



Laurel Anderson, Principal

March 2010

Jason Harris, Assistant Principal

## Bring Valid ID

### Parents or Guardians:

**You must show identification when visiting our building to pick up or access students during regular school hours.**

## NEED EXTRA HELP on CLASSWORK?

*Take advantage of:*

### MGJH Learning Center

You must be in the Media Center with a planner that is signed by your teacher by 2:50 PM.

A math teacher is available on Tuesdays.

Late bus loads at 4:20 PM and leaves by 4:30 PM.

## DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP STUDENTS

If you drop off or pick up your student from school, please use the entrance at the very east end of the community education parking lot. As you head east on 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue, proceed to the last driveway to drop off or pick up your student. As you drive around to the door, we ask that the **front car move as far forward as possible** on each of the curbed areas when both dropping off and picking up students to avoid a back-up of cars in the lot. Students may also be dropped off and picked up on the north side of 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue and use the sidewalk to walk to the front of the building. The driveway directly in front of the building is for District contracted vehicles only. As always, we ask drivers to proceed slowly through the parking lot and look for students and staff crossing the lot. Although we have reminded students about pedestrian safety many times on the announcements, we ask you to please also remind your student to use sidewalks and crosswalks in order to stay safe. Thank you for your help!

## American Red Cross Blood Drive at MGJH—March 12

Maple Grove Junior High is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Friday, March 12, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The need for blood is constant and it is a vital tool in contemporary medicine. Only 37% of the population is eligible to give blood and only a small fraction of those eligible actually donate. It is estimated that one in three people will require blood in their lifetime. Please consider donating blood to support those in need. You must be a least 17 years old, meet certain health criteria, and have identification available.

Please visit the American Red Cross at [giveblood.givelife.org](http://giveblood.givelife.org) for further information about donation requirements and to register online for the Maple Grove Junior High blood drive.

## MGJH Automated Phone System

*Dial 763-315-7600 and Select One of the Following:*

- 1 Student Absent or Late
- 2 Directions to MGJH
- 3 To Leave a Message for a Staff Member
- 4 Main Office

**MGJH Web Site—[district279.org/sec/mgjh](http://district279.org/sec/mgjh)**

# Courtesy Counts Program

Courtesy Counts has been a very successful program this school year with over 150 gift bags awarded to students. A student becomes eligible for the weekly Courtesy Counts drawing by submitting a Courtesy Counts Coupon. The coupons are presented by staff when they observe a student exhibiting courteous behavior in the classroom, hallways, lunchroom, etc.

We would like to acknowledge the businesses that have donated to our Courtesy Counts program: Dairy Queen, Applebee's, Don Pablo's, Timber Lodge Steakhouse, Brunswick Zone, and Cub Foods. A special thank you to the CineMagic in St. Michael for donating over 100 guest passes.

If you see your student arriving home with a bag full of goodies, it is because of the businesses that contribute toward this program. When you patronize these businesses, please let the manager know that you are a MGJH parent and you appreciate their support and donations!

## A HUGE THANK YOU TO MGJH VOLUNTEERS

A **HUGE** thank you to volunteers for all your hard work, dedication, and time commitment. All together, you have logged more than 600 hours this school year. You should be proud!

The MCA testing is coming up in April and we will need many volunteers for this test to be successful for our students. If you can help with the testing, or would like to be part of this great team of volunteers at MGJH, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Vicki Morgan, at 763-315-7631 or [morganv@district279.org](mailto:morganv@district279.org).

*Volunteers are the Key to Our Success*



## CANINE SEARCHES

As one of many tools we use to keep our school safe, the secondary schools are working in conjunction with local law enforcement to have trained dogs randomly search our parking lot, student lockers, and the school building during and after school hours. If a dog identifies a vehicle and/or locker as having a prohibited item, the vehicle, locker, and person to which it belongs will be searched as will his or her personal items.



## MGJH GEOGRAPHIC BEE CHAMPION

Maple Grove Junior held its school-level National Geographic Bee and seventh grader Cole E. is the 2010 Champion. Second place went to Nathan S. and third place to Chris S. Other finalists included Jacob B., Mitch R., Derek K., and Nick W.



All seventh graders competed in competitions to determine class champions. From the 16 seventh grade social studies classes, the finalists qualified by taking a quiz. The winning question was, “The Dry Tortugas, named by Ponce de Leon after the numerous sea turtles found there, is now a national park in which state?”

