Principal Message: Jason Knott

As another Wisconsin winter hits us full force, I wanted to take a moment to give you some reminders about our lunch policy as it relates to going outside and colder temperatures. It is our philosophy that kids need as much outdoor, unstructured time as possible, while balancing this with the potential for frostbite or other ailments related to extreme cold weather.

To make this determination, we consult the NOAA wind chill chart to make decisions about whether or not kids will be allowed outside during the lunch period. This chart takes into account the wind chill, along with the exposure time to determine when we remain inside.

Any time the temperature falls below 0, but does not carry the potential for frostbite during that brief time, we give students the option of going to the gym for some physical activity, or going outside.

We encourage students to dress for the weather and make sure to bring appropriate winter attire with them to the lunch room.

Please know that student safety is always our number one concern. If you have any questions or concerns about this or other policies, please feel free to contact me.

Have a great winter break!

Jason
6th Grade Team

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

**Mr. Tristan McKittrick** 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. Paige Baxter** 882-3314  
Special Education  
baxterp@evansville.k12.wi.us

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

- 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 Linda Gard at the District Office.

- This is the time of year when school supplies often begin to dwindle. A few ideas for “Stocking Stuffers” over break could be additional pencils, folders, binders, sharpeners, etc. (Ask your child what he/she needs replacing, or is running low on.)

- A THANK YOU goes out to all our sixth graders and their families who helped support our AWARE fundraising. The money collected from life-savers, was enough to purchase much more than nine gifts for area children. Thank you, also, for the non-perishables that are being brought in this month.

Homework Help!

6th Grade Success Club meets every Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. *The one exception to this is on our monthly staff meeting. Nights. Students may be picked up at 3:45 on the second Wednesday of each month due to this important, all-staff requirement.

Success Club is staffed by 6th grade teachers. Parents can request that their child attend this club even if they do not have any late work. Students with late work will be asked to attend by Wednesday. Contact your child’s Team Time teacher if you would like to sign-up your child or if you have any questions.

We take pride in providing many opportunities for students to complete work or even skill work. We do try to provide a simple snack for kids to refuel before they complete their assigned task. Teachers would greatly welcome any donations of healthy, nonperishable food items or money that we can put toward these snacks.
Language Arts

Sixth grade students have finished up their opinion essay which compares and/or contrasts two pieces of literature based on their theme. Summarization is another skill we have been working on which will be applied to a Civil War project we are just starting. Mrs. Smith’s students will be reading a Civil War children’s book that they will summarize in depth, write a short book review on, create a crossword puzzle using key vocabulary terms from the text, and finally create a new cover illustration depicting the central focus of the book. Students in Mr. Langan’s class have been focusing on inferring, identifying figurative language, comparing & contrasting characters , and providing textual evidence for their guided reading books. They also meet in small groups to discuss the books, and then evaluate their group members’ participation. Sixth graders in both classes will soon be given an actual Civil War identity to research and understand, so they can write letters from this point-of-view to another classmate. The “real” identities of these classmates will remain a secret until our final letter.

Math

6th grade math

Regular math classes are into chapter 5 of the GO MATH book. This is the study of percent. We have just finished learning about ratios and rates. In chapter 5 students will be dealing with percent and making connections with proportions. We hope to have their test completed in December. Ask your child if they know the is over of and % over 100 proportion. In January, math classes will begin some algebra chapters in GO MATH.

*All students need to bring a calculator to class.*

Advanced Math

Students have completed chapter 2 of Big Ideas. This was a “rational number” chapter. Currently the class has begun work in chapter 3 which is the study of expressions and equations. Remind your child to bring their calculator to class. Students should also keep working on Math 24.

Science

In science we will be finishing up our first Chemistry unit on atoms and the Periodic Table. Students have been learning how to use their new student textbook. We will continue to explore the best ways for us to use this tool. Our next unit will cover states of matter. Lastly, Science Olympics is coming. This will start up right after Winter Break! Enjoy your time off.
Social Studies

During 2nd quarter, 6th Grade Social Studies students are focusing on two essential topics in American History: slavery and the Civil War. We are also practicing map skills, and they are rapidly improving as they learn to locate all the states on our USA map. Next month, we’ll explore some artifacts of the Civil War borrowed from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, to help us to understand the lives of soldiers. Finally, each student will be choosing a research topic connected to slavery or the Civil War. They will be reading, note taking and, at the end of January, presenting Google slide shows to the class on these topics. Please talk to your 6th grader about the geography of the states and the topics that interest them in their current Social Studies unit!

