

JANUARY 2022 CHADWICK-MILLEDGEVILLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Notes From The Superintendent

Happy New Year! School will resume Monday, January 3, 2022 and we are looking forward to a great spring semester. I encourage parents to take an active role in your child's education! At Chadwick-Milledgeville we encourage parents to contact their child's teacher when they have a concern or a question. Our professional staff is here to serve the students' best interest and we encourage parents to actively collaborate with teachers to facilitate a successful academic term. **Parents, please note the following are the proper actions to take when you have a concern relating to school:**

- Step 1: Take time to get a full understanding of the issue or concern. Taking time to gather facts and consider both sides of the issue is important. Sometimes the story presented by your child is not a full accounting of the facts. Taking time also helps lower your emotional level and facilitate productive communications and problem solving.
- Step 2: Contact the relevant teacher in person, via phone, or e-mail. Approach the staff member with the intention of working together to solve the problem.
- Step 3: If you are unable to resolve the concern working with the teacher contact the principal.

*Teachers and administrators want your child to be happy and successful at school. We became educators because we care about students and want to help them to become positive contributors to society.

As Superintendent, it is my firm belief that we are here to serve the students, parents, and community. When problems arise, we want parents to contact us immediately, so we can work together to solve the problem.

The Board of Education will meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 from 5:00-8:00 P.M. in the high school library to discuss past, present, and future goals of the Board of Education. A "retreat" meeting allows the Board a time to discuss where the District has been and where it should be going. A discussion of future direction and goals is helpful as a framework for all future Board business.

As of this writing we have incurred no snow/emergency days. However, we have utilized two E-Learning Days prior to Christmas Break. If weather necessitates closing school parents will be notified via the School Messenger automated phone calling system. In addition, the district will announce closings on area television and radio stations i.e., KWQC, WQAD, WCCI etc. Regardless of the official action to close or not to close, students and parents are urged to always use their own discretion in deciding whether or not to travel to school. We also need to remind parents that the school buildings are not open before 8:00 A.M. Especially in the cold weather, please be sure that your students do not arrive at school before 8:00 A.M.

Sincerely,
Tim J. Schurman,
Superintendent

Twenty Ways to Encourage Your Child to Read

By: Tim J. Schurman (source RIF America)

The following are some ways to turn a young reader's reluctance into enthusiasm:

- 1.** Scout for things your children might like to read. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.
- 2.** Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and colorful catalogs in conspicuous places around your home.
- 3.** Notice what attracts your children's attention, even if they only look at the pictures. Then build on that interest; read a short selection aloud, or simply bring home more information on the same subject.
- 4.** Let your children see you reading for pleasure in your spare time.
- 5.** Take your children to the library regularly. Explore the children's section together. Ask a librarian to suggest books and magazines your children might enjoy.
- 6.** Present reading as an activity with a purpose; a way to gather useful information for, say, making paper airplanes, identifying a doll or stamp in your child's collection, or planning a family trip.
- 7.** Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
- 8.** Play games that are reading-related. Check your closet for spelling games played with letter tiles or dice, or board games that require players to read spaces, cards, and directions.
- 9.** Perhaps over dinner, while you're running errands, or in another informal setting, share your reactions to things you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.
- 10.** Set aside a regular time for reading in your family, independent of schoolwork, the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of free reading a day can help improve your child's skills and habits.
- 11.** Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.

12. Encourage your child to read aloud to you an exciting passage in a book, an interesting tidbit in the newspaper, or a joke in a joke book. When children read aloud, don't feel they have to get every word right. Even good readers skip or mispronounce words now and then.
13. On gift-giving occasions, give books and magazines based on your child's current interests.
14. Set aside a special place for children to keep their own books.
15. Introduce the bookmark. Remind your youngster that you don't have to finish a book in one sitting; you can stop after a few pages, or a chapter, and pick up where you left off at another time. Don't try to persuade your child to finish a book he or she doesn't like. Recommend putting the book aside and trying another.
16. Treat your children to an evening of laughter and entertainment featuring books! Many children (parents, too) regard reading as a serious activity. A joke book, a story told in riddles, or a funny passage read aloud can reveal another side of reading.
17. Extend your child's positive reading experiences. For example, if your youngster enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a natural history museum.
18. Offer other special incentives to encourage your child's reading. Allow your youngster to stay up an extra 15 minutes to finish a chapter; promise to take your child to see a movie after he or she has finished the book on which it was based; relieve your child of a regular chore to free up time for reading.
19. Limit your children's TV viewing in an effort to make time for other activities, such as reading. But never use TV as a reward for reading, or a punishment for not reading.
20. Not all reading takes place between the covers of a book. What about menus, road signs, food labels, and sheet music? Take advantage of countless spur-of-the-moment opportunities for reading during the course of your family's busy day.

Counselor's Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday.

Registration will begin shortly after we get back from break. We will be having the students choose their courses through teacherease as in the past couple years. Please call me if you have any questions.

Seniors need to be checking their email for scholarship deadlines. I am emailing new scholarships daily as they come in. Another great resource for college information is www.isac.org . This website offers information for parents and students for filling out FAFSA and other scholarship opportunities.

