



CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL 2012

CREATIVE MINDS SUCCEED



Constitution Day



Media Book Fair



6th Grade Health Breakfast



New Student Luncheon



CMS Band



New in this issue:

- Pg 3: Please Read
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- Pg 5: Clarifying Assessment Terminology
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Highlights from 2011



Student Drop Off

Student drop off will continue to be the same with parents dropping off/picking up in the front loop. The south-east doors off 9 Mile will remain locked. The south-west doors off 9 Mile and bus loop doors will be open.

Students are not permitted in the building until 7:20 am at which time supervision will take place. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please call the main office.

CLASS CHANGE SCHEDULE

Hours	Class Time
Warning Bell	7:30 am
1st Hour	7:35 am - 8:36 am
2nd Hour	8:41 am - 9:40 am
3rd Hour	9:45 am - 10:44 am
4th Hour(includes lunch)	10:49 am - 12:18 pm

Lunch Periods

Lunch "A"	10:44 am - 11:14 am
Lunch "B"	11:16 am - 11:46 am
Lunch "C"	11:48 am - 12:18 pm

5th Hour	12:23 pm - 1:22 pm
6th Hour	1:27 pm - 2:28 pm

1/2 DAY BELL SCHEDULE

1st Hour	7:35 am - 8:00 am
2nd Hour	8:05 am - 8:30 am
3rd Hour	8:35 am - 9:00 am
4th Hour	9:05 am - 9:30 am
5th Hour	9:35 am - 10:00 am
6th Hour	10:05 am - 10:29 am
Announcements	10:25 am - 10:29 am
Dismissal	10:29 am

CELLULAR PHONE USE POLICY

The Board of Education adopted a new cell phone use policy in March of 2004. Please be advised that if your child brings a cell phone to school, it must be kept in their locker and off. It is not allowed in class. If a student is caught with a phone in his/her possession it will be confiscated and they can pick it up at the end of the day in the office. Parents, we ask that if you need to speak with your child during the course of the day, please call the office and we will call them down to speak with you. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



PLANNING A MOVE?

When there is a change of address, please fill out the change of address form and return with two proofs of residency.

Cyber Safety Community Seminar

The Michigan Attorney General's office will have a cyber safety seminar on Wednesday, February 8th, 7:00 PM to be held in the Millennium Cafeteria. Parents, Staff, and the community are welcome to attend.



REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK

If a student is absent three or more days, a parent may call the office to arrange for work to be collected. We request that you not contact individual teachers directly as it is much more efficient and less disruptive for arrangements to be handled by the office staff. Please note that teachers require 24 hour notice to prepare homework. Work can then be picked up in the office at the end of the next school day. Additionally, if a student will be gone for a pre-arranged absence (such as a vacation), there is a form which must be completed in advance. When work is requested for a long period of time (such as an extended vacation), teachers will do their best to anticipate what will be covered based on their lesson plans; however, at times, these plans may be altered while the student is gone. Therefore, it is always important for the student to speak with the teacher when turning in assignments upon return to school.

Vacations will be considered as unexcused absences.



With well balanced meals being prepared by our kitchen staff we ask that outside food not be brought in for groups of students. If you would like to bring in food for your child only it may be brought to the office and will be taken to the cafeteria. Thank you for your support.

PLEASE READ

We continue to ask your assistance in not parking by the “drop off” loop prior to school. The loop was designed to provide momentary standing for parents to drop students off at the right curb and then continue to the exit. The concern has been that parents park and wait for the bell before releasing their student thus creating back-ups and safety concerns. Please adhere to the following:

- Please proceed to the furthest point available in the loop to drop off your student. Stopping on the curve will only create problems. Do not park or remain in the line of the traffic pattern.
- Please keep right. Drop off on the left side requires students to cross traffic.
- The loop is not designed to hold cars for long periods of time. If you would like to wait with your student until school is open, please move to the parking areas behind CMS: there is enough space.
- Do not use the parking lot area or the sidewalk by the cafeteria as a “drop off” loop. This also has created safety issues as staff are entering the building.

In the interest of student safety, your cooperation is appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CENTENNIAL

February 7th - Parent Night (with 6th Gr. Counselors)
7-8 PM at MMS Cafetorium

February 9th - Activity Night 2:30-4:30

February 29th - 5th Gr. Parent Night 7-8 PM, Gym

March 13th - Pre Festival Band Concert 7-8 PM, SLHS

Please be advised bus changes can only be done by parents through transportation and for emergencies only.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS - HOTLINE

For up to date school closings and transportation information, including cancellations and double bus runs, please call - 248-573-8251



BREAKFAST PROGRAM UPDATE

We are pleased that a large number of students take advantage of the Breakfast Program in the CMS cafeteria. However, if students do not carefully manage their time, it will result in an unexcused tardy to first hour. The serving line will open at 7:20 am and will close promptly at 7:30 am to prevent students from coming to the cafeteria at the last minute. If students would like to buy breakfast, they should go to the cafeteria as soon as they arrive in the building; they can socialize after eating. Students will be expected to eat, go to their lockers, and arrive on time to their first hour classes. We do not expect issues with late busses, so students should have ample time to accomplish these tasks. Passes will not be issued from the cafeteria. If there are extenuating circumstances, students should see an administrator. If a student is not able to manage his/her time, then perhaps purchasing breakfast at school is not a viable option for that student.

ENERGY DRINK ADVISORY

Parents, please do not send students to school with ultra high-energy drinks. Not only do your sons and daughters have enough adolescent energy already, but many of the products currently on the market have warning labels that indicate use by children is not recommended. Previously, we had a student experience a negative reaction after drinking several of these.

Clarifying Assessment Terminology

Every profession has its own technical language. Education is no exception. Like in other professions, this internal “edu-speak” may be confusing to those outside the field. As professionals, we strive for clear and concise communication with parents, students and the community. The purpose of this article is to attempt to clarify a few of the curriculum and assessment terms you may encounter as you engage in conversation with the professional staff.

Assessment is the on-going process of collecting a variety of student performance information that is aligned with intended outcomes/standards. This information is gathered in order to determine the needs and strengths of the learners and to make instructional decisions to address these needs and strengths.

Formative Assessment is assessment **for** learning—note the word “for” in formative. It is the collection of individual and group performance information while learning is in process, e.g. day to day, minute to minute, assignment to assignment, etc. Formative assessments are aligned with the standards/intended outcomes of the unit and with the summative assessment expectations. The assessment information is used as feedback to guide and adapt what teachers and students do to improve performance before summative assessment data is collected. This feedback may take a variety of forms, e.g. verbal feedback and coaching, comments on student work, peer editing, grading, etc.

Summative Assessment is assessment **of** learning. The primary purpose is to measure the extent of mastery of the standards/intended outcomes and may be viewed as a summary of the formative process. The focus is on the end product of learning for a unit or larger segment of the content and takes place after the teaching/learning cycle for the unit or segment of course content is completed. The primary purpose of the data gathered is to evaluate/grade the extent of learning demonstrated by the individual. Because the teaching/learning cycle has been completed, summative assessment data is usually weighted more heavily than formative data in the grading process.

Standards are the knowledge and skills expected in a course or at a grade level. Standards have been set by the State in the past. However, Michigan has adopted the new national *Common Core Curricular Standards*. This district is in the process of aligning our curriculum and instruction with these new standards. More information will follow in a later newsletter or you can find information at www.michign.gov and click on curriculum.

Standards Based Grading and Reporting is the process used to communicate student progress. The primary purpose of grades is to communicate student academic achievement relative to intended learning outcomes/standards for each course or subject area. Systems that are aligned with the intended learning/standards—curriculum, instruction, assessment and grading and reporting—provide students with a fair and equitable process and a greater chance of success. Factors other than academic achievement—punctuality, attitudes & engagement in learning, behavior, and effort also need to be evaluated and reported in appropriate ways but separate from academic grades. In SLCS, many of these factors are evaluated and reported using other sections of the report card such as the comment and/or Habits of Mind sections on the report card.

International Academy Deadline

Interested families of the class of 2016, please contact Dr. Phillips at phillipsd@slcs.us to submit a letter of interest by January 31, 2012.

