the Homecoming raffle and the Strawberry Festival, as well as donations from generous Evansville citizens, made the following grants possible:

Levi Leonard

Stories of Many Colors books: Deb Fritz

Boogie Boards (tablets for kids): Jennifer Johnson and Tamara Wallisch

TRIS

iPads for reading support: Kari Reuter and Kendra Statton

"Hold Back the Water" STEM activity: Connie Schultz

JC McKenna

Mindful Educator training: Beth Oswald and Kelli Ours

Supplies for functional skills program: Brittany Shottliff

Robotics and engineering supplies: Dave Kopf

Flexible seating: Abby Beyerl

EHS

Robots for computer programming: Christine Schullo

Music composition commission: Amanda Leahy

Music for Jazz Clubs: Amanda Leahy

Global Education Project Club: Dana Teske

Brain Power Project for Advanced Learners: Melissa Bonow

Makerspace supplies: Abby Beyerl

In addition to annual grants, the EEF provides each school with discretionary funds to help students with financial needs.

Are you interested in supporting education in Evansville? Check out our new website at www.evansvilleeducationfoundation.org for volunteer opportunities. The EEF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support learning in the Evansville Community School District.





Homecoming Fun



JC McKenna Boys Fall Sports



JC McKenna Girls Fall Sports



EVANSVILLE YOUTH CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2018

Week of 1-5: Wood block prints/LEGO robots

1—Karaoke

2—Karaoke

3—Frisbee in the Park

4—Challenge Us!

5—Nature Scavenger Hunt

Week of 8-12: Leaf prints

8—FIELD TRIP

9—Movie & Popcorn

10—Fishing in the Park

11—Crazy Relays

12—Pictionary

Week of 15-19: Masks

15—Punt, Pass, Kick Challenge

16—Environmental Center

17—Wii I Spy

18—Foosball Tournament

19—Foosball Tournament

Week of 22-26: Paper bats and pumpkins/punching bag

22—Frisbee football

23—Singles pool tournament

24—Singles pool tournament/Halloween party slips due 5:30

25—Let's cook

26—Oversized games

Week of 29-2: Carve pumpkin or head in jar

29—Spoons

30—Library Allison

31—bottle bowling

1—Wii Game Party

2—Just Dance Party