

COUNCIL GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNCIL GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2013

CGMS/CGES September 2013 Activity Calendar

9/2/2013	Labor day-NO SCHOOL
9/5/2013	Cross Country @ Mission Valley-4:30
9/5/2013	Volleyball/Football vs Osage City- 4:30/6:30
9/12/2013	Cross Country @ Sante Fe Trail-4:00
9/12/2013	Volleyball/Football @ Chase County- 4:30/6:30
9/12/2013	Body Venture
9/16/2013	Staff Development-NO SCHOOL
9/17/2013	Mid-terms go home with students today
9/18/2013	School Picture Day and Fall Sports
9/19/2013	Cross Country@ Northern Heights-4:00 pm
9/19/2013	Volleyball/Football vs Herington- 4:30/6:30
9/26/2012	Volleyball/Football vs Mission Valley- Home-4:30/6:30
9/26/2012	Cross Country @ Marion-4:30 pm

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Council Grove Middle School would like to welcome the following new students Aerial Alvarado, Abbi Good and Dani Dragone-Grade 6; Dylan Allen, Katie Border, and Tucker Brunner-Grade 7; Donovan Modlin-Grade 8. Council Grove Elementary would like to welcome our new large class of Kindergarteners and Preschoolers! Also we have new students: Adeiah Heffner, Jaslyn Pollock, Baker Stephens and Hunter Yowell-Grade 1; K'Anah and David Seymour-2; Johnathan Breese, Ethan Burton, Maggie Good and Colton Skaggs-Grade 3; Elle Dragone and Sloane Manspeaker-Grade 4; Jade Heffner Grade 5

POWER SCHOOL

Just a reminder that you can not only check your child's grades on power school, but you can also check lunch balances and transactions. CGES/MS has changed the management lunch program to "PowerSchool Lunch" The program has individual accounts for each student rather than family accounts. All parents can access their lunch account information using the PowerSchool Parent Access system. Please send check or cash to the school office with an amount specified for each child. If you do not know your login user id and password, please call the school and we will be glad to assist you.

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

Dear Parents,
We are adjusting to a new schedule and are settling in for learning in the social studies classroom. We are using I-pads with our learning

and new technology comes with some bumps - but we are riding through those bumps together! We are using a secure web-based program called: Edmodo -- in the 6th and 7th grades. It allows me to push assignment to students through technology and they can respond back to me. They can also communicate with peers in their particular hour. I'm hoping it will improve communication and writing skills for all learners.

In 6th grade, we have been reviewing basic map skills and will begin our journey into Ancient Egypt very soon. We will be there for most of September. In 7th grade, the students reviewed map skills and will begin learning about the continent of Europe - our closest ally in the world. 8th graders are learning about our founding fathers, beginning with the Declaration of Independence and framing of our Constitution.

My personal goal this year included better parent communication. I am purposely making assignments that will involve your student coming home to interview you as part of his/her assignment. My point with this is two-fold: research shows that when a child tells knowledge to another person it secures that knowledge into the area of the brain that stores learning forever. Also, I want kids talking to parents about learning. At middle school, communication with your student is sometimes limited! I am also trying to email photos from the classroom WHILE kids are learning! So, if you get a photo from me - just know I'm proud of your child at that very moment!!

I also want to keep parents informed about the Common Core standards. I have found a web-site through the state that has some "cheat sheets" and I think it presents a clearer picture of how those look for schools. I plan to include a website each month in my comments
here: <http://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=DPg69HUkRDg%3d&tabid=5082&mid=12425>

Lastly, Council Grove Middle School has a FaceBook page now. Many of the teachers are using it as a communication tool. Like us at: Council Grove Middle School. The more we can work together, the more ways we can communicate, the more students WILL benefit. I have said it many times before - as parents YOU are the expert on your child! Call, email or stop by with questions!
Sincerely,
Mary Myers
6th, 7th, 8th - Social Studies

