

WARNER ROBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th GRADE NEWSLETTER



February 7, 2012

From Dr. Warren, Principal

Parents,

We would like to thank you for participating in our academic subject area learning workshops. It is our goal to keep you informed of teaching and learning as well as collaborate for increasing student achievement. Please feel free to contact us regarding your child's progress and how we can better serve you.

As we approach state assessments, many of our teachers are providing academic tutoring. If you are interested in this service, please contact your child's subject area teacher for which tutoring is needed. Our academic After School Program (ASP) has started. Letters were issued to offer a slot to select students. If you have not done so already, please return your form to confirm a slot for your child. If interested in the ASP for your child, please call 929 – 7832, ext. 33664.

We also will need proctors during the CRCT Week, April 16 - 20. Please call 929 – 7832 if interested.

Please check out our school website at <http://www.hcbe.net/schools/warner-robins-middle-school.aspx>

Thanks again for being part of our Warrior Family.

Upcoming Events:

Winter Break	February 20-24
Report Cards	March 21
CRCT	April 16 – 20
Progress Reports	April 25

Counselors

As your child moves into adolescence, sometimes it is difficult to find that balance between helping and doing too much for him/her which can inhibit growth and independence. Multiply that by the fact that children are not “cookie cutters” -they are all different. To know how much to help and how much is too much, you must really know your child. And be mindful that parenting is a job you “work your way out of” gradually with hopes to produce an emotionally healthy, confident, independent young adult. That is a tall order!

Many parents struggle when watching a child experience pain or frustration. We, as parents, naturally are inclined to minimize pain. But, think back to your times of growth in your life. Anytime something new is presented, we will all experience frustration until we master it. Frustration equals growth! Think about when we all learned our multiplication tables. It was hard and we struggled but, after much practice and frustration, weren't we so proud when we were successful? We could not have had that success if we didn't struggle!! When you see your child working on a new concept or working on homework that he/she is not thrilled about doing, offer your encouragement and support. There are a number of techniques you can use to do this. Some include: 1) be positive about learning and have a can-do attitude. 2) Make sure your child has a place and time to study daily. 3) Be the kind of parent that checks that homework is completed and the child is being thorough. Many middle school students have not yet developed self-monitoring and will slack up if they do not believe you will notice. 4) Be available to call out practice questions to prepare for tests. Be available for assistance when needed, but do not sit continuously with your child while doing homework. Remember, we are working on developing independence gradually. 5) Ask questions about school everyday. Try to ask questions that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer. Ask about grades, tests, and papers, but also ask about friends, problems, teachers, funny events and extra-curricular activities so that you can get a picture of your adolescent's overall life at school.

Rearing a child is probably the most important job you will ever do. Sometimes it will be difficult and challenging; other times it so much fun and rewarding. As you work through the trying times, remember to keep your sense of humor (teenagers can be a lot of fun) and keep your eyes on the goal.

Language Arts

Dear Parents,

Greetings and best wishes for a productive new year! This nine weeks, we will focus on oral presentations in the form of public service announcements and research. The students will use "Flowers for Algernon" and the drama The Diary of Anne Frank as anchor texts.

Students and parents should be aware that there will be two performance tasks this nine weeks. Students will be given ample time to work on tasks; however, they are expected to pace themselves and work diligently to ensure their success.

Honors Language Arts

"Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo?" Yes, Honors students are beginning to read Romeo and Juliet. It sounds very strange to our ears, but we will persevere and learn to appreciate Shakespeare, or at least gain a little understanding. Students will continue to work on writing and vocabulary skills. We will also learn about verbals and how to use them correctly.

Math

Eighth grade math students are busy, busy, busy! Currently, they are learning to find the slope of a line, and they are interpreting the slope as a rate of change. Students will soon begin to graph equations in slope-intercept form, and they will determine the equation of a line when given a graph. Parents, please have your children practice skills at home in preparation for the CRCT. Two excellent websites are: www.coachconnected.com and www.crctlessons.com. We appreciate your continued support!

Honors Math

In 8th grade Honors Math, students will be graphing and analyzing graphs of linear equations and inequalities. Your child should bring graph paper to class. Students should recognize that tables, graphs and equations can be used to describe patterns. We will identify slope as the rate of change. Students will then use slope and the y-intercept to represent real situations. After studying equations, students will apply their knowledge to situations that require an inequality.

Science

Hello Parents,

We are off to a great start this 3rd nine weeks. We have been busy learning about Electromagnetic Waves, Visible Light, and Electricity. We are steadily getting ready for the CRCT. On February 28 we will have a benchmark test and March 1 we will be having a mock CRCT for physical science. Don't forget about EDMODO, you can use this to get notes, homework assignments, practice quizzes, and classroom news. The success of your child is very important to us!!

Honors Science

Science Fair is finally here! Students have been working non-stop on their backboards to prepare for their interview with the judges. They look fantastic! They will interview February 1st and the awards ceremony will be Friday, February 3rd. I know all your hard work will pay off! Next we will continue our study of light and optics. There will be a benchmark test on February 28th.

Social Studies

8th Grade Georgia History

The students have completed Unit 10: The New South and WW1. Students created protest signs that included text and visuals from the following events: Plessy v. Ferguson, Jim Crow Laws, the Leo Frank Case, or the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot. Posters will be displayed on the 8th grade hall. Please take a moment to stop by and see the wonderful work of our students. Students will begin Unit 11: The 20th Century, at the beginning of next week.

Parental Coordinator

Language Arts and Social Studies Parent Night

Sixth grade had the greatest parent participation followed by eighth and seventh grade. Students of parents who attended will participate in a pizza celebration.

We have several parent events scheduled for the remainder of the year. Periodic flyers and call-out messages will follow to notify you of forthcoming parent nights and meetings. We hope you will take advantage of these educational opportunities.

We are soliciting proctors for CRCT testing the week of April 16-20. Your primary responsibility as proctor will be to assist teachers in monitoring. There will also be a CRCT proctor training the week of April 16-20 prior to monitoring. Please contact Mrs. Larkin at 929-7832 ext 33210 or the office staff if interested. We appreciate your continued support.

How can I become a volunteer?

- Complete a consent form and have it notarized
- Obtain a background clearance
- Attend volunteer training

Once complete, you are cleared for five years.

Volunteer Training is held the first Tuesday of each month. Please contact Mrs. Larkin for an appointment.

Don't forget to visit the Parent Resource Center

Reading Initiative News:

Media Center News: