

Mineola Middle School
Board of Trustees Report
October 2013

- Current Enrollment 350
- We have finished the 1st 6 weeks very smoothly. Our teachers/students have worked together exceptionally well.
- Monday Oct. 14th was our Report Card Pickup day. It was a smashing success with 71 visitors for 6th grade students, 84 visitors for 7th grade students, and 72 visitors for 8th grade students. Teachers prepared interventions and strategies to share with parents to help their children. We pushed the Remind 101 signups as well.
- The Jr. Historians are working with their sponsor, Mr. Phillips, on their Veterans Parade plans. They are making posters with their veteran's name and plan to carry them in the parade on Nov.9th.
- Girls' volleyball had a successful Monday night as they swept Athens in both the 8th grade contests.
- The boys' football teams finished their 3rd contest on the year and the 7th grade sits at 12 while the 8th grade is 21. Both squads are making weekly improvements and are representing MMS well.
- The Cross Country teams ran in Gilmer Saturday in their last meet before the District meet in Canton on Monday 10/21/13.
- The yearbook staff kicked off the year by sponsoring the first dance, and it was a huge success! Our parent chaperones commented on how well behaved our students were, and the students had a fantastic time. The dance was DJ'd by MHS's own Daniel Sparkman, and the event raised approximately \$600 to help fund the 2014 yearbook.
- Moms were invited to "Moms in Math" in Mrs. Pruitt's class on Friday 10/11/13. They worked with their children using scatterplots to find linear regression. I sat in on the 2nd period class and it was a blast watching parents interact with their student on this project.
- UIL practice is off and running. Every day we have students working in classes before, during, and after school to prepare for contests.
- Mrs. Witt's science classes participated in a Project Based Learning activity, "Mineral Heist." A "crime" has occurred at Mineola Middle School. Mrs. Witt reported that her samples of gypsum were taken from her cabinet. Students are investigating the crime scene, questioning suspects, and conducting forensic tests on the evidence to solve the crime.

During the investigations, students are learning the physical properties of metals, nonmetals, and metalloids, physical properties of minerals, and discovering how to identify an unknown substance by calculating its density.

- Mrs. Redding and the student council are sponsoring Red Ribbon Week October 21st through October 25th. We will have dress up days with antidrug statements, a poster contest, daily announcements with facts and myths about drugs, and a pledge signing table for students to participate in.

- Mrs. Fischer's Upcoming Choir Events:

- *October 30th at 9:45am MMS Choir will present "Disney on Stage" for the Primary School

- *November 6th at 9:45am MMS Choir will present "Disney on Stage" for the Elementary School

- Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings are held in the Band Hall every Friday morning. Over 100 students have signed up as members. The FCA is a student directed organization led by four 8th graders who hold the president, vice-president, secretary, and reporter positions. Ten students hold crew leader positions for eight various committees, and four students serve as crew to assist the leaders.

- We are finishing up our Book Fair in the library and Mrs. Petersen has opened up the "Jacket Buck Store."

- Students are learning to change decimals to fractions using game boards they designed and built in Mrs. Garrett's class. They are the game pieces. Students easily relate to gaming and can translate the math involved in a fun and unique way.

- Mrs. Pruitt's National Jr. Honor Society students are creating centers and working with the preschoolers.

- Mrs. Gould has created a Google doc to share with teachers for progress monitoring and academic interventions. She is also working with teachers to better understand the needs of students through RTI, 504, SPED, and low performing students.

- Mrs. Gould has also created a system to keep up with and track lunch detention which is a proactive measure to target kids who are failing due to no homework.

- I am very pleased with the "team" I work with in the office every day. Mrs. Redding, Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Hope and Mrs. Thompson are doing a fantastic job and I look forward to what's ahead in the rest of the year at MMS.