

**MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER**  
**RON PACHECO – PRINCIPAL**  
**October, 2017**

**WEBSITE**

Please use our website: [www.manhattan114.org](http://www.manhattan114.org) to obtain important information about school operation. You can find lunch menus, activity calendars, and directions to sporting events.

**PARENTS**

If you have changed your email address, or not supplied us with one, please email Glenna Johnston: [gjohnston@manhattan114.org](mailto:gjohnston@manhattan114.org)

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, NURSE & TEACHER AIDES**

We are in need of substitute teachers, nurses (licensed RN or LPN) and substitute teacher aides with paraprofessional certificate. If you or someone you know would like to substitute please have them contact Mrs. Johnston at: [gjohnston@manhattan114.org](mailto:gjohnston@manhattan114.org), 815-478-6090x0 or Diane Ponshe at 815-531-3309.

**STUDENT ABSENCES AND OFFICE HOURS**

All parents/guardians are required to contact the school in order to report a child absent. You may call anytime (24 hour availability) at (815) 478-6090. Absent reports will ONLY be accepted by parent/legal guardian. Please supply your name, child's name, and the reason for absence. Failure to report a child's absence will result in an unexcused absence. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday. If your student is absent more than two (2) consecutive days, you may request homework.

**CLUB SCHEDULES**

After School Workroom: Mon – Thurs. 2:30 – 3:10pm. (Permission slips in office or website)

Blue Crew: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month either 7:30 – 8am & 2:30 – 3:00pm.

Newsletter/Yearbook Club: Wednesday's in room 101 til 3:10pm.

Speech Club: Sept.- Oct. on Thurs. & Fri. in room 101 til 3:15pm.

Chess Club: Starts in October during Advisory on Fridays.

**NO CLASSES**

There are no classes scheduled Monday, October 9 in observance of Columbus Day.

November 10 marks the end of the first grading period. Report Cards will be ready November 17.

**PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent/Guardians will be receiving notification for conferences before October 29, if a teacher requests a conference. Please contact us immediately to set-up a conference. If you do not receive a letter by Oct 28, staff members have not requested a conference. If you do not receive notification, but would still like a conference, please call 478-6090 before November 8, and we will make the necessary arrangements.

## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION Contest**

This year we will be having our annual Fall Box Tops For Education Competition between our 1st hour classes. Please send your Box Tops in with your student, and have them place the Box Tops in their 1st hour class's envelope, which is in the classroom.

### **This year our winning 1st hour class will be awarded a breakfast snack!!!!**

This contest will run until October 26. Please make sure to check the expiration date on the Box Tops. Our goal this year is \$1700.00. Since 2011, we have raised \$8,198.28 from collecting Box Tops.

Thank you for your support.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE**

All 6<sup>th</sup> graders are **required** to have a current school physical on file with the Nurse. If you have not done this, please do so immediately. **Any 6<sup>th</sup> grader without a completed physical signed by a licensed practitioner, by October 14, 2017, will be excluded from school.** Please call the Nurse at 815-531-3207 with any questions.

**Required immunizations** for sixth grade- Tdap, Meningococcal, and two doses of Varicella, and Hepatitis B series (series of three shots, given over a time period of 6 months or more).

## **SCHOOL MEDICATION POLICY**

Just a reminder to parents/guardians: Manhattan School District 114 policy states that any medication prescribed by a licensed physician requires the physician's written order, signed by the physician as well as the parent/guardian. Any over-the-counter (OTC) medication such as Tylenol, Advil, cough drops/syrups also require an authorization. All required forms are available in the nurse's office. All meds must be brought in by a parent/guardian and must come in original container labeled with student's name.

## **DENTAL EXAMS**

All Illinois children in kindergarten, second, and **sixth** grades are required to have an oral health examination. A licensed dentist must complete these dental exams and he/she must sign the examination form. Each child shall present proof of the dental examination by May 15, 2018. The examination must have been completed within 18 months prior to the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

The dental examination forms are available in the nurse's office. The state has also provided "Waiver" forms for families who may have difficulty obtaining a dental examination at this time.

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM**

**6<sup>th</sup> gr. Team:** Amber Tuton, Sabrina Pantoja, Brooke Hesser, Kaylee Schultz, Madelyn O'Connell, Maddiline Cichon, Ellah Wereski, Leah Black, Mia Flentge, Mia Zamora, Olivia Ledvinia, Rorie Boerema, Penny Wade, Gwen Huffstetler, Olivia Calderone, Kaileigh Orris.

**7<sup>th</sup> gr. Team:** Stella Coughlin, Mariah Pantoja, Madelyn Noland, Courtney Frawley, Addison Conroy, Sophia LaRue, Ruby Garcia, Maddy Hurley, Kailey White, Olivia Hindel, Brooke Bergeran.

