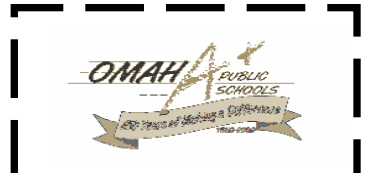




Morton Magnet School Newsletter
4606 Terrace Drive
Omaha, NE 68134

Telephone # 1-402-557-4700

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Superintendent, Dr. John Mackiel

Principal, Mr. Matt Brandl

Student Led Conferences
October 29th -12:30-7:30
Students will be
Dismissed at
11:00 am.

coming soon!

October

- 16 Science Olympiad
- 23 Fund Raiser Pick Up Cafeteria 1:20-2:40 pm
- 29 Student Led Conferences Various Rooms 12:30-7:30 pm
- Students dismissed at 11:00 am**
- 30 No School for students and Teaching Staff

November

- 6 8th Grade students to Brundbar Rose Theater 8:45 -12:00 pm
- 20 7th grade students to Benson High 9:00 - 12:00 pm
- The Christmas Carol
- 24 Grandparents Breakfast Cafeteria 8:00 -9:00 am
- 25 Teachers In Service – no school for students
- 26-29 Thanksgiving Break
- 30 School reopens



December

- 4 5th Grade - Predator and Prey Fontenelle Forest 9:00 am
- 1-18 Mitten Tree
- 8 Vocal Music Concert Auditorium 7:00 pm
- 10 Instrumental Music Concert Auditorium 7:00 pm
- 18 First Semester Ends
- 21 Winter Break Begins



January

- 4 No school for Students Semester Break Day
- 5 School Reopens
- 12 Magnet Open House Auditorium 6:00 pm
- 15 Martin Luther King Assembly Auditorium 1:30 pm
- 18 Martin Luther King Day – no school for students and staff

Gifted and Talented

Mr. Carmichael

Welcome back to another year of Gifted and Talented services! We've gotten off to a good start this year. The 8th Grade Scholars have resumed meeting and already had a field trip to the TAC Career Center for Etiquette 101. The 7th Grade Scholars have formed and begun their monthly meetings. Again this year, both Scholars groups will be taking the ACT in February with some preparatory sessions happening here at Morton beforehand. The Duke TIP students have been given information about registering for either the ACT or SAT. Make sure you inform Mr. Carmichael if you are participating in the TIP program so you may take part in the prep sessions! For the December tests, the Online Registration deadline is October 19, 2009. Registration for the January/February tests are due postmarked no later than November 2, 2009 or December 1, 2009 for Online Registration. Visit www.tip.duke.edu for more information. BensonMates had a great time at their first trip to Benson on October 9 and are looking forward to the next trip! Other groups that have formed, or soon will form, are Book Blasters, Read to Succeed, SMP, Celebrate Creativity, QuizBowl, Think Tank, and African-American History Challenge. This looks to be a full year of opportunities and as always, if you have any questions, contact Mr. Carmichael at 557-4700, ext. 4724 or robert.carmichael@ops.org.

Language Arts

Team 7A Ms. Treadway

Students in Ms. Treadway's language arts classes began the year by writing and decorating autobiographical poems, which are on display in the classroom and in the hallway. For the first few weeks, students studied the history of the English language. The activities included learning about the origins of English, differences in dialect, and learning about the meanings and origins of their names. Students are currently reading *The Acorn People*, a novel about children with disabilities. The planned

curriculum for the remainder of the semester is as follows: reading myths and legends in conjunction with writing activities; reading and attending a performance of *A Christmas Carol* on November 20 at Benson High School; and a review of capitalization, punctuation, and grammar.

Honors classes created an autobiographical website (which, for safety reasons, will not be published on the Internet). Honors classes will next study Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and perform scenes from the play. Actors from Nebraska Shakespeare will be conducting workshops with the students on October 6 and 7. In addition to reviewing grammar, capitalization, and punctuation, honors students will also read and attend a performance of *A Christmas Carol* during first semester.



Literature

Team 7A Mrs. Morgan

Over the course of first quarter, Team 7A literature students have been actively participating in various reading activities. At the beginning of the quarter, students took the STAR test which told them what grade level they are reading at. They have also been learning new reading strategies, working with marking the text, and reading novels to earn Accelerated Reader points. Next quarter we will continue to learn new words of the day and will begin learning the AVID strategy, charting the text.



Mathematics

Mr. Butler

Math 7 is preparing for the CRT #1: Decimal and Whole Number: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have been using the Canned-Food-drive as our story problem venue in Mr. Butler's classroom. Pre-Algebra is also working toward the completion of "being ready for earning top grades on the first Criterion Reference Test".



Working toward a pizza lunch with the instructor, Mr. Brant's students are beginning to draft for the NFL Season of Fantasy Football; all will participate. Mrs. Wiley's Algebra class is working on rational numbers as well as mastery or better on the first CRT.

Mathematics

Team 7B Mrs. DeSordi

Mrs. DeSordi's math classes are off to a fantastic start. Students are reminded to bring their math assignment, math book, and binder to each class. Also, remember and updated assignment calendar can be found on the Morton Homepage under Staff and Mathematics.

Both Pre-Algebra and Algebra classes have been working diligently with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions, decimals, and of course integers (positive and negative whole numbers). Students have also been given a task of opening a small business in the classroom which of course involves money and decimals. Many of us have found out it is truly difficult to be an entrepreneur. Remember--seven days without math makes one WEAK!

Science

Mrs. Mazur & Mrs. Buckner

We have started our chemistry experiments for the year. First, we did a consumer test of paper



towels. We compared Brawny, Bounty, Viva & Scott. We were testing for strength so that the students can practice measuring mass. We are glad to report that the new Bounty won! A one inch strip can carry an average mass of 282.5g!

