

# MCo Monday Minute

**Monday, September 19, 2016**

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*Grandparents and friends were invited to have lunch with Mapleton students last week.*



***Quote of the Week*** - "Students should *only* take tests that (1) are aligned to what they're learning, (2) serve a useful purpose, and (3) are of high quality."

Jonah Edelman in "Making Sense of the Opt-Out Movement" in *Education Next*, Fall 2016 (Vol. 16, #4, p. 59), <http://bit.ly/2cDNaEg>

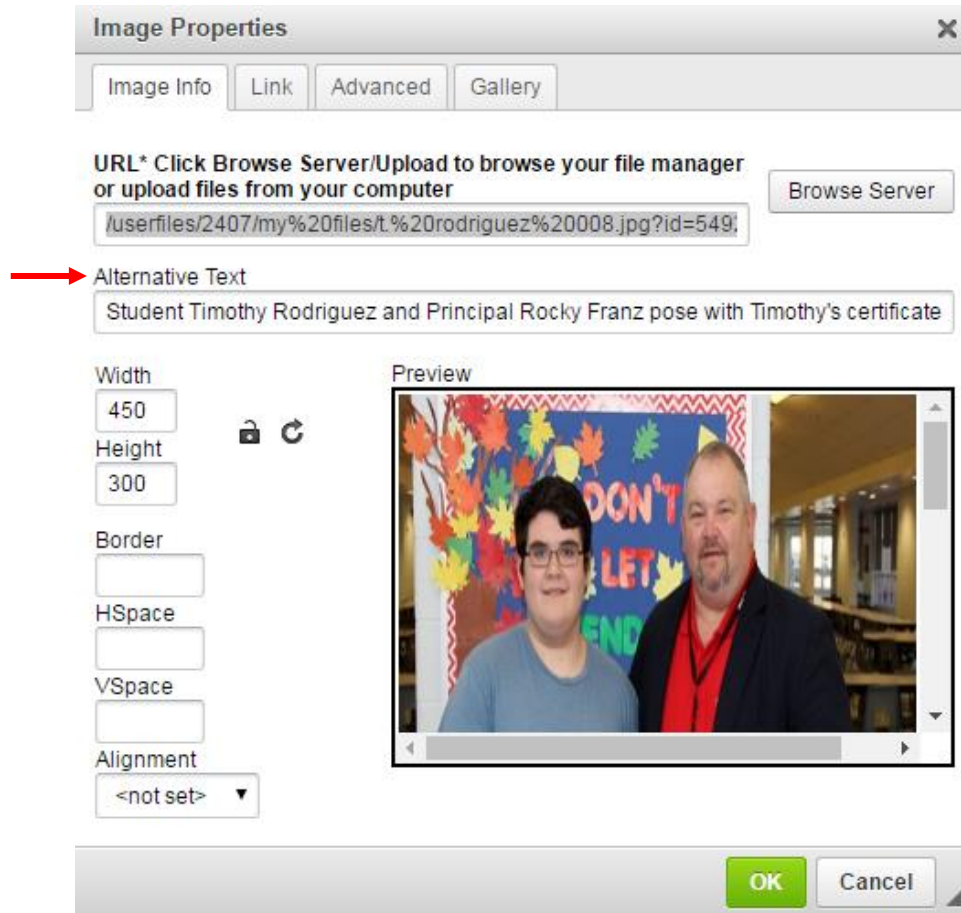
***High Attendance Day*** – Tomorrow, September 20<sup>th</sup> is Statewide High Attendance Day. Awards will be given by category to winning schools across the State.

***Celebrating Success*** – (1) Mapleton students enjoyed lunch last week with grandparents and friends in observance of National Grandparents' Day on September 11; (2) Camargo FRC hosted Muffins for Mom and Donuts for Dad on Wednesday; (3) Teams are winning – the football team went on the road and defeated Perry County Central 44-0, varsity girls' soccer won two of three games played last week, and volleyball defeated Bracken County at home, to name a few; (4) Thursday evening the community gathered in the MCHS Auditorium to take part in an educational forum on heroin. The forum was a collaborative effort between Montgomery County ADAPT and Montgomery County Schools. Detectives Daniels and Haddix presented to attendees, along with Dr. Taufik Kassis, in efforts to raise public awareness on heroin. Over 200 were in attendance; (5) The MCHS Marching Band and Cheerleaders participated in the CHD Warrior Festival and Awareness Walk this past weekend as a part of the pep rally.

