

# WOOD POST



**May 2019**

**Volume 14 Issue 5**

For the Parents, Students  
& Community of

**Markham Woods  
Middle School**

**6003 Markham Woods Road  
Lake Mary, FL 32746**

**Phone 407-871-1750**

## **Administration**

**Linda Mumey  
Principal**

**Michael Cush  
Assistant Principal**

**Chuck Bennett  
Assistant Principal**

**Dana Richardson  
Assistant Principal**

**Meredith Tweed  
School Administrative Manager**



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**Sanford, FL 32773**

## ***Message from the Assistant Principal***

Dear Markham Woods Middle School Families

The finish line is approaching quickly and the last day of school will arrive before we know it. Reflecting on this school year, provides us with the opportunity to realize how fortunate we truly are at Markham Woods Middle School. In this era of increased assessment and accountability in which successful schools are determined primarily on the percentage of their students' ability to perform well on end-of-year tests, it is easy to lose sight of what matters most. At the end of the day, we must consider, what is our impact on education and what is our impact on students?

In reflecting on these two questions, it is safe to say that we, as a school community, have been successful. Our success is due to our wonderful collaborative partnerships among school, parents, and community. Our students continue to achieve at high levels, as we endeavor to achieve our mission: LIFT – LEADING positive change and getting positive results with a growth mind set. INNOVATING by using new and inspiring ways to grow and prepare for the future. FOSTERING by creating relationships to enhance and strengthen learning. TEAM BUILDING by working together for a common purpose and success. The success of our students is a direct result of our teachers' efforts to meet high expectations of performance and to provide excellence in teaching. Likewise, credit must be given to our wonderful support staff, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), School Advisory Council (SAC), and Dividends who contribute to Markham's continued high achievement as a school. Finally, we must recognize all of our students for their perseverance, hard work, and effort throughout the year.

During the next few weeks, staff and students will be busy with teaching and learning, EOCs, nine-week exams, and exciting end of the year events such as 8th grade spirit week, end of year awards, concerts, drama performances, and other celebrations. This year, the sixth and seventh grade awards presentation will take place during the school day. Students will be recognized in front of their peers. We hope that students watching their peers be recognized for their achievements will encourage others to work towards

*continues on page 2*

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## Message from the Assistant Principal

continued from cover

their own goals and successes. The eighth grade students will have an evening awards presentation all to themselves. Parents are encouraged to attend. The evening awards presentation will be Monday, May 20, 2019.

Please enjoy the welcomed change of summer break. We want to wish all of our students and their families a happy and safe summer. And to our eighth grade students leaving and going to high school, we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. Also, we are excited to welcome our incoming sixth grade Mustangs, as they enter into a new chapter of education. We look forward to seeing everyone when students return for the 2019-2020 school year. Our office will be open throughout most of the summer, so please feel free to contact the school should you have any questions for the upcoming school.

Regards, Mrs. Dana Richardson, Assistant Principal

## Kindness Counts

If life can be so hard at times, why do we occasionally make things difficult for one another? Students don't have to be friends with everyone, but they can still show respect. Each day presents itself with many opportunities to share kindness. Some of these ways can be sitting next to someone who is eating lunch alone, refusing to laugh at a peer when others do, helping a student pick up items that are dropped on the floor, holding the door open for another person, or sometimes just simply acknowledging somebody by saying "good morning".

***It's the little daily gestures, which create a more positive climate!***

School counselors and school psychologists provide valuable assistance to students and must adhere to strict ethical and legal standards. One of the most important aspects of school counseling is confidentiality. Information a student shares with a counselor must not be shared. This is done to gain trust and in turn be most successful in assisting that student. There are several instances when a counselor is mandated to break confidentiality. These exceptions include when child abuse or neglect is suspected, danger to self or others, court or legal proceedings, and drug or alcohol abuse.

## Math

We are now focused on ending the year strong! The Math Department is looking forward to helping all students complete their last quarter successfully.

Please ensure you are checking in on Skyward weekly, reviewing the E-Campus page(s) for your child's math class (textbook, syllabus, and class information should be posted here), and check that your child is writing their homework and important dates in their planner daily.

If your student is in an 8th grade math course, they should be working on Khan Academy at least 30 minutes a week. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have a question about the use or grading of Khan Academy.

The FSA is coming up:

- 6th grade is testing May 7th and 8th.
- 7th grade is testing May 15th and 16th.
- 8th grade (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry) is testing May 13th and 14th.