**Centennial Middle School
PTO Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2011**

In attendance: Kari Peruski (8th), Susan LaVoie (8th), Maria Latham (6th & 8th), Dr. Phillips (principal) and Heidi Sanford (7th). (*Numbers in parentheses indicate the grades each person's children are in*)

- I. Meeting called to order at 1:05p.m.
- II. Secretary's Report (Heidi Sanford)
 - a. Meeting minutes from last PTO meeting in November had been approved via "electronic meeting" (email), but needed to be ratified at this meeting. Heidi motioned to approve the minutes; Susan seconded the motion. Vote conducted, motion passed.
- III. Fundraising Report (Pam Bagozy, not present)
 - a. Susan reported that we made \$931 profit from Red Wings Ticket Sales.
 - b. Kari reported that there was a delay in processing some of our QSP orders. QSP has resolved the problem and a letter from them will be posted on parent-to-parent to explain.
- IV. Treasurer's Report (Susan LaVoie)
 - a. Red Wings ticket sales went above and beyond our goal of making \$500.
 - b. We currently have \$26,429, including the \$5,000 CD; this includes \$3,000 reserved for final copier payment.
 - c. Currently there are no bills to pay, but lots of deposits coming in.
- V. CHEERS Report (Maria Latham)
 - a. Tuesday, December 13, there will be staff appreciation desserts & treats during the staff meeting. Whichever items are not donated will be purchased with PTO funds.
 - b. Upcoming: Jigsaw Day for 8th graders in January; request for volunteers will come soon.
- VI. SIP Report (Dr. Phillips)
 - a. SIP parent member Trish Van Ord resigned from the committee. Will need one more parent to take her place. This will be publicized via parent-to-parent email to solicit a volunteer.
 - b. Drug-sniffing dogs were in the school on November 2nd.
 - c. A few CMS staff members attended an anti-bullying conference at Oakland Schools. Dr. Phillips will meet with them to "debrief" and find out more about what they learned there. It sounds like it was a good conference which provided some useful ideas for our school.
 - d. The Homework Center is now open Mondays and Thursdays.
 - e. SIP is involved in CMS Quality Assurance
 - i. Dr. Phillips just finished a progress report.
 - ii. QAR team suggested last year that CMS garner some community perception regarding what the school does. SIP committee is working on surveys that will go out to parents, staff and students about this.
 - f. All teachers are involved in grading the Charger Writing Challenge, which the whole school participates in.
 - i. CMS is re-visiting the application process for NJHS, to make sure that everything is aligned between MMS and CMS.

- g. Promethium boards have been used a lot lately.
 - i. Dr. Phillips and Mr. Ross have gotten more familiar with the use of them.
 - ii. Two Kent Lake teachers came to the CMS staff meeting to show CMS staff how to do some new things on the boards, which was very helpful and interesting.
- h. Regarding podcast from Superintendent of Oakland Schools (mentioned in previous month's minutes), Dr. Phillips shared a letter about parents across Michigan establishing a grassroots political lobbying group in order to have a voice in their kids' education (with the state). More information about this may be found at stateparentnetworkforeducation.blogspot.com.

I. Principal's Report (Dr. Phillips)

- a. Activity Night went well again. The new way to sell tickets worked well, too.
- b. CMS Play was last Thursday and Friday.
 - i. Investigating a possible new display case for the Drama department to use, on the wall in the hallway across from the cafeteria, in order to display mementos from past CMS drama productions.
 - ii. May look into the possibility of purchasing some wireless microphones in the future, for the drama department to use.
- c. CMS Band concert was last Monday night.
- d. CMS Choir concert Thursday night at SLHS; might look into the possibility of videotaping this event for future.
- e. "Explore" test for 8th graders was December 6th.
- f. Upcoming events: after Holiday Break, we return to school on Tuesday, January 3rd (NOT Monday); Spelling Bee coming up on January 12th.
- g. Sayre Elementary principal Jennifer Murphy is investigating the possibility of holding a community-wide cyberbullying meeting for parents on an evening in February; more details to come. CMS will probably have an in-school assembly for students about this too.
 - i. Kari Peruski is also investigating a possible CMS presentation like this, maybe in combination with what Mrs. Murphy is doing.