***Student Attendance*** – MSE took the lead last week with the highest one-day attendance of 96.12% on Thursday and a weekly high of 95.18%.

**Nutrition Services Field Trip Requests** – The Nutrition Services staff has determined a process for requesting meals and snacks for school field trips. Please ensure that you follow these procedures to better accommodate the staff and students. [Click here](#) to review the process and access forms.

**Websites for Accessibility and ADA Compliance** – Please ensure when updating and maintaining teacher, department, and school web pages to add text to the box marked “Alternative Text” when posting a picture. This allows text to describe images to individuals who may be blind or visually impaired and who use special software.



**In State Meal Reimbursement Rates** – Effective September 15, 2016, the Finance and Administration Cabinet has updated meal reimbursement rates for overnight travel. Per Board policies 03.125 (certified) 03.225 (classified) and 200 KAR 2:006, the following meal reimbursement rates apply for employees traveling in Kentucky for authorized work requiring an overnight stay and absence during the entire mealtime hours listed below:

- Breakfast: Eight (8) dollars (traveling entire window of 6:30 a.m. through 9:00 a.m.)
- Lunch: Ten (10) dollars (traveling entire window of 11:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.)
- Dinner: Eighteen (18) dollars (traveling entire window of 5:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m.)

**Dates:**

- Sept. 19 – MCHS Girls’ Soccer VS Corbin, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 19 – McNabb Girls’ Basketball VS Paris, 6:00 p.m.



*Happy belated 49<sup>th</sup> birthday to Mr. Crain! Mrs. Kathy Boyd arranged for Mr. Crain to have 49 seconds in the Little Debbie trailer to pick up as many Little Debbies as he could.*

- Sept. 20 – High Attendance Day
- Sept. 20 – MCHS Girls' Golf VS Rowan County, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 20 – MSE PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 20 – MCHS Volleyball VS Bourbon County, 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 20 – MCIS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 20 – MCHS Bass Fishing Team Information Meeting, 6:00 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Sept. 20 – MCHS Boys' Soccer VS Madison Central, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 21 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 22 – MCHS Boys' Soccer VS Paris, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 22 – McNabb Football VS Bourbon County, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 22 – MCHS Girls' Soccer VS Estill County, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 23 – MCHS Football VS Southwestern, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 23 – MCHS Homecoming Dance, 9:00 p.m., MCHS Arena
- Sept. 24 – Volunteer Orientation, 9:00-10:00 a.m., MCHS
- Sept. 24 – MCHS Volleyball VS Somerset, 11:00 a.m.
- Sept. 26 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Early Learning Center
- Sept. 26 – MCHS Girls' Soccer VS Collins, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 26 – MCHS Freshmen/JV Football VS Bath County, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 27 – MCHS Volleyball VS Bath County, 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 27 – MCHS Boys' Soccer VS Highlands, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 27 - Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Sept. 27 – MCHS Work Seal Follow-up Program, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Clay Center
- Sept. 28 – MCHS Boys' Soccer VS Madison Southern, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 28 – MCHS Girls' Soccer VS GRC, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 29 – Mapleton Fall Picture Day
- Sept. 29 – McNabb Girls' Basketball VS Robert Campbell, 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 29 – McNabb Football VS Robert Campbell, 6:00 p.m.
- Sept. 30 – Camargo Career Fair 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades, MCHS
- Sept. 30 – MSE Career Fair, MCHS
- Sept. 30 – MSE Fall Ball
- Sept. 30 – McNabb Girls' Basketball VS Menifee County, 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 1 – MCHS Cheerleaders hosts "Youth Cheer Clinic", 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MCIS
- Oct. 3-7: Camargo Book Fair
- Oct. 4 – MCHS Girls' Soccer VS Boyd County, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 5 – Camargo Fall Picture Day
- Oct. 5 – MCHS Picture Day for 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Grades
- Oct. 6 – Camargo Reading Extravaganza
- Oct. 6 – McNabb Girls' Basketball VS Harrison County, 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6 – MCHS Boys' Soccer VS Harrison County, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 11 – Orchestra Fall Concert, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Oct. 12 – MSE SBDM Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 14 – MCHS Football VS Anderson County, 7:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 14 – No School – Court Day/Fall Break**
- **Oct. 17 – No School – Court Day/Fall Break**
- Oct. 17 – MCHS Freshmen/JV Football VS Powell County, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 18 – MCHS Academic Team VS Fleming County, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 19 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Oct. 21 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 21 – Camargo Fall Dance, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

