

The Red Review

14-15 April Vol. 8

www.clarksonpublicschools.org

From the Administrator's Desk

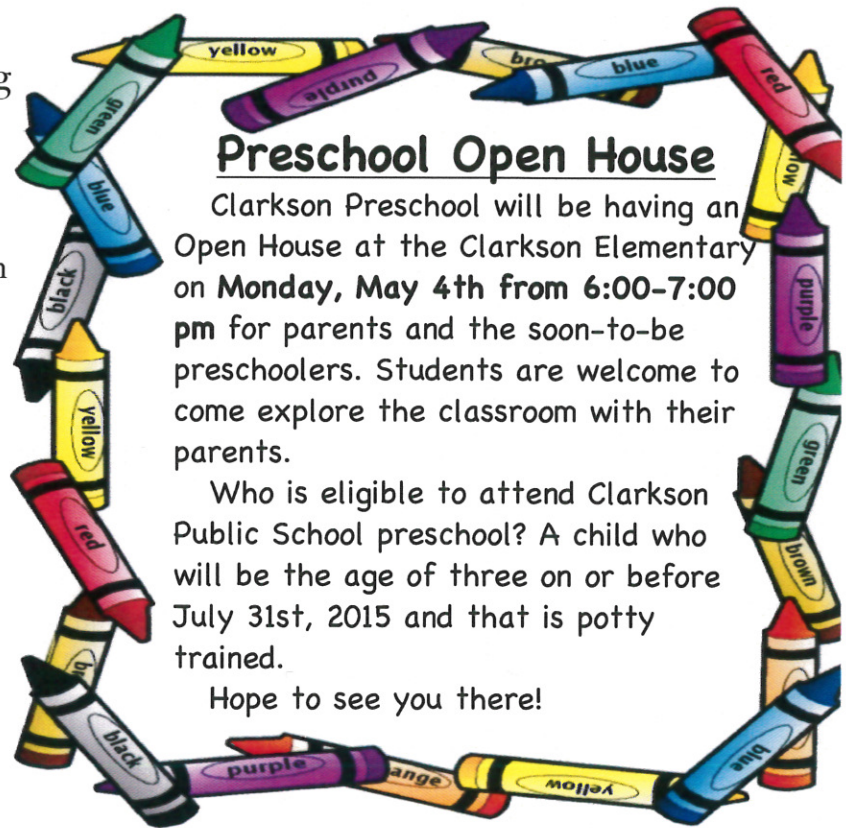
By Rich Lemburg

On February 24, 2016, Clarkson Public Schools will be hosting our External Visitation Team for our School Improvement visit. Schools are mandated to have a School Improvement plan in place and meet continually to look at data, seek improvements and track action on their work. To pick a School Improvement goal school districts look at results from their testing data from tests such as NeSA (our state testing), MAPS which is an online version of the old ITBS testing and our STAR Reading and Math tests. During this improvement cycle our School Improvement Team has chosen the area of Math Computation as our school goal. Math computation is performing the basic mathematical operations of multiplication, division, subtraction and addition.

As we get closer to our visit next February, we will be gathering data from surveys from students, teachers and parents to help gain data and information from different angles and aspects of the educational process. We are in the process of creating a quick online Google Doc survey for parents to fill out at Parent-Teacher Conferences to get their input.

We will also be asking and looking for parent volunteers to help serve with our School Improvement Team during the visitation process. If you are interested in serving on the committee please contact Bobbie Jo Rocheford or myself at school and we will get you information on the process.

At this time we are starting the process of Pre-School and Kindergarten Registration for the 2015-16 school year. Letters will be sent out to parents of children who are eligible for the programs according to our census. We have included information in this month's and next month's newsletter. Our Pre-School Program has a morning class for three year olds and our afternoon class is four year olds. If you have any questions please call us at school at 402-892-3454.



Preschool Open House

Clarkson Preschool will be having an Open House at the Clarkson Elementary on **Monday, May 4th from 6:00-7:00 pm** for parents and the soon-to-be preschoolers. Students are welcome to come explore the classroom with their parents.

Who is eligible to attend Clarkson Public School preschool? A child who will be the age of three on or before July 31st, 2015 and that is potty trained.

Hope to see you there!

