



NEWS FROM MR. HUYCK

Hello Charger Families!

Fall is upon us and even though the temperatures may be dropping, the learning at Chasco Middle School is heating up! We are very excited about all that is occurring within our academic teams. One of our new features to the newsletter highlights what is happening in our different content areas. Our teachers are working very hard to meet the needs of our students and our students are rising to the challenge!

Our Science Department is working hard at preparing your child for the upcoming Science Fair. We had a great turnout for the Science Fair 101 night! Mrs. Carver and Mrs. Pigeon outlined expectations and answered many questions. We look forward to seeing everyone for the November 5th Science Fair Make and Take night!

CHARGED UP OCTOBER 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Academic Spotlight
Athletic Showcase
In the 'Zone'
Attendance Matters
Strategies for Success
Title I Info
Great American Teach-In
Red Ribbon Week
Upcoming Activities &
Dates to Remember

S.L.A.P.

(STUDENT LEADERSHIP ADVISORY PANEL)

Chasco has its first Student Leadership Advisory Panel. This group, under the leadership of Mr. Huyck, provides feedback, suggestions and will help drive the direction our school. This panel will meet bi-weekly and is comprised of our 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

--John Fitzgerald Kennedy

6th Grade Academic Spotlight

Math

After reviewing the Order of Operations, 6th grade students worked hard at finding the Greatest Common Factor and Least Common Multiples in given sets of numbers. We are now moving into the exciting world of multiplying and dividing fractions!

Parents, keep the conversations going strong at home by asking your child to identify the Greatest Common Factor (GCF) of 18 and 20? They should not only be able to provide you an answer, but also represent this without using any numbers!

Is your student struggling with this concept? My.hrw.com provides a plethora of opportunities to enrich the skills that are being taught in class! Letters were sent home with your child providing the username and password information for this website.

Science

6th grade students are learning about weather & climate. Students are also working to complete their science fair projects; they are required to submit assignments each week. Parents, help your students generate testable questions for their science fair projects and help them to follow through with the steps of the scientific method for completing the project. Make sure that an adult is supervising the science experiment!

Parents, ask your children to identify the vocabulary terms that are being taught and how they relate to the real world. Also ensure that your students are submitting the required assignments in relation to the Science Fair!

English Language Arts

In Language Arts, all of our grades are addressing the theme of overcoming challenges and are connecting fiction and nonfiction texts. Grade 6 is reading *The Lightning Thief* and studying Greek mythology and the hero's journey. Additionally, students are using Socrative.com to enhance learning with technology. To be successful, students need to read closely so they can draw conclusions and support those conclusions with evidence from their reading.

Parents can ask their children to describe the kinds of challenges the characters in their novel are facing. They can also ask their children how what they are learning in class relates to their own lives. Finally, every book has real life lessons parents can ask their children what they are learning from the book they are reading.

At home all students should be reading. We would like for students to be reading a chapter book every two weeks. Ask your child to read something they are interested in to you. Talking about what they are reading can have a powerful impact on learning. Reading the same book your child is reading and talking about it is very motivating! Read, read, and then read some more!

7th Grade Academic Spotlight

Math

In 7th grade math, students are using rates and proportionality to solve real world problems. The advanced classes are using algebraic expressions and equations to solve real-world problems. All students can benefit from conversations with their parents about grocery store advertisements. Try to find at least 5 items whose costs are given in terms of size or weight. Then have them change the costs to unit prices to determine the best buy.

Students get vocabulary homework on Monday of each week. Doing this homework will help prepare students for class. Students have been enjoying the iPads in class to enhance their learning. A very fun Kahoot! Game tests their knowledge in a game format. It is helping us all build fluency with our basic skills.

Science

7th grade students are learning about the Watershed Ambassadors Program & Interdependence among Relationships weather & climate. Students are also working to complete their science fair projects; they are required to submit assignments each week. Parents, help your students generate testable questions for their science fair projects and help them to follow through with the steps of the scientific method. Make sure that an adult is supervising the science experiment!

Parents, ask your children to identify the vocabulary terms are that are being taught and how they relate to the real world. Also ensure that your students are submitting the required assignments in relation to the Science Fair!

English Language Arts

Grade 7 is reading *A Long Walk to Water* and learning about the Sudanese War. To be successful students need to read closely so they can draw conclusions and support those conclusions with evidence from their reading. Seventh graders are also having Reflect and Write Fridays to further enhance learning.

