principal message: joanie dobbs

dear families of jc mckenna,

welcome back to school routines! the students are adjusting to the routines well and things are off to a great start. thank you for getting your student to school on time each day and for sharing them with us through the school year.

i am excited to be back to the middle school this year in my new role. for those of you that are not familiar with me, i served as the levi leonard elementary principal the past 3 years and prior i taught 6th grade science at jc mckenna. all of my teaching experience has been at the middle school level. i feel fortunate to have the opportunity to be back at the middle school and am looking forward to getting to know the students and families. i am not the only new staff to jc mckenna this year, joining me are:

amy doyle: educational assistant

gayla madsen: educational assistant

barb mccool: educational assistant

jo ann mumm: computers teacher

shelby pearson: educational assistant

amy zastoupil: lmc clerk

i would like to share an update on our wellness time, which is new this year but the planning had initially started last spring. every day at the end of first block, our staff and students are participating in wellness time, which is 15 minutes. by taking a few moments each day to tune into our bodies and breathe, we are learning to stay present in the moment and de-stress. the techniques are incredibly simple and proven to enhance learning. our goals for the wellness time are found on the following page:
Wellness focus (continued):

Improve focus, concentration and attention

Learn to self-regulate

Develop confidence

Cultivate collaboration

October tips for families

Reach out to your kids' teachers: Find out how each teacher prefers to communicate.

Many use e-mail as the main form of contact, but phone calls and conferences (make an appointment first) are usually welcome, too. For more advice on building a parent-teacher relationship that will last the entire year, go to parenting.com/success.

Get in a routine: Establish healthy at-home routines for school days, such as consistent waking times and getting-ready patterns. Decide on a regular homework time, and create a comfortable, quiet workspace. Set bedtimes that allow teens to get 8½ to 9½ hours.

Time things right: Stay on top of everyone's school, activity, and work schedules.

Commit to volunteering: With help from families like you, your school can offer many more programs and services for your kids. Join your school's PTA and ask about volunteer opportunities in the school community and your children's classrooms. Find the PTO on Facebook: Evansville K-8 PTO.

Thank you for all you do to support your child’s school experience. Every bit of attention and encouragement means more than you may know. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 882-3302.

Science Geeks warm my heart! This is my former classroom and today they were going over the lab safety rules. I really wanted to excuse Mr. Vossekui and start teaching!
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. Jo Ann Mumm  882-3339  
Business & Information Technology  
mummmj@evansville.k12.wi.us

Ms. Paige Baxter  -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 9 and 14 from 3:30 to 8 pm.

Science

Sixth grade physical science is off and running with several labs being completed. Students have finished up their first 2 units about lab safety and mass/weigh. As we continue the year we will apply these concepts to the areas of both Chemistry and Physics. As we move forward into new units, students should be studying their notes frequently as we have lots of new words, topics and concepts to practice. We will be learning and practicing different ways to help ourselves understand the ins and outs of physical science. Our next unit will be the first of 3 units about chemistry. Students have created element flash cards that they should be studying every night. We are also going to be moving into our new online textbook. I will share more information about that soon.

6th Grade Outdoor Education Day is September 28, 2017

Students will spend most of their day at Lake Leota Park in Evansville. Activities include kayaking, fishing, a scavenger hunt, bocce ball, soccer, spiderball and a history lesson on Lake Leota. Students have been instructed to dress for the weather. A letter was sent home last week regarding Outdoor Education Day. Look for photos in the next newsletter. We are very thankful that many community members support and help us run our Outdoor Education Days. There will be 2 more Outdoor Days in June 2018. Days. There will be 2 more Outdoor Days in June 2017.
Language Arts

Sixth Graders are off to a terrific start at J.C. McKenna! Students are almost done with their first selected realistic fictional books and have done a terrific job of noting character traits as well as evidence to support these traits. In addition to providing evidence, we are focusing on the reading strategies of predicting, visualizing, making connections, questioning, summarizing, and general conventions of writing with complete thoughts, appropriate capitalization, and ending punctuation. We are also about half-way through a mentor text, Where the Red Fern Grows, where these skills are being modeled and practiced. The story is getting quite intense - to say the least. Students are also beginning to work on their first personal narrative “small moment” piece of writing as we learn how to show our ideas with descriptive details, dialogue, tone, and action rather than just summarizing an experience. By studying actual author’s works and strategies, students are writing more each day as they apply ideas practiced in daily mini-lessons.

Math

Regular math classes are into chapter 1 of our new 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. All students have registered for the BIG IDEAS website.

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. 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.

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.

Mr. Bethke’s website has a variety of math resources including YouTube video lesson from the current chapter for regular and advanced math classes. https://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.

We’ll begin our unit about government next. We’ll spend time together learning facts about our democratic system of government and how it works.

Computer Applications

With a few weeks into our class routine, 6th grade students are working hard to apply the correct ergonomics while mastering their keyboarding skills. 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. Usage of these tools was a great review before we started a more challenging project - to replicate a cereal box cover! Stay Tuned.........

