

MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER
RON PACHECO - PRINCIPAL

September, 2014

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to the start of another school year. We are excited to see everyone return and also welcome over 30 new students to our Manhattan Junior High School family. Joining our faculty this year is Mr. Minuth – S.I. instructor, Mrs. Kurzawa – aide, Mrs. Shoppe – psychologist, Miss Gilbert – speech pathologist, Miss Pennington – Rtl maternity substitute, Mrs. Sandersen – LDR maternity substitute.

WHEN DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP STUDENTS

When dropping off students in the morning please enter the parking lot on the west end of the building. Drop students off at the doors on the north/west side of the building (by the band room). When picking students up after school, please pick them up in the west parking lot. This will help buses leave the school in a timely manner.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCE

Please call the Jr. High office at 478-6090 to report your child absent. Answering machine is on at all times. Please specify the reason for his/her absence. If you do not call, you must send a note with your child to the office upon his/her return to school. If we do not receive notification (by phone or note) your child's absence will be UNEXCUSED. The call must be made by a parent or supervising adult.

NO SCHOOL

Just a reminder that there is no school on Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day.

GOOD LUCK

Our Manhattan Band is participating Monday, September 1 @ 11 a.m. in the Manhattan Parade.

PARENTS

We are using emails for communicating with parents. If yours changes please keep us up to date with the correct address. Send email to: gjohnston@manhattan114.org to be added or any changes to email addresses.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Demons cross-country team begins their fall campaign Thursday, September 4 as they host St. Paul and Peotone at the Round Barn Farm. The team is comprised of the following young men and women:

Boys: Cameron Brady, Payton Branch, Quinn Cosgrove, Brady Forsythe, Sam Forsythe, Garrett Geigner, Payton Geigner, Trevor Lindner, Mike Lomalie, Rob Macie, Ryan McCoy, Drew Murphy, Jack Quinn, Aaron Ronaldson, Max Shepherd, Jack Urbanciz, and Dylan Williams.

Girls: Kaitlyn Adams, Alyssa Albrecht, Sarah Bourell, Elise Champlin, Abby Daletski, Alex Dorencz, Brooke Honan, Danielle Litman, Olivia Murphy, and Emily Wisinski.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

8th Grade: Dylan Adair, Travis Bernhard, Jason Cler, Christopher Dargan, Trezario DeMeis-DeWitt, David Flores, Sam Ford, Mitchell Krzebiot, Ben Pluskota, Joey Rinaldi, Nicky Studer,

7TH & 6TH: Matt Zarnowski.
Colin Christensen, Josh Davis, Mark Giordano, Lukas Gonda, Jeremy Koerner, Logan Oliver, Jake Paymaster, Nathan Smith, Rory Stencel, Ryan Towner, Tommy Vanderhei, Caden Carrasco, Tommy Corbett, Guy Fitzer, Joe Ott, Ryan Rodgers, Cam Sparks, Colin Sparks.

MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE

All 6th 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 6th grader without a completed physical signed by a licensed practitioner, by October 15, 2014, will be excluded from school. Please call the Nurse at 815-478-6090 with any questions.

Vision/Hearing Screenings will be conducted during the month of October. Also a Tdap Booster is required for all students in grades 6 through 12. Proof must be presented in order to attend classes for the 2014-15 school year. Current 5th grade students should receive this booster during their required 6th grade physical.

25 BOOK CHALLENGE

The Jr. High will be running a 25 Book Challenge this year. Our challenge will run September 15 through May 15. Students will receive a reading log. They need to read books in different genres as stated on the log. Tickets and prizes are earned throughout contest. There will be monthly prize drawings and a drawing at the end of the year for a Kindle. All students may not reach 25, but by trying they will receive tickets and be eligible for the drawing and other prizes. Students can sign-up in the library until September 15th.