- Oct. 25 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Oct. 27 – MCHS Academic Team VS Rowan County, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 28 – MCHS Football VS North Laurel, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 29 – JROTC Indian Challenge, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., MCHS Arena

## *Continuous Learning through Professional Literature*

### **Close Reading of Challenging Texts in Middle School**

In this article in *AMLE Magazine*, Doug Lemov, Colleen Driggs, and Erica Woolway of Uncommon Schools say that many middle-school teachers want to get students reading texts that will engage and motivate them – often contemporary young adult fiction. This is all well and good, say Lemov, Driggs, and Woolway, but “what students ‘like,’ or more precisely think they will like, is inherently limited. We can all name a handful of texts we read against our better teenage judgment – infallible though it seemed at the time – but which turned out to be transformative – instantly in many cases, years later in others.” So teachers need to make sure students use their finite and precious classroom hours to grapple with some complex texts of the sort that they’ll encounter in college and life. Here are five types:

- *Archaic texts* – The first sentence of *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens is 98 words long and includes unfamiliar turns of phrase like “to wit,” “inasmuch,” and “in this workhouse was born...” In earlier eras, whether in novels or documents like the Declaration of Independence, people used words in different ways, and students need to be able to unpack and comprehend such texts.

- *Nonlinear time sequence* – The narrative of *Bigmama’s* by Donald Crew switches back and forth between memories of a specific trip to the narrator’s grandparents’ house and recollections of visits made over several years. It’s challenging to keep all this straight, and *Bigmama’s* is ideal for helping young readers slow down and figure things out.

- *Complexity of narrator* – R.J. Palacio’s book *Wonder* uses six different narrators to tell the story of a boy with severe craniofacial disfigurement, and one of them uses idiosyncratic punctuation and no uppercase letters. “It’s a useful book, first and foremost as an object lesson in kindness and understanding,” say Lemov, Driggs, and Woolway. “But it’s also a starter kit for understanding books with complex and potentially confusing narration.”

- *Complex plot and symbolism* – *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin weaves fairy tales into the journey-of-discovery narrative, with characters telling other characters’ stories and characters reacting to fairy tales they hear, which shapes the plot. Mastering this kind of text helps students prepare for challenging narrative structures like those in William Faulkner’s novels.

- *Resistant texts* – The beginning of *Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut uses a highly unconventional style to capture the difficulty of telling a story (the firebombing of Dresden in World War II) that cannot be told simply. “The elements create a thrilling narrative unbounded by traditional rules,” say Lemov, Driggs, and Woolway. “But confused readers – readers unaware that a text might deliberately try to disorient them, readers who have never struggled with that disorientation – may in fact be confused by the premise, not comprehend that they are not supposed to comprehend, and fail, perhaps even give up on the narrative.” Poetry doesn’t always

conform to our “expectation of logic” – for example, “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll. Close reading and unpacking of short passages of texts like these prepare students for the intense challenges of reading difficult material.

“Selecting Complex Texts with Intention” by Doug Lemov, Colleen Driggs, and Erica Woolway in *AMLE Magazine*, September 2016 (Vol. 4, #2, p. 36-37), no e-link available; this article is based on the authors’ book, *Reading Reconsidered: A Practical Guide to Rigorous Literacy* (Jossey-Bass, 2016)

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Be sure to notify the designated person at your school if you have calendar information that should be added to your website calendar.

***Thank you so much for your effort and commitment to children. If you have questions about any of the information contained in this issue of The MoCo Monday Minute, please contact me at [matthew.thompson@montgomery.kyschools.us](mailto:matthew.thompson@montgomery.kyschools.us).***