Tech Ed

In the Energy and the Environment Unit (EE), students are challenged to think big and look toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

Lesson 1: Investigating Energy
The use and production of energy is important in everyone’s life. It is also important to consider ways to reduce our impact on the environment when using energy to heat our buildings, to power modes of transportation, or to operate electrical appliances. The development of alternative energy systems is a recent innovation where energy is generated from inexhaustible energy sources like wind, solar, geothermal, and hydropower, and renewable energy sources like biomass. These systems have the advantage of generating power with virtually zero carbon emissions. In this lesson students will explore the challenge we face to economically harness, store, and deliver these sources of energy.

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.
Art

Students are creating a watercolor painting that’s inspired by the art work of James Rizzi (1950-2011). Rizzi created happy inspired paintings in and around New York City. His cartoon style art is bright, colorful and full of details. If you’d like to see samples of James Rizzi’s art click on the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noVA5yAALtA

Spanish

Students in 7th grade Spanish will be learning how to conjugate -AR verbs after winter break. They will also be participating in an interview with Sra. Gomez about a class that they take, what they need for that class, who teaches it, and what time that class starts and ends. In class we have also started reading the novel *The Red Umbrella*. This is a novel about a young girl growing up in Cuba in the 1960s during the communist revolution there.

Math

Students will be working with inequalities. They will both need to write and graph inequalities. We will be solving them using the four basic operations. Students will be solving one and two-step inequalities.

English Language Arts

Students should almost be done reading their survival books. The final test on their book is scheduled for the first week in January. In class, we have been learning about various literary terms and applying them to the survival books and other stories as well. There will also be a test on these literary terms later in January.

Science

We are wrapping up our bacteria studies and now begin our human body systems. Students will be learning about embryology, the skeletal and circulatory systems.

We are also in the middle of piloting new textbooks. Two classes are trying on-line only texts whilst the other classes are using traditional paper ones. Ask your child what they think of them!

Social Studies

We are wrapping up our unit on Early Humans and Civilizations. How did your seventh grader do on the Brick Challenge? Our quiz is coming up after break. We are starting our unit on Ancient Egypt this month. Ask your seventh grader how long it takes to prepare a pharaoh for his afterlife! What other things do they want to know about the Ancient Egyptians?
**Eighth Grade Upcoming Events**

**High School Information Presentation**
Monday, February 6th
During the school day
Students receive registration materials

**High School Registration Presentation for Parents**
Monday, February 6th
7:00 PM at the J.C. McKenna Auditorium
Bring registration materials your student received earlier in the day

**Parent Teacher Conferences**
Monday, February 6th: 3:45-6:45
Tuesday, February 7th: 3:45 – 8:00
Look for information in January about sign-ups!
The focus for these conferences is high school scheduling and recommendations.

**High School Tour**
Tuesday, February 7th
During the school day
Students will hear about electives courses

**High School Registration**
Tuesday, February 16th and Thursday, February 17th
Done in World Geography Classes
Paperwork for this is due February 15

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**Mark your calendars!!!**

(For the following events, more information will come as the dates get closer!)

**Milwaukee Brewers vs. Toronto Blue Jays**

**Miller Park - Wednesday, May 24th**

This is our end-of-the-year 8th grade trip! We will be watching the Brewers try to defeat the Blue Jays. The nicest thing about this trip is that we don’t have to worry about the weather. With the roof over the park, we can go rain or shine!

Return Time: **Approximately 6:00 PM**

**Eighth Grade Recognition Dance**

Friday, June 3, 6:30-9:00 P.M.

This “as fancy as you want to be” dance will be held in the cafeteria at the middle school. All J.C. McKenna students are invited, but the eighth graders are the guests of honor!

Eighth graders will get a discount rate of $5 that week- cost is $8 at the door.

**Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony**

Tuesday, June 6, 2:00 P.M.

The end of the school year is getting closer! Pretty soon, your young women and men will be freshmen! To honor their transition from middle school to high school, we will have a ceremony in the middle school gymnasium.
PREPARING 8TH GRADERS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Eighth grade is flying by, and you almost have a high school student! Your child is beginning to think about graduation requirements, transcripts and what they want to do after graduation. They are becoming vastly more independent, and are learning to balance an extracurricular life, social life and academic life. In addition to attending the several important events coming up, here are a couple tips to consider during the transition to high school:

Learn together about course selection. Attend conferences and meeting for incoming 9th graders. Make sure you both understand credits, graduation requirements, high school policies, four year plans, and the timeline for preparing for life after graduation. Stay in contact with high school counselors about your child’s progress and preparation.

Pay attention to teacher recommendations for course levels. Teachers work with students day in and day out. They know how each student learns, completes work and performs on tests. Help your child choose classes that fit his or her interests and are challenging but not overwhelming.

Advocate involvement. Encourage your child to explore a sport, club or activity. Being involved helps students meet friends with similar interests, improve leadership skills and start building a resume.

Let them take more ownership but stick close. Growing independence means more responsibility and freedom, but high school students still need your support and guidance. Parents can help with establishing routines, limiting social media, keeping an eye on friendships, noticing when and how they get work done, recognizing the good stuff, and helping them problem solve when mistakes do happen.

Remember that they do listen. Despite teenage bravado, adolescents need to hear that we love them and believe in them. They also need to know where you stand on alcohol, dating, curfews, and other rules. Keep communicating.

Finally, finish middle school on a high note. Now is the time to practice the work habits that will make high school a success. Encourage them to work hard and enjoy everything that makes J.C. McKenna such a great place to be.
7TH/8TH GRADE MENTORS ~ Students continue to do a great job at their placements. Reminder to check Google Classroom for discussion questions.

6TH GRADE COMPUTERS ~ Students will be finishing up their Keyboarding Unit this month. Their timed writing average for the semester will be a part of their 2nd quarter grade. The grading scale for timed writings is as follows:

- A = 30wpm or greater
- B = 25-29wpm
- C = 20-24wpm
- D = 15-19wpm

MUSIC NEWS

ANNUAL BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER STARTS SOON!
Are you hungry? Please support the music department by purchasing a delicious Butter Braid pastry! Music students will be given order forms on Monday, January 9th. Orders are due Monday, January 23rd and they will be delivered on Thursday, February 9th. Students will small orders can easily walk or ride the bus home. Students with more than 13 Butter Braids to pick up may have to get some help from their parents. Thank you for supporting our music program!

Band ~ Great job to the 7th/8th grade bands at their concert last month. Please join us for the 6th grade Winter Concert on Thursday, January 19th at the High School PAC. Jazz Band continues to have great Wednesday morning practices.

Choir ~ Thank you for joining us for our December concert! We are excited to learn new songs to share at our spring concert. Sixth graders have already begun learning new music for their May 25th concert. Seventh and eighth graders are now working on their Solo & Ensemble selections. While performing at Solo & Ensemble is optional for chorus students, everyone will choose something to work on during the months of January and February and then perform for the class. More information about Solo & Ensemble will be coming soon.

General Music / Music Appreciation ~
Sixth graders are using iMovie to create musical versions of familiar stories like The Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks & the Three Bears. Seventh graders are learning about jazz and eighth graders are beginning a unit on finding evidence in text using the popular musical Hamilton.

8th Grade Health ~ Students are continuing the Substance Use & Abuse Unit. We’ve been covering topics such as tobacco/electronic cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, other popular types/form of illegal drugs, along with prescription drug use/misuse. The unit focuses on the dangers and risks of various substances as well as how to resist the peer pressure around the use of illegal activity. This perspective is from an educational/information point of view and provides information to help students make the best decision possible to lead a healthy lifestyle.

7th Grade Health ~ Drug Unit
6th Grade Health ~ Drug Unit
**Library Media Center News**

By Jolene Lenth, Library Media Specialist

**December Update**

Students have been busy reading for school-related assignments and for enjoyment! They have used the library to find research on the Civil War, to work on projects for literature circles, and to check out new books. A big thank-you to all student volunteers who help to keep the library running smoothly and looking good!