LUNCH PROGRAM

Preferred Meals, is our lunch provider. Our schools utilize a computer generated accounting system, just as we have in the past. Students are provided with photo I.D. lunch card. Students **must** use the I.D. when purchasing lunch. Payments can be made anytime during the month. Lunches cost \$2.75. A La Carte lunches are available. Replacement I.D.s are available for \$5.00. Students will not be allowed to incur a negative balance. Students with negative lunch balances will not be able to purchase lunch until the balance has been paid. Milk will be provided to students who do not have money in their account only twice.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Parents can enroll online by the use of a dedicated secure enrollment website or by calling 877-444-5014 (available July 1st). The website address is <http://markel.sevencorners.com/>. On this website, parents will be able to:

- View all of the coverage and premium options
- Review a Frequently Asked Questions section
- Purchase the insurance using a credit/debit card and receive an instant and printable confirmation of what they purchased

This electronic enrollment is a win-win-win situation. It allows the parents to purchase the coverage on a real time basis, it allows the school district to reduce its involvement in the enrollment process, and it enables Markel Insurance Company to more efficiently administer the program.

The key to the success of this electronic enrollment is that the parents of your school district be made aware of the website. Student Accident insurance is becoming more and more important to families due to lack of other insurance for their children or having major medical plans with ever increasing deductibles & co-insurance requirements. Our Student Accident insurance program helps families cope with these issues in a very cost effective manner. **Therefore, it is of the utmost importance**

that school district officials widely publish the <http://markel.sevencorners.com/> address to allow all parents to review the information and determine its value to their individual family's situation. We ask that your district Webmaster create a Student Accident section on your district website in a place where the parents will see it. The above URL should be placed as a direct link in this section. Doing so will enable parents to go directly to the website.

BAND DEPARTMENT

Monday, September 1: Marching Band to perform at the Manhattan Parade. Students are to report to BMO Harris Bank at 10:20am in FULL UNIFORM. Parade begins at 11:00. Students are to be picked up St. Paul's Church.

Saturday, September 6: Marching Band to perform at Elwood Parade. Students are to report to the JH by 10:00am in FULL UNIFORM. Parade begins at 11:00am in Elwood.

Friday, September 12: 6-8 grade band students to perform at football game with Lincoln Way Marching Knights at a LWC Football Game. More details to follow.

Week of September 14: After school practices from 2:30-3:00pm for 6th grade Concert Band members begin. Woodwinds have band M-T-Th; Brass has band T-W-TH; Percussion has band T-TH-F

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Pedziwater with any questions. cpedziwater@manhattan114.org

ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR NEWS

There is a **mandatory** booster meeting on September 4th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Tuxedos and black formals will be distributed that night. If your child has not been fitted, please come early, starting at 6:00 p.m. and bring your musician. Information for the school year will be covered briefly. The deposit to MOCB is \$50.00 required and the formals may only be hemmed.

If your child will be participating in the Illinois Music Educator's Association audition, all information is needed to Mrs. Pacheco by September 17th.

RUN FOR PALESH

The 5th annual **Run for Palesh** will be taking place on Sunday, October 5th. Included in this year's event are the free *kids' run* for children age 6 and under, and the Manhattan Junior High *alumni tent* for all former students.

Information will be coming home later this month for students to participate in the Dedication Run hosted at each of the three schools.

Thanks as always for your support in the Run for Palesh and in spreading the word! This event wouldn't be as great as it is without all of the participants, donors, and volunteers! We are still in need of volunteers for race day (the morning of Sunday, October 5th.) Please email mschussler@manhattan114.org if you are able to help at this year's event. We look forward to seeing all of you at the race!

The Run for Palesh Committee

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council has been pretty involved this year already – even before the year started. They have been out and about helping with locker move-in days prior to the start of the year, with Back to School Night for parents, and with hosting a welcome party for our 28 junior high students who are new to our district.

Student Council will be holding elections this month for our upcoming school year. If anyone is interested in running for Student Council, applications will be available outside of the main office during the week of September 1st. The deadline for applications will be Tuesday, September 9th at

the end of the school day with the actual election being held on Friday, September 12th. Student Council is a great school-based organization that is very involved in fundraising activities for our community. Our students are seen as leaders in our school and possess great character. For more information about the Student Council election or information about Student Council in general you may contact either Mrs. Kozlowski or Mrs. Nass, co-sponsors.

