

MINERAL POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL Scoop

Fall 2016 🐾 Education... That's the Point.

MPMS Marching Band Performs in Homecoming Parade

What a wonderful evening to compliment the spirit, excitement, and enthusiasm of the Mineral Point Middle School Marching Band! With a 6-8 marching band consisting of 49 members, the band showed up in full force to play the Mineral Point school song. The students had a great time showing their school spirit and playing for the community! 🐾



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 28

No classes for students

Tuesday, November 1

M.S. BBB vs. Cuba City, home, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 3

M.S. BBB @ Iowa-Grant, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, November 4

End of 1st Quarter

Tuesday, November 8

M.S. BBB vs. Southwestern, home, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9

MS/HS Parent-Teacher conferences, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 10

M.S. BBB @ Darlington, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15

M.S. BBB vs. Platteville, home, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 17

M.S. BBB @ Iowa-Grant, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22

M.S. BBB vs. Lancaster, home, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 25 thru

Friday, November 27

Thanksgiving Break – No classes

Thursday, December 1

M.S. BBB @ Dodgeville, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 8

M.S. BBB @ Cuba City, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 13

M.S. BBB vs. Iowa-Grant, home, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 15

M.S. BBB @ Southwestern, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, December 23 thru Monday, January 2

Winter Break – No classes





Iowa County Youth Conservation Field Days

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the sixth grade students participated in the Iowa County Youth Conservation Field Days. This was organized by the UW-Extension office. During the day students moved from station to station and were educated on various aspects of Prairie Grasslands. Presenters included representatives from the Wisconsin DNR, Fish and Wildlife Service, UW-Extension, UW-Madison Arboretum, USDA, and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

Students learned about the predators and food chain of the prairie, different types of aquifers and how they can become contaminated, birds and mammals of southwest Wisconsin grasslands, pollinators and their importance, and the basics of prescribed burning and fire gear. Students even got to use some of the DNR's fire gear. (No actual fire was used!)

It may have been windy and cool, but the students enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. We may have even "sparked" some interest in conserving the Tall Grass Prairie! 🐾

7th and 8th Grade Math Report

By Ms. Swanson

Wow! As you are also probably thinking, I cannot believe that the end of the first quarter is almost here. I am the student teacher in Mr. Chambers's 7th & 8th grade math classes, and I have been learning just as much as these students!

For the past nine weeks, the 7th grade students have learned all about working with positive and negative rational numbers. While they have been adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and solving word problems and equations, Mr. Chambers has been teaching me tips on using the interactive white board, grading assignments, recording grades, and classroom management techniques. For one week earlier this quarter, I filmed myself teaching as part of an assessment I have to complete during student teaching. During this week, I had a camera set up on a tripod in a corner of the classroom and a little microphone on my shirt. Every day each 7th grade class would walk in and bombard me with questions about the camera. Then they proceeded to make funny faces at the camera until the start of class. This is one of my favorite memories from the quarter; these students really put a smile on my face!

In the first quarter, the 8th grade students have been working extensively in an online math curriculum called Apex. While they have been learning math content through Apex, I have been learning the pros and cons of online math curricula and how to keep the students motivated and focused on their math. This grade level has a great rapport with Mr. Chambers. Every class period has a fun atmosphere, and I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it! 🐾

Oklahoma Grand Nationals and Worlds

By Ella Fox



Everyone from the youngest leadline participant to the masters participants (riders over fifty), is excited to be at a world class event. People are hustling and bustling everywhere, you have trainers instructors, students, parents, and other people watching. It all pays off when you or your favorite rider got champion or reserve champion.

When you are being judged there are three judges watching you. The placing is based on a combination of all three scores. You never know what could happen, you could get a first from one judge, a ninth from another, and one could give you a nothing. It isn't always a unanimous decision.

Watching the show is always really fun because you get to see all the cool outfits and horses. The thing I love the most about watching is seeing all the people I know showing, and making them feel good by cheering is the best part about being a friend.

I went with my grandma and aunt. My horse got third in the nation and sixth in the world. I, myself got fifth in the nation and ninth in the world. The experience was like nothing else. To get those places in the nation and world was incredible. When I heard my name I was so happy, I couldn't believe it. 🐾

Ohio All-Star Wrestling

By Nolan Springer

During the summer of 2015, I received an invitation to apply to participate on the Ohio All-Star Wrestling team. This All-Star team would travel and compete in the Western United States during the summer of 2016. I was notified in October of 2015 that I had been accepted to be part of the team. There was a lot of hard work to do including fundraising to help pay for my trip. I was very excited and started counting down the days.