Cole will now take a qualifying test to try to get into the state bee. The state bee includes the top 100 students in the state and will be held at St. Cloud State University in early April. The state champion gets an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in May and has a shot at the \$25,000 first prize.

By the way, the answer to the winning question is “Florida.”

## NEWS FROM THE NURSE

The number of cases of influenza-like illnesses has decreased dramatically over the past few weeks. In order to help keep your student healthy, please remember to make sure they are getting 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night, eating a balanced diet with foods high in protein and vitamin C, drinking enough fluids, and practicing good hand washing. If your student has a fever greater than 100 degrees, is vomiting, or is experiencing diarrhea, please keep him/her home until the symptoms have subsided for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Jane Erickson, RN  
763-315-7617

## 2010 HIGH SCHOOL SPRING ATHLETICS

Registration for spring sports began on Tuesday, February 16, and will continue until the first day of try-outs/practice. Registration packets (or emergency cards ONLY for those athletes who registered for a fall or winter sport) are available in the main lobby of high schools outside the activities department, at MGJH, or can be found on the web site: [www.district279.org/sec/mgjh](http://www.district279.org/sec/mgjh) - go to Activities/Sports Registration tabs. Registration hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 AM-3:00 PM. All athletic equipment from previous seasons must be turned in and all fines and fees must be paid in order for the student to be eligible to register for a spring sport. Incomplete registration materials will not be accepted. All Athletic information can be found on the high school website under the Activities Tab. There you will find the Sports Calendar, Sports Registration information, and links to all our sports team's websites under the Sports Sites Tab. Sports teams use their websites to advertise meetings, upcoming events, and all other pertinent information that needs to get out.

## COUNSELORS' CORNER

### **Academic Success Groups:**

The counseling department will be working with students who have been selected for our academic success groups. These groups made up of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders will meet for several weeks throughout the school year. Students will learn better academic skills, organization skills, and accountability while in the group. The goal of this group is to help students who are underperforming in grades according to their potential and by the end of group students will have an increase in grades.

### **Upcoming Testing Dates:**

**It's important that students are present and prepared for the testing dates.**

- The 9th grade GRAD writing test will be Tuesday, April 13
- The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade MCA's) will be Tuesday, April 13, for Reading, and Thursday, April 15, for Math.
- The Online MCA Science portion for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be Monday, May 3
- The Northwest Education Assessment (NWEA) will be administered to 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and some 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The testing dates are April 26 through May 28.
- ELL students will be taking the TEAE-Solomon March 8-19.

### **Test Preparation Suggestions for Teachers and Parents:**

- Students can familiarize themselves with the testing format for most of the Minnesota Assessments online and download item samples from [www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us)- under Accountability Programs: Assessment and Testing: Assessment: MCA: MCA item Samplers.
- Students are encouraged to answer all test questions and to participate in practice sessions at school and home.
- Students should have a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast the day of the test.
- Encourage students to get ready for testing throughout the year by having them try crosswords and quizzes in the newspaper, or play games involving numbers or computation. Share enthusiasm and interest in science with students and/or have students practice writing skills by writing letters or keeping a journal.

### **Upcoming Important Events:**

- **Sixth Grade Orientation Night** for next school year's incoming 7th graders at MGJH will be Thursday, April 29, at 7:30 PM
- **Honors Night** is Monday, May 3, at 7:00 P.M. Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.66 or higher for first and second trimester will receive invitations.

### **Student Leadership Information:**

- During the second and third trimesters **Peer Mediators**, will be visiting 7<sup>th</sup> grade health classes to share information about the Peer Mediation Program.
- **PROS (Positive Role Models Offering Support)** went to Feed My Starving Children on January 27 and packaged 1477 meals for Haiti. They will also be hosting a staff breakfast in March.
- Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in becoming a **WEB (Where Everybody Belongs)** student for the 2010-11 school year, can stop by the counseling office and pick up an application.

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



## District 279 Junior High Honor Band

Select eighth and ninth grade students from the four junior high schools in our school district rehearsed and performed in the Osseo District 279 Jr. High Honor Band on Wednesday, January 13, at Maple Grove Junior High School. The students rehearsed from 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM (yes, we let them take a lunch break), then performed a concert at 3:00 PM. Guest conductor for this event was Dr. Amy Roisum-Foley from Minnesota State-Mankato.

