

Buzzin' Around Madrona



October 2012



Welcome Back to School!

We are so happy to have the opportunity to serve you and your child. Please let us know how we can help. Call us at 541-476-6624 from 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If you have a bus issue, you may call First Student at 541-476-7733.

Parent/Teacher Relationships

How to Establish a Working Relationship with Your Child's Teacher:

Meet with the teacher in the fall. Tell the teacher about your child's special needs, outside activities, health and home study habits.

Look for the positive. Share with the teacher something you appreciate regarding the teacher's role in your child's life. Express your appreciation by sending a note of thanks when something special takes place in the classroom.

Let the teacher know you want to support work that's being done in class. Ask for suggestions for expanding school activities into home activities.

Be willing to participate in or set up a conference when necessary, such as when: your child's grades plunge; he/she does not seem to have homework; he/she seems deeply upset about something that happened at school.

Source: University of Illinois Extension Service (Medford Mail Tribune)

October Events

- 11 – Progress Reports go home
- 11 – Jog-a-thon
- 11 – Site Council Meeting @ 2:10 pm in Library
- 12 – **No School**-Inservice Day
- 16 – PTA Meeting @ 2pm in Library
- 17 – Evening Conferences- regular school day
- 18 - **No school** – Conference Day
- 19 – **No School**
- 22-26 – Red Ribbon Week – Say “NO” to drugs and alcohol
- 23 – Picture Make up day
- 26 – Harvest Parties in the classroom



How to reach your teacher:

There are several ways to contact your child's teacher. When you need to ask questions or share information, you can email your child's teacher by going to www.threerivers.k12.or.us and click on “Schools”, Select “Madrona”, and then click on “Staff Directory”. There is a little icon next to each person's name that looks like an envelope. Click on the envelope next to the person you want, and you can easily send them email. You can also write a note, call the office and leave a message so the teacher can call you back, or you can stop by and leave a message. Mornings are teacher prep times for getting materials and lessons ready for students. We try our best not to interrupt that time unless there is an urgent reason. Teachers are generally most available for meeting with or talking to you from 2:00-3:00 most days. Please be aware teachers do attend some meetings in the afternoons and may not be able to return calls until the following day. We ask that parents avoid dropping into the classrooms first thing in the morning as teachers are preparing for their teaching at that time. However, you are welcome to drop by the office in the morning and we can leave a message for the teacher to contact you as soon as possible! We want to help!

Special Occasion Foods



We cannot serve any foods that are not prepared in a professional and certified kitchen. This means unless it comes from a licensed kitchen we cannot serve a food item. Food items should come in the original, unopened packaging. Students can bring homemade items for their own lunches, but cannot share those items with others. We cannot allow homemade items to be served at any school function during the school day. Thanks for following this standard at all times. Please remember this if you are supplying treats for any type of classroom celebration.

November Events

- 5-26 – Candle Sales
- 13 – PTA Meeting @ 2pm in library
- 19-23 - **No School** Thanksgiving Week
- 30 - PBIS Big Event
- 30 – End of Trimester



Attendance Reporting

As you know, students who have excellent attendance are more likely to have solid achievement at school. We can't teach them if they aren't here! It is required by law for the school to average 92% attendance or higher each year. For students to reach that goal, they must miss no more than 14 days of school over the entire year. That means missing on average no more than 1 day per month. Parents are the most important decision makers about attendance. You have the choice to schedule appointments, shopping, dance lessons and vacations at times that will not impact your child's attendance. Be aware and make good choices for your child.

Please remember that **school begins at 7:40am**. Student arriving after that time are marked "Tardy" and must come to the office to receive a late slip. Also, **students leaving before 1:55pm** are marked as a "PM Tardy". These both count against the perfect attendance goals. There is no difference between a student missing school at the beginning of the day or the end of the day. Either way, it still impacts their learning. We know that sometimes it is unavoidable to schedule appointments during school time, and those are notated as "Office Tardy" which means that they are "excused", but they still count as a Tardy, and are counted against perfect attendance.

A parent must excuse student absences. It is required that you let us know when and why your child is absent.