II. Old Business

- a. Kari is investigating a lot of ideas regarding the anti-bullying presentations, and will also work with the teachers who attended the conference. The Sheriff's department has speakers who can come in, literature to provide, etc. Looking into the possibility of doing this as a series of short speakers, instead of just a one-time assembly.
- b. We are still in need of a volunteer to come in for Monday copying help.
- c. Teachers need to allow enough lead time on copying requests (at least a few days), in order for them to get their materials back in time.

III. New Business

- a. None.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 1:50p.m.

*****Next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30**

Centennial Middle School SIP MINUTES
December 14, 2011

Present:

Pam Bagosy, Parent, Maria Latham, Parent, Michael Keller, Parent, Lisa Welch, Teacher
Jennifer Barshaw, Teacher, Rachelle Kalbfleisch, Teacher, Nancy Horvat, Support Staff
Derrek Ross, Assistant Principal, Bill Pearson, Superintendent, Dave Phillips, Principal

I. Announcements

- The band and choir concerts were excellent this year. Very well attended. A discussion focused on attendance beyond the capacity of our venues. The choir concerts have moved to the high schools. Even so, we have had to make plans to adhere to fire codes. Several suggestions will be revisited next fall. These include: Simulcast arrangements as we did this year, selling limited numbers of tickets to families, and hiring high school students to watch over young siblings.
- The EXPLORE test was administered to all eighth grade students. Results should be in late January or early February.
- With Tricia VanOrd stepping down from the SIP, it was presented at the December PTO meeting we will need a parent to replace her. The vacancy will be announced on the Parent to Parent email loop. If any CMS parents have questions about the SIP position, they should contact principal Dave Phillips. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest to Kari Peruski, PTO President at CMS.
- The first CMS Red Wings Night will take place on February 17. Pam Bagosy reported it was a no hassle fund raiser with good results, over 170 tickets were sold. GO WINGS!!
- 31 A, At Risk funds will be used to staff a new full time Social Worker. Kristina Hughes has been offered the position and will begin her role on January 3rd. Office TBD.
- A Code Green drill was conducted on December 7. All students and staff moved to their secure locations. Excellent drill.
- The CMS Student Council will begin second semester. Christina Cibrario and Brenton Montie will be co-sponsors.
- An inquiry was made about a STAND chapter at CMS. It has been several years since there was a chapter at CMS. Schedule C does not list STAND as a supported activity.

II. Upcoming Events

Winter Break December 19 – January 2
Spelling Bee – January 12
Eighth Grade Jigsaw – January 13
Exam Week- January 24-26

III. School Improvement/NCA-Update

- The Quality Assurance Report (QAR) progress report was submitted to the NCA offices on December 1, 2011. The report provides AdvancEd with an update on our progress on the two action items, mission statement and engaging stakeholders. The report noted significant progress on the mission statement (completed). The report also noted progress on the second action item regarding stakeholders.

- Derrek Ross presented the recently completed surveys that will be utilized as a response to second action item noted in our QAR report. Sample staff, parent and student (separate secondary and elementary) surveys were provided to the SIP for review. Data received from the surveys will be utilized to obtain stakeholder perceptions of CMS and the district.
- Jennifer Barshaw provided a brief description of the Charger Reading Challenge. Like the Charger Writing Challenge, the entire staff facilitates scheduled activities in each of their classrooms. The data obtained provides direction for the staff to make building wide adjustments in developing reading strategies for students.
- Kent Lake second grade teachers, Jan Schoeff and Katy Trzaskos were invited to share their experiences with the Promethean Board technology at a recent CMS staff meeting.

I. Budget Discussion

- CMS has retained over \$9000 in carryover funding from last year's budget. The savings were attributed to fewer guest teacher costs and reduction in copy costs (both sides).
- PTO's budget includes a healthy balance for potential support for CMS. Discussions have been initiated for potential requests.

II. Code of Conduct/ Restorative Updates

- A team comprised of CMS/MMS staff recently attended a two day Bullying Conference at Oakland Schools. A full report on the conference and recommendations from those who attended will be provided at a future SIP Meeting.
- Sayre is sponsoring an evening bullying awareness (cyber bullying) presentation on February 8th. Kari Peruski, CMS PTO president will contact Sayre principal, Jennifer Murphy to discuss partnering with the CMS PTO to promote and host the event.
- There was follow-up discussion to the cheating language in the Code of Conduct. A suggestion was that examples could be provided with a statement, "...including but not limited to the following." The secondary buildings will be meeting early in January to address additional edits, and deletions to the code.