Please encourage your child to be reviewing classwork and notes daily in preparation for 2nd nine week exams, weekly quizzes/tests, and the upcoming FSA.

If you have concerns, in any subject area, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible. If you would like to schedule a conference, please contact Mrs. Pichardo in the guidance office at 407-871-1724.



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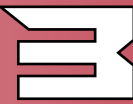

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# Guidance

## BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM

Middle schoolers who feel good about themselves have an advantage during the tween years. They're less dependent on impressing others, and they tend to face challenges with confidence. Here are some ways to build self-esteem in your child.

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| <p><b>Be realistic.</b> If a youngster is like many middle graders, her view of herself (outgoing or shy, artsy or athletic) is based on where she fits in among her peers. But instead of comparing herself to others, urge her to recognize her strengths and pursue them.</p> | <p><b>Choose friends wisely.</b> Encourage your child to spend time with people who build her up and avoid those who put her down or talk behind her back.</p> | <p><b>Help Others.</b> Making a difference in another person's life can boost your middle grader's self-confidence. She will take pride in being a leader and a role model. Suggest that she tutor younger students or volunteer with children's programs at a community center or place of worship.</p> |
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**PE**

The school year is rapidly ending and PE wants to remind parents to be diligent about checking that your child is dressing out daily. As is typical this time of year, the 8th graders in particular see summer coming and start to slide. We want all students to have A's in our classes, so check skyward grades and the progress reports sent home. In addition, testing is approaching May 1st and we need to keep students focused on the finish line and doing their best on assessments.

Mrs. Owens hosts two clubs: the "Fitness Club" and "The Fellowship of Christian Athletes." See Mrs. Owens if your child is interested in joining. Coach Porter's "Gardening Club" is in full swing with harvests of radish, tomatoes and peppers. In the upcoming weeks, 21 vegetables and fruits will reach maturity. If your child would like to learn how to grow organic vegetables and fruits, have your child ask for a tour with Coach Porter. Gardening club is on Tuesday and Thursday 4-5 PM and students must have prompt transportation home unless they are cleared to ride the activity buses that leave at 5:30 PM.

***Social Studies Corner*****6th Grade**

Sixth grade is finishing up their final DBQ: *What Caused the "Fall" of the Roman Empire?* We will be starting the final unit of study *The Americas* soon. This will end the year. Students will be completing a culminating project instead of the last 9 weeks exam. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade FSA testing will also begin soon.

**7th Grade**

The seventh grade just completed its last Civics' unit on Foreign and Domestic Policy. They are currently preparing for the end of course (EOC) exam which is on Wednesday, May 8th. Students need to be studying all their notes for the year, working on all Study Island assignments, utilizing iCivics (an independent civics learning platform) and completing cPalms tutorials. The Civics Team will be giving a practice EOC test on April 24th and 25th. Students will receive individualized feedback on the standards that they are deficient in, so they can narrow their field of study.

Civics is NOT over after our EOC though! Students will be working on a geography unit with a culminating project due the last 3 days of school. Students who are absent need to plan accordingly, and turn in their work early.

**8th Grade**

As the school year winds down, 8th grade U.S. History will be studying one of the most trying times in our country's history, The Civil War. We lost more soldiers in the Civil War than all other wars the U.S. has participated in combined. Students finished in mid-April studying about the causes, and now we will learn what happened. Each of the history teachers have planned lessons using the TCI curriculum that we think students will find interesting. We will study battles and about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Afterwards, we will conclude the year by studying about Reconstruction. It's been a great year so far, and we hope you enjoy the final chapters.

***Reading***

Our Reading department has been busy celebrating our students with their quarterly celebrations. Students that maintain 45 minutes of I-Ready time and have a 70% pass rate on their lessons receive a celebration. This quarter's celebration was a cupcake bar. Students were able to choose whichever toppings they desired on their cupcake. Students have requested for pizza for their next celebration.

Our Reading teachers are also geared up and preparing students for the upcoming FSA exam. Teachers have specially prepared lesson plans that help prepare students for our FSA in May. We want our Reading students to feel prepared and confident as they step into their exam day.



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## Science

It's been a great year for science at Markham Woods middle school. Markham science continues to be a hands on program designed to inspire students to keep asking questions and learning about the phenomena that daily surround them. Depending on grade level students have had the opportunity to participate in rocket launches, dissection of worms & frogs, and the study of forces by recreating some of the experiments of Newton.