You can help us with this in two ways. You can **call us** the day of the absence and tell us why your child is out, or you can **write a note** and send that in on the day your child returns to school. Absences are only excused for illness, Dr. appointments, death in the immediate family and family emergencies. All other absences are unexcused. We call every day if we have not heard from you, or if the absence reason is unexcused. Make sure you have called or sent a note within 48 hours, or your child's absence becomes unexcused regardless of the reason. For a student to earn yearly perfect attendance awards, they must have 0 tardies or absences.

S.M.A.R.T.

SMART® stands for "Start Making A Reader Today." SMART is a statewide nonprofit program that matches caring adults with children in kindergarten through third grade. SMART is looking for volunteers at Madrona Elementary to read just one hour a week with two children from October through May. Children in SMART discover that it's fun to read and show more interest in learning. To make a difference at Madrona Elementary and your community call SMART at (541) 734-5628 or visit www.getsmartoregon.org and help start making a reader today!

A Word From Our Family Advocate

We have a Family Advocate program at our school which is designed to provide services to families such as assistance with clothing, shoes, and other hygiene items. Everything is completely confidential, and handled with sensitivity. Our advocate, Andrea Rodgers, also calls families to alert them about meetings and to help with attendance issues.

We keep a good supply of clean, extra clothing here at the school in case a student spills something on their clothes and needs to change. If you have any clothing items to donate, please bring them to the office. Thanks for helping keep our Madrona Hornets comfortable!

Andrea Rodgers- Family Advocate

Free Meals!



Breakfast is **FREE every day** for **EVERY STUDENT!** We offer a selection of nutritious, healthy, hot or cold meals, including milk, and fresh fruit. Please plan for your child to take advantage of this.

Our **lunch menus** are now available on line. We will not be sending menus home unless a parent requests one. You can access them by going to our public web site at: www.threerivers.k12.or.us then under the heading "Schools" select Madrona. On the left side, there is a heading for "Food Service Information", then select "Food Service Menu". You will also notice that there is a link to pay for your child's meals if you are using a credit card as well. Please contact our new Cafeteria Manager, Jenniffer Richardson at 541-476-6624 if you have any questions. We're here to help!

Notes required!

Please be aware that the bus drivers require a bus pass issued by the Madrona office anytime your child is going to ride the bus anywhere other than his/her normal stop. The only way that a bus pass can be issued is by **BOTH** children having a note from their parents. At no time is a child allowed to get off at an undesignated stop, or to ride a different bus without a pass issued by the office. Thank you for making those plans ahead of time and ensuring that your child has a note.



Education of All Disabled Children/Young Adults

Public law 105.17 known as I.D.E.A. (Individualized Disability Education Act) requires that school districts provide a free and appropriate education to all disabled children/young adults ages 0 to 21.

Three Rivers School District requests the identification of any disabled children/young adults between the ages of 0 to 21, who are not enrolled or currently being served by the district schools.

If you know of any disabled children/young adults between the ages of 0 to 21 who are not receiving educational services, please call the Special Education Department of the Three Rivers School District. The phone number is 862-3111.



No Child Left Behind

Our school receives federal funds for Title One programs. Under this law, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). If you request this information, the district will provide you with this information in a timely manner. You have the right to request the following information:

- If the teacher has met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction
- If the teacher is teaching under an emergency status for which state licensing requirements have been waived
- The type of college degree major of the teacher and the field of discipline for any graduate degrees and certificates
- If your child is receiving Title One services from paraprofessionals and if so, his/her qualifications

If you would like this information, please contact Madrona Elementary School.

Automated Phone Calls



We have a system that will periodically make telephone calls to all our parents. This system is called "Synervoice". What a wonderful tool this is, and we hope that it will help us to communicate with you. We use this system to notify parents of upcoming events, attendance, days that are impacted by inclement weather, emergencies, or other reasons which may require us to reach everyone in a timely manner. When you receive a call from Synervoice, you must say "hello" to activate the message being sent to you. If you don't say anything when we call, you will not get a message. It is also connected to our student information system, therefore it is very important that the information you provide to us on your students' enrollment form is accurate and kept up to date. If you have a phone number change or disconnection and we try to send you a message, you will obviously not receive it. So, please help us keep you informed by notifying the school office when personal information changes.

