

**-MANHATTAN JR. HIGH NEWSLETTER
RON PACHECO - PRINCIPAL**

September, 2015

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.

LUNCH INCREASE

Student lunches have gone up to \$3.00 ea. Milk is still .25

SUBSTITUTE NURSE & TEACHER AIDES

We are in need of substitute nurses and teacher aides. If you or someone you know would like to substitute please have them contact Mrs. Johnston at: gjohnston@manhattan114.org, 815-478-6090x0 or Diane Ponshe at 815-531-3309.

NO SCHOOL

Just a reminder that there is no school on Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

GOOD LUCK

Our Manhattan Band is participating Monday, September 7 @ 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.

YEARBOOKS

Order your yearbook before September 30 and receive 15% off the price! Yearbooks are \$12.00 this year again, but you can get the discount through the end of September. Follow the following website to order a yearbook for your child(ren). Enter the passcode and update or enter your information to order your yearbook for this year. You can work on 2 custom pages throughout the year to personalize the book. **Remember to make the pages print ready or they will not print for you in the yearbook.**

www.treering.com/validate

School passcode: 1014117026912978

BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

8th Grade: Colin Christensen, Josh Davis, Mark Giordano, Lukas Gonda, Logan Oliver, Jake Paymaster, Nathan Smith Rory Stencel, Ryan Towner, Tommy Vanderhei.

7TH & 6th: Caden Carrasco, Tommy Corbett, Guy Fitzer, Ben Guzek, Zach Lomalli, Conor Moe, Drew Murphy, Joe Ott Ryan Rodgers Cam Sparks, Colin Sparks, Tyler Prichard.

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, 2015, 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 2015-16 school year. Current 5th grade students should receive this booster during their required 6th grade physical.

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 \$3.00. 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

On Friday, August 28, the 6-8 grade Marching Band played at a football game with Lincoln Way West High School for the first time in history! The kids performed the Warrior Fight Song and the Star Spangled Banner during pregame with the LWW Marching Warriors. The students then played cheers in the football stands with the band. A great time was had by all!

The 6-8 grade band will be marching in the Manhattan Parade on Monday, September 6. The parade will begin at 11:00am. (cont.)

A meeting point and time will be determined as the date gets closer. The students should wear their band pants, band jacket, blue Manhattan JH band shirt, the cape and sash, black KNEE high socks and black shoes.

On Saturday, September 12, the 6-8 grade Marching Band will be marching in the Elwood Parade. The parade will begin at 11:00am and students will need to report to the JH by 10:00am to take a bus together to Elwood. The students should wear their band pants, band jacket, blue Manhattan JH band shirt, the cape and sash, black KNEE high socks and black shoes.

Please contact Mrs. Pedziwater with any questions at cpedziwater@manhattan114.org.

ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR NEWS

There is a MANDATORY booster meeting on September 3rd starting at 7:00 p.m. Please come early to pick up your formal with a \$60.00 deposit to MOCB dating May 27, 2016.

Orchestra is to purchase the books: Mueller-Rusch, Book 3 and Essential Elements 2000 Book 3 for class, due on September 11. Choir is to purchase the book: Sing on Sight" available for purchase at school for \$6.00 payable to MOCB.

Newsletter and practice records are on-line this year, hard copies will NOT be passed out this year.

Activity fees are due by October 1st, \$40.00 per activity, payable to #114.

Congratulations on a fantastic Summer Concert! Please check the website: Manhattanorchestrachoir regularly, and please join Remind101.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Student Council has been pretty involved this year already even before the formal school year started! They have been out and about helping with locker move-in days prior to the start of the year, Back to School Night for parents, and with hosting a welcome party for our 21 junior high students who are new to our district. 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 both in and out of the classroom. Our Student Council co-sponsors, Mrs. Kozlowicz and Mrs. Nass will be holding elections this month for our upcoming school year. If any MJH student is interested in running for Student Council, applications will be available outside of the main office during the week of September 8th. The deadline for applications will be Wednesday, September 16th. Elections will be held on Friday, September 18th and the winners announced that day.

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 most Fridays in the cafeteria. Permission slips will be available in mid-September. There is no fee to join but there will be a limit of 30 students who can participate.. Please tell your son or daughter to listen to the school 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 during homeroom at our school to make crafts for the seniors who participate in the Manhattan Park District's Over 55 Senior Luncheon Program. Permission slips will be available in late September.

There will be a limit of 12 students who will be able to participate. There is no fee to join! Please tell your son or daughter to listen to the announcements! Any questions, please contact Mrs. Nass.

