



Middle School Newsletter

Engagement, Assessment,
and Reflection—



creates the pathway to our
learning success!

From: Dr. Flaherty
Week of: May 6, 2019
dflaherty@masconomet.org

May 2019

Monday, May 6	F Day	After School Help 2:20 – 2:50 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7	A Day <i>Math MCAS, 7th Grade Blocks 1-4</i>	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Touch Football 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Old School Video 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Basketball 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Sandpipers and Tribesman 3:00- 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	B Day <i>Math MCAS, 7th Grade/ Blocks 1-4</i> Schuyler Bailer Assembly, 12:50 – 2:14 p.m. Jazz Concert, 7:00 p.m./cafeteria	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Basketball 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Chess 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	C day <i>Math MCAS, 8th Grade Blocks 1-4</i>	After school help 2:20- 2:50 p.m. Wiffle Ball 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Magic the Gathering 3:00- 4:00p.m. Soccer 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ping Pong 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. <i>7th Grade Science Fair 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</i>
Friday, May 10	D day <i>Math MCAS, 8th Grade Blocks 1-4</i>	Frisbee 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Grade 8 Student Council Dance, 7:00 p.m./Small Cafeteria

Messages from Principal Flaherty: Join Us on Twitter @Masco_Principal

8th Grade Student Council Dance

The Middle School Student Council will hold its annual 8th grade dance to raise funds for the freshman class this Friday, May 10th at 7 pm in the small cafeteria. Tickets will be \$5, and will be sold during. Help raise money for future high school endeavors, and have a good time at the dance!

MS Art Show

Below is a sampling of the some of the student work displayed around the middle school. This year, the art was judged by faculty members of the High School Art Department and prize ribbons were awarded for Outstanding Works in every project grouping. However, every student has a piece of work on display. It will be on display thru May 15.





For Planning Purposes: Promotion Ceremony Attire

The Grade 8 Promotion Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 14th at 8:30 a.m. in the Field House. As you begin to shop with your child, if he/she wants a new outfit for the promotion ceremony, we thought a few guidelines would be helpful. We ask that students do not wear jeans, casual beach type shorts, or t-shirts. Some students frequently wear khaki pants or dress shorts with a shirt and tie, however, while others will also wear a golf shirt. Also appropriate would be a nice skirt and shirt, dress pants/khakis, dress shorts and a shirt, or a sundress. We will relax the requirements on straps so one may wear thin straps or strapless sundresses, but we will enforce, and ask you to help us enforce, that any skirt or dress is the appropriate length and fit. Thank you in advance for assisting us to make this important event a great day for everyone.

Last Three Days of School

The three final days of school for students, Thursday, June 13th; Friday, June 14th and Monday, June 17th are early dismissal days at 11:30 a.m. 8th grade students will be permitted to leave with their family after the ceremony, but may also stay at school until dismissal at 11:30 a.m. if desired.

7th Grade Science Fair Night:

Please join us in the field house this Thursday, May 9th between 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to see all the fabulous science fair projects that our 7th grade students completed this year.

8th Grade Family Science Night:

Family Science Night is an exciting new opportunity for students to teach their parents/guardians some of what they have learned this school year. Please register for a session with your child's science teacher for the evening of June 6th. A guest speaker will present her research on Genes in Space at both 4:30pm and 6pm. Sign up for a session near these times to attend this presentation.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4DA5AF22A7FC1-family>

2019 Annual Boxford Food Pantry Drive

Did you know that one in 10 people in Massachusetts is in danger of going hungry? The risk of hunger exists in [every county in the Commonwealth, including ours](#). Please help our local community by participating in the 2019 Annual Food Pantry Drive at Boxford Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 14th. Please bring your donations to the food collection table at the entrance to the Middle School between 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cash donations will also be accepted. Our local food pantries report the need for: boxed cereals, peanut butter, juice boxes, kids' snacks, canned tuna and chicken, canned soups & stews, beans (black, kidney, baked, garbanzo.), pasta sauce and tomato products, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressings, rice and rice mixes, bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, dish soap, toilet paper. Pantries are not able to accept perishable items, opened packages, and items with expired "use by" dates. Your donation is greatly appreciated by those in need in our community.

Message from the Tri-Town SEPAC

Please join the Tri-Town SEPAC meeting on Wednesday, May 8th, 7pm, in the Middle School library. We will be discussing questions parents may have or questions they may want to consider as they plan their child's transition to middle school. While this is targeted for elementary grade parents, it is also for parents who may have a child struggling in middle school or high school.

Additional topics on the May meeting agenda:

- Learn about the recently established SEPAC Bill of Rights. Voting will occur at this meeting.
- Get involved: looking for Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large.

Tri-Town SEPAC believes that there is simply nothing more important than the health, happiness, and appropriate education of our children. Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean. This is an open meeting and we invite all parents or guardians of children with special needs or on a special education plan to attend and learn more. If you have questions, please contact Tri-Town SEPAC president Kristen DeMarco at kandsdemarco@gmail.com. More information can also be found on their website at tritownsepac.org.