Music News

By Elektra Wrenholt

Students in the music room have been working so hard this month! Our Pre-School to 6th Grade students put on a successful concert showcasing their talents for the community, and did a wonderful job. Special thanks go out to the Junior High School Choir for setting up the gym for the concert! Bringing up risers, chairs, and stands is no small task.

Coming up soon, our High School Band and Choir will be heading to CCC for District Music Contest, and bringing our best performances with us. Soon after, we will perform for the community on May 1st a Pops Concert - mark your calendars!

The Red Review is a monthly publication of the
Clarkson Public Schools,
PO Box 140, Clarkson NE 68629

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Kindergarten Round-Up

Friday, April 24th
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

By Wes Pokorny

It is round-up time! I want to make this as smooth as possible. We will have all-day pre-school on the 24th of April. If your child attends pre-school at Clarkson Public School they will be picked up in the morning. They will attend pre-school until 10:00 and then they will join us in the Kindergarten room. If you do not attend pre-school at CPS you may drop your child off in the Kindergarten room at 10:00. They may be picked up between 12:45 and 1:00. Children will eat hot lunch at School, the cost of hot lunch is \$2.40. It may be taken from an older siblings account or paid by cash.

Who is eligible for kindergarten? Anyone who fits the age requirements – 5 years of age by July 31st, 2015.

Please check your mail sometime in the second week of April. I will send all forms needed to enroll your student at Clarkson Public Schools. I will also enclose a cover letter of additional information. I like to send these forms out before you bring your kids to Round-up. This way I can better answer your questions and make that first day of school a great experience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at school, 892-3454. If you need transportation to school for Round-up please contact the school.

We will need a copy of an official copy of the student's birth certificate when the 2015-2016 school year begins. This is a Nebraska state law.

To receive a birth certificate by mail, send a \$12.00 check or money order (credit cards are not accepted) and the following information:

- * Full name at birth. If adopted, list adoptive name and state "adopted".
- * Month/day/year of birth
- * City or town of birth/County of birth
- * Father's full name, if adopted, list adopted father's name.
- * Mother's full maiden name, if adopted, list adoptive mother's name.
- * Purpose for the record?
- * If not your record, how are you related?
- * Requestor's Photo Identification is Required, i.e. drivers license

Send your check along with the needed information to:

Vital Records
PO Box 95065
Lincoln NE 68509-5065

I am anxious to meet all the prospective kindergarten students on the 24th! See you then!

Career Opportunity Fair Held at CCC

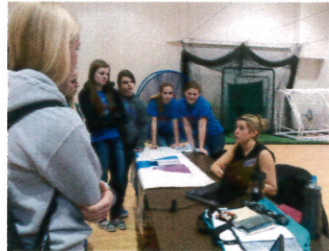
The 8th grade class attended a career fair at Central Community College on Wednesday, March 25th. Students had the opportunity to interact with employers representing a variety of businesses in the Raider gym. Students rotated every ten minutes and had the opportunity to join hands-on activities that helped them understand a perspective of the career field. The second half of the career fair included educational sessions including: Dressing for Success for either males or females, Career Exploration, Interviewing Skills, Job Applications and Social Media.



Garrett Sayers, Shyla Shaw, and Amber Novotny



John Langhorst



Paige Moore, Sara McEvoy, Cheyenne Brabec, and Abigail Langdon



Taylor Mach



Halee Steffensmeier and Beth Wiese



Garrett Sayers



Students Attend Criminal Justice Conference

For the past 26 years, the University of Nebraska at Kearney has hosted a Criminal Justice Conference. **March 17, 2015**, marked the eighth year that UNK has invited high school students to the conference and career fair. Four students from Clarkson High School attended the conference **last Tuesday**: Colby Becker, Maddie Cerv, Camille Koehn, and Megan Svehla. Mrs. Jennifer Kappel and Mrs. Lynn Morfeld sponsored the students on the trip.

Keynote speaker that morning was Matthew Sandusky, adopted son of convicted serial child molester Jerry Sandusky. Matthew told the audience about his history of sexual abuse. The “grooming” process (breaking down a child’s barriers and building dependency on a perpetrator) began when Matthew was six and escalated throughout his teenage years. After testifying against his perpetrator in 2012, Matthew, his wife and children faced immense backlash from his community and extended family. During the second half of his talk at UNK, Matthew discussed the healing process and a non-profit organization he and his wife began called Peaceful Hearts Foundation.

