

# MoCo Monday Minute

**Wednesday, November 9, 2016 (Due to Teacher Planning & Election Day)**

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*Madison Cline accepting the Diamond Stellar Student Award.*

***Quote of the Week*** – “Simply looking briefly into a child’s eyes can powerfully send the message, ‘I know you know how to do this; now let’s see you do it.’”

Kathryn Brady, Mary Beth Forton, and Deborah Porter

***Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet*** – Congratulations to senior Madison Cline and the District’s School Nutrition Supervisor, Sandy Jones, who were recognized on Thursday evening at the Mt. Sterling-Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet. Madison received the Diamond Stellar Student Award and Ms. Jones was honored as Diamond Educator of the Year.

***FBLA Tours Two Businesses*** – On Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Montgomery County ATC



FBLA chapter toured two businesses. Students visited Keeneland in Lexington and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky (TMMK) in Georgetown. The trip began at Keeneland where they were greeted by two friendly tour guides who shared the beauty and history of the horse racing industry.

Afterwards, they ventured to TMMK, which is the largest Toyota manufacturing plant in the world. Students were given an audio narrated tour of the facility while riding trolleys.

***Bass Team Reels in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Again!*** – The MCHS Bass Fishing Team held their second KHSAA Regional Qualifier this past Saturday at Cave Run Lake. First place went to Logan Watkins and Kyle Workman with a five bass limit that weighed 4.04 pounds. Second place went to the team of Brady McGuire and Quinten McGuire with four bass that weighed 3.40 pounds and third place went to the team of Harrison Gay and Alex Nesmith with two fish that weighed 3.06 pounds. The next tournament will be in March at Cave Run Lake. Congratulations to all the anglers on a great day on the water!

***XC Competed at State Meet*** – The MCHS Girls' Cross Country team and Jarrett Forrest competed this past Saturday at the state meet. Jewelee Holbrook set a new school record by earning the highest place finish in the state meet for a Montgomery County runner. Jewelee ran a personal best time of 20:16 and placed 31<sup>st</sup> overall in a field of 243 runners. Eighth grader Lauren Patrick placed second for the team and 160<sup>th</sup> overall. Sophomore Chyann Sargent placed 180, senior Lacey Johnson, who ran her 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive state championship race, placed 192. Katie Johnson placed 230<sup>th</sup>, eighth grader Morgan Patrick placed 233<sup>rd</sup> and senior Skyler Peyton placed 239<sup>th</sup>. The girls' team defeated GRC who beat them in the Regional Championship on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Sophomore Jarrett Forrest placed 103<sup>rd</sup> in a field of 246 runners in a time of 17:48. Jewelee Holbrook and Jarrett Forrest will continue their season by competing in the Foot Locker South Region Championship in Charlotte, North Carolina on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations MOCO XC!



***Did You Exercise Your Right to Vote?*** – On Friday, Mapleton's STLP held a Mock Election as part of their Citizenship Project. Students made a ballot box and copied ballots for kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and created a Google Form for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to cast their vote. Yesterday, the Child Care program designed a voting booth for children to cast their vote.



***Student Attendance*** – McNabb earned the highest one-day attendance with 95.9% on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The weekly high attendance goes to Mapleton with 94.31%. Way to go!

***KDE Visual and Performing Arts Regional Specialists*** – The Kentucky Department of Education has created a cadre of regional arts specialists to provide assistance to districts, schools and teachers in the implementation of the new *Kentucky Academic Standards for the Arts*, Program Reviews and arts best practices. Each specialist is a highly experienced classroom teacher at the elementary, middle or high school level and is fully certified in either dance, music or visual art. Mr. David Fonda, Music Teacher at Camargo Elementary, will be Montgomery County's regional arts specialist.