As our year draws to a close each grade level is concluding its portion of the comprehensive curriculum. Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. MacMillan, and Mrs. Marshall have worked hard to help your 6th grade adjust to middle school and to get them excited about science.

Sixth Grade students are currently studying our solar system, the planets, and the interactions between the Earth, moon, and sun. Students started the year with the very small (atoms) and are now learning about the very large (celestial objects). As they begin their 7th grade year students will get to deepen their understanding of these topics as they look at how atoms constitute cells. Test your child's understanding of the layers of the sun, or ask them how the inner or outer planets differ.

Seventh grade students have finished their year learning about heredity and how genes are passed from generation to generation. They've learned the structure of DNA and extracted it from strawberries. Ms. Casselman, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Telson have worked hard to expand students understanding of 6th grade topics and to build on that content as well as study skills and work ethic to prepare students for their 8th grade year. Try asking your student how a Punnett square works, what a recessive allele is.

As our 8th graders conclude their last year of middle school the 8th grade team- Mrs. Meriwether, Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. Goodman- would like to send them their best regards for success in high school. 8th grade is the capstone of the middle school comprehensive curriculum, at the end of this year students should have a good grasp of content across many disciplines of science and have a strong foundation for high school biology and beyond. Students in 8th grade are ending their year with introductory chemistry and a review of all middle school science for the Statewide

**Science Assessment.** Ask your student what their strongest area of science knowledge is, and how a chemical and physical change differ from one another.

We would like to thank you all for the immense support that has been shown for Mrs. Meriwether in her cancer battle. She has expressed on multiple occasions her thankfulness for such a supportive community and all of the kind thoughts, words, and prayers that have been expressed on her behalf.

## Chorus

All of the members of the MKMS Chorus are getting excited about the end of the year! On May 16th we will present our Farewell Concert, *A Day in the Life of the Sun* beginning at 7pm at the Karen W. Coleman Performing Arts Center at Seminole High School (Main Campus). The evening will be filled with music, laughter, tears, awards, memories, and goodbyes.

We have a rolling arrival system in place for all chorus members. Black and Silver Singers will need to arrive by 5:00pm; Concert Chorus will need to arrive by 5:15pm; Beginning Chorus should be there (in uniform) no later than 5:45pm. Remember that Black and Silver Singers and Concert Chorus will change into uniform when they arrive, but they must remember to bring their black, flat closed toed dress shoes as loaner shoes will not be available (unless arranged ahead of time with Mrs. Antmann). An informational letter with further concert details was sent home during the week of April 29th-May 3rd. If you need a new copy, please contact Mrs. Antmann at [leslie\\_antmann@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:leslie_antmann@scps.k12.fl.us).

Congratulations to our Black and Silver Singers on their performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City!

As we approach the end of the school year, many chorus students are looking toward next year's choral opportunities. If your student is interested in working over the summer on vocal music skills or on preparing for All-State auditions, please see Mrs. Antmann for a study skills packet.

Let's finish the year strong, everyone!

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### ***ELA Classes and Electives:***

**SUMMER READING:** Grade level assignments will be released in May. **ALL** Markham Woods and Seminole County students participate in a summer reading program. Texts and assignments will be posted through social media and on the Markham website. Students should return to school on August 12th with their assignment completed. For students attending high school, each high school will list their summer reading on their respective school websites.

**7th GRADE:** To review and prepare for the FSA Reading Exam in May, students have been reading the classic novel *The Outsiders*. Students are performing a close reading of the text, focusing on reading standards for literature that will aid them in all aspects of the reading test including: character and thematic development, tone and word choice, and point-of-view.

**8th GRADE:** Students are learning about the role of archetypes in life and literature. We have studied *Grimm's Fairy Tales* and will compare the narrative patterns, characters, and symbols from earlier stories to modern ones. While doing this, students will have the opportunity to review all the 8th grade reading standards in preparation for the FSA exam.

**FILM AND LITERATURE:** After an animation unit focusing on the work of Hayao Miyazaki, students are now studying camera movement and how that contributes to a visual narrative. We will be viewing some of Alfred Hitchcock's *North By Northwest* before students begin their own original film projects.

#### **ELA CLUB:**

Earlier this spring, several students wanted to start a school newspaper. These young writers and photographers have been arriving at school early most days and have published several articles so far. Please check out the MKMS newspaper, **The Golden Horseshoe**. New articles are being added all the time. <https://the-golden-horseshoe.webnode.com/>