**8<sup>th</sup> gr. Team:** Kristen Shepard, Haley Hammang, Yanelle Saldana, Aubree Schultz, Hailee Englman, Evan Pittman, Meagan Fitzpatrick, Ella Adams, Lola Guzman, Leah Giradano, Lexi Busse.

## **VETERANS' DAY ASSEMBLY**

On November 10, 2017, Manhattan Junior High School will be hosting its annual Veterans Day program. All veterans are invited to attend the program that morning. Beginning at 7:30 A.M. coffee and doughnuts will be served followed by an assembly in the gym. The assembly will begin at 8:15. MJHS's outstanding choir and band will be performing for the veterans. We look forward to seeing local veterans as well as all students' family members who served our country.

## **BAND NEWS**

Before school practices for Symphonic Band have begun. The schedule for Symphonic Band members from 7:00-7:50am is as follows:

Mon: Woodwinds  
Tues: Everyone  
Wed: Brass  
Thurs: Everyone  
Fri: Percussion

After school practices for the 6th grade Concert Band have also begun. The schedule for Concert Band members from 2:30-3:00pm is as follows:

Mon: Woodwinds  
Tues: Everyone  
Wed: Brass  
Thurs: Everyone  
Fri: Percussion

Please see the band website for a more detailed schedule: [www.manhattanbandboosters.com](http://www.manhattanbandboosters.com).

The **MANDATORY** Fall Band Fundraiser will take place from Oct. 9 -23. We will be selling Butterbraids again this year.

Everyone is expected to see 10 Butternbraids or do a buyout of \$50.00 per child in band in order to be considered a Band Booster member.

More information about the Band Fundraiser will be sent home soon.

Please contact Mrs. Pedziwater with any questions at [cpedziwater@manhattan114.org](mailto:cpedziwater@manhattan114.org).

## **ORCHESTRA & CHOIR NEWS**

The students will be photographed for the yearbook and individuals in October by Beau James Photography. Demon Orchestra, Demon Choir, and Lady Demons are Monday, October 2

Orchestra: Wear your formal to school, and bring a change of clothes

Choirs: Bring your formal in a labeled garment bag, don't forget shoes!

Order forms are also found on our website: [Manhattanorchestrachoir](http://Manhattanorchestrachoir.com).

October 19 is the fall "Sing and String" concert showcasing our hard work. The performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. at MJHS.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS**

Mrs. Kozlownic and Mrs. Nass are proud to present our new Student Council representatives for the 2017-2018 school year: 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Payton Hodel; Josh Lehman; Ava Murphy; and Spencer Thompson. 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Mikayla Adrieansen; Cole Craven; Mickey Ceh; and Anna Zheng. 8<sup>th</sup> grade: Rachel Mitchell; Adam Pearse; Kristen Shepard; and Emmett Thompson (President). Congratulations! We had an impressive (and large) list of candidates this year that made the election results unbelievably close.

Student Council is already underway with planning for a week of fundraising and educational fun from October 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 27<sup>th</sup>. During our Salute to Heroes week we will be conducting our first fundraiser this year. Our charity of choice is Operation Care Package where are planning to raise funds to offset the postage costs incurred in mailing care packages to our soldiers overseas. Students will have the opportunity to purchase hero lollipops for each other that will be delivered during advisory on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. We will also be hosting a Hero Poster contest that week as well as dress-up days and daily inspiration. Read more about it in our November newsletter!

### **OCTOBER ASSET:**

This month students will be recognized for the asset of Preparedness. Comedian George Carlin once quipped, "I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman where the self-help section was. She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose." Much in the same vein, students who demonstrate a desire to put forth the effort, preparation, and responsibility to take advantage of their education as well as students who show commitment to learning by good school attendance, having homework completed and materials ready for each class, by participating in their classes in thoughtful and constructive ways, and by following through on their responsibilities even when the expectations are challenging will be chosen by our teachers as Student of the Month.

Parents can help their teens develop this asset through 1) being passionate about their own learning; and 2) involving their teen in everyday life experiences as much as possible. Let's look closer at both of these efforts.

Instill a love of learning in your children by being passionate about your own learning. Taking classes, reading up on a topic, and taking advantage of learning opportunities through community workshops are all ways that parents can show their child through their actions instead of words, the power of education and the enjoyment that can be gained from learning. Share your educational experiences with your children, including the challenges, struggles and successes you experience. Let them see how learning works for all ages and can bring great happiness, success, and personal achievement.

Secondly, involve your teen in life's everyday experiences as much as possible. It doesn't have to be expensive activities such as going to zoos or museums, but simple things like going grocery shopping or doing a project together at home. Talking with teens before, during, and after any activity helps them learn the steps involved in learning. This conversation also will improve your communication and in turn, your relationship with your teen.

### **PARENT CORNER:**

Our Parent Corner this month will focus on the subject of homework. It seems like our kids are having more challenging homework and at earlier grades than we did at their age. And, with so many extracurricular events, athletic practices and other activities, it's easy to see how homework can get pushed to the back burner and possibly forgotten.

