

MoCo Monday Minute

Monday, November 16, 2015

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Boys' Bowling Team placed 6th out of 13 teams in the West Jessamine Colt Classic!



Veterans Day – Thank you to everyone involved with planning and producing the great Veterans programs that were held in the schools last week. The demonstration of respect and recognition for our country, veterans, and elders is invaluable to our students and important to our community.

Operation Christmas Child – Montgomery County Ambassador for Operation Christmas Child, Randy West, met with the MCHS Girls' Basketball team for a team service project. For the project they stuffed shoe boxes with Christmas gifts to be sent to impoverished countries around the world through the organization.



MSE Food Drive – Mt. Sterling Elementary third-grader, Sawyer Cord, wants to help those who are less fortunate during the holiday season, which is why he asked Mrs. Holley to have a canned food drive. Sawyer set a goal for the school to donate at least 600 canned goods. Since MSE has 618 students, he thought if every student donated one canned good, their goal could be reached. On Thursday, they exceeded their goal! Way to go MSE students!



Hoops Madness – “Meet the Indians” Blue/White Game provides an opportunity to see all of the basketball teams in action. The event will be held on November 19th in the Arena, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cost of admission is the donation of a basketball supply (towel, laundry detergent, dry erase markers, soap, etc.) or a new/used

toy for children ages 4-10 years of age. All toys will go to support the Montgomery County High School Beta Club Toy Drive.

Student Attendance – MCIS had the highest one-day attendance and weekly high attendance, with 95.51% and 94.27%, respectively. Way to go!

Dates:

- Nov. 16 – Board of Education Special Session, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Media Center
- Nov. 17 – 2016 MCHS Spring Musical Auditions, 3:30 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Nov. 17 – MCIS SBDM Council Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – Board of Education Special Session, 5:00 p.m., MCHS Media Center
- Nov. 17 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Nov. 18 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19 – MCHS SBDM Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19 – MCHS Blue/White Game, 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 21 – MCEA Holiday Bazaar, 9:30-4:30, Montgomery County Health and Civic Center
- **Nov. 25-27 – No School - Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec. 1-4 – MCHS Beta Club Toy Drive
- Dec. 1-4 – MCHS FBLA Cards/Letters to Soldiers Campaign
- Dec. 1-4 – MCHS FLBA Hat, Glove, and Scarf Tree
- Dec. 3 – MCHS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 7 – MCHS Picture Make-Up Day (9th, 10th, & 11th)
- Dec. 9 – MSE SDBM Council Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9 – Mapleton SBDM Council Meeting, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 10 – MCHS Choir Concert, 8:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 12 – ACT Test, 8 a.m., MCHS Zone II Lobby
- Dec. 13 – MCHS Football Awards Banquet, 1:00 p.m. Cafeteria
- Dec. 15 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Dec. 16 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17 – MCHS SBDM Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 21-Jan. 1 – Christmas Break**
- Dec. 27-29 – Gateway Holiday Classic, MCHS



MCHS Wind Ensemble performed four times in three days at Veterans Day ceremonies.



J.V. Academic team placed 2nd in the all-around Governor's Cup and 4th in quick recall.

Art work completed by Mrs. Riddell's class for the Veterans Day program held at McNabb.



Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

Teachers Being Clear About Task, Purpose, and Criteria for Success

In this article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Dan Berrett says that some college students [and K-12 students] run into trouble because academic expectations are not clear. It's as if there are unwritten rules that these students aren't privy to. "As an increasingly broad and diverse cross-section of students enters higher education, knowing those rules matters more than ever," says Berrett. "Without them, students stumble. They might miss the point of a paper, drift during discussions, or feel overwhelmed or aimless."

Transparency with assignments is one key to these students gaining confidence, thriving academically, and feeling they belong. Researchers have zeroed in on three components that the most-effective instructors orchestrate and communicate to students:

- The task – What exactly are students being asked to do?
- The purpose – Why should they do it? What important learning will flow from it?
- The criteria – How will students' work be evaluated?

"As minor and perhaps self-evident as the underlying questions may seem," says Berrett, "it's surprising how often they go unexamined... Spelling them out for students does not mean wholesale changes, like flipping courses. It requires no fancy technology." Clarity of task, purpose, and criteria help students meet higher expectations of rigor and ensure equity of educational quality. Attending to these factors also pushes instructors to think through their material at a deeper level and give assignments that benefit all students.

Why don't some instructors use these simple steps? Because they "often take for granted the logic and the rhythm of their courses," says Berrett. "Some have forgotten how much they know and care about the material relative to their students... An assignment can become an old standard, reliable but creaky." When an instructor is on autopilot, what the assignment is all about, and what it takes to be successful, may seem obvious – but to some students, it's anything but. Some instructors also believe that being this explicit about assignments is hand-holding; students should be able to figure out assignments by themselves. And some instructors think that showing students they care about them at a personal level is more important than being explicit about task, purpose, and criteria.

"Understanding the rules of the game is one of the most difficult parts for historically underrepresented students," says Tara Yosso of the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor. This "navigational capital" needs to be developed, and explicitness, along with good teaching and caring, is how it's done. When instructors explain material clearly, use good examples to explore difficult points, are well prepared, and have a solid command of their subject, students notice and appreciate it – and are more successful academically.

"The Unwritten Rules of College" by Dan Berrett in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 25, 2015 (Vol. LXII, #4, p. A26-A29).

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.