ALL juniors will be taking the SAT on March 23. We will begin SAT prep 2nd semester for the students that are signed up. They will all have an account through Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org/sat) which will allow them to sign in at any time to do practice

questions and tests. There is a full-length SAT available through Khan Academy for them to take and the entire junior class will be taking a practice SAT on Thursday, February 17.

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When Weather Closes Chadwick and Milledgeville Schools

When snowstorms, bad roads, or other emergencies make it necessary to close school for a day or more, students and parents will be notified via School Reach telephone calls, radio/TV and by a message on the district website at www.dist399.net as soon as a decision has been reached to close school. Hopefully, this decision will be made no later than 6:30 a.m. The following radio/TV stations will be given this information:

WSDR - Sterling, 1240 AM
KROS - Clinton, 1340 AM
WSSQ - Sterling, 94.3 FM
KCLN - Clinton, 1390 AM
WFPS - Freeport, 92 FM
KLNT - Clinton, 1390 AM
WFRL - Freeport, 1570 AM or 98.5 FM
WLLT - Dixon, 107.7 FM
WCCI - Savanna, 100.3 FM
KWQC TV - Davenport - Channel 6

In case school is dismissed early or it is necessary to delay the running of buses due to inclement weather, you will receive a School Reach phone call and the information will also be posted on the district website and broadcast over the same stations. Regardless of the official action to close or not to close, students and parents are urged always to use discretion in deciding whether or not to travel to school.

Don't Forget Your Mask!

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we would like to remind parents to please send your student to school each day with a clean face mask and a few extras in their backpack. We appreciate your continued support in keeping our students safe and healthy.

Dental Exams Due

All students in grades Kindergarten, 2nd, 6th, and 9th need to have dental exams completed and forms turned into the office by May.

Notice of 504 Services

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an individualized education program, as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and implementing provisions of the School Code, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the child (i) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

School Reach Automated Telephone Contact System

When the administration decides to close school, dismiss early, or wants to provide an important reminder to parents we will execute a School Reach call. When a School Reach call is made a recorded message will be sent to the contact numbers you provide the school district during registration. Please make sure that the contact numbers we have for your family are accurate and up to date. Warning: In the case of school closing you will receive phone call notification very early in the morning i.e. 5:00 A.M. If this is not acceptable notify in writing the office secretary in the building your child attends that you would like to be removed from the School Reach telephone notification program.

Adams, Jackson, or Wilson

In December all fourth graders researched one of the most successful and written about American Presidents of the past.

After selecting a President to research and a partner to work with, each student began by reading. Their notes needed to include years in office, three important facts about his life before his presidency, and three major achievements during his presidency written about in detail. A famous quote must be recorded along with giving the President a nickname of their own. Each student wrote a sloppy copy of their essay followed by a final copy.

Together, with their partner, each group then created a presentation board that includes the information they researched, a photo, the nickname given, the number of President he was, and his most famous quote. Each group's goal was to present to all their classmates sounding as knowledgeable as possible! Mini Madison or Romping Roosevelt?!

Mrs. Yochem, Fourth Grade

Jr. High Girls Basketball Players

Junior High Girls' Basketball practice will begin Monday, January 3rd before school in Chadwick from 6:15 to 7:30 a.m.

District Spelling Bee

The District Spelling Bee will be held Thursday, January 20th at the Milledgeville Gymnasium. This year we will be holding the Spelling Bee during school hours. It is scheduled to begin at 8:15 a.m.

Participants will be the top three spellers chosen from each section of the 5th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grades. There will be a total of 24 possible participants.

The top two winners from the district will go on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee. The Champion of the Regional Spelling Bee will represent our area in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.

Thank You from National Honor Society

The MHS National Honor Society would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who donated items to the Holiday Food Drive for the Helping Hands Food Pantry in December. 744 items were collected in all! About half of the classrooms met the goal of 25 items. Mrs. Brown's 6th graders collected the most with just over 100 items. Way to go, 6th graders! Thank you all for your generosity!

Music Department News

Congratulations to Izaac Toms-Smith, Tenor II, on being selected to participate in the 2022 ILMEA All-State Honor Chorus in Peoria at the IMEC conference January 26-29.

Congratulations to Henry Frampton on being selected to participate in the 2022 ILMEA Elementary All-State Boys Chorus in Peoria at the IMEC conference on January 29.

Nurse's Notes - revise

While your child is home for the holiday season, please double check for head lice, which tend to become more prevalent in the hat wearing/sharing season. Our incidence has been low this year and we would like to continue this way. We can do this with everyone's help.

Cold and flu season is underway. As a reminder, be sure any over-the-counter medications you wish your child to receive at school arrive in their original containers and are labeled with the child's name. Written orders are to be provided to the school by a physician, detailing the name of the drug, dosage and the exact time when the medication is to be given.

Successful Holiday Concerts

The music department presented their holiday concerts this December. Mr. Mattison and Mrs. Neumann would like to thank everyone who attended for supporting the district's music program, and everyone who was involved in putting the concerts together as well. We hope that we were able to bring you some holiday cheer.

Helping Hand Food Pantry

The Helping Hand Food Pantry is open to anyone who lives in the Milledgeville or Chadwick areas. It is located at 400 Main Avenue, north of Village Hall. It is open the first Tuesday of every month from 9-11 a.m. and from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. The pantry is sponsored by the Chadwick/Milledgeville Ministerial Assoc.