Two weeks after the end of the school year, it was time for me to go to Springboro, Ohio for training camp. I attended some good, high intensity practices. Part of the training camp included running in a 10K which was fun. After training camp, it was time for me to fly to Salt Lake City, Utah for the wrestling trip which would last for 6 1/2 weeks. Once we arrived, it felt like a dream. The trip was not all about wrestling. We were able to go to Disneyland, see some Vegas shows, swim and tour other interesting places.

The states we traveled to were Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. My favorite place was when we went to Reno and went to Lake Tahoe. The water was very clear at Lake Tahoe. My favorite part of the trip in general was becoming brothers with 26 other wrestlers.

I would like to take this time to thank the Mineral Point Wrestling Club, Scott Schmitz and all of the people who contributed to make this trip possible. My summer was filled with running, push-ups, university bookstore visits and late night runs to Taco Bell. This summer was definitely one I will never forget. 🐾



From the Desk of Ms. Dahl, Middle School Principal

A Homegrown Perspective



I was reflecting on what makes our school and community so great. As a 1979 MPHS graduate, I was fortunate to grow up in a community with small town values and have teachers and coaches who believed building character was important. This character building is continued today with a caring and dedicated staff who believe character is important, and our schools and community can help shape a child's character. Parents also have a role in character building. It is essential that parents stress the essential qualities that can build character in their children.

Character is a pattern of behavior, thoughts and feelings based on universal principles, moral strength and integrity, plus the guts to live by those principles everyday. Character is the most valuable thing you have, and nobody can ever take it away. When Martin Luther King said he looked forward to the day when all Americans would be judged solely "by the

content of their character," he was talking about a person's essential qualities. These essential qualities are composed of six ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Why is character so important? When you cheat, your success is false. When you break a promise, you are showing that your word is meaningless. When you lie, you deceive others and lose their respect. All of those examples break the trust others have in you. Taking shortcuts is the easy way out. Character in life is what makes people believe in you and is essential both for individual success and to function successfully in our society.

Schools play a major role in the life success of students and their communities. Schools are a community's most precious institution. Our students are at the center of everything we do at #PointerNation! 🐾

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Art Club

We are really excited to announce that Mineral Point Middle School will be starting an Art Club which will meet every other Monday, from 3:30- 5:30 pm.

Art Club is open to grade levels 6th -8th.

The mission and purpose for the MS Art Club is to give students who have a passion for art, the opportunity to explore various art mediums. Having an Art Club is a great way for students to be involved in art throughout the year. When our time with them is limited in the classroom, an art club can serve as a nice supplement for students who can't get enough art. This art club will also allow more opportunities and freedom to try new things with students. 🐾



Parents Make A Difference!

Family Meals. . .

Does eating together make a difference?



How many meals do you eat together as a family each week?

Does eating together have a direct correlation on youth health, happiness and good grades? According to Weinstein's book *The Surprising Power of Family Meals: How Eating Together Makes us Smarter, Stronger, Healthier, and Happier*: "Eating ordinary, average everyday supper with your family is strongly linked to lower incidence of bad outcomes such as teenage drug and alcohol use, and to good qualities like emotional stability. It discourages both obesity and eating disorders. When families prepare meals together, kids learn real life skills. They assume responsibility, become better team members."

Finding common meal times is not always an easy thing to do, especially as youth become involved in school activities. When sitting down to a meal parents are wanting to capitalize on their time with their kids, but sometimes the way they ask questions to teens becomes a turn off to the teen, and the meal becomes more stressed than enjoyable.

How many times have you sat down to dinner and asked your teen the question, "How was your day?" and heard the familiar refrain, "Fine?" Many parents either say or think "What do you mean fine?" While their youth is thinking "Move on, I SO do not want to talk about my school day" or "here we go again."

Trying to avoid these awkward conversations can help teens and adults enjoy each other's company, have better digestion and concentrate on the important things in life, rather than the difficulties that might overshadow the day.

