

Eye of the HURRICANE

TODAY'S LEARNERS • TOMORROW'S LEADERS

APRIL 2016

ISSUE 1

MANATEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

1920 Manatee Rd.
Naples, FL 34114
(239) 377-4400

PRINCIPAL:
Pamela Vickaryous

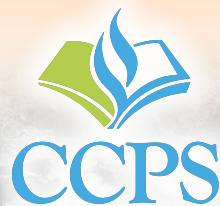
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Dr. Rebecca Merhar

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF ATTENDANCE & DISCIPLINE

Christina Zima

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Collier County Public Schools



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Hurricanes,

Spring Break is now behind us; time to buckle down and stay focused in the 4th Quarter and finish the year strong. Even though the school year is nearing the end, we need to remind ourselves that we still have high expectations and goals to achieve for the remainder of the year.

State Testing began at Manatee Middle School in early March. On March 1st, our students completed the Florida State Assessment (FSA) in Writing. Both 6th and 7th graders completed a paper-based writing based on a specific prompt, while 8th graders completed a computer-based writing also on a specific prompt. The writing scores are combined with the reading portion of the FSA and will be reported to you at the beginning of next school year if all goes well with the state scoring process. FSA Reading and Math tests begin in April and your child will spend nearly one week testing these subjects during that time. In May, our 7th graders take the Civics End of Course (EOC) exam, our Algebra students take the Algebra EOC and our 8th graders take the Science FCAT. More information is included in this newsletter on the specific dates from Dr. Merhar, our Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction.

Beyond testing, there is so much to share. First, Manatee Middle School is now ranked as a "B" school in the eyes of the state of Florida. We couldn't have done this without the focus and determination of our students and teachers. Congrats to our Hurricane family!

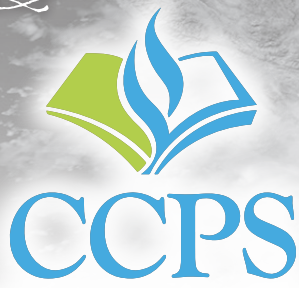
In addition, we are excited to share the news about our Intermediate/Advanced Orchestra which earned all Superiors at their recent performance. Let's not forget to honor Shannen Teresas for her 2nd place win in the district-wide Laws of Life Essay Contest. We are so proud of her! Furthermore, our Boys Soccer Team won the district championship and has now clinched the championship 5 times in 6 years. Congratulations to the team and the coaches!

To close, I cannot remind you enough how important it is to be involved in your child's education. I often comment to everyone how supportive our parents and families are to our school. If you haven't been to an event this school year, please try to make it out to the March 31st "FSA Parent Pep Rally" to show your support and celebrate our growth as a school and a community. I hope to see you there!

Mrs. Vickaryous
Principal



Visit us online at: <http://www.collierschools.net/mms>



Collier County Public Schools

www.collierschools.com

Dr. Kamela Patton

Superintendent of Schools

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Naples, FL 34114

Curriculum & Instruction Corner

IMPORTANT TESTING DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Florida Standards Assessment in Reading and Math

- April 11-15: Grade 7
- April 18-22: Grade 6
- April 25-29: Grade 8
- Algebra 1 End-of-Course Exam: May 10 & 11

For more information about the format of the test, visit www.fsassessments.org

- May 3: FCAT Science, for Grade 8 only
- May 17: NGSSS Civics End-of-Course Exam, for Grade 7 only



COME ONE, COME ALL!!!

The **FSA Testing Pep Rally** will be held Thursday, March 31st from 6:00PM to 7:00PM. A spaghetti dinner will be provided along with an informational session on how to prepare your student for the FSA state testing. The new Star Lab will be on campus for all to enjoy!

TIPS FOR YOUR STUDENT TO PREPARE FOR TESTING

- Mark down important dates on the family calendar.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before.
- Put clothes out the previous night.
- Wake up early enough to catch the bus/ride/walk to school.
- Have a good breakfast of energy-packed food that's good for the body, like eggs and fruit.
- Arrive on time to school.
- Stay relaxed before testing.

ATTENDANCE REMINDER!