Clarkson students had an opportunity to talk to Matthew before leaving campus. He encouraged them to “start the conversation” about child sex abuse. He reminded them that these crimes cannot be pushed away or ignored, and everyone must be an advocate for children and teenagers. In Nebraska, everyone is a mandated reporter. If you suspect child abuse/neglect, call Nebraska’s Child and Protective Services hotline: 1-800-652-1999.



Madison Cerv, Megan Svehla, Colby Becker, Camille Koehn

Counselor’s Corner

By Jennifer Kappel

EducationQuest Foundation College Planning Bulletin

Seniors – it’s decision time!

It’s time to compare your college acceptance letters, financial aid award notifications and campus visit notes. Write down pros and cons for each school you’re considering using the following criteria:

- (1) **Location:** Is the college too close? If you come home every weekend, you won’t experience true campus life. Is the college too far away? If so, you may not make it home as often as you’d like.
- (2) **Cost:** Can your family afford the school? What can you expect for financial aid beyond your freshman year? Did you receive renewable scholarships? How much in student and parent loans will you need to cover expenses?
- (3) **Academic program:** Does the college offer the program that interests you? What happens if you change majors? Does the college offer other programs that interest you?
- (4) **Student life:** Does the school offer activities you will enjoy? Do you like the living arrangements provided by the school? Will you have an opportunity to work on or near campus?

Make your final decision by May 1st and then notify the colleges you’re rejecting so they can offer your spot, and any financial aid, to another student.

Juniors – start looking for scholarships!

Follow these tips to begin the scholarship application process:

- Start searching! In addition to checking in often with your school counselor, visit free online sites including ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org with over 2,000 local and state scholarships. Other sources might include your parent’s employer, your employer or local service organizations.
- Create files and place scholarship applications in deadline order.

Physical Education

By Jim Clarkson

- Get involved in extracurricular activities and community service – a critical component for many scholarships. Track your involvement using the Activities Resume on EducationQuest.org.
- Do your best to get good grades in school and good scores on ACT/SAT exams. These factors are especially important for college-based scholarships.
- Determine if you will qualify for need-based scholarships by completing the College Funding Estimator at EducationQuest.org.
- Learn about scholarships and tuition assistance programs offered by colleges that interest you. Programs such as Collegebound at the University of Nebraska, Advantage offered by the Nebraska State College System, and NWU Advantage at Nebraska Wesleyan University, cover the cost of tuition if you meet income and academic criteria.

Scholarship Warning!

If you receive offers for scholarship and financial aid services, investigate them if they charge a fee. EducationQuest will help you complete financial aid forms for free and will guide you to free scholarship resources. To learn more, talk to your school counselor or contact EducationQuest.

Going on a campus visit?

For inspiration, check out EducationQuest's new 30-second ad featuring real Nebraska students on campus visits. Then check out GoVisitCollege.org for campus visit tips. You can share your campus visit photos on Twitter and Instagram using #govisitcollege. EducationQuest may use your photo in their next video! When you take your photos, try to include the college name or a college landmark.

April "To Do" List

Seniors

- _____ Continue applying for scholarships.
- _____ Start purchasing dorm essentials now to avoid sticker shock in August.
- _____ Start looking for a summer job.

Juniors

- _____ Register by April 6th for the May 2nd SAT
- _____ Register by May 8th for the June 13th ACT
- _____ Schedule campus visits while colleges are still in session
- _____ Start looking for scholarships

Wow! Spring kicked off with a bang in the weather. It has cooled off some now but compared to most years it has really been nice. In March, the High School did many activities like weight lifting, Badminton, and archery. We have covered all sorts of different activities and games.

This spring PE has gone well. We have had some spirited Pickle Ball matches with the tournament champs being Christopher Konicek for boys and Klyn Lopour for the girls. Also this spring we took about 20 PE students over to Dodge for an afternoon of Bowling. We had a lot of fun. I would love to say I won the day on the alleys, but that honor went to Keaton Indra. We had some good battles but he was definitely the better bowler.

Congratulations to Christopher Konicek for being selected to play in the Sertoma 8-Man All-Star game and the Northeast Nebraska All-Star game. Christopher also signed to play football at National Powerhouse Morningside Mustangs. We hope he has a healthy and fun career there.

Hopefully we will continue to have a good spring. It is always an interesting time of year. Please try and get outside during the nice days. Be healthy and be well.