***Dates:***

- Nov. 9 – Camargo SBDM Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Nov. 9 – McNabb Boys' Basketball VS Powell County
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program, 8:30 a.m., MSE
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program, 3:00 p.m., MCHS
- Nov. 10 – Parent Chromebook Night, 6:30-8:00 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Program, 9:30 a.m., McNabb
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Program, 1:15 p.m., Camargo
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Assembly, 9:00 a.m., Mapleton
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Celebration, 1:30 p.m., MCIS
- Nov. 12 - ENCORE Theatre Troupe Performance, 7:01 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Nov. 14 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 14 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Nov. 15 – MCIS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 15 – McNabb Volleyball VS Campbell County
- Nov. 16 - Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17 –MSE Family Dinner Night
- Nov. 17 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Blue/White Scrimmage, 6:00-8:00 p.m., MCHS Arena
- Nov. 17 – McNabb Boys' Basketball VS Bourbon County
- Nov. 21 – McNabb SBDM Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 21 – MCIS PTO Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 22 – Mapleton Literacy Fair
- **Nov. 23-25 – No School – Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 28 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, Dinner at 5:30 p.m., ELC



*MCHS students and staff lined the sidewalk on Friday afternoon to cheer on the football team as they left for North Bullitt High School to play in the first round of the state playoffs.*

- Nov. 28 – McNabb Boys' Basketball VS LCA

## ***Continuous Learning through Professional Literature***

### **Effective Use of Google Docs in Colorado Middle Schools**

In this *Teachers College Record* article, Soobin Yim and Mark Warschauer (University of California/Irvine) and Binbin Zheng (Michigan State University) note that only 40 percent of U.S. teachers report using computers frequently in their classrooms (mostly for presentations, administrative tasks, and class preparation), and only 9 percent say they use more innovative Web 2.0 technologies like blogs and wikis. Yim, Warschauer, and Zheng report on their study of middle-school ELA teachers in Littleton, Colorado who bucked this national trend and made extensive use of net-based Google Docs in their classrooms.

The year before the study, this district invested heavily in netbooks, then proceeded to give every student in grades 4-12 a Google account and encouraged the use of Google Docs to further improve students' writing skills. Middle-school students made extensive use of Google Docs, with the two top activities being writing and revising their own compositions and collaboratively writing and revising texts with classmates (they also made presentation slides, chatted online with peers, filled in teacher templates, took class notes, and worked on spreadsheets).

Teachers said the quantity and quality of students' use of computers increased markedly because of the easy access and user-friendliness of the Google platform. Teachers were especially impressed with the way Google Docs got students immersed in the process of drafting, revising, and peer editing. Classrooms developed a strong sense of community and audience as students used the commenting and chatting features to read, revise, and discuss each others' writing. One student commented, "With this program, people can help me with my writing. When I share with a friend, they give me constructive feedback... so if you have questions, you can ask and they can help you understand what is wrong with your paper."

Teachers liked the fact that students could choose the peers from whom they would get comments (versus working with anonymous critics) and were empowered to decide whether or not to accept comments on their writing. Another positive feature was that Google Docs recorded the time, date, and content of each entry into a document, making students accountable for their contributions to a group effort. This made it easier for teachers to hold students accountable for their work in collaborative groups. In addition, the ability to highlight and annotate in a cloud-based document made revision easier and more

effective for students and teachers. Students were excited to start writing and produced finished products more quickly than when they were using paper or word processing.

Yim, Warschauer, and Zheng also note several downsides to this approach to writing instruction. First, there was the danger of students becoming dependent on the software to correct their spelling mistakes and their peers to clean up sloppy drafts, which prevented some students from learning self-monitoring skills and taking responsibility for producing high-quality work on their own. Second, some students were uncomfortable having others see their writing as it took shape on the screen or having others reading unpolished drafts. Third, there were some technical glitches with editing and printing that interfered with the writing process in some cases.

These downsides were addressed to a greater or lesser degree in district PD around the Google applications. Some teachers took the training and ran with it, setting up informal support groups (one was dubbed Google Gals) and using Google Docs extensively in their classrooms. Others held back and used technology less frequently.

“Google Docs in the Classroom: A District-Wide Case Study” by Soobin Yim, Mark Warschauer, and Binbin Zheng in *Teachers College Record*, September 2016 (Vol. 118, #9, p. 1-32), <http://bit.ly/2erm8zy>; Yim can be reached at [soobiny@uci.edu](mailto:soobiny@uci.edu).

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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).***