While homework may seem like drudgery, studies show, and common sense supports, that studying at home can help improve a teen's performance in school. Here are some tips for helping your teen get their homework done regularly and correctly:

- Establish a central homework location, such as the kitchen table or a desk in your teen's room, where your teen has everything they need to complete the assigned work (reference books, pencils, internet access, etc.).
- Keep the area as quiet as possible during study time. This means no TV or other electronic distractions unless needed for homework completion.
- Set aside a specific amount of time for studying and homework each school night. For junior high school students it can be about 45 to 75 minutes.
- Make sure your teen starts study time on time. You can be somewhat flexible if an unforeseen situation arises, but it's important that your teen understands that homework is their responsibility and must be completed.
- Divide study time into shorter periods for teens with difficulty concentrating. Brief breaks can help them concentrate when they return to their homework.
- Schedule study time early. Your teen is more likely to complete it if it's scheduled before dinner or any leisure activities, such as watching TV or playing video games.
- Have your teen show you what homework they have. Stay connected with your teen's academic progress through HomeLogic and directly with your teen's teachers.
- Always set aside a time for learning and reading. If your teen says they don't have homework that day, you should still have them use study time to read — even if it's just a sports or fashion magazine. The idea is to make reading a lifelong habit.

As mentioned in earlier articles, it's important to recognize, praise and sometimes even reward positive behavior, like completing the day's homework assignments. This will help reinforce that positive behavior.

Conversely, if your teen fails to complete assignments or brings home poor grades, be ready to take away privileges, such as access to smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices, or not permitting your teen to hang out with friends or participate in activities. Using consequences, after all, should be contingent upon your teen following your house rules — which should include achieving acceptable academic performance.

## **PARENT RESOURCES:**

The Will County Center for Community Concerns has announced, as part of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), that funds are available to assist income-eligible households with their winter utility bills and furnace assistance. Households must be at or below 150 % of the federal poverty level to receive a benefit from the LIHEAP program. Call the Will County Center for Community Concerns at 815-722-0722 or visit their website at [wccc.net](http://wccc.net) for outreach locations for application submission and schedules as well as for information on what documents are needed to apply.

Mental Health Assessments/Counseling: Two resources parents may find helpful include: Advocate Childhood Trauma Treatment Program- No-cost 20 session therapy services are available at various locations, including Bolingbrook, for children and adolescents who experienced trauma. Criteria for

the free sessions include: No insurance, no custody issues, and no court involvement. For more information contact the program at 1-800-216-1110 or [advocatehealth.com/familycarenetwork](http://advocatehealth.com/familycarenetwork)

Linden Oaks Behavioral Health: Free assessments are available for adolescents by calling 630-305-5027. Services provided by Linden Oaks are designed to help adolescents with anxiety, mood disorders, eating disorders, and self-harming behaviors. Inpatient, Partial Hospitalization program, Intensive Outpatient and counseling services are available. Locations in Naperville and Plainfield.

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **October:**

- 2 GBB (7/8) @ Summit Hill 4pm  
GBB (6) @ Hilda Walker 4pm
- 3 BVB Conf. @ Homer
- 4 BVB Conf. @ Homer
- 5 BVB Finals @ Homer  
GBB (7/8) vs. Homer 4pm  
GBB (6) @ Hadley 4:15pm
- 7 CC Sectionals 9am
- 9 **NO SCHOOL**  
Band Fall Fundraiser Starts
- 10 GBB (7/8) vs. Troy 4pm  
GBB (6) @W.C. vs. Orenic 4:15pm  
PTO Mtg. @ W.C. 6:15pm
- 11 Board of Education Mtg. @ W.C. 7pm
- 12 GBB (7/8) @ Mokena 4pm  
GBB (6) @ Mokena 4pm
- 14 CC State 9am
- 16 BBB(7/8) Tryouts 2:30-4:30  
BBB(6) Tryouts @ W.C. 4-5:30pm
- 17 BBB (7/8) Tryouts 6-8am  
BBB (6) Tryouts @ A. Mc. 3:15-4:45pm  
GBB (7/8) vs. Hickory Creek 4pm  
GBB (6) @ W.C. vs. Hickory Creek 4:15pm
- 19 Sing & String Concert @ MJHS 7pm
- 23 Band Fundraiser ends  
GBB (7/8) @ Elwood 4:30pm
- 24 GBB (7/8) @ Martino 4pm  
GBB (6) @ Bentley 4pm
- 26 GBB (7/8) vs. Summit Hill 4pm  
GBB (6) @ W.C. vs. Hilda Walker 4:15pm
- 27 PTO Dance @ MJHS 6:30-9pm
- 30 **EARLY RELEASE NOON**  
GBB (7/8) @ Homer 4pm  
GBB (6) @ Hadley 4pm  
BBB (7/8) @ Bradley 4:30pm
- 31 **NO SCHOOL/TEACHER'S INSTITUTE**