Business/Technology News

By Matt Murren

Time flies when you're having fun and this semester has completely flown! The weather is starting to warm up as we turn the calendar into April and classes are going great!

Web Design is working hard on maintaining and adding to the school website at www.clarksonpublicschools.org. Be sure to check out any of the highlights on the main page or right side of the page as we continually update with school activities and highlights. If you have any suggestions for the website, please feel free to email me at mmurren@esu7.org. In addition to the website maintenance, we have begun Python Coding. The students are really enjoying all the cool, new codes they are learning within Python and have even figured out how to use with other classes.

Multimedia just recently completed individual and group Public Service Announcements (PSAs). The decided to go with a funny theme for the group PSA about "jump scares" which ended up turning out very good. The individual PSAs were completed on Bullying and Phone Addiction. They are currently working on the full-length film, which is going to be about a survival camp. We are filming and editing this currently. We continue to mix it up with Improv days occasionally. If you would ever like to watch our videos, go to the school website and click on "School Videos" at the top of the page. This will link you to our "clarksonpublicschool" user page on YouTube.

Accounting I is working on journalizing and completing tax transactions. We have covered Social Security, Medicare, Federal Income, and Unemployment taxes. They have learned a lot about what is taken out of employee checks and what taxes employers pay.

Accounting II loves the stock market and how this affects records for accountants. They have learned about stock sales as well as discounts and earnings.

Personal Finance finished up the stock market game and Tony Mach was the big winner. We had 4 of the 6 students end up earning money

when we ended the game. It was great to see the transaction documents they completed as they bought and sold stocks. We began the credit section and students are quickly realizing how credit is built and how credit works. They are currently using their 1:1 computers and creating presentations on credit to inform each other about the credit application, the credit acts, bank credit, and special types of credit cards. Personal Finance is a great course for the future of the students to learn about how money and finances affect individuals!

As always, hope all is well, and remember, "It's A Great Day To Be A Patriot!"



Learn and Live

Elementary Fundraiser

By Jim Clarkson

Hello Patriots! We have a great school year happening right now and it just got better in our Elementary. The Jump/Hoops for Heart went really well! As a group the Elementary raised over \$2,000. This blows my mind what a great job by our community and our students did for helping support a worthy cause. It continues to blow my mind how great this community is. We are a small school and there are continuous fundraisers but this community always answers the call. THANK YOU!

Our top fundraiser was Cadance Craig who brought in \$300 on her own. I think this is the most we have ever had by one student. Awesome job Cadance!



Cadance Craig

From the Desk of Mr. Bailey Industrial Technology

Next school year is wide open for construction and wood projects. If you are thinking about buying a piece of furniture or shed or even building a garage please consider our shop class. They do an awesome job and it is a great learning experience for them. I know what things cost so we can save you some money and at the same time give our students valuable on the job experiences. If interested you can call me on my cell phone (402-640-1791) or Amy (402-892-3454) to leave a message. You can also text me at 402-640-1791. Hope to hear from you.

I had this message in last month's newsletter about a night class. I am currently trying to add a Boss Laser Engraver/Cutter. I am currently writing a grant through the ESU7 in Columbus to apply for the money. There is one thing I really want to do this summer is to offer anyone in our community the opportunity to work with this new technology. You would get the opportunity to learn how a 3D printer works, create awesome wood signs on the CNC Shark Router, learn how to engrave/sandblast glass, do some hydrographics water dipping on some materials. We also made a drone with the 3D printer and it is just about ready for take off. . If you would like to try your hand in this new innovative technology give me a call. The Laser Engraver would just add to what we already have. If you want to see what you can make just click on the web pages I have listed below.

www.thingiverse.com (This is for the 3D printing technology)

www.pinterest.com (This site is used for many things but type in **laser engraved projects.**)

www.google.com (Search CNC Engraved wood projects)

These sites are a small sampling of what's out there. You can just search 3d Model Printed Projects or laser engraved projects in the search box. **If you are interested in this technology please email me at the following address: dbailey@esu7.org** Leave your name , phone number, & address so I can contact you.