Now is the time to remember how important attendance is to your child's education. Attendance is critical and especially as we approach state testing and final exams. Also, a reminder that our early pick up policy is in effect. Should you need to pick up your child, please do so at the following times:

- 9:52 am
- 10:42- 11:03 am
- 11:53 am
- 1:20 pm
- 2:10 pm
- And 3:00 pm is the latest dismissal time for early pick up



This is **STRICTLY ENFORCED**. Any student after this time will be released at 3:50pm. Please plan accordingly when scheduling appointments. Thank you

Testing?

No problem...you got this!



INTRODUCING OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE MS. CHRISTINA ZIMA

I am excited to be at Manatee Middle as the new Assistant Principal of Attendance and Discipline. I am most recently from Golden Gate High School as the Testing Coordinator and also spent four years at Barron Collier High School as an English teacher. I am excited to be partnering with families at Manatee Middle to ensure that all students can be successful in all of their academic endeavors. My door is always open to parent and student concerns and I look forward to getting to know each of the wonderful students here at Manatee Middle School!



PBS

It is a great time to be a Hurricane! We have just finished Quarter 3 and ended our time in the SOCK ZONE. Students who had zero tardies, infractions and referrals will receive their MMS custom socks during the first week in April. We will also be celebrating students who had two or less tardies during Quarter 3. Students can turn in their tardy card corners for a freeze pop treat at lunch! We love being able to celebrate and reward students who continue to meet and exceed the expectations we have put forth as a school. Our students have worked hard to earn this, and I am very proud of each and every student for following the expectations set at MMS and even exceeding them.



Currently, over 1,500 positive referrals have been written during this school year. In the month of February alone, over 600 positive referrals were

written by teachers for their students. Our teachers are going out of their way to recognize the achievement and character of each student, and it is great to hear about all of the wonderful accomplishments our students are having in the classroom.

Our next PBS Reward Day will be a faculty vs. students soccer game at the end of May. Students who have less than three tardies and infractions, and zero referrals for Quarter 4 up until that point will be able to come out and enjoy this game! This will be our culminating PBS event for the school year and it will be a great way to launch students into a successful final exam week.

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Department News



LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Greetings from the Language Arts Department! There are so many fantastic things taking place at Manatee to share regarding our amazing language arts students and staff. On March 1st, our students tackled the Florida State Assessment (FSA) for writing. Our teachers and students worked tirelessly to prepare for this assessment and we know that they did their absolute best! Can't wait to see scores this summer!

Other exciting news regarding language arts is the enrichment Saturday ACE program established to provide students with extra practice to sharpen their comprehension skills. Remember, ask your child what they are currently reading in language arts class, you might be surprised where the conversation takes you!

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Sixth graders continue to investigate ancient civilizations and make connections between the past and present. Students have investigated Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome and will focus on the Islamic world, early African civilizations, and the early Americas in the 4th quarter. Students access Discovery Education using iPads and view video segments to respond to thought-provoking questions prepared by teachers. During the unit on ancient Greece, students created a time line of Alexander the Great's major achievements. During the study of early African civilizations, students will create propaganda posters to reflect current views on protecting elephants. Students are enthusiastic, hard-working, persistent learners.

Seventh graders continue to explore the foundation of American civics. Student activities allow students to understand and appreciate the important role of civics in their lives on a daily basis. In the 4th quarter the focus will be on the U.S. economic system, goods and services, personal finance, and economic challenges before the Great Depression and in the present. Students will also examine the world economy. Preparing students for the end-of-course exam for Civics will be a focus throughout the last quarter of the year.

Eighth graders learned about the beginnings of United States history by examining events from the early inhabitants of the Americas. During the 4th quarter, students will study events through the period of reconstruction following the Civil War. A major focus of study is on the writing process in which students write a formal research paper. A research paper analyzes a perspective or argues a point. The finished research paper should present a student's own thinking backed up by others' ideas and information. Several students will participate in the History Fair. The topic this year is "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History". Students will learn about the U.S. Civil War and participate in activities that bring this part of U.S. history alive.

MATH DEPARTMENT

Manatee Middle's Saturday ACE Program continues on April 2nd and 9th as your student's Math teachers create lessons to help them better understand concepts and how they relate to everyday life! Ask your student to bring home a permission slip that allows them to get transportation to and from home as well as a snack and great material on the weekends as well that will prepare them for the FSA testing that begins in mid-April. As always, please contact teachers with any questions that you might have; we love speaking with and interacting with parents!