CHESS CLUB

Students interested in playing chess for fun will have the opportunity to join our school's chess club. This is a non-tournament based club that will begin place in late September and will continue throughout the school year. We will meet during homeroom on Fridays in the cafeteria. Permission slips will be available soon. There will be a limit of 20 students who will be able to participate. There is no fee to join. Please tell your son or daughter to listen to the announcements as to when permission slips will be available. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Nass.

CRAFT CLUB

Students interested in making crafts will have the opportunity to meet once a month to make crafts for the seniors who participate in the Over 55 Senior Luncheon Program at the Manhattan Park District. Once a month we will meet to make a craft during homeroom on Friday and then twice a year we do a craft activity together with the Park District participants here at our school. Permission slips will be available soon. There will be a limit of 15 students who will be able to participate. There is no fee to join. Please tell your son or daughter to listen to the announcements as to when permission slips will be available. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Nass.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Illinois 4-H: 4-H is a lot more than cows and chickens! Illinois 4-H offers a variety of membership opportunities for youth ages 8-18 through their 4-H clubs. Individual and club projects can range from aerospace, cake decorating, scrapbooking, theater, robotics, welding, geology and more! For more information about 4-H in Will County call the Extension office at 815-727-9296 or visit their web site at www.4-H.illinois.edu

TEAM ASSET OF THE MONTH

Each month our school joins the Lincoln Way High School District promoting the TEAM Asset of the month. These "developmental assets" are aimed at helping young people grow up healthy, caring, and principled through developing positive relationships, being committed to both school and family, and possessing both values and competencies that support good decision-making and healthy choices. This month the developmental asset is COMMITMENT TO LEARNING. Parents can support this asset by engaging their child in the following ways:

- 1) Motivate your child to do well in school by helping them set both short and long - term educational goals. Focus on whether you see your child improving in their classes and not just on the final grade he or she may get on their report card. Help them find ways to persevere when they feel like giving up by finding out what motivates them to do well.
- 2) Support your child's interests by encouraging them to participate in extra-curricular activities. Children who are engaged in sports and activities do better academically than children who do not pursue their interests. Involvement in school-based programs also will give your child a chance to bond with the school making your child's school a comfortable place to be.
- 3) Ensure that your child has the time, place, and materials for them to complete their homework on a daily basis. Staying on top of homework reduces anxiety and fosters a sense of positive self-esteem. Consider having your child participate in our school's homework club. This club will begin after school on Wednesday, September 3rd and will run from 2:30 PM to 3:10 PM. Permission slips are available in the main office.

- 4) Provide as many opportunities as possible for your child to read. Whether it is trips to the local public library, downloading books on a digital device, or subscribing to magazines for your home, reading spells success and is vital to successful learning.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sept. 1 NO SCHOOL
Manhattan Band in Labor Day Parade @11 a.m.
- 2 GBB Tryouts 4 – 6 pm @ MJHS
- 4 CC @ Home vs. Peotone 4:15pm
- 9 CC @ Home vs. S.H./Troy/H.C. 4pm
- 10 BVB @ Home vs. Hickory Creek 4pm
- 16 BVB @ Liberty 4pm
CC @ Troy/Crossroads vs. Martino/Homer/Troy 4pm
- 17 GBB @ Home vs. Coal City 4:30pm
6GBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Coal City 4:30pm
- 18 BVB @ Home vs. Summit Hill
- 19 Early Release – Noon
Progress Reports ready
- 20 CC @ Crossroads – Troy Invite 9am
- 22 Cheerleading Clinic 2:45-4pm MJHS Library
- 23 BVB @ Home vs. Homer 4pm
Cheerleading Clinic 2:45-4pm MJHS Library
CC @ Liberty vs. Mokena/Troy/Liberty 4pm
- 24 GBB @ Home vs. Bourbonnais 4pm
Cheerleading Clinic 2:45-4pm MJHS Library
- 25 BVB @ Mokena 4pm
Cheerleading Tryouts 2:45-4pm MJHS Library
- 29 GBB @ Manteno 4:30pm
6GBB @ Anna McDonald vs. Elwood 4:30pm
- 30 BVB @ Troy 4pm
CC @ Homer vs. Homer/Mokena/S.H. 4pm