If you only want to come 1 or 2 times that would be awesome. I will be here for you anytime you want to learn what your children are learning. We need about 2 hours to get things accomplished. The biggest problem we have is that the machines take a long time to operate so that limits the amount of people we can have in any session. The cost will be minimal so take a chance. So email me right away or leave me a text on my cell phone: 402-640-1791

There is one more item I would like to talk about. Sometime next fall I would like to have an Industrial Tech night. I am not sure when but I would like to make it annually if everything goes well. I would like to have you parents sign up for work time with one of our students. The night would consist of demonstrations in 5 technology areas we currently offer your children. There would be some type of doors prizes, awards and food to snack on during the night. If you have other suggestions please let me know. I am open to most anything. Our students need to take what we have to offer & run with it. As you know, life in the real world is very difficult. I hope you are talking to your children about their future. Now is the time to take the next step. Technology isn't going away anytime soon so I really am going to push students to take things more seriously. I do not want students to get lost in the shuffle after graduation.

Thanks & Take Care, Mr. Bailey

Patriot Athletes Receive Post-Season Honors



Pictured Left to Right:
Alyssa Novotny,
Christopher Konicek,
Matt McMullin,
Nick Wendt

On Tuesday, March 17th, the East Husker Conference All-Conference Basketball selections were made in West Point. The Clarkson-Leigh Patriots had four athletes among selections for these teams.

Alyssa Novotny, a junior, was selected to the 1st team. She averaged 15.8 point per game as well as 10.6 rebounds per game. She set Patriot records with 37 points against Scribner-Snyder and 23 rebounds against Cedar Bluffs. Alyssa was also selected as a 3rd team member in the Norfolk Daily News selections.

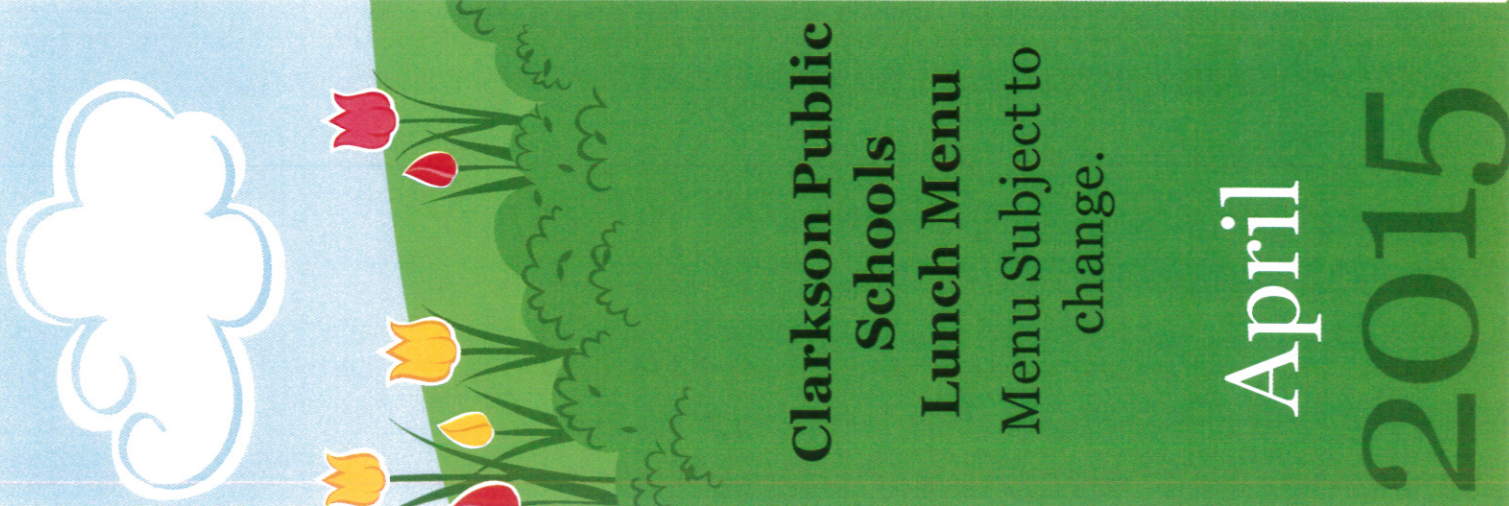
Christopher Konicek, a senior, was selected to the 1st team. He averaged 14.2 point per game as well as 5.8 rebounds per game. He had season highs with 23 points against Humphrey St. Francis and Oakland Craig with 15 rebounds against North Bend Central.

Matt McMullin, a senior, was selected to the 3rd team. He averaged 10.4 points per game and 6.6 rebounds per game. He had season highs with 18 points against Howells-Dodge and 12 rebounds against Humphrey St. Francis.