Parents, ask your children to describe the kinds of challenges the characters in their novel are facing. You can also ask your children how what they are learning in class relates to their own lives. Finally, every book has real life lessons parents can ask their children about.

At home all students should be reading. We would like for students to be reading a chapter book every two weeks. Ask your child to read something they are interested in to you. Talking about what they are reading can have a powerful impact on learning. Reading the same book your child is reading and talking about it is very motivating! Read, read, and then read some more.

8th Grade Academic Spotlight

Algebra I Honors

Students are solving multi-step equations and writing and solving equations based on specific information. They are also correcting errors in thinking and justifying the steps to solve equations. Students are working in collaborative pairs to complete tasks and compare their solutions.

Parents, your students should be able to answer the following questions:

****What are some examples of situations where equations can be used to solve problems?**

****What are some common errors that are made when solving a multi-step equation?**

Students, when solving equations from homework assignments, use substitution to check your work. Ask yourself and your parents if the answer makes sense when solving a word problem.

Science

8th grade students are learning about the chemistry and matter. Students are also working to complete their science fair projects; they are required to submit assignments each week. Parents, help your students generate testable questions for their science fair projects and help them to follow through with the steps of the scientific method. Make sure that an adult is supervising the science experiment!

Parents, ask your children to identify the vocabulary terms that are being taught and how they relate to the real world. Also ensure that your students are submitting the required assignments in relation to the Science Fair!

English Language Arts

In Language Arts, all of our grades are addressing the theme of overcoming challenges and are connecting fiction and nonfiction texts. Grade 8 is reading *Inside Out and Back Again* and learning of the plight of refugees. To be successful students need to read closely so they can draw conclusions and support those conclusions with evidence from their reading. Eighth graders are studying what they can do to increase their intelligence, and they are setting goals for themselves!

Parents, ask your children to describe the kinds of challenges the characters in their novel are facing. You can also ask your children how what they are learning in class relates to their own lives. Finally, every book has real life lessons parents can ask their children what they are learning from the book they are reading.

At home all students should be reading. We would like for students to be reading a chapter book every two weeks. Ask your child to read something they are interested in to you. Talking about what they are reading can have a powerful impact on learning. Reading the same book your child is reading and talking about it is very motivating! Read, read, and then read some more.

Musical notes from Mrs. Harvey

The music department is off to a great start! The advanced band is already performing at football games and pep rallies. The beginning band and chorus are both the largest in school history! There are 60 students in the beginning band and 45 students in the chorus! It looks like we will have a full house for our concerts this year! Mrs. Harvey is very excited and proud to teach so many music students!



CHARGER FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING

Our Charger Football program is going strong! Our record to date is two wins and two losses. We had a great time at the Pep Rally as our Cheerleaders really helped to get the fans pumped up!



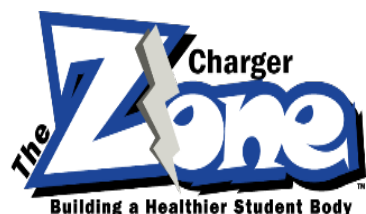
7TH AND 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

7th Grade

This year's 7th grade team has been learning the skills required to be competitive in volleyball. The skills being learned are: serving, setting, and bumping. The most important thing being stressed is teamwork and team spirit. The members of the 7th grade Ladies Chargers' Girls Volleyball team are: Leile Bove, Kiarelys Cintron, Alyssa Defrietas, Kelly Hall, Angelina Kosa, Alana Mullins, Meghan Price, Alyssa Riddle, Meadow Scarfone, and Rebecca Vinnedge. Come out and support your home team. Go Chargers!

8th Grade

This is Coach Smith's second year coaching volleyball at Chasco Middle School. Last year's 7th grade team performed very well, resulting in a 2nd place finish in the district. Returning players from my 7th grade team include Captains Abigail Dunn and Hailey Horton. Also returning players are Hailey Evans, Morgan Jacobs, Taylor Orio and Alexis Stephens. New players include Mariah Barr, Hailey Cote, Rayna Santos, and Makayla Stephens. Come out and support your home team. Go Chargers!



Hello, welcome to The Charger Zone Café. We would like to let everyone know that Breakfast is **FREE** for **ALL** students, so please have your child stop by the cafeteria every morning before class. Remember you **MUST** fill out a new free and reduced lunch application every year. If sending a check for your child's lunches please confirm that your child's ID number and a phone number is on the check, we will have to return any checks not in compliance. If you have any questions please call 774-1278.

LEGO CLUB

This year's First Lego League Team's are now official!

