



## NEWS FROM MR. HUYCK

### Hello Charger Families!

As we prepare to start another school year, we wanted to make sure that we are communicating all of the happenings to each and every one of our families. We have received feedback that many people felt disconnected and out of the loop about the events that were happening here at Chasco. We have taken your comments very seriously and are actively striving to improve the way we communicate with you. In addition to creating a monthly newsletter, our Web Page, Facebook Page and Twitter feed will contain information designed to keep you updated with ongoing events.

# CHARGED UP

## AUGUST 2014

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## WHAT IS CHARGED UP?

Charged UP will be our monthly communication to our students and families! It will be a direct link that will inform you about everything that is happening at Chasco Middle School. Academics, Athletics, Clubs and other happenings will be showcased in one single spot. Below is a breakdown:

**Academics:** Every month, the newsletter will bring you information about what is going on in your child's classroom. Each academic subject will be showcased throughout the year to give you a rundown about what is being taught. Don't worry if you have a 6<sup>th</sup> grader and an 8<sup>th</sup> grader---each grade will be giving you a look at what is going on in their classes!

**Student Services:** Raising middle school aged children is not always an easy task. We recognize this and appreciate the roller coaster of emotions that parents oftentimes experience during these years. This section will aim to help you navigate to help your student be successful. Is your child having difficulties with a certain subject? Do they feel like they are being bullied? Are you concerned with how much they are using their smart phone and social media? These are examples of topics that will be discussed. If you feel that there is a specific issue that you are experiencing with your child, please email it to [jgobeli@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jgobeli@pasco.k12.fl.us) so that we can incorporate it into this section. If you are experiencing a problem, other parents are most likely experiencing the same issue!

## WHAT IS CHARGED UP (CON'T)

**Upcoming Events:** There are a lot of events that are happening at Chasco Middle and we rely on parent involvement to help our students be successful! From athletic events, to book-fairs, to academic showcases, these opportunities aim to connect families with our school! We work closely with the other schools in our feeder pattern, so be on the lookout for community events!

**Student Showcase:** We have some talented students here at Chasco Middle School, and each month, written work will be presented! It may range from reporting live from the classroom to presenting an original piece of poetry! It will change each and every month, so stay tuned to see what is happening at our school...from the perspective of our students!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ATHLETICS

### Are there sports for 6<sup>th</sup> graders?

No, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are not eligible to participate in sports. This is a transitional year for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, as they leave the routine and familiarity of elementary school and become acquainted with the rigor of middle school.

### Can my 6<sup>th</sup> grade student participate in anything?

YES! 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are interested in participating in athletics can request to become sport managers. They would attend practices, games and essentially become a part of the team! This experience will help to prepare them for participating in athletics next year!

### What are the requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate?

In order to try out for a sport, the student must have a **completed** athletic physical turned into Mr. Marotta prior to the dates of try-out. Also, a student must have a 2.0 grade point average for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester from the prior school year.

### Where do I receive a physical packet?

You can come into Chasco Middle School to pick up a packet or download the packet here:

<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/library/athletics/physical.pdf>

### Meet Chasco's Administration:

From the Top: Mr. Huyck, Principal; Mr. Fischer, AP;  
Mr. Osmun, AP; Ms. Pontikos, AP



## TERMS USED AT CHASCO MIDDLE SCHOOL

### On Track Status

This status is for our students who earn C's or better in all classes, have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, have 4% or fewer absences per year, and have two or fewer disciplinary referrals per year.

### At Risk Status

1 or more D in any class, have a GPA of 2.0-2.49, have absences that range from 5%-9% per year, and have three disciplinary referrals per year.

### Off Track Status

Failing one or more classes, have a GPA less than a 2.0, have 10% absences per year, and have four disciplinary referrals per year **OR** 2 referrals per semester.

### Florida Standards

Information has just been released on the new statewide assessments that will replace FCAT in the areas of Math and Language Arts. These assessments reflect a significant shift in how students have previously assessed. You can take a practice exam and explore the resources at [www.fsassessments.org](http://www.fsassessments.org).

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Attending school every day is very important! Helping students develop the habit of attending school daily will help prepare them for college and careers in the future! Encourage consistent attendance with some of these ideas:

- Advise your child that there is no substitute for being in class! He/she needs to be in each class in order to hear teachers explain concepts, participate with group activities, and to ask relevant questions.
- We ask that all appointments (doctor, dentist, orthodontist) either before or after school hours! The final bell rings at 8:40AM, so ask if an early appointment is possible. School dismisses at 2:50PM.
- Make sure that your child is receiving enough sleep! Most teens require between 8-9 hours of sleep each night! Developing a consistent routine at home, including a regular bedtime, will help your child get the amount of sleep needed to be successful in school!
- If you have problems or concerns with getting your child to attend school, please contact the school for assistance.

## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

Below are some ways to make 2014-2015 the best school year for you and your child!

- **Setting expectations with your child:** This is important so that your child knows what is expected of him/her. Do you expect that he/she earn A's and B's? Make sure that you clearly communicate these expectations to him/her at the beginning of the year!
- **Stay realistic:** When developing expectations for your child, take into account his/her strengths and weaknesses. Asking your student to earn an "A" in Algebra, when he/she has never earned any grade higher than a "C" is setting your family up for discouragement and disappointment. Make sure that your expectations match the specific ability of your child!
- **Celebrate Accomplishments:** When your child succeeds at a task that he/she found frustrating, praise their effort and end result! Be specific about what you are most proud of. For example, you could say, "You were really worried that you wouldn't do well on your math test, but all of that extra studying you did paid off!"
- **Talk about it:** Although it is sometimes difficult to communicate with your middle school student about what is going on in school, here are some questions that may help start a conversation:
  - What is the most interesting thing that you learned today?
  - Who did you sit with at lunch?
  - What made you laugh today?
  - What book are you reading in your Reading class?
  - What was the best part of your day?
  - What are you learning about in Math?
  - What was your least favorite part of your school day and what would you change about it?

*Tip: Encourage your student to ask questions about your day, too!*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Football Tryouts: August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>: 3:30PM-5:30PM; August 19<sup>th</sup>: 3:00PM-5:00PM

Cheerleading Tryouts: August 20<sup>th</sup>: 3:00PM-5:00PM; August 21<sup>st</sup>: 3:00PM-5:00PM

Volleyball Tryouts: August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>: 3:00PM-5:00PM

1<sup>st</sup> Day of School: Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> (8:40AM-2:50PM)

Labor Day/NO SCHOOL: Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

Open House/Annual Title I Meeting: Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>

School Spirit Night @ RHS: Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

Home Charger Football Game: Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> (RHS)