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SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

This year 6th graders went on the SWAMP field trip and went through knee high water exploring the everglades with their courageous teachers! In seventh grade science there have been many hands on activities while learning genetics. Upcoming will be dissections to learn about the human body. Eighth graders this year built their very own rocket using cardstock to deepen their knowledge of force and motion. Upcoming events for the Science Department are a visit from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida near the end of March.



ESE

Florida Department of Education Parent Survey - Exceptional Student Education



The Florida Department of Education is working with school districts to gather information on how well parents think their child's school is partnering with parents of students with disabilities, and would like to include your input. Your responses will help guide efforts to improve services and results for children and families. This survey is for parents of students with individual educational plans (IEP) receiving special education services during the 2015-16 school year. All information provided will remain confidential.

Paper surveys were sent home March 2nd with the students. You can also access the survey at www.esesurvey.com



MEDIA CENTER NEWS

The Media Center has been busy as usual with student check-outs, Reading Counts prizes, and classes coming in to work on research! Ms. Baldwin's class and Ms. Torres's class have earned pizza parties for Quarters 1 and 2 since they had the most points of any CANE time class those quarters. What class will it be this quarter? Students that have earned more than 150 points in a quarter have been entered into a drawing for a Nook tablet and we have already had two lucky winners this year. Keep encouraging your children to read!

Students always have opportunities to have books to read, whether it is a book from the library, an ebook on Overdrive, or free books that students can keep that the media center has weeded out. If your child has difficulty finding a book, have them see Mrs. Alvarez in the media center.

Please talk to 8th grade students that have overdue books or library fines. They will need to return these books and pay off fines in order to attend Sun n Fun at the end of the year. The year goes quickly-encourage them to take care of these things as early as possible!



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Guidance Counselor's Corner



WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!

The Manatee Middle Counseling Department is excited to welcome Ms. Mercilia Millien to our team! Ms. Millien will be working primarily with students with last names Lo - Z, and she will be directing the 7th Grade College and Career Readiness Program in April and May. With this program, 7th graders will take a career interest inventory, learn about career and college opportunities, and participate in a campus tour of Florida Gulf Coast University.

We are also extremely proud to announce that we have 12 students receiving the Take Stock in Children (TSIC) Scholarship this year. The TSIC Scholarship for eighth graders is a two-year prepaid scholarship to any college or university in Florida. College and career planning is important to our students, so congratulations to our winners!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 3/25- NO SCHOOL
- 3/30- Report Cards go home

APRIL

- 4/2- Saturday ACE Program
- 4/7- SAC/PTO Meeting
- 4/9- Saturday ACE Program
- 4/12 Early Dismissal

MAY

- 5/4- Interim Reports Go Home
- 5/5- Rising 6th Grade Parent Night
-SAC/PTO Meeting
- 5/19- 8th Grade to Sun N' Fun
- 5/24- 6th/7th Grade Awards Night
- 5/25- 8th Grade Graduation @6:30 pm
- 5/27-30 NO SCHOOL

JUNE

- 6/6- Early Release Day
- 6/7- Early Release Day- Last Student Day





Sports News



CONGRATULATIONS!

In February, the MMS Boys Soccer team won the 2016 County Soccer Championship! Congratulations to Coach Richett, Coach Huneke, and the team.

**ATTENTION ATHLETES!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
FREE PHYSICALS!**

Lely High School

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

GIRLS 8:00AM-9:30, BOYS 9:30-11:00

TRACK & FIELD

Now that we are entering spring, the MMS track season is underway. Track is the last sport for the school year and the athletes have been preparing to have a strong season. Track events include: sprinting, distance, shot put, discus, and long jump. Below is the MMS track schedule and "Go 'Canes!"

2016 MMS Track Schedule

- 4/2 @ MMS at 8:00 a.m.
- 4/6 @ MMS at 4:30 p.m.
- 4/16 @ Lely High School at 8:00 a.m.
- 4/23 @ Lely High School (South Championships) at 8:00 a.m.
- 4/30 @ Naples High School (County Championships) at 8:00 a.m.




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*"Eye of the Hurricane" is a publication for the parents, staff, and
community of Manatee Middle School.*

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