III. Old Business

- The NJHS advisors from MMS/CMS will be meeting during exam week.

IV. New Business

A copy of an email message was provided to the SIP from Katharine Barr, the Co-founder of a lobbying organization, Communities for Local Control. The goal of the organization is to form an active parent network across Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties with parent representatives from each district.

V. Parking Lot

Staff is concerned about parents using the staff/visitor parking lot as a drop off area. Parent to Parent email will be used to try to deter the traffic.



REMINDER:

KEEP SAVING BOXTOPS! PLEASE TURN THEM IN TO THE OFFICES.

Contingency Plans

Occasionally, school systems have to send students home early, due to weather conditions, power outages, boiler failure and so on. Although we try to avoid sending students home early, there have been times in the past and there will no doubt be times in the future, when this action is necessary. Please discuss this possibility with your children, and devise a plan for them to follow. Your plan might involve going straight home and calling a parent at work. It might involve going to the neighbor's home, if the neighbor agrees. It might involve a high school child staying at home with the younger children. Whatever plan is decided upon, make sure your children know it and follow it, for their safety and your peace of mind.

E-MAIL INFORMATION

If you would like to e-mail our Assistant Principal Derrek Ross, please be sure to add the #2 after his name,
rossd2@slcs.us

DRESS CODE FOR SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES

We would like to remind all Centennial Middle School students and parents that the student code of conduct (found in the middle school handbook) is applicable and will be enforced at all school related activities. This includes after school or evening events such as athletic contests, activity nights, awards assemblies, and the 8th grade dance. The administration, PTO, and SIP have agreed upon expectations for appropriate attire as outlined in the dress code (p.67 & p.68) in the handbook). When choosing clothes to wear for upcoming end of the year functions, we encourage girls to be aware of proper skirt length, midriff coverage, and straps that are at least 4 fingers wide at the shoulders. Boys should be aware of pants that are too "baggy" as they select their attire. As noted on page 68 of the handbook, if a student is violating the dress code, he or she, "will be required to change clothing. If proper attire is not available, students will be required to go home to change."

Forms are available in the offices for pre-arranged absences; i.e. long term illness, or other legitimate reasons. Please contact the office as soon as possible to make arrangements. Forms must be returned prior to the absence in order for make-up work to be accepted.

VACATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED AS UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.



Please remember to send a note with your child to the office before school if he/she will be picked up early. Students will then receive a pass with the appropriate time they need to leave to show to their teacher. This will keep classroom interruptions to a minimum.

Upon return, please bring doctor/dentist slip for attendance.



SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - 2011-2012

February 20-24	Mid-Winter Break
March 14	All Teacher Curriculum Day; no school for students
April 2-6	Spring Break
April 18	Elementary Records Day No School for Elementary Students
May 28	Memorial Day
June 12-14	Middle and High School Students; ½ Day for Assessments
June 14	Last Day of School; Students A.M. Only, Teachers All Day
June 15	Records Day; Teachers A.M. Only



CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
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SOUTH LYON, MI 48178
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Mission Statement

The Centennial Middle School partnership of staff, parents, and community will provide its students with an opportunity to achieve their individual potential through diverse and challenging educational experiences in a safe, cooperative environment that respects individual differences and fosters productive, independent and responsible citizens.

CMS PHONE NUMBERS

Please feel free to make copies for your home and car.

7TH/8TH GRADE OFFICE - 248-573-8600
7TH/8TH GRADE ATTEND - 248-573-8610
7TH/8TH GRADE FAX - 248-573-8611

6TH GRADE OFFICE - 248-573-8590
6TH GRADE ATTEND - 248-573-8595
6TH GRADE FAX - 248-573-8612

Section 504 Notice of Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the South Lyon Community School District are hereby notified that this District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, height, weight, marital status, genetic information, or any other legally protected characteristic, in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Any person having inquires concerning the South Lyon Community School District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 is directed to contact Melissa Baker, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, 345 South Warren, South Lyon, Michigan 48178, 248-573-8130, who has been designated by the South Lyon Community School District to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, the ADA, and Section 504.