

MCo Monday Minute

Monday, September 26, 2016

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Quote of the Week – “[A]ll of us teachers should do [this] at least once a year: follow a student through a whole hectic day in our own schools to soak up the experience.” - Sara Mosle (*ibid.*)



Homecoming – The MCHS Football Team came up short against Southwestern at Friday night’s Homecoming game. Congratulations to senior, Carly Walker, who was crowned Homecoming Queen. Students and staff celebrated a week of themed school spirit days and the Homecoming parade was held Thursday night.

Wild West Day – The Camargo FRC hosted Wild West Day for the 2016 High Attendance Day. Students dressed in their western wear and participated in a variety of activities which included roping, quilting, making butter, tasting food from the Wild West; they also got to visit and pet sheep, miniature horses, goats, rabbits, a llama, and chickens.



MSE's Service Project – During the month of September, MSE participated in “Adopt an Officer/Community Helper” as a school effort. Each grade level had a particular organization they sponsored. Students prepared letters and cards and invited each organization to attend breakfast at school and created a gift basket for them to take back to their office. Representatives from the Montgomery County Fire/EMS, Regional Jail, Sheriff’s Department, and Mt. Sterling Police Department were in attendance at last week’s breakfast. Breakfast

began with a cheerful performance by the Treblemakers. Leadership students: MacKenna Bromagen, Christian Carmona, Meghan Chambers, Luke Fawns and Lexi Frazier helped during the breakfast and passed out letters and cards from each of the grade levels.

Two Seniors Named Commended Students – Congratulations to Sloan Lansdale and Parker Poulos for being named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry. Over 1.6 million students took the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last October and entered the National Merit Scholarship Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). NMSC identified the 50,000 highest scorers earlier this year and recently sent Letters of Commendation.



Student Attendance/High Attendance Day – Mapleton earned the highest one day attendance with 97.03% on Tuesday, September 20th, the state-wide high attendance day. Mapleton and McNabb tied for the weekly high attendance with 95.21%.

Dates:

- 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 3rd & 4th Grades, MCHS
- Sept. 30 – Mapleton & 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 9th-11th Grades
- Oct. 6 – Camargo Reading Extravaganza
- Oct. 6 – McNabb Girls’ Basketball VS Harrison County, 5:30 p.m.



Any child/staff member that attended school at Mapleton on the state-wide high attendance day was able to be in the picture that will go on the cover of this year's yearbook.

- Oct. 6 – MCHS Boys’ Soccer VS Harrison County, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 8 – Mapleton Fall Festival, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 11 – Mapleton SBDM Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Oct. 11 – Orchestra Fall Concert, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Oct 11 – MSE K-3 Fire Prevention Day
- 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 – McNabb SBDM Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 17 – MCHS Freshmen/JV Football VS Powell County, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 18 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 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

Meaningful Parent-Teacher Conferences

(Originally titled “Parent-Teacher Conferences: Outdated or Underutilized?”)

“For some parents, teacher conferences are more like speed dating than substance,” says Sarah McKibben in this article in *Education Update*. Attendance at these conferences declines steadily as students move through the grades, from 89 percent in primary grades to 57 percent in high school according to one study, and many parents don’t believe they’re worth the trip. McKibben reports on some ideas for improvement:

- *Rebrand*. A more inviting name for these perennial meetings is “progress conferences.” This is more positive and doesn’t seem to exclude foster parents and guardians.
- *Build relationships and trust up front*. Home visits, frequent e-mailing or texting, and partnering around academic issues build the groundwork for face-to-face conferences.
- *Finesse the childcare issue*. “To pay a babysitter to watch your three younger siblings so a parent can attend a conference is not going to happen,” says Ohio high-school teacher Allison Rickett. She invites parents to bring along other children and provides crayons and paper in an area at the back of her classroom where they can entertain themselves during conferences.
- *Accommodate*. Some parents need an interpreter (children shouldn’t be asked to translate) and support with disabilities.
- *Change the dynamic*. It makes a difference if a teacher sits side by side with family members and doesn’t hold a clipboard or pad of paper; open hands suggest an open mind.
- *Clarify learning outcomes*. Surprisingly, only 7 percent of parents in a National Parent Teacher Association survey in K-8 schools said they were informed of grade-level curriculum

expectations in conferences. One idea from the Flamboyan Foundation (called Academic Parent-Teacher Teams) is convening parents to talk as a group about curriculum expectations and teaching ideas three times a year, with parents following their children's individual progress folders. Parents then have a single one-on-one parent conference once a year.

- *Involve students.* Progress conferences are much more helpful when students are at the table reporting on their progress, challenges, and goals. Advisory group meetings focus on preparing students to lead parent conferences and lobby their parents to attend.

- *Listen.* "Parents usually come in having an idea of what they want to talk about, so I like to be open and ready for whatever they need," says Ricket. Although she has students' grades and portfolios on hand, she lets parents go first and is careful to empathize with any concerns they have.

"Parent-Teacher Conferences: Outdated or Underutilized?" by Sarah McKibben in *Education Update*, September 2016 (Vol. 58, #9, p. 1, 4-5), available for purchase at <http://bit.ly/2cjKtu4>

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.