Nick Wendt, a senior, was selected to the Honorable Mention team. He averaged 9.5 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game. He had season highs with 19 points against Twin River and 16 rebounds against North Bend Central.

Calendar Events April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 HS track invite 9:00 at Osceola	2 Elementary Teacher Meeting 7:45 a.m.	3 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break	4 Highway 91 Spring Softball Camp 9:00-11:00 in Clarkson Old Gym
5	6 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break	7 HS track 2:00 at David City Aquinas Boys Golf Dual 4:00 at North Bend JH Track 3:00 at Wisner	8 State FFA Convention NHS Sweet 16 Blood Drive 9:00-3:00	9 State FFA Convention FCCLA Meeting 6:00 p.m. in Clarkson	10 State FFA Convention Walk for the Cure	11 Highway 91 Spring Softball Camp 9:00-11:00 in Clarkson Old Gym
12 FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Lincoln	13 School Board Meeting Boys Golf Dual 4:00 at Humphrey FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Lincoln NECC Academic Contest (Bus to leave at 7:15)	14 HS Relays 10:00 at Lyons- Decatur NE FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Lincoln	15 Patriot Golf Meet 9:00 in Leigh	16 JH track 3:15 at Madison	17 PreK-12 teacher meeting 7:45 a.m.	18 ACT Test Date Highway 91 Spring Softball Camp 9:00-11:00 in Clarkson Old Gym
19	20 PreK-12 Assembly: NECC Jazz Band to perform at 8:20 a.m.	21 HS track 12:30 at Madison JH track 11:00 at Battle Creek Boys Golf Triangular 2:00 at Leigh	22	23 FFA Parent/Member Banquet District Music Contest at CCC	24 High School Teacher Meeting 7:45 a.m. District Music Contest at CCC Newsletter article deadline	25 District Music Contest at CCC Highway 91 Spring Softball Camp 9:00-11:00 in Clarkson Old Gym
26	27 JH Track 3:00 at Wisner	28 Clarkson-Leigh track invite 9:00 in Madison Boys Golf Dual 2:00 Madison at Leigh	29 K-12 assembly at 8:20 a.m.	30 Boys Golf Invite 10:00 at Humphrey Patriots Sports Banquet		



**Clarkson Public
Schools
Lunch Menu**
Menu Subject to
change.

**April
2015**

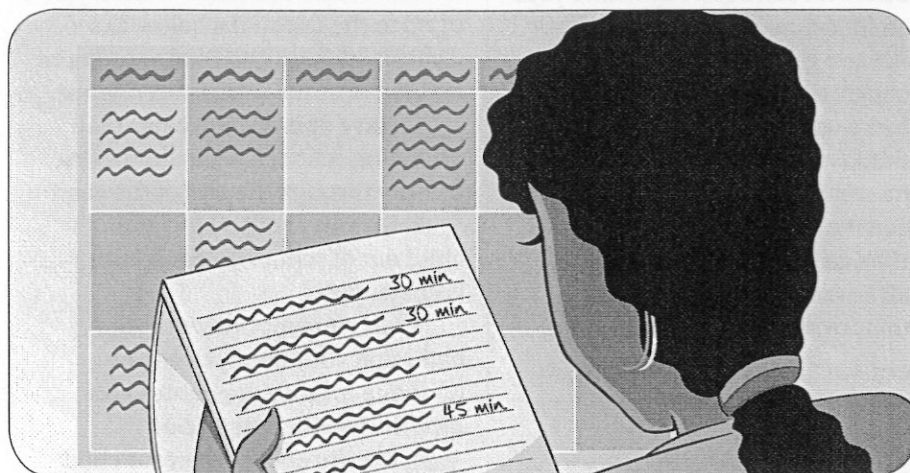
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
	B - combo L - corn dog	B - bkc pizza L - chicken fried steak	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL		
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
	NO SCHOOL	B - bkc burrito L - chicken tenders	B - egg sausage biscuit L - salisbury steak	B - pizza bagels L - stromboli	B - Clarkson bakery rolls L - taco salad	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	B - bkc chicken patty L - chicken nuggets	B - pancake sausage stick L - sloppy joe/bun	B - French toast & sausage L - scalloped potato & ham	B - homemade burrito L - oriental chicken	B - egg sausage bagel L - pork steak/bun	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	B - egg ham croissant L - chicken tacos	B - hot pocket L - BBQ pork/bun	B - bkc pizza L - sub sandwich	B - omelet & sausage L - ribique & bun	B - Clarkson bakery rolls L - hot dog & bun	
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
	B - egg sausage English muffin L - popcorn chicken	B - bkc roller dogs L - pizza	B - sausage pizza L - tacos	B - bkc tornado L - spaghetti		
03	04	05	06	07	08	09

Middle School Parents[®]

April 2015
Vol. 18, No. 8

Title I Program
Educational Service Unit #7

still make the difference!