Fundraisers!



There are some very simple opportunities for us to earn money for our school. One way is called eScrip. All you have to do is register your Safeway Club Card, and use it every time you shop at Safeway, and Madrona gets a percentage of your total bill. Every shopping trip counts, all year long! It's easy to register by going to escrip.com or by calling 1-800-400-7878. Please don't hesitate...do it today! It's easy!

Target also has a "Take Charge of Education" program. All you have to do is call 1-800-316-6142 or go to Target.com/tcoe, enroll your Target credit cards, and Madrona will receive a percent of everything you buy with your card. It's that simple!

P.T.A. News

Our annual Jog -a -thon will be held on October 11th. The pledge packets will go home soon. I would like to encourage you to help your child participate even if it is with just a small donation. Our PTA uses every penny wisely to support activities like field trip transportation, assemblies, items for our classrooms, and big ticket items like new computers, classroom tables, library and computer lab needs. Our PTA's fund raising efforts are a crucial part of how our school provides new and better learning opportunities for our children.

The PTA "Lend a Helping Hand" membership drive continues until October 7, 2012.

Common Core State Standards for Parents

Something big is happening in education in Oregon, something that all parents will want to know about - the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These newly adopted standards in English Language Arts and Math are important for your student's future success!

Here's why:

- **The standards are the same wherever you go.** Common standards mean that students in Oregon are learning the same thing as students across the country. Students moving into or out of Oregon will have a smoother educational transition because learning goals will now be the same across states.
- **They're modeled on success.** The Common Core are aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries. This means our students will be well prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.
- **College and career ready is the name of the game.** All students graduating college and career-ready is the goal of the CCSS. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in whatever they choose to do after graduation.
- **Real life is really important.** What students learn in school should be directly related to what they'll be required to do once they leave. The Common Core places a strong emphasis on reading informational and technical texts to prepare students for the demands of college and the workplace.
- **College should not begin with remediation.** Too many students entering Oregon universities and community colleges require remedial classes in English and Math. The CCSS are designed to make that a problem of the past by fully preparing students for college-level coursework.
- **Increased access to learning resources.** Common standards mean that learning resources and teaching and learning materials can be shared across states.
- **21st century skills for 21st century jobs.** These standards will prepare our students for career success in the rapidly changing world of work.

Find out more about Common Core on the ODE web site at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/commoncore>

And check out the CCSS Parent Guides from the National PTA at www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3398

Frequently Asked Questions about the Common core state Standards

Q: What are the Common Core State Standards?

A: The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of shared K-12 learning expectations for students in English-language arts and mathematics. The standards are the result of a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The CCSS for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, state education leaders, teachers, school administrators, and parents. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English language arts. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The CCSS supports the college and career ready expectations of Oregon's new graduation requirements.

Q: Why does Oregon need common educational content standards?

A: Today, each state has its own process for developing, adopting, and implementing standards. As a result, what students are expected to learn can vary widely from state to state. We know that our graduates will compete for jobs with students from other states and countries with more rigorous standards. Common standards help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. Common standards will help ensure that students are receiving a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state. Common standards will provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve our ability to serve the needs of students.

Q: Will the Common Core State Standards limit flexibility to tailor instruction to individual students?

A: No. The Common Core State Standards are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what knowledge and skills will help our students succeed. Local teachers, principals, superintendents, and others will decide how the standards are to be met. Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms. Local teachers, principals, superintendents, and school boards will continue to make decisions about curriculum and how their school systems are operated. Standards help teachers figure out the knowledge and skills their students should have so that teachers can build the best lessons for their classrooms.

Q: What are some ways Oregon will benefit from common educational content standards?

