

# Eye of the HURRICANE

TODAY'S LEARNERS • TOMORROW'S LEADERS

DECEMBER 2016

ISSUE 4

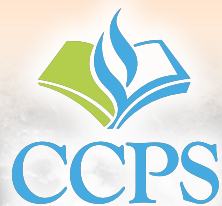
**MANATEE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
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Collier County Public Schools



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Hurricanes,

The school year is well underway and we are proud of our students for their efforts both in the classroom and out.

After first quarter assessments, our Civics and Algebra students are scoring the highest in the district, while our overall math scores for each grade level are beating the district average. English Language arts and Science are close behind.

As you can see, our first quarter was a successful one and we didn't hesitate to celebrate it. In fact, our students were honored at an FSA Success Assembly in October where students earned certificates for Levels 3, 4 and 5 in Math and ELA on the 2016 FSA. Also, students who made learning gains were also recognized. Quarter 1 straight A students joined me for the Principal's Straight "A" Pancake breakfast in late October. And finally, our PBS staff versus student volleyball was the culminating event to celebrate the excellent choices of our students as we strive to maintain our Gold Positive Behavior School status. We continue to be very proud of the fact that our students meet the expectations of ROAR all day and every day!

Speaking of ROARing, have you heard our MMS music students lately? Our band and orchestra students are showcasing their talents on campus, at Lely High School and in front of judges. Several of our students earned their very own instruments as a result of this hard work. Keep it up students!

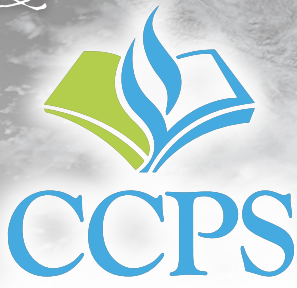
As we conclude quarter 2, the MMS faculty and administration strongly encourage all of our parents to monitor your child's grades and attendance through FOCUS. We recommend checking this information at least once a week. Frequent monitoring and communication with your child's teachers is highly correlated with student success in middle school. The end of quarter 2 is December 21, 2016 with mid term exams beginning the week of December 12th. If you still need a parent log-in, please visit the Collier County Public Schools website and follow the link for the Parent Portal information.

Thank you for your continued support, and as always, Go Hurricanes!

Sincerely,  
Pamela Vickaryous



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www.collierschools.com

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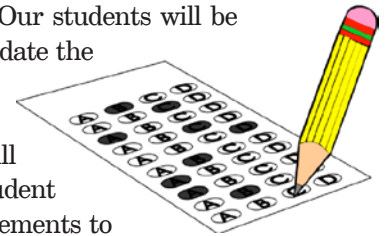
# Curriculum and Instruction

## STUDENT SUCCESS

We are so proud of our students at MMS and their hard work that was reflected in the Quarter 1 Benchmark test results. Many of our subject areas are making huge strides. We have shown improvement over last years' scores in many areas. A few areas I would like to highlight are 7th grade civics and Algebra. Our civics classes are leading the district average by 5 points, congratulations to our excellent teachers Mr. Carter, Mr. Huneke and Mrs. Rudnicki. Keep up the great work. In Algebra again we lead the district average by 17 points. Congratulations to our excellent Algebra teachers Mr. Richett and Mr. Heimberger.

## TESTING

Our students will begin taking mid-term exams in December. Our students will be on an altered bell schedule starting December 14th to accommodate the extended 90-minute testing block for mid-terms. Students will begin each day in homeroom which will allow teacher to remind students about the schedule they will follow each day. Students will be taking their mid-term exams until December 19, 2016. If a student misses an exam we would request that the family make arrangements to make up the exam on January 3, 2017. This is a teacher work day, students or parents can make arrangements to take the test that day before they return to school.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

We continue to promote all of the positive things happening at MMS through social media. We have a Facebook page in addition to Twitter. There are multiple pages for Manatee Middle School, to find the official page that will be a great source of information, simple search CCPSMMS, no spaces. Like our page to see information about upcoming events, like out Hurricane Harvest! You can also follow us @ROARMMS and here are just a few samples of what you may find.

As a new staff member here at MMS I want to share how continually impressed I am by both teachers and students at Manatee Middle School. Our teachers are professional and dedicated to helping our students improve. Our students demonstrate the R.O.A.R character traits daily. I am proud to be a Manatee Hurricane.