Eighth grade students who performed with the band were: Brina A., Ali B., Marissa G., Michelle J., Casey A., Whitney W., Sean H. Jeffrey P., Vinura W., Hanna B., Greg B., Kristen W., Aaron D., Drew K., Kyle S. and Jacob E. Ninth grade students in the honor band were: Abby A., Alejandra C., Taylor C., Katie K., Emily S., Sasha S., Kristin S., Miranda T., Clarke S., Tony G., Jared W., Nicole S., Cole J., Courtney B., Becca C., Kristin M., and Kandis Y.

Congratulations to these band students!

## District 279 Junior High Orchestra Festival

On Tuesday, February 9, the MGJH 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra students traveled to North View Junior High for their final rehearsal in preparation for that evening's Festival Concert. Combining all four District junior high 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade orchestras produces a festival orchestra of over 380 students. "The sound is amazing...a lot bigger and fuller," said one MJGH orchestra 9<sup>th</sup> grader. The conductor for this year's festival was Mr. Matt Caron, orchestra director at Maple Grove Senior High. The concert was held at Osseo Junior High.

## Showcase Choral Concerts

There are two Showcase Choral Concerts during the month of March presented by the MGJH 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade choirs. Representing many popular and Broadway songs, the choirs present this annual concert where kids can perform in small groups, large groups, as well as duets and solos. You'll hear everything from the early and current years of Broadway and American pop music.

Escape our Minnesota winter, bring a friend, and enjoy the "A Salute to Disney" with the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Treble Tones as they present Disney favorites from past to present. Their concert is Tuesday, March 2, at 7:30 PM. The 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir and Grove Singers will present their "Showcase" concert on Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 PM.

Friends and family are welcome.

Upon request, this document can be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or audio tape to accommodate individuals with disabilities. To make such a request, please contact us at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance.

## Homeless? Know Your Child's Education Rights

Homelessness is a growing concern nationwide as recent economic difficulties have forced many families out of their homes. It is estimated that in Minnesota alone, at least 10,000-12,000 children and youth experience homelessness at least once during the school year. Many young people leave their homes due to abuse, neglect, and family conflict. Children and youth who have lost their housing live in a variety of places including motels, shelters, shared residences, transitional housing programs, cars, campgrounds, and others. Their lack of permanent housing can lead to potentially serious physical, emotional, and mental consequences.

The Osseo Area Schools are committed to the success of all students. In collaboration with the Brooklyn Center School District, we have received a grant through the Minnesota Department of Education in order to better serve our children and youth who are homeless. This grant will enable the Brooklyn Center and Osseo Districts to develop a coordinated and systematic infrastructure to better support students who are homeless to attend and achieve in school. The focus will be implementing efficient strategies and procedures, as well as best practices, to enable our schools to identify, assess, serve, and monitor the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

If you live: doubled up with friends or family; in an emergency, domestic abuse or transitional shelter; in a motel; on the street; are a youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian; living in a car or public space; in temporary foster care (awaiting placement); or displaced from your home because of hardship (utilities are shut off, fire or other natural disaster).

Under the McKinney-Vento act, children and youth in homeless situations have the right to: go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there; attend either the local school or the school of origin; receive transportation (if feasible); enroll in school immediately; participate in all school activities; or have access to needed services such as supplemental educational services that support their academic achievement.

If your child is homeless and you want more information, please contact your child's counselor at MGJH.

### Student Select Software Purchasing Program

District 279 is pleased to announce that all students and employees are eligible to purchase selected Microsoft Software titles at substantial discounts. This is being offered as a service to our learners and employees. The program is strictly voluntary. No money passes through the District and the District does not benefit in any way.

The Student Select program offers teachers, staff, and students big savings on popular Microsoft software.

Here are the different methods that students and staff can use to register on the storefront:

#### Email Domain

Anyone with the "@district279.org" or "@apps.district279.org" e-mail address will be able to register on the website. All they need to do is enter their school e-mail address at the registration page and then they will receive an e-mail with their login information.

#### Registration Code

Users that received a registration code can use this code to register on the site.