**New Books**

Check out some of the new titles we’ve added to our collection this month. Look for more in January! Enjoy the break and happy reading!
Nature Center Update

Did you know that the Evansville School District has a room designated as a Nature Center to provide hands-on and up close exploratory natural science experiences for Evansville’s youth? There is such a room located in Theodore Robinson Intermediate School adjacent to the District Administration Office, and thanks to many generous donors, it is filled with rock, shell and animal bone collections; taxidermied animals, birds, and fish; insects; nests and hives; microscopes; binoculars; aquariums; terrariums; tree and other plant and seed ID samples; archery equipment; gardening tools as well as tools for weather observations and energy experiments... and more! The room also has posters, books, displays and resource materials that interest children and enhance classroom units of study.

The Nature Center opened in the fall of 2015 as an indoor facility to complement the outdoor arbor and prairie school lab areas that were begun in 2007 on the Grove Campus. The purpose of the Nature Center is to provide positive nature-related learning experiences for all who visit and/or use the many materials housed there. The Nature Center is maintained by, retired Evansville teachers, Cindy and Butch Beedle and Nancy Kress, and Phil Kress, a Master Naturalist with the University of WI Extension.

A 2016 log of programs provided in the Nature Center or incorporating its resources notes:
- Sixteen classrooms from Levi Leonard attended a three-day winter event of hands-on centers known as “The Indoor Field Trip to a Nature Center.”
- Two after school groups from St. John’s Lutheran Church visited the Nature Center.
- Five Second Grade classrooms investigated exploratory stations at the NC in May; and
- Six classes of 4K students visited the Nature Center in May and again in November.
- Mr. Benson’s High School AP Environment class participated in plant ID and habitat discussions using the school forest trail.
- First grade students attended “Camp Learn-A-Lot” at Lake Leota Park, June 1.
- “Sixth Grade Outdoor Day” was Friday, June 3 at Lake Leota and Monday, June 6 at Gibbs Lake and Lake Leota.
- Fifth Grade Outdoor Day on the Theodore Robinson Intermediate school grounds was in November.
- Several collaboration events with Eager Free Public Library’s STEAmpunk program, afterschool Book Buddies and plans to reprise the 2015 Moon Walk evening.
- Scout groups have visited the NC for exploration activities, prairie seed-ball construction and dispersal, Eagle Scout project work and school forest maintenance.

Numerous resource materials were checked out for use by speech and language clinicians; kindergarten, 4th grade, art and high school staff; and also for use at “Night of the Young Child” and Energy Fair events.

Plans for 2017 include organizing additional opportunities for students and adults to visit the Nature Center and participate in an outdoor day or nature event. Recently, the Evansville Fund awarded the Nature Center a grant to purchase a projection microscope that will ensure that groups of students will be able to closely inspect a fish scale, a bird feather or other microscopic discoveries. Volunteers are continually working to improve and expand the collections in the center, and donations of science and nature study materials are appreciated. Those wishing to volunteer to help or donate materials should email: kressn@evansville.k12.wi.us
Open Enrollment

From February 6 - April 28, 2017

You may apply for open enrollment at a JC McKenna Middle School.

Open enrollment allows students to apply for JC McKenna Middle School, even if they are not zoned to attend. This is a great opportunity for students who may have missed the initial enrollment period or for those who are new to the area.

To apply, visit the JC McKenna Middle School website and fill out the open enrollment application. Applications can also be submitted at the school office. For more information, please contact the school directly.

Open enrollment begins February 6 and ends April 28, 2017.

Good luck to all families applying for open enrollment!
Information for Parents

Schools

Enrollment

Open

Inter-District

Full-Time

2017-18 School Year

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Public Instruction

JC McKenna Middle School

Important enrollment dates

February 19 - April 28, 2017 - Parent must meet

Important enrollment dates

February 6 - April 28, 2017 - Parent must

Important enrollment dates

February 6 - April 28, 2017 - Parent must

Important enrollment dates

February 6 - April 28, 2017 - Parent must
COLOR DAY