MANHATTAN JR. HIGH STUDENT ASSET OF THE MONTH

Each month Manhattan Junior High will be recognizing students in each grade who display, through their exemplary character, an asset that focuses on positive choices. Students will not only be featured on our school's Student of the Month wall, but they will also be recognized in the MANHATTAN AMERICAN, and will receive a certificate and T-shirt as our school's way of saying "Thank you for a job well done!"

For September, our asset will be Commitment to Learning. Thomas Edison said it best, "A successful person makes a habit of doing what the failing person doesn't like to do." Students who will be recognized this month will be selected by our teachers as showing through their positive choices a commitment to learning by being prepared for classes, by having homework completed and materials ready to go, participating in their classes in thoughtful and constructive ways, and engaging with their classmates to both inspire and support them. These students show through their exemplary character that they are ready and able to carry through on all of their responsibilities even when the expectations are challenging.

PARENT CORNER

Each month our Parent Newsletter will have a Parent Corner that will focus on tips and ideas for parents that will help their tween/teen be more successful both in and out of school. This month we will focus on helping our child be successful at school. This aligns to our Student of the Month asset for September: Commitment to Learning. Here are some ideas that many of you are probably already doing:

- 1) Show that you value school. School is more likely to be important to your child if he or she knows it matters to you. Talk about why doing well in school matters; discuss school and teachers in a positive way, and stress good school attendance, only allowing missed school days for serious reasons, such as illness.
- 2) Make sure that your child gets enough sleep – 9 to 10 hours for junior high school kids is ideal. (Don't forget to have them leave their cell phones/tablets, etc. outside their bedroom at night.) Students can't learn, have trouble concentrating, and have difficulties getting along with others when they are tired and hungry.
- 3) Promote good study habits, including daily reading time, by setting up a regular routine and workspace for schoolwork. The school week is an ideal time for limiting screen time. Monitor their progress by checking HomeLogic weekly. If your child is falling behind in their classes, team up with their teacher(s) to learn more about what is going on in the classroom and how you can better support your child at home.
- 4) Teach discipline and responsibility. Set clear rules and expectations for behavior and schoolwork and stick to them. Don't forget to be a good role model yourself.

PARENT RESOURCE

The 2015 ShareFest Job and Resource Fair is scheduled over two weekends this month. ShareFest is collaborating with the Village of New Lenox and the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce to bring this event to Lincolnway residents. The first event is scheduled for Friday, September 11th from 10 AM to 1 PM. This year's event is expected to include approximately 50 companies from a variety of industries that will be located in the Village Hall. To view all of the employers, visit <http://www.sharefestnewlenox.com>. One-on-one resume reviews will take place at the New Lenox Public Library (located east of the Village Hall) during the same time period.

In addition, this year's "Main Event" will take place on Saturday, September 19th from a 9 AM to 3 PM, at Spencer School Campus, 1711 S. Spencer Road, New Lenox. At this event, attendees are welcome to help themselves to free clothing, books, home goods, pet-related items, and more. There will also be free legal advice from a group of attorneys, a Health and Safety Fair, including free screenings and lectures from local health care providers, an art exhibit, and freebies. For more information, please go to www.sharefestnewlenox.com.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sept.

- 1 GBB Tryouts 4 – 6 pm @ MJHS
- 3 CC @ Home vs. Peotone 4:15pm
- 7 NO SCHOOL
Manhattan Band in Labor Day Parade @11 a.m.
- 8 CC @ Martino 4pm
- 10 BVB @ Hickory Creek 4pm
- 12 Manhattan Band in Elwood Parade
- 14-16 Cheerleading Clinic 2:45-4:30pm
- 15 BVB @ Home vs. Liberty 4pm
CC @ Summit Hill 4pm
- 16 GBB @ Coal City 4:30pm
- 17 BVB @ Summit Hill 4pm
Cheerleading Tryouts 2:45-5:30pm
- 18 Early Release – 12:00pm
Progress Reports Ready
- 19 CC @ Troy Invite (Crossroads) 9am
- 21 Picture Retakes
- 22 CC @ Liberty 4pm
BVB @ Homer 4pm
- 23 GBB @ Bourbonnais 4:30pm
- 24 CC @ Home vs. Oak Prairie/Calumet/Morris 4pm
BVB @ Home vs. Mokena 4pm
- 29 CC @ Home vs. Martino/Troy/Liberty 4pm
GBB @ Liberty 4pm
6th GBB @ Nelson Ridge 4pm
BVB @ Troy 4pm
- 30 6th GBB @ WC vs. Peotone 4:15pm