

MINERAL POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Scoop

September 2015 🐾 Education... That's the Point.

Student Council Representatives



Front Row (L-R) Ian Keyes, Trapper Nafzger, Will Straka, Ella Chambers
Back (L-R) Isaac Lindsey, Morgan Vondra, McKenna Bowers.

6th Grade

Ella Chambers
Trapper Nafzger

7th Grade

Ian Keyes
Will Straka

8th Grade

Morgan Vondra
McKenna Bowers
Isaac Lindsey

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 29

Grade 6 field trip to Iowa County Youth Conservation Field Days

Tuesday, September 29

M.S. Volleyball @ Lancaster, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, October 2

Grade 7-8 field trip to American Player's Theatre

Monday, October 5

- M.S. Volleyball vs. Southwestern, here, 4:00 p.m.
- Homecoming Dress-Up Day – Crazy Hair

Tuesday, October 6

- M.S. Volleyball vs. Platteville, here, 3:50 p.m.
- Homecoming Dress-Up Day – Black Out

Wednesday, October 7

- M.S. Progress reports to be mailed to parents.
- Homecoming Dress-Up Day – Super Hero

Thursday, October 8

- Grade 6-8 Band to march in Homecoming Parade.
- Homecoming Dress-Up Day – Favorite Team/Player

Friday, October 9

- Homecoming
- Homecoming Dress-Up Day – Blue and White

Tuesday, October 13

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

Thursday, October 15

M.S. Volleyball vs. Iowa-Grant, here, 3:50 p.m.

Friday, October 30

Gr. 6-8 Fall dance, cafetorium, 7:00-9:00 p.m.



Meet the Teacher

BETHANY PAYNE

6-8 Special Education Teacher

Favorite Color: Yellow

Favorite TV shows: Vampire Diaries, The Originals, Grey's Anatomy, Supernatural, Switched at Birth, Arrow, and Braxton Family Values

Where did you attend college: Undergraduate: K-12 Physical Education and Health at UW-Platteville

Masters: K-12 Cross Categorical Special Education at UW-Platteville (Currently enrolled)

What sports did you play in high school?

I played volleyball and track. I also did a variety of clubs and organizations: band, choir, theater, forensics, spanish club, FBLA, FFA, NHS, and student council.

What is your favorite dessert?

Rhubarb/Strawberry Pie or Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Favorite place you have ever traveled?

U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Thomas (honeymoon)

Where would you like to travel?

Norway, Africa, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic. I LOVE TO TRAVEL

Why did you become a teacher?

I was in 2nd grade and I had a teacher that didn't teach things in different ways. I didn't learn like other students and I wasn't very flexible back then. I decided I hated school and stopped doing my homework and learning. It was next year, in 3rd grade, when my teacher noticed I was failing most of my work because I was so behind, especially in reading. I went to Title 1 and did Story Lord (google it). I then found my love for reading and school. I excelled at school and did well without much help. I wanted to make a difference in some student's life like my 3rd grade teacher did. I still keep in touch with that teacher. She came to my high school graduation and my wedding.

I really enjoy teaching and though some days it's difficult or stressful I wouldn't trade it for anything.

When is your birthday: May 10, 1990 🐾

Sixth Grade Update

After only a few weeks, the sixth grade students have become accustomed to the routine of Middle School. When asked what they like best about their transition into the Middle School, students replied that they "love" having lockers, enjoy changing classes, and like their teachers.

Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Soper's math classes are doing some review from last year's learning and further delving into the study of whole numbers, algebra (solving simple algebraic expressions), and statistics. They will then apply their skills of whole number operations and problem solving to examine graphs and statistics. They will learn how a variety of graphs can be used to display and analyze data in different ways. Finally, the students will use measures of central tendency to analyze statistics and graphs of data.

Just a reminder that students who have their multiplication facts seem to find math easy and fun. **Please review multiplication facts with your child, especially if they are struggling.**

Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Klaas's science classes have been reviewing the steps of the Scientific Method and are beginning to explore the rock cycle using their textbooks, station labs and interactive notebook pages.

The social studies classes taught by Mrs. Klaas and Mrs. Soper have been reviewing their map reading skills, are learning about early humans, and how scientists study about the past.

The first few weeks of the school year have gone well and quickly and it's finally a little cooler! 🐾

Do You Get Enough Sleep?

Julie Pompos, School Nurse

TAKE THE QUIZ:

1. Are you still tired even after 8 or more hours of sleep?
2. Do you nod off during the day...in school or work?
3. During the day do you often think of getting home just to take a nap?
4. Do you read or scroll through social media posts on electronic devices before bed?
5. Have you ever felt clumsy or forgetful during the day?