Review test-taking skills with your child as finals approach

May is around the corner—and so is testing. School districts typically schedule standardized tests for late April or May. Your child may also have to take final exams, which may be something new for her.

- For test success, have your child:
- **Begin early.** At the end of the year, tests can come one after another. Your child may face a week with four tests. Studying must begin weeks in advance—not days.
 - **Make a detailed schedule.** For example: Monday—math homework, study science 30 minutes, study English 30 minutes. Tuesday—history homework, review math problems, study science 30 minutes. Wednesday—math homework, study history 30 minutes, study English 30 minutes.

- **Get enough sleep.** The night before a test, your child should review the material for a final “boost.” Then she should get into bed at a time that will allow her to get *at least* nine hours of sleep.
- **Get the “easy ones” out of the way first.** When your child receives the test, she should look it over and determine which questions she can confidently answer without too much difficulty. After answering those, she can go back to the ones she is not as sure about and give them additional thought.
- **Think about the wrong answers on multiple-choice tests.** Your child should cross off any answers she knows are not right. Then she will likely be looking at a choice between two final answers, rather than four.

Set reasonable expectations for your child

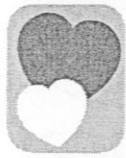


It's important to set expectations for your middle schooler's academic success, but it's equally important to make sure those expectations are reasonable.

To determine whether you're “setting the bar” at the right level for your child, ask yourself if your expectations:

- **Are flexible.** Have you read parenting books telling you what your child “should be” doing, thinking or feeling at this age? Then you may have lost sight of the fact that most of that information is based on *averages*. It doesn't relate specifically to what any one individual should be doing (or achieving). Keep that in mind if you find yourself setting a goal for him just because “all the other sixth graders” seem to be meeting it.
- **Reflect who he really is.** Do you see your child clearly when you're imagining what he should achieve? If he has been a reluctant reader since preschool, pushing him to take honors English may not make sense.

Help your adolescent understand the reasons behind discipline



Middle school is a time of tremendous growth and change. It is also a time when many students question authority.

Gone are the days, if they ever existed, when your child was likely to immediately do what you asked.

You are still the most important person in your child's life and he wants to please you. But he also wants, and needs, a lot more say in what happens to him—or at least to know *why* it is happening.

Here are some pointers for helping your child accept and understand consequences:

- **Explain.** Your child may not always realize that you imposed a rule because you are concerned about his safety, for example. Share your thinking with your child. He still may not like the rule, but he will likely feel less frustration if he understands it.
- **Work on the relationship.** Talk with your child often—and not just about the ways he needs to

improve. Express interest in what is going on in his life and also in his opinions. He's much more likely to listen and follow your directions when he knows you care about him as a person.

- **Strive for fairness.** Punishing your child just because you're angry is never a good idea. At this age, it backfires completely. Your child's focus will only be on what he thinks *you* did to *him*, not on what he should learn. So make sure consequences fit the infraction. If he fails to do his chores this afternoon, he has to stay in tomorrow afternoon to do them.

Source: C. Pratt, "Middle School Discipline That Works," EduGuide, niswc.com/discipline_reasons.

"If we don't shape our kids, they will be shaped by outside forces that don't care what shape our kids are in."

—Dr. Louise Hart

Are you still emphasizing attendance?



April often heralds the return of warmer days. But it's not summer vacation yet—and your child needs to be in

school, on time, until it is. Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to see if you are doing all you can to promote regular, on-time school attendance:

- ___ 1. Have you made it clear that attending school is your child's first priority through the end of the year?
- ___ 2. Do you avoid taking your child out of school unless it is an emergency?
- ___ 3. Do you emphasize to your child that your family does not condone truancy, no matter how nice the weather might be?
- ___ 4. Do you encourage your child to take steps that will get her to school on time, like using an alarm clock?
- ___ 5. Do you encourage the school to notify you if your child is not in school?