Sincerely  
~ Jess Duesler

EAT IN TAKE OUT

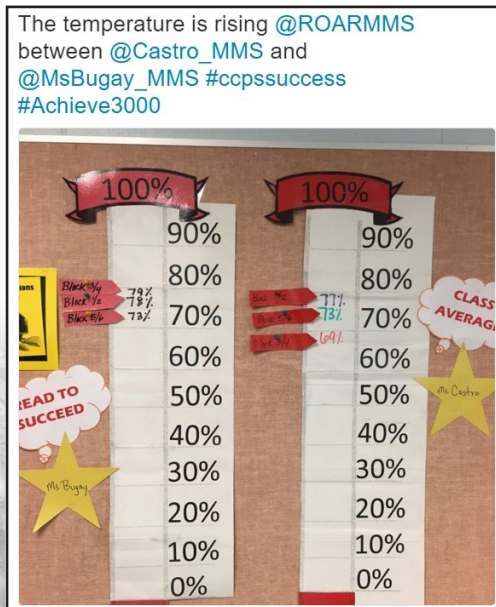
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MANATEE MIDDLE @ROARMMS

Check out our data hallway! We are following the data arrows each quarter to reach our goals! #CcpsSuccess #ROAR

Arrows and data points shown:

- MMS 55, CCPS 50
- MMS 49, CCPS 52
- MMS 51, CCPS 53

Other text visible: 'Reading strategies to increase reading achievement level 3 in FSA Reading', 'Data driven instruction to improve reading and math scores', 'Goal 3 - Increased rigor in student questioning to match the Cognitive Complexity of FSA'.



# From the Office of Attendance & Discipline

As we are well into the second quarter of the school year, the Attendance and Discipline Office has been having a great year celebrating student success!

**Positive Behavioral Support (PBS):** We have been celebrating our students who are exhibiting the R.O.A.R. expectations. Students who are Respectful, Organized, Accomplished and Responsible, with ZERO infractions, ZERO referrals and two or less tardies received Prize Pack #1, which were custom MMS bracelets in late September and also received Prize Pack #2, ICEE Freezes on October 18.



So far this year, our teachers have submitted over 400 positive referrals for students who they have noticed are following the school-wide R.O.A.R. expectations. **Parents-** look for these positive referrals coming home with a McDonalds reward coupon attached!

Our first school wide PBS Reward Day event took place on October 27th. Students with ZERO referrals, 1 or less infractions and two or less tardies were able to attend a Staff vs. Students Volleyball Game in the courtyard. Students enjoyed popcorn, Gatorade and snowcones, as well as music and a very lively and competitive volleyball game. We are very proud of all our students who worked hard to be able to earn this Reward Day.

In addition to the above rewards, students received Freeze Pops as a reward for consistently being on time to class, as shown by the corners on their tardy cards. Look for our next Prize Pack #3 on November 18, which will be Custom MMS dog tags!

## Dress Code and Sweatshirts

This school year, only MMS approved sweatshirts will be able to be worn this school year. The sweatshirt can be an old sweatshirt from MMS, as long as it has the MMS logo on it. NEW SWEATSHIRTS in a variety of styles can be ordered from the School Store. Students can pick up an order form and select the type of sweatshirt they would like. Orders are done each month, so the student usually receives the sweatshirt within 2-3 weeks of ordering.

**As the weather gets cooler, please think about ordering a sweatshirt for your student soon!**

The cost is as follows:

- Crew Neck Sweatshirt: \$15.00
  - Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt: \$20.00
  - Zip-Up Hooded Sweatshirt: \$25.00
- \*sweatshirts come in Orange, Gray, White or Black

**Attendance and Tardies:** As the school year goes on, it is so important that your student is at school each day and for the entire school day in order to be academically successful. The first bell rings at 9: 00 A.M. and CANE TIME/ Homeroom starts promptly at 9:05 a.m. Please be sure your student is on time each morning.

Please remember, the latest time for pick-up is **3:15 P.M.** This is **STRICTLY ENFORCED.** Any student after this time will be notified that a parent/guardian will be waiting for them in the front office when the bell rings at 3:50 P.M.



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# Department News...

## ELA

Greetings from the MMS English Language Arts Department! We are full steam ahead when it comes to the argumentative writing process! Students in all grades are mastering their skills of argument through the writing process. Argumentative writing is one of two styles of writing (the other Informative) that your child will be tested on in the spring. Let's cheer them on as they learn a lifelong skill that will help our Hurricanes in college and career opportunities!

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Using technology has been the highlight of Quarter 2 for the Social Studies Department. 6th Grade World History has been focusing on using Academic Games such as, Kahoot to support the content and increase student engagement. With the new addition of the PrepWorks program, along with dedicated teachers, our students tested highest in the District for Quarter 1 Benchmarks! What an accomplishment! The additional use of Edmodo and Discovery Ed Tech Book continually keeps students engaged and learning right at their fingertips.