Secondly, we are currently measuring volumes of liquids, rectangular solids and irregular objects. Feel free to ask your students to teach you anything they are learning in science. They get extra credit points for teaching any of the topics we have recently covered.

Science

Mr. Condon

In Mr. Condon's Science class we've been discussing science safety, practicing making metric measurements, and we are briefly studying matter before we start with our chemistry unit.

The Morton Magnet School Science Olympiad will be held on October 16th. **Projects need to be turned in on Wednesday, October 14th.** This will count as a portion of each student's grade toward class.

Social Studies

Mr. Bockelmann

In Social Studies Mr. Bockelmann's students are off to a great start. After a unit on American Government we next turned our focus to Lewis and Clark. We examined the expedition and created some awesome projects on the topic. The students worked hard on these and I was pretty impressed. Next we will look at the War of 1812 and begin a unit on Native Americans.

Social Studies

Mr. Stepanek

Seventh grade social studies students are presently working on the Middle East. They should be familiar with the three major religions that started in the Middle East. Many students have read The Breadwinner and now understand why the Taliban is a dangerous group. Petroleum as a lucrative natural resource is the difference between wealthy and poor countries in Southwest Asia. Keep reading those historical books.

Special Education

Mrs. Novak

We would like to welcome the new special education teacher, Mr. Niederklein, for Team 7A. He co-teaches two language arts classes for 7A and one Language Arts class for 7B. Co-teaching three classes of Math 7 with Mrs. Wiley and Mr. Butler complete his schedule.

Ms. Baack returns for her 2nd year at Morton. She is the teacher for Morton's Behavior Skills Program and is the special education teacher with 7B. Teaching a SOAR reading class and an SRA Reading class for 7th graders, a co-taught Pre-Algebra class with Mr. Brant, a class of Advanced Learning Skills in Math and facilitated support for the 7B students keep her busy.

Mrs. Hangman returns for her 4th year. Mrs. Hangman joins team 8B co-teaching two classes of Language Arts with Ms. Oakman. She also teaches two classes of Advanced Learning Skills for Language Arts, one for 7th grade and one for 8th grade. Mr. Lingo and Mrs. Hangman co-teach one Social Studies 8 class and 8B students also receive facilitated support from Mrs. Hangman.

Mrs. Novak continues her 8th year at Morton. This year Mrs. Novak works with Team 8A. She co-teaches Language Arts with Mr. Powers, two Pre-Algebra classes with Mr. Brant, and a Social Studies 7 class with Mr. Lingo. The balance of her time is spent providing facilitated support for students on 8A and heading up the Special Education Department.

Ms. Boone, our 5th/6th grade resource teacher for the second year is also assisting 7th grade this year to meet the needs of all our students. She coteaches math 5th/6th with Ms. Bergsten and language arts 5th/6th with Mr. Sholin. Ms. Neve's 6th grade reading students also receive Ms. Boone's help in reading. She provides facilitated support for 7A.

Mr. Cosgrove returns as the teacher for the Alternative Curriculum Program (ACP).

We are very lucky to have his years of experience. Many new things are planned for his student's this year.

Mrs. Andersen is our speech/language pathologist for a 7th year and we are glad she is back with us. Students at Master's Elementary also receive services from Mrs. Andersen.

Three great paraprofessionals for special education students return this year. Mrs. Constanzo and Ms. Carson return for their 3rd year as our paraprofessional for special education students. They are in many general education classrooms assisting our students. Mrs. Bendon is the paraprofessional for our ACP program with Mr. Cosgrove. This is her 26th year! We are privileged to also have Mr. Loftus completing our team of paraprofessionals for the first quarter.

Our department is a very busy one this year with lots of students requiring out special help. If you have any questions about our services please feel free to contact Mrs. Novak 557-4700 ext 5676.

5th and 6th grade

The school year is off and running. There are many new additions to our fifth and sixth grade program this year such as a revamped Panther Praise, Panther News which comes home monthly, black binders for organization, a new and exciting reading program, and more learning opportunities off campus. On October 15 the fifth graders will taking part in an off-campus learning opportunity, we will be visiting Fontenelle Forest to participate in the H2 Omaha program. Also coming up is the all school SCIENCE OLYMPIAD; ALL fifth and sixth graders are required to participate in the Science Olympiad.

As part of our new reading program we need book bags for reading class. In class, every student has an individual book bag of "Good Fit Books". Mrs. Green, Morton's instructional facilitator, is generously sewing and donating bags and eventually every student will have one. We owe her a huge thank you! For right now, many students are using plastic bags. If you have

a bag at home that could be used at school, please send it to help reduce the use of plastic bags.

As always, we appreciate your involvement in your student's academic success.

Dear Parents and Students;

7th grade students and students entering Omaha Public Schools from outside the area are required by law to have a physical, including current immunizations and a vision exam.

Students not in compliance will be notified by mail and will need to make arrangements to complete the required paperwork in order to remain in school.

The various virus' and with cold weather and winter upon us, I want to remind you to take extra care to avoid illness and decrease the spread of colds and flu. At school and home please---wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and rinse well with water especially after using the restroom and prior to eating. Cover your mouth with a tissue or use



your shirt sleeve if a tissue is not available when sneezing or coughing. If you have an oral

temperature of 100 degrees or greater, and/or experience vomiting, avoid crowds, and other crowded areas such as the grocery store, and malls. Please remain at home until you or your child is fever free for 24 hours without taking medicine to decrease the fever. Other tools available to prevent the flu this season are the annual flu shot clinics and the H1N1 immunization. Area clinics are available throughout the community. These precautions should help decrease the spread of germs this winter and hopefully keep us healthily.

Mrs. Bettin, RN