****Robotic Generation Team Number 7125** has Rebecca Moore, Lucca Narcisi, David Rodriguez, Brandin Cardona, Kayla Boone, and Thomas Sutton.

Gigabotz Team Number 7457 has Joshua Diaz, Avery Smith, Christopher Wolodecki-Perez, Molly Allen, Alexis Mitchell, and Mark Stempel.

This year's theme is *First Class*, where students will be creating a unique solution to a problem surrounding learning. We are excited and getting ready for our first event Tune it Up in Tampa on October 4th

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Making sure that our Chasco Chargers are receiving a great education is everyone's job! We invite students, parents, administrators, and Student Services personnel to take part in ensuring that all students receive an education! Communication with teachers is a key factor as well as ensuring that students are attending school daily helps everyone reach this goal!

Research has shown that students who feel connected to the adults in their school setting and who attend on a consistent basis have the most academic success. Regular school attendance helps students to develop important habits early on, as they begin to show ownership to come to school on time and ready to learn. Parents or guardians, it is your job to promote healthy habits at home, including

***Consistent bedtime on school nights *Eating healthy meals *Providing a quiet study area**

To receive more information about how to support your Middle School Student, please plan on attending "How to Raise a Middle Schooler" on November 12th! More information will be coming home soon!

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS: STUDY TIPS

****Encourage your child to use their planner EVERY DAY!** This will prompt them to write in assignments if they know that it will be checked at home!

****Ask if your student is turning in assignments.** This is a really important component of their grade and missing assignments will have a negative impact.

****Establish a routine at home to make sure that homework assignments are getting completed.**

****Does your child have a huge project coming up?** Stop procrastination and form a schedule to help them stay on track! Here's a useful website that addresses this epidemic: <http://teenbeing.com/life-skills/stop-procrastinating-and-get-stuff-done/>

****Keep in contact with your child's teacher!** If you are concerned with your child's lack of progress in a class, schedule a Parent Teacher Conference!

GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN

The Due Energy Great American Teach-In is part of the District School Board of Pasco County's annual American Education Week celebration. This is a special opportunity for YOU to visit the public school of your choice and share what you know with a new generation!

This year's opportunity is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th at Chasco Middle School. You may choose to stay for an hour, or for the entire day! The amount of time you volunteer is determined strictly by what your schedule permits and what the teacher wishes to accomplish. Whatever the length of your visit, you can make a difference!

To take part in this amazing event, please contact Debi Hasson at dhasson@pasco.k12.fl.us or (727) 774-1312.

TITLE I—WHAT IS IT?

Title I is a program funded by the federal government to improve students' academic achievement. Money is given to school districts to help children meet the Florida Standards. The amount of money given to each school depends on the number of low-income families enrolled in the school.

To learn more about Title I, you can do the following:

Meet your child's teacher. You will be asked to attend at least one Parent- Teacher Conference during the year.

Read carefully and sign the School/Parent Compact and Policy, which outlines expectations for the school, the parent, and the child.

Join the School Advisory Council (SAC) at your school in order to help develop and carry out the school's Parent Involvement Plan and School Improvement Plan.

Make suggestions and complete surveys to help us improve.

Participate in your child's education by working with the teacher and take advantage of information, resources, and workshops designed to show you things you can do at home.

Read The Family Guide to Pasco County Schools "Families 1st", available on the district's website.

RED RIBBON WEEK

CHMS is gearing up to celebrate being Drug Free! The 2014 theme is **Love Yourself: Be Drug Free**. Staff and students will be making a pledge to remain drug free, followed by taking a part of other activities. Below is the schedule of themed events:

Monday, October 27th: Wear Red

Tuesday, October 28th: Mix it Up--Tacky Dress

Wednesday, October 29th: Join the TEAM against drugs--Sports Team Dress (No Hats!)

Thursday, October 30th: Put a Cap on Drugs OR Turn your back on drugs—backward hats/clothes

Friday, October 31st: Sock it to Drugs

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 16th & 17th: 7th Grade Ladies Basketball Tryouts--3PM-5PM

Oct. 20th: No School for Students

Oct. 21st & 22nd: 8th Grade Ladies Basketball Tryouts—3PM-5PM

Oct. 27th: 1st Quarter Report Cards Go Home

Oct. 27th-31st: Red Ribbon Week

Nov. 5th: Make and Take Science Fair Night---6PM-8PM (Cafeteria)

Nov. 11th: Computing with Coupons—Math Night

Nov. 12th: How To Raise a Middle Schooler