Masco Excels

It is important that students are picked up at 4:00 p.m. A staff member will wait until students participating in Excels are picked up or a note is sent in allowing the student to walk or ride their bikes home. As such, any student that is repeatedly not picked up by 4:15 p.m. may not be able to continue to participate in their activity.

What can I do as a parent to help my child to succeed on the MCAS exams?

MCAS testing continues next week, below are a few tips to help your child succeed. Most importantly, give them a pep talk and tell them they will do great if they just put in their best effort!

- Have students go to bed early and get a good night's sleep.
- Ensure they eat a good breakfast.
- Make sure they attend school and are on time. This is especially true for MCAS test days, as these exams are timed. If a student arrives after testing has begun, he/she will need to wait and take a make-up exam. If they are truly sick, there is make-up days available.
- Unless it is an emergency please do not plan to dismiss a student prior to the end of the testing

window, which will be at 11:11 a.m. each day. If they have not completed the test it will be invalidated or once the test is passed in, it will be scored as is and it will not be beneficial to the student's score or the school's overall data. Thank you in advance for assistance in the area of attendance. It is critical for both the student and the school. However, if a child becomes ill in the middle of a test we can arrange for a monitored make-up that will allow the student to finish from the point where they stopped to the end; they will not be able to go back or review any previously completed work.

- Remind them that no electronic devices including cell phones or apple watches are permitted to be with them during the testing period. If a student is found to have an electronic device with them, we need to contact the Department of Secondary Education and his/her test will be invalidated.

Masco Millions:

Masco Million Results: **All Team weekly** results **6,592** and the **Grand total: 764,015** pages. We only have 235,985 pages left to meet our goal of 1,000,000 pages. Remember our challenge this year is to surpass 2017's Grand Total of 1,052,527 pages. In order to beat the page record set in 2017, we need to read 295,105 more pages by **May 30, 2019**. I believe, as a whole school, we can easily beat the page record by more than one page. Please continue to encourage your child to enter pages read from their textbooks, short stories, or any other reading they do as a class. These figures represent the numbers logged in by 3:00 PM Thursday, May 2, 2019.

Team	Week Total	Total
7 Blue	0	116,652
7 Red	2,060	132,828
7 White	868	168,906
8 Blue	0	84,855
8 Red	1,016	126,501
8 White	2,648	134,273

Upcoming Dates of Importance

May 13, 2019	7 Red Field Trip
May 14 & 15, 2019	8 th Grade Science MCAS
May 16, 2019	Incoming 7 th Grade, Parents' Night
May 21, 2019	Chorus Concert
May 23, 2019	Memorial Day Assembly

May 23, 2019	Band Concert
May 24, 2019	11:00 a.m. dismissal for students/no lunch served
May 27, 2019	Memorial Day, No School
June 10, 2019	Cedardale/Canobie Field Trips
June 13, 14 & 17, 2019	11:30 a.m. Dismissal
June 14, 2019	8:30 a.m. Promotion Ceremony

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Prepare for exams

Your tween will remember more information if he studies for finals over a longer period of time rather than cramming. Suggest that he create a study schedule and stick to it. He could also join a study group to stay on track.

Words inspire confidence

The way your middle grader talks about herself can affect her self-esteem. If you hear her make a negative statement like "I can't do this" or "I'm just not good at this," have her turn it into a positive one. *Examples:* "I'll try" or "I'm working on it." Then, set an example by doing the same for yourself!

A first aid kit

Ask your child to make a home first aid kit. He can fill a container with bandages, gauze, adhesive tape, and antiseptic wipes. Show him how to use the supplies so he learns what to do if he or someone else is injured. Encourage him to put the kit where family members can find it easily, perhaps in the hall closet.

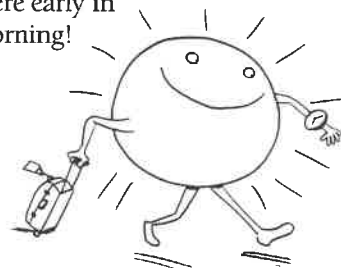
Worth quoting

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."
Dorothy Parker

Just for fun

Teacher: How fast does light travel?

Student: I don't know, but it sure gets here early in the morning!



Keep your brain in gear

When the school year ends, the learning doesn't have to. Keep your tween's mind active all summer long with ideas like these.

Take up a hobby

A hobby gives your child a meaningful way to spend time while she practices various skills. For example, knitting requires math and attention to detail. And chess promotes strategic thinking and patience. She could take a community center class or watch how-to videos. Then, suggest that she set a goal like knitting a scarf or beating you at chess before summer ends!



Explore the community

Visiting new places will build your tween's general knowledge. You might tour a museum or hike in a state park, for instance. During your adventures, encourage her to ask a docent or ranger

questions or to read signs to learn about the exhibits or wildlife.

Look ahead to fall

Your child can get a head start on a subject she'll study in school next year. For example, if she'll take Spanish, she could download a free app to begin learning greetings and other phrases. Or if she signed up for engineering, she might look online for projects to try like designing a water bottle rocket or a solar panel. 👍

Summer routines

Setting up a routine can add structure to your child's summer on days when he's home. Try these tips.