#### Submit Proof

Users can submit a document to e-academy that shows that they're associated with our district (report card, student ID, class schedule, etc.). The document can be uploaded through e-academy website or can be faxed to them. More information can be found on e-academy's website on the registration page.

#### To get to the registration page, follow these steps:

- Go to your school webstore <http://district279.e-academy.com>
- Click "Sign In" in the top menu
- Click "Register"

# Technology Education

**New this school year!** MGJH Technology Education is working with Project Lead The Way® Gateway To Technology® curriculum in grades seven through nine.

These programs provide inspiration for a new generation of innovators, the practical skills and hands-on experience to make students' knowledge count in the real world, and the basis for the next generation of leadership in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**Gateway To Technology** helps develop motivated, well-rounded students by instilling confidence, stresses the importance of self-discovery, encourages innovative problem solving and critical thinking, teaches team building, and rewards creativity.

PLTW is designed for all students and addresses national standards in math, science, and technology. One of the goals is to increase interest and awareness in technology and related careers.



*GTT 7 and GTT 8 Technology Education students working in the MGJH Technology Education labs.*

## FACS Textile Art & Design

Twenty-two ninth grade Textile Art & Design students have taken “Going green” and reusable into the classroom with a service learning project. With the help of their FACS teacher, they have brought to life the District’s mission statement “inspire and prepare all students with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.” They have created beautiful, durable, and reusable shopping bags that will be donated to the Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP).

To achieve their service learning goal, students first practiced the basics of good design by creating quilts using a computer assisted graphic program. They brushed up on their sewing skills first learned in FACS 8. Then, a need in the community was identified. CEAP has experienced an increased use of the emergency food shelf. Many clients need durable bags to use on city buses. Looking around the textile lab, a resource was identified – the corduroy scraps left by the eighth grade students’ duffel bag projects. The students then put geometric knowledge into action as they pieced together scraps of fabric. Once a pleasing pattern was formed, sewing skills put the project together.

Way to go FACS Textile Art and Design students: Miranda B., Sydney B., Samantha B., Maria E., Taylor F., Nichole G., Meghan H., Elise H., Sierra J., Elizabeth J., Destinee J., Tiana K., Gartee K., Heaven K., Jessica M., Anna M., Shikha R., Michael S., Derek T., Dayana V., Dee V., Jordan W., and Precious W.

If anyone is interested in filling the bags with food items for CEAP, please contact Lisa Trunk at [trunkl@district279.org](mailto:trunkl@district279.org).



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

<b>MGJH</b>	<b>763-315-7600</b>
<b>MGJH Attendance</b>	<b>763-315-7603</b>
<b>Bus Company (First Student)</b>	<b>763-421-5785</b>
<b>District Transportation</b>	<b>763-391-7044</b>
<b>Educational Service Center</b>	<b>763-391-7000</b>
<b>City of Maple Grove Park &amp; Rec.</b>	<b>763-494-6200</b>

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**Report cards are mailed home approximately two weeks after the last day of school.**

### TRIMESTER III DATES TO REMEMBER

March 12	American Cross Blood Drive—11:00 AM-4:00 PM
March 15	Begin Trimester III
March 26	Last Day Before Spring Break (No Late Buses)
April 5	Students Return from Spring Break
April 13	9th Grade GRAD Writing Test
	MCA Testing (Reading)
	MCA Testing (Math)
April 15	Boys' Choir 7 Concert—7:30 PM
April 20	Band 7 & Jazz Ensemble 8 Concert—7:30 PM
April 26	Orchestra Concert—7:30 PM
April 27	Mid-Trimester (Students hand carry progress reports)
April 28	Classroom Conferences—3:15-8:15 PM
April 29	Incoming 7th Grade Student/Parent Orientation-7:30 PM
	Teachers' Workshop—No School for Students
April 30	9th Grade Celebration—7:00-10:00 PM
May 1	Honors Night—7:00 PM (7th Grade)
May 3	8:00 PM (8th & 9th Grade)
May 4	Jazz Band & Grove Singers Concert—7:30 PM
May 6	Girls' Choir 7 Concert—7:30 PM
May 11	Band 8 Concert—7:30 PM
May 13	Band 9 Concert—7:30 PM
May 25	Choir 8 Concert—7:30 PM
May 27	Choir 9 Concert—7:30 PM
May 31	Memorial Day, No School
June 11	Last Day of School