A: The CCSS will

- Help prepare students in Oregon and in the nation with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and careers
- Allow states to align curricula to internationally benchmarked standards
- Allow for more focused pre-service education and professional development

- Create potential economies of scale for curriculum, instructional resources, and assessment
- Help students who move between states
- Help evaluate policies that affect student achievement across states
- Help prepare students in Oregon and in the nation to compete for good jobs in a knowledge-based economy.

Q: Will the new Common Core State Standards replace Oregon’s existing academic content standards for mathematics and English language arts?

A: Yes. These two new sets of standards will **replace** Oregon’s current standards in English language arts and mathematics. While the new standards are similar to Oregon’s current standards, some content has been shifted to ensure college and career readiness at the end of high school.

Q: The Common Core State Standards are more rigorous than existing state standards. Will it be harder for schools to meet state and federal requirements?

A: Parents, students, and teachers should understand that lower scores will not mean students know less than they did the year before or that they are somehow “doing worse in school.” The new standards require a higher level of mastery of information and concepts and this higher bar will impact student scores, at least initially. Communities must recognize that it will take time for students to catch up to these more rigorous standards.

Q: What is ODE doing to help schools transition to the Common Core Standards?

A: ODE has

- Convened a CCSS Stewardship Team composed of educators, administrators, and education stakeholders to develop a comprehensive implementation timeline, plan, and identify resources for instruction and assessment.
- Helped to establish the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium that will build a CCSS common assessment for the partner states to be implemented in school year 2014-2015.
- Provided mathematics teachers with an annotated crosswalk table (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3211>) that compares the CCSS to the current Oregon mathematics standards, illustrating what content has moved to different grade levels.
- Provided English language arts *and* subject-area teachers with the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/literacyframework>) that supports implementation of the CCSS in English language arts and all other subjects. A number of states are using Oregon’s Framework for this purpose.
- Completed two new sections of the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework: a Writing section comparable to Reading and an extensive Reading professional development portal for coaches and teachers.
- Provided Strand 4 Oregon DATA Project training featuring implementation of the Reading and Writing CCSS and Essential Skills using the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework.
- Collaborated with other states to provide educators with a variety of tools and resources, including shared curriculum. Collaboration is ongoing.

Q: How will the economies of scale benefit Oregon in implementing the CCSS?

A: The economies of scale that the CCSS will bring will save our state money in these ways:

- Oregon will no longer need to revise and update English language arts and mathematics standards on its own.
- Instructional resources designed to support the CCSS can be *shared* among the states.
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium partner states will *share* the costs of developing and implementing a common assessment.
- Assessment resources including formative assessments will be *shared* among the Smarter Balanced consortium.
- It is anticipated that textbooks and curriculum materials may be *shared* through open source environments.

- A **Joint Taskforce on Mathematics** that includes members from all major mathematics education organizations plans to provide a CCSS implementation website to *share* tools and resources for teachers.
- A **Common Core Curriculum Mapping Project** funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has designed and *shared* CCSS English language arts curriculum maps for districts.

Q: When will students begin to see these changes in the classroom?

A: Students could begin seeing Common Core content as soon as next school year (2011-12). Districts will first need to work with teachers to make sure everyone understands the knowledge and skills contained within each learning expectation. Teachers at each grade level need to understand what new content they are responsible for teaching at their grade-level and what is no longer in their grade-level. While many of Oregon’s existing Academic Content Standards align to CCSS, some content is introduced in earlier grades in CCSS.

Q: What is the CCSS common assessment?

A: States adopting the CCSS will implement a student assessment system aligned with the CCSS for mathematics and English language arts beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

- Along with 30 other states, Oregon is a member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>) which has formed to create an historic assessment system.
- The common assessment is a natural continuation of the work already underway in Oregon and builds on our current assessment system and the work of the Oregon DATA Project.
- By partnering with other states, Oregon will be able to leverage resources, share expertise, and produce a system that will meet the needs and expectations of Oregon students and teachers.
- Until the common assessment is designed, piloted, and implemented, however, ODE will continue using the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) to assess students in math, reading, and writing. Oregon will continue to assess science and social science using OAKS until CCSS are developed for those content areas.

To find out more about the common assessment visit www.smarterbalanced.org .