How well are you doing?

Mostly *yes* answers mean you are conveying the importance of attendance to your child. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

Categorize to build your child's higher-level thinking skills



In middle school, your child's reading will require him to make associations and sift out key ideas. One step

toward this skill is the ability to define and categorize. Your child can figure out a lot once he knows what something is and where it fits in.

Here is an example of how you can help your child build this skill:

1. **Show your child an item**, such as a ring. Ask him, "What is this?" He will probably say, "It's a ring."

2. Ask your child, "Can you put this item in a category?" He is likely to reply, "It's jewelry."
3. Now ask him, "What else can you tell me, now that you've established that this is a ring and a piece of jewelry?" Brainstorm with your child. Some ideas to get him started include: "It's valuable." "It should be kept in a safe place." "It can be worn as a symbol of marriage or other commitment."

Source: D. Johnson and C. Johnson, *Homework Heroes*, Kaplan Publishing.

Middle School
Parents
still make the difference!

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It Matters: Respect

Be a respectful role model for your athlete!



It's natural to want to cheer for a young athlete. But when parents get too involved, kids say they would rather their parents just stay away.

Here are four things your young athlete wants you to know:

1. **He loves having you on the sidelines**—except when you go too far. Your child wants you to be supportive of his *entire* team, not just him. He doesn't want you to yell at the referee. And he doesn't want you to yell at the parents of the kids on the other team!
2. **He wants you to recognize that the coach is in charge.** Most youth coaches are volunteers. Most of them are trying to give children a chance to play a game. Even if you think you could do a better job (and then why aren't you the coach?), your child would like you to respect the coach's authority.
3. **He wants you to be happy when his team wins.** But he doesn't want winning to become so important that he doesn't enjoy just playing the game. It's fine to talk about the game when it's over. But don't go on and on about it for days.
4. **He wants you to be realistic.** If no one in your family is taller than 5'6", you are probably not raising a basketball star. Help your child learn to enjoy sports and find the one that's right for him.

Source: J. and J. Sundberg, *How to Win at Sports Parenting*, Waterbrook Press.

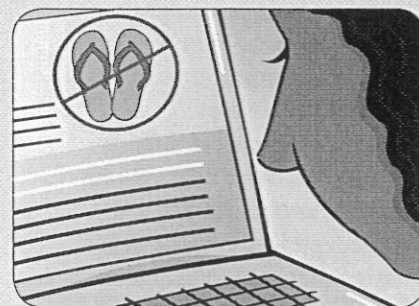
Talk to your child about how to show respect with clothing

Chances are you and your child argue occasionally about what she wears to school. That's no surprise, considering that many popular children's clothes violate school dress codes (not to mention parents' values).

Parents aren't alone in this battle. When EducationWorld.com asked educators about the importance of student dress codes, the response was clear—79% said dress codes “help improve behavior and academic performance.”

To make mornings easier on you, your child and the school:

- **Review the school dress code.** Which clothes and shoes are not allowed? Some commonly prohibited items include flip flops, halter tops, low-hanging pants and spaghetti straps.



- **Talk with your child.** Discuss why there is a dress code. Which clothes or shoes might be distracting? Offensive? Unsafe? Inappropriate? This is a good time to discuss respect for self.
- **Post the rules.** If you and your child argue repeatedly about dress, consider posting the rules. Children are less likely to argue with a list (especially a school list) than with a parent.

Teach your elementary schooler how to see beauty in diversity



Your child knows that no two people—or families—are exactly alike. But does he accept and appreciate this? To be a successful student and grown-up, he'll need to respect people's differences.

You can nurture your child's respect for diversity if you:

- **Are a positive role model.** Kids are naturally open minded. When parents show respect for others—through actions and words—children imitate them. Let your child know that while

people can be different from one another, they also have a lot in common.

- **Learn about other cultures** by leaving your “comfort zone.” Visit a new place, try a new food and read books about other ways of life.
- **Speak openly about diversity issues.** It's normal for your child to notice differences. They're fascinating and amazing! Correct any stereotyping with kid-friendly explanations.

Source: C. Metzler, Ph.D., “Teaching Children About Diversity,” PBS, nswc.com/diversity.

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