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!
SPIRIT DAYS DURING HOMECOMING WEEK
More
Spirit!!

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.
Technology Ed/STEM
What is Engineering: Students learn the steps of the Design Process and how to use the Design Process to solve problems in hands-on projects.

Math
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.

Spanish
Students in 7th grade Spanish are continuing with our Introduction to Spanish unit. We are working on basic questions, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, greetings, and goodbyes. Students have also been learning the Spanish speaking countries. Students will also create a conversation with a partner and present it to the class.

Science
We are currently Evolution and Natural Selection. On Thursday, Sept 28th, the students had a Car Show. Students will be seeing a variety of vehicles throughout the decades. Be sure to look at our Facebook and further news notes pages for pictures of the event. Also, the 7th grade traveled to UW-Madison for a field trip. (at the time of the printing, we hadn't yet gone!) Again, be sure to look for pictures of our trip. Students are quickly learning how a “flipped classroom” works and they are also understanding their new (mostly electronic) textbook.

Composition/Literature
We are currently reading *A Day No Pigs Would Die* by Robert Newton Peck. Students will explore the topic of growing up while reading this coming-of-age novel. Various reading strategies will be discussed and practiced. Students are reading other books and magazines of their choice during classroom sustained silent reading (SSR) time. We have also read several short stories that 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.
Composition/Literature

8th grade comp/lit students started the year off strong with reading. They began by reading Shakespeare’s "A Midsummer Night’s Dream" and will be attending the play on October 5th in Spring Green at American Player’s Theatre. They will also be interacting with an APT actor who is visiting the school on October 2nd. Students also have been reading social issues novels and discussing their reading with a group of peers. They have been working closely with picking out themes in a text and supporting their ideas with evidence. Just beginning is writer’s workshop and 8th graders are writing a literary essay proving a theme in their novel. So far, everyone is off to a strong start!

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 in World Geography 8 (Social Studies) will be exploring US regional geography with a particular emphasis on National Parks.

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.bigideas.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 the their powers of “mathematical manipulation” will be used again with simple, compound, and absolute value inequalities!

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 inKingo 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 Team

Mr. Kendall Butchen  882-3316
Phy Ed/Health
butchenk@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
6th/7th Vocal Music
properrm@evansville.k12.wi.us

CHORUS NEWS

Did your student order a chorus t-shirt? They will be delivered in a couple weeks!

Our winter concert will be here before you know it! Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 15th**. More information will follow.

Blue Notes (7th/8th grade auditioned chorus) starts this month during Foundations. We have less time to rehearse this year, so hopefully your student is practicing at home!

MUSIC APPRECIATION/GENERAL MUSIC

Eighth graders are learning about world music from West Africa, The Caribbean, India, and the Native American community. We are spending a lot of time finding world music on youtube and sharing it with each other.

Seventh graders are learning more about music genres like hip-hop, rap, rock, country, and pop. Eventually students will be creating a slideshow about a genre we haven't studied, like jazz or classical.

Sixth graders are finishing up a short unit on The Star Spangled Banner. We now understand all the lyrics in the song and have listened to a lot of different performances of The National Anthem. Our next unit will be about instruments and what they sound like.

7th Grade Health:

Reviewed the Health Triangle and Wellness. Starting to learn about addiction, drug use and the effects on the brain.

6th-8th Grade PE:

Softball skills, rules and games. Working on increasing strength and endurance from a long summer off!!!

Remember if students have been absent they need to pick-up a make-up sheet, do some physical activity of their choice, fill out the sheet and return to their teacher.
News from the LMC

The Middle School Library Media Center has a wide selection of books 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. The LMC also offers a wide range of technology devices available for students to check-out during the school day. 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 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) are 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 begin to receive regular notices via email if they have anything overdue starting in October. Invoices will also be distributed in November 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. Please also feel free to contact the Library Media Specialist at beyerla@evansville.k12.wi.us or 608-882-3131 with questions or concerns.

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

Scholastic Book Fair

A Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled to be held at your child's school during parent/teacher conferences. Please save the date: November 6 -14 and plan to stop by the LMC before or after your child's conference. A portion of all proceeds goes directly back to student learning and LMC materials. Your support is appreciated!
## Evansville Youth Center Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Paper airplane contest, Craft: Halloween Paper Folding</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Board Game Night</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Crazy Relays</td>
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<td>Rummicube</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Milk Jug Bowling</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>EYC Field Trip, Craft: beaded pumpkins</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Movie &amp; Popcorn</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Frisbee golf</td>
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<td>Spoons</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Gaga ball</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Simon Says, Craft: duct tape projects</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Alison Library</td>
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<td>EYC Clue Finders</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Dance Party</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Giant games, Craft: mini pumpkin painting</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Frisbee football</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Let's Cook</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Pool Tournament</td>
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<td>Halloween Party 5-8 pm</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Put, pass, kick contest</td>
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<td>Crosswords</td>
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