The Cambridge classes are focusing on STEAM in the classroom and using projects to support content and allow student creativity and choice. The use of DBQs and Socratic Seminar has increased rigor within the classrooms. In Quarter 3, 8th Grade will conduct a research paper with support from the Global Perspectives and ELA classes.

Eighth Grade U.S. History recently held a Capture the Flag Game outside as a mock Revolutionary War Activity and is looking forward to begin learning about the Constitution. As Quarter 2 comes to a close, we are looking forward to Data from Midterms and using that to support learning and small group instruction in Quarter 3.

## MATH

### Small Group Instruction Gives Students the Coaching They Need

Now that the Quarter 1 Benchmark Assessment is behind us, the Math Department at Manatee Middle School is taking steps to help our students receive coaching and teaching they need in order to be even more successful during Quarter 2. We are now moving into a small group instruction format in the intensive math classrooms. Small group instruction will include break-out groups in the classrooms during the intensive portion of the class. These break-out groups will include technology stations, math projects that allow students to show what they know in creative ways, and small group stations that allow students to work with different math manipulatives. One of the key pieces also includes small group instruction with the teacher at a whiteboard table. Students working here will get more one-on-one instruction and can even solve problems by writing their work out on the desk. This allows the teacher to identify where students are struggling and offer them direct assistance which helps them to learn from their mistakes, thus increasing student achievement. Studies have shown that small groups often help students to feel more comfortable when working in class and the more comfortable our students feel, the more they will achieve in the math classroom.

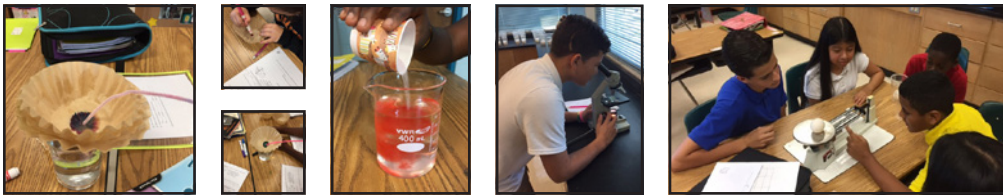


## CAMBRIDGE

This fall MMS Cambridge students are engaged in rigorous writing and thinking activities throughout the curriculum. Our Social Studies teachers often use Document Based Questions (DBQs) to deepen student's understanding about specific content. A DBQ is an essay, or a series of short-answer questions, that is constructed by students using background knowledge combined with support from provided sources. Using academic content, students strengthen their critical thinking skills by making comparisons, drawing analogies, applying knowledge to the given data and requiring application of historical analysis. Mrs. Shearer's sixth grade students recently responded to the DBQ question about how the Nile River shaped Ancient Egypt. Mrs. Stetson's eighth graders responded to a DBQ about Valley Forge. In addition to DBQs, Mr. Carter's seventh grade Civics students have taken full advantage of the elections to investigate the political platforms of the candidates by analyzing the debates.

The Cambridge teachers look forward to trainings throughout this school year to introduce them to new strategies, such as DBQs, that encourage a broad range of thinking skills. Our MMS Cambridge teachers are committed to incorporating a variety of instructional strategies to encourage problem solving and creative thinking.





### SCIENCE

Sixth Graders are finishing up units about weather. Students learned what it was like to be a drop of water in the water cycle and how energy from the sun causes the convection of many different Earth systems. Some of our Cambridge students will be attending the STEAM Conference at the end of October to have fun, explore, and learn about how Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

In seventh grade students have been exploring various types of cells and cellular processes through many experiments and activities! Microscopes were used to compare prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. Students had the chance to observe the processes of Osmosis and Diffusion during the "Rubbery Eggs" lab!

In eighth grade students have delved into Chemistry and are exploring the world at the atomic level. Students have completed labs and activities about atoms, compounds and mixtures, and even how colors are solutes and solvents in art. Learners will begin to explore the different states of matter. Some of our students have turned into quite the dance team when it came to the different states of matter. Later on learners will be exploring acids, bases, and salts and with this knowledge begin to dive into the different physical and chemical properties of matter.

Lastly science fair is wrapping up and presentations will be on November 9th. Have you registered yet? Join us for some great science fun and even a chance to win some prizes by registering online: <http://tinyurl.com/mmsscifair2016>.