PICTURE DAY

CGES/MS fall pictures will be taken on Wednesday, September 18th. This includes individual, cross country, football, volleyball and cheerleading. Order forms will be sent home with students the week of September 3rd. Pictures may be ordered online before picture day, with details on the picture form. If sending payment with order form, it is due the day of picture taking. Checks need to be made out to Lifetouch or if sending cash, exact payment is required. No change will be made.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

If your child is home sick and you would like to request homework, we ask that you do this when you call your student into the office for being absent in the morning. We ask that you call between 8:00 and 8:30 am in order to avoid a call from the office. Please request the work at this time, so the teachers will have preparation time during the day. If your child knows in advance that he/she will be gone, it is their responsibility to check with their teachers ahead of time to get their work. It is the parents responsibility to pick up

the work at the end of the day, if you requested it.

CGES 3rd Grade

3rd graders are reading The Trial of Cardigan Jones in their new Journeys books. They will be going on a field trip to the Morris County Courthouse to visit the courtroom and jail on September 3. A special thanks to Abby's mom, Laura Allen, and Jayden's dad, Scott Coover, for giving the tours.

Mrs. Wilson's 4th Grade Class WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL !

We are back into the swing of things with new P.E. shoes, backpacks and taking our brains off of vacation mode. Procedures are being established and practiced and the learning has begun.

Mrs. Wilson's fourth grade class has chosen to do a community service project. We will be collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House charities. The class has decided to make this not only a school-wide project, but a community-wide project. There are already collection points with some local organizations. The class that brings in the most pop tabs will win a pizza party. Please watch this newsletter and the local newspaper for more information on how you can help.

Body Venture is coming.....

An exciting exhibit is coming to visit the USD #417 K-5th grade students on Thursday, September 12th, 2013. Body Venture is a unique educational program designed to involve students in learning the skills and choices for a healthy lifestyle. Children learn about the importance of good nutrition choices by walking through a 35-foot by 40-foot exhibit representing the human body. The exhibit was designed and created by the Kansas State Department of Education, Child Nutrition & Wellness.

Students tour the human body with Power Panther graphics as a guide. Power Panther is the USDA Food and Nutrition Service mascot. Throughout the exhibit, they will learn how to apply Power Panther's slogan, **EAT SMART. PLAY HARD.**

The tour begins when students, in groups of eight to ten, enter the school lunchroom and become a food such as a carrot, low-fat milk or a piece of cheese. In the second station, they walk through a giant ear into the brain. Inside the huge brain dome, students experience "brain waves" and learn about brain function. The "foods" step into the exhibit's larger-than-life mouth, are "swallowed" through the esophagus tunnel and move into the stomach dome. From the stomach, the students

travel through the small intestine where they are "absorbed" into the blood. Then they follow the path of the nutrients to the heart, lung, bone, muscle and skin stations. Students leave the body through a cut in the skin and proceed through Power Panther's Pathway to Life. This final station recaps key health concepts from each of the ten previous stations.

FROM PRINCIPAL ESTES

September is here and we are back in full swing at Council Grove Elementary and Middle Schools. You will notice some changes if you come into the school. We have new staff members, new curriculum and new procedures.

As the state standards became more rigorous, so did our curriculum. In Council Grove Elementary, we have adopted "Journeys", a language arts curriculum. Journeys begins in Pre-School and continues through 5th grade. Beginning in 5th grade at the elementary school and continuing through 8th grade at Council Grove Middle School, we have updated our math curriculum. We are using a curriculum called "Connected Math." Both "Journeys" and "Connected Math" are aligned to the Kansas College and Career Readiness Standards.

We have also made a change in security. All staff in the building are required to wear identification badges. Visitor badges have been ordered but have not arrived yet. Remember, the procedure for visiting a class is for you to report to the office first. We anticipate having visitor badges available in early September.

In addition to identification badges, we are keeping most doors locked. From 7:30-8:00 there are four doors unlocked. But from 8:00AM to 3:00PM the only doors unlocked are the South entrance to the elementary school and the West entrance to the middle school. Remember, if you come in the building you are required to check in at the office. I will be asking Site Council to examine our dismissal procedures and make recommendations concerning location of parent pick up, bus pick up and any other safety concerns.