According to the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) of 5,309 students in grades 7-12, from 25 schools in Southwest Wisconsin, 22.3% of students surveyed reported that they eat a meal with an adult in their home more than 10 times per week! The trend also shows that 9th grade students are more likely to eat a meal with an adult in their home than

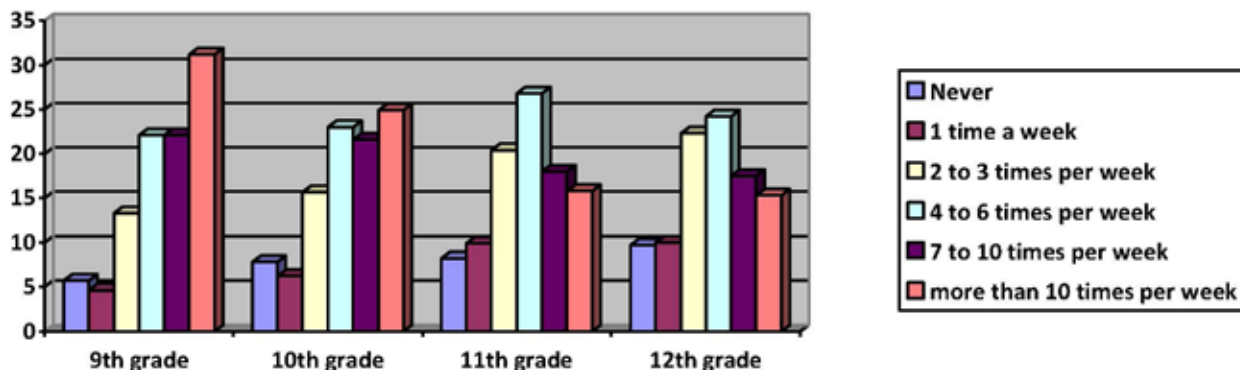
Table Talk with Teens and Preteens

Table Talk Rules:

- Agree to listen while one person speaks
- Take turns talking
- Stay away from discipline and negative topics
- Use appropriate language
- Be respectful of other people's opinions
- Be comfortable with silence
- Avoid questions with "yes" or "no" answers

a senior student (as a student gets older, their school activities typically increase, causing their home time to decrease). See the chart below.

About how often do you eat meals with one or more of the adults in your home?



Research shares that our children are learning about the world from many sources, often without parental filters or input. Even when everyone is home, individuals do their own thing. Perhaps the only opportunity of the day to talk with each other is at the dinner table. Children in today's busy world need a shared, safe space to discuss ideas within the understanding company of family, and parents need a routine time to connect with kids. According to a web article on the eartheasy.com site, "mealtimes are when children learn family values and families develop their culture."

Taking a step back in time, my fond memories of sharing dinner with my family: laughter, funny stories, plans for the weekends, chores that needed to be done, fields that needed to be tilled, fair projects that needed to be worked on, and unconditional love that came from other family members.

Find time to have a meal with your youth, share their life and be their anchor in the stormy waters of life. A quote by Josiah gives us all food for thought: "Think of your family today and every day thereafter, don't let the busy world of today keep you from showing how much you love and appreciate your family."

Parenting Resources:

→Weinstein, M. (2005). *The surprising power of family meals: How eating together makes us smarter, stronger, healthier, and happier.* Hanover, NH: Steerforth Press.

→Table Talk with Teens and Preteens: (<http://myparenthetical.com/>)

→ Why Eating Family Meals Together is Still Important Today: (<http://eartheasy.com/>)

→Family Quote: <http://www.thefreshquotes.com/family-quotes/>

"Parents Make a Difference" is a product of the Southwest Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a program of the Department of Public Instruction, University of Wisconsin-Extension and local school districts. This newsletter is adapted from the UW-Extension newsletters "Whose Kids?...Our Kids!" This issue of "Parents Make a Difference" was adapted by Lori Berget, UW-Extension Lafayette County from the resources listed above. This issue was reviewed by Bev Doll, UW-Extension Grant County; Amy Mitchell, UW-Extension Crawford County; Deb Ivey, UW-Extension Iowa County; Chelsea Wunnicke, UW-Extension Richland County; and Ruth Schriefer, UW-Extension Iowa County. Thanks are extended to the 5,309 7th to 12th graders from Southwest Wisconsin who participated in the 2015 YRBS survey. Contact UW-Extension for further information: Grant County (608) 723-2125; Lafayette County (608) 776-4820; Crawford County (608) 326-0223; Iowa County (608) 930-9850; or Richland County (608) 647-6148. Or visit our website at: <http://www.cesa3.org/yrbs.html>

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