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# 6 Counseling Corner & Parent Involvement

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The Counseling Office would like to acknowledge all our eighth graders that completed Take Stock In Children scholarship applications. We had a record-setting 70 applications turned in to the Champions For Learning office from MMS this year. Way to go Hurricanes! We would also like to say a special thank you to the wonderful folks at Collier Harvest who donated over 40 large boxes of groceries to help make our Hurricane Harvest a special holiday event. In other Counseling news, we are well underway with our character development lessons in homeroom. We are always impressed with how the students show us how to be Respectful, Organized, Accomplished, and Responsible lifelong learners.



## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Dear Hurricane Parents,

The CCPS Title I Parent Institute is committed to improving student achievement by empowering parents and caregivers in our school community and providing you with the necessary tools and resources to help your children succeed in the classroom and beyond. The first parent workshop was an incredible success as we built a community of support!

We would like you to join us in the fun while learning together with other parents for our second parent workshop, Assisting your Child with Homework on December 01, 2016 at 6:00pm in the MMS Cafeteria. We will have free resources, hands on activities, translation, childcare and food! See you here!

For additional information, please visit:

- MMS website- <http://www.collierschools.com/MMS>
- MMS Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/CCPSMMS>
- MMS Twitter- <http://twitter.com/roarmms>
- CCPS Parent Institute- <https://www.collierschools.com/pi>



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# A few spots are left!

# We need you!

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**Crystal Tanguma • [tanguc@collierschools.com](mailto:tanguc@collierschools.com)  
Manatee Middle School**



# Sports

The winter sports season is underway. The soccer and basketball teams are preparing to represent MMS proudly. The teams will play games January – February and below is each team’s regular season schedule. Go ‘Canes!

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Week 1: Sat., January 14</b> | <b>Basketball at Marco Island Charter School</b><br>Girls- MMS vs. East Naples Middle @ 8:00 am<br>Boys- BYE WEEK  |
|                                 | <b>Soccer at East Naples Middle School</b><br>Girls- BYE WEEK<br>Boys- MMS vs. Gulf Coast Charter @ 9:15 am  |
| <b>Week 2: Sat., January 21</b> | <b>Basketball at Marco Island Charter School</b><br>Girls- MMS vs. Everglades School @ 11:45 am<br>Boys- MMS vs. Gulf Coast Charter @ 10:30 am<br>MMS vs. Everglades School @ 1:00 pm  |
|                                 | <b>Soccer at Manatee Middle School</b><br>Girls- MMS vs. Marco Island Charter School @ 8:00 am<br>Boys- MMS vs. Marco Island Charter School @ 9:15 am  |
| <b>Week 3: Sat., January 28</b> | <b>Basketball at Marco Island Charter School</b><br>Girls- MMS vs. Marco Island Charter School @ 9:15 am<br>Boys- MMS vs. Marco Island Charter School @ 8:00 am  |
|                                 | <b>Soccer at East Naples Middle School</b><br>Girls- MMS vs. East Naples Middle @ 10:30 am<br>Boys- BYE WEEK   |
| <b>Week 4: Sat., February 4</b> | <b>Basketball at Marco Island Charter School</b><br>Girls- MMS vs. East Naples Middle @ 9:15 am<br>Boys- MMS vs. East Naples Middle @ 8:00 am  |
|                                 | <b>Soccer at Manatee Middle School</b><br>Girls- MMS vs. East Naples Middle @ 8:00 am<br>MMS vs. Marco Island Charter School @ 10:30 am<br>Boys- MMS vs. East Naples Middle @ 9:15 am<br>MMS vs. Mason Classical Academy @ 1:00 pm |

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# Important Dates & Activities

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/21- End of Quarter 2  
EARLY DISMISSAL DAY
- 12/22-1/3- WINTER BREAK- No School
- 1/11- Distribution of Report Cards
- 1/16- MLK Day- No School
- 2/8- Interim Period Ends
- 2/16- Distribution of Interim Reports

## MMS ACTIVITIES

- 12/1- Help your child with Homework Parent Workshop @ 6PM
- 12/5- Winter Concert (Advanced Band/Advanced Chorus) @ 6PM
- 12/6- Winter Concert (Intermediate Band/Advanced Orchestra) @ 6PM
- 12/8- Beginning Band 1 & Orchestra First Performance @ 6PM
- 12/9- CCPS Dress Day #2
- 12/12- Beginning Band 2 & Chorus First Performance @ 6PM
- 12/15- Chorus Concert @ 6PM
- 12/21- PBS Prize Pack #4/PBS Winter Concert