

MoCo Monday Minute

Monday, November 23, 2015

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Happy
Thanksgiving
Give Thanks



Thanksgiving Break – School will be closed November 25-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday break. When we return the following Monday, we will have just 15 days of school remaining before Christmas break.

MCHS Vocal Music Students Excel in State Competition – Congratulations to the following MCHS Honor Choir members and Director Ashley Tyree: Jackson Campbell, Jesse Cole, Katie Cottle, Natalie Dunaway, Kaitlyn Parker, Parker Poulos, Savannah Sain, Tristina Salmon, Ben Short, Emily Spradling, Victoria Toy, and Roman Wood. These MCHS Vocal Music Students successfully auditioned for the KMEA All – State! They will perform on February 6, 2016 at the Kentucky Center for the Arts’ Whitney Hall during KMEA’s state conference in Louisville. [Click here](#) to view the press release.



WKYT News Anchor Speaks to McNabb Students – Channel 27 news anchor Amber Philpott spoke to 7th and 8th grade students about career choices and planning for their future. She encouraged students to make a goal and write it down. She told them, "Although as cliché as it may sound, you can be anything you want to be."

Lecture by Senator Tim Scott – Twenty-one MCHS students attended a lecture by Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina at the University of Louisville, which was funded through the McConnell Center.





Here Comes Santa Claus – The Mt. Sterling Advocate will accept Letters to Santa from preschool – elementary-age students through noon on December 11th. Letters must be typed and can be emailed to news@advocate.com.

Student Attendance – MCIS came through with the highest one day attendance on Thursday with 94.20%. Mapleton claimed the weekly high attendance with 93%. Way to go!

District Accounting Manager Presented at KASBO – District staff attended the Kentucky Association of School Business Officials fall conference in Lexington this week. Ms. Brittany Combs, District Accounting Manager, was a presenter at the conference. Her session discussed how to integrate information from the District’s electronic substitute tracking system into the District’s electronic accounting system. This process saves districts time and money and ensures accurate accounting for employee leave accruals. We are proud of our district finance staff for being leaders in their field of expertise.

Dates:

- **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 Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 7 – MCHS Picture Make-Up Day (9th, 10th, & 11th)
- Dec. 7 – Treblemakers Concert, 6:30 p.m., MSE
- Dec. 8 – MCHS Symphonic Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., McNabb Auditorium
- Dec. 9 – MSE SBDM Council Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 9 – Mapleton SBDM Council Meeting, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 10 – 7th Grade Christmas Dinners, McNabb
- Dec. 10 – MCHS Choir Concert, 8:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Dec. 11 – 8th Grade Christmas Dinners, McNabb
- Dec. 11 – MCIS “Disney’s Beauty & the Beast, JR”, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12 – ACT Test, 8 a.m., MCHS Zone II Lobby
- Dec. 12 – MCIS “Disney’s Beauty & the Beast, JR”, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 13 – MCHS Football Awards Banquet, 1:00 p.m. Cafeteria
- Dec. 14 – McNabb SBDM Council Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 15 – Writing Winter Wonderland, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., MSE
- 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. 18 – Winter Parties, MSE
- Dec. 18 – MCIS SBDM Council Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 21-Jan. 1 – Christmas Break**
- Dec. 27-29 – Gateway Holiday Classic, MCHS



Camargo Reading Extravaganza



The MCHS band was part of the UK Band day. They participated with the UK Band and other Kentucky high school bands with over 1,000 students on the field.

Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

Key Insights from Grant Wiggins

(Originally titled “Three Lessons for Teachers from Grant Wiggins”)

In this *ASCD Inservice* article, Understanding by Design guru Jay McTighe reflects on three central lessons from his colleague Grant Wiggins, who died unexpectedly in May:

- **Always keep the end in mind.** Wiggins said to teachers that when they plan curriculum, assessments, and learning experiences “backwards,” their goals will be more clearly defined, their assessments more appropriate, their lessons more tightly aligned, and their teaching more purposeful. This goes well beyond coverage, says McTighe: “Rote learning of discrete facts and skills will simply not equip students to apply their learning to novel situations... The idea is to plan backwards from worthy goals – the transferable concepts, principles, processes, and questions that enable students to apply their learning in meaningful and authentic ways.” Framing Big Ideas and Essential Questions will lead students to understand the content at a deep level.

- **Feedback is key to successful learning and performance.** Wiggins believed that grades and exhortations (“Try harder!”) aren’t very helpful. **Truly effective feedback:**

- Is timely;
- Describes specific strengths and weaknesses;
- Uses student-friendly language;
- Gives students opportunities for self-adjustment.

The outcome: students know exactly what’s on target and what needs to be fixed.

Wiggins also believed that teachers should constantly seek feedback on their work – from students (exit tickets and questionnaires); from colleagues (reviewing unit plans and assessments); from formative assessments (“tasting the soup” as it’s made); and by analyzing student work (like coaches viewing game films) and adjusting classroom strategies.

- **Remember what it’s like to be a learner.** “[E]xperts frequently find it difficult to have *empathy* for the novice, even when they try,” said Wiggins. “That’s why teaching is hard, especially for the expert in the field who is a novice teacher. Expressed positively, we must strive unendingly to be empathetic to the learner’s conceptual struggles if we are to succeed.” Teaching isn’t telling; understandings must be constructed – earned – in the mind of the learner.

One of the most powerful ways to gain empathy for students is to shadow a class for a day and reflect on the experience. This article <http://bit.ly/1zia3EB> (summarized in Marshall Memo 557) is a classic example.

“Three Lessons for Teachers from Grant Wiggins” by Jay McTighe in *ASCD Inservice*, August 31, 2015, <http://inservice.ascd.org/three-lessons-for-teachers-from-grant-wiggins/>; McTighe can be reached at jmctigh@aol.com.

This summary article was taken from The Marshall Memo: A Weekly Round-up of Important Ideas and Research in K-12 Education

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.