■ **Eating.** Plan regular family meals to stay connected with your middle grader. Also, have him help you stock healthy snacks and lunches he can prepare on his own if you're not home.

■ **Sleeping.** Getting enough sleep is important for good health year-round. Set a reasonable bedtime, and have your tween get up by a set time. This is especially important toward the end of summer so he'll be ready to return to his school schedule.

■ **Chores.** Keep your child in the routine of having regular responsibilities. You might give him a list of jobs for the week (laundry, vacuuming) and let him decide which day he'll do each task. 👍



Ways to handle peer pressure

Peer pressure can be positive when friends motivate your middle grader to read a good book or work out. But when he's pressured to do things that *aren't* good for him, he needs to be able to resist. Share these strategies.

Listen to instincts. If your tween is pressured to do something he knows isn't right (shoplifting, bullying), suggest that he ask himself, "Would I want my parents to know?" or "Is this safe (legal, kind)?" If the answer is no, he should listen to his instincts.



Practice responses. Together, brainstorm ways to say no, such as, "No thanks, I'm not into that" or "I don't want to get kicked off the swim team." Also, help your child think of ways to get out of uncomfortable or unsafe situations like being pressured to try alcohol. Agree on a phrase he will use in a call or text to you if he needs a way

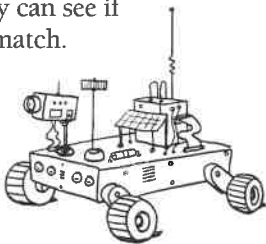
out. Example: "Can you put my clothes in the dryer?" That's your cue to pick him up right away. 🍷

Break into coding

Learning to code will make your child a better logical thinker and problem solver. It could even lead to a career one day. Spark her interest with these suggestions:

■ Can your tween and a friend draw identical pictures without seeing each other's papers? First, each person draws a 10-by-10 grid on her own paper. One person secretly chooses a crayon and draws a shape in any box on her grid. Then, she writes code telling the other person how to copy her drawing (starting in the bottom left-hand corner of her paper). Example: R3 U2 BT = move right three boxes, move up two, draw a blue triangle. Now it's the other person's turn to draw a shape and write code. After a few rounds, they can see if their drawings match.

■ Help your middle grader find a computer class or club at school or the public library. Maybe she'll create a mobile app or build a Lego robot. Or she might use coding to make online games at a site like code.org. 🍷



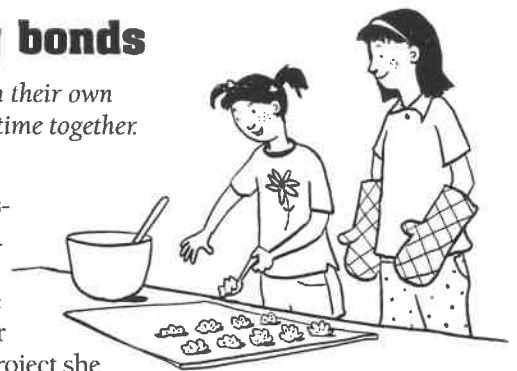
Q & A

Building sibling bonds

Q My daughters are busy with their own friends and don't spend a lot of time together. How can I help them be closer?

A Suggest that your girls set aside "sister time" on a regular basis. They could take turns deciding what to do. Maybe your older daughter will teach her little sister to bake. Or perhaps your younger one will show her big sister a science project she did in school. They might even find ways to combine their talents or interests—say, by doing food-related science experiments.

Encouraging your daughters to support each other will also strengthen their relationship. Say your younger one is disappointed about not getting invited to a sleep-over. Quietly suggest to your older daughter that it would mean a lot if she comforted her little sister. She might show her funny videos or write a note about why she's a great sister, for instance. 🍷



Parent to Parent 'Zines by tweens

My son Brian recently submitted a short story about pet adoption to a teen magazine. That gave him the idea to publish his own 'zine, which he explained is a mini print magazine. He decided to focus on animal welfare and call his 'zine *Paws and Claws*.

In each issue, he highlights an animal in need of adoption. He prints a photo and

description from our local shelter's website and pastes them into his 'zine. The 'zine also features the adventures of his rescue hedgehog. He takes pictures of Hedgie curled into a ball or snuggled up in a blanket and writes funny captions.

Now each month, Brian makes photocopies of his 'zine and mails them to friends and relatives. Sometimes he even gets "fan mail," which motivates him to keep writing. 🍷



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5540

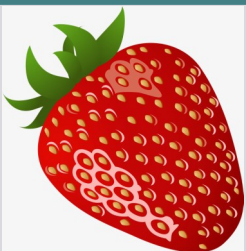
Calling Tri-Town Artists! YOUTH ARTISAN FAIR @ the Strawberry Festival

**Saturday, June 8th
10am—3pm**



Show off your talents and sell your work!

Tri-Town Council and the Topsfield Strawberry Festival invite youth ages 9-17 to sell artwork (art, photo, pottery, jewelry, woodwork and more) during the annual festival on June 8th.



Cost is \$20 for a table and space is limited.

Questions? Contact:

Dawn Seymour @ DSeymour@tritowncouncil.org or 978-887-6512.
For more info and registration application (required) [CLICK HERE](#)