Being tired during the day even after eight or more hours of sleep is more common than people realize. You might ask, "Why is that so?" Research points to a very common activity people participate in prior to going to sleep...Answer: **Using portable electronic devices.** These Light Emitting devices stimulate the brain into a wakeful state and excite the brain thus making relaxation and falling into a deep sleep very difficult.

What to do about this? Well, for one week try to either limit or totally avoid using a Light Emitting electronic device for at least two hours before going to bed. Avoid playing video games, surfing the web or social media. Try reading an actual book instead of an ebook before bed. Give it a try and see what happens.

Next month...I will explain that great things that are happening to your body and brain while you sleep. 🐾

Getting Put to the Test

In Mr. McGraw's seventh grade Civics class, students have been studying about citizenship and immigration. One of the activities that they took part in was taking the Naturalization Exam. This test comes from a pool of 100 questions deemed important for immigrants to know by the United States Immigration Department. This is one of the many steps that people who are attempting to become naturalized citizens have to go through. A passing score is six correct answers out of ten. Some students did well on the test, but others certainly learned that they have a lot to learn about the United States' government and history. Test your knowledge with these sample questions:

How long is a Senator's term once elected to Congress?

- a. 2 b. 6 c. 4 d. 8

Which is not a right guaranteed in the 1st Amendment?

- a. Speech b. Religion c. Privacy d. Assembly

What is the highest court in the land?

- a. The Ultimate Court
b. The Court of Appeals
c. The Supreme Court
d. The District Court

Which country did the U.S. NOT fight against during World War II?

- a. Italy b. Russia c. Japan d. Germany

How many amendments does the Constitution have?

- a. 10 b. 17 c. 27 d. 23

Writing with Technology

Mrs. Flannery

Students in the 7th and 8th grade language arts classes will be using technology to complete writing assignments this school year. Google Classroom is a new tool that helps students and teachers easily create, organize, and communicate with one another. Students will be able to "share" their document electronically with peers or their teacher for instant and real-time feedback to better their paper. Students can also directly suggest edits to another student's paper online to give feedback. They can ask questions or post comments while working on an assignment at home, and the teacher will be able to provide feedback immediately, improving communication outside of the classroom. In the past, students had to travel back and forth to school and home with a flash drive to work on documents; however, with Google Drive, students will be able to login at any location with internet access to work on homework without the hassle of carrying numerous books and binders home. Everything is already posted online so no forgotten papers at school! Ask your student for a tour of their online class! 🐾



¿Qué pasa en la clase de español? *Señor Van Galen*

What's happening in Spanish? The seventh grade exploratory Spanish class is a great opportunity for students to experience a foreign language. Not only do students develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language, but they also will be able to apply their skills in contextualized situations like dialogues, skits, projects, etc. Up to this point, stu-

dents have learned the alphabet, weather expressions, classroom instructions, colors, and numbers up to 20. On or around November 1st, we will be exploring and celebrating a Mexican national holiday called Día de los Muertos! Seventh grade Spanish helps students build confidence and prepares them for high school Spanish. ¡Vámonos!

STEP: Senior Tax Exchange Program

The Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP) was established by the Mineral Point School District in 2014 to increase volunteering of senior citizens in the schools. Qualifying senior citizens will receive a small stipend to be used to help reduce their property tax bill. The emphasis of the STEP volunteer program is to provide direct help in the instructional areas of reading and math, although other opportunities exist for volunteering. As a STEP volunteer you will belong to a community, not only of the school in which you volunteer, but also within the community of other STEP volunteers.

Eligibility

1. Age 55 or older.
2. Primary residence in the Mineral Point School District and pays property taxes to the district.
3. Annual family income as defined by last years Federal Income Tax Form 1040A, Line 21, of less than \$70,000.

Reimbursement

1. Payment of \$6.50 per hour.
2. Maximum of 66 hours per calendar year.
3. Payment of \$6.50 per hour times 66 hours will be \$429.00, which is the largest amount an individual can make before being subject to Social Security taxes. Please note that any amount you earn is still considered taxable income.
4. Compensation is a two-party check to the individual and the municipality they live in.
5. Before payment, a minimum of 20 volunteer hours is required.
6. Reimbursement will occur the last week of December for all work completed in the calendar year that is 20 hours or more.



Procedures

1. STEP volunteers will be recruited via news releases, notices, and word of mouth starting November 1.
2. Interested senior citizens will fill out an application available in the District Office.
3. An interview will be conducted by an administrator.
4. If a match is made the STEP volunteer and principal, or designated staff, determine when the STEP volunteer will begin work.
5. Each year all existing STEP volunteers and new volunteers must be interviewed.
6. Each year all new STEP volunteers will receive training at the beginning of the school year.

Please contact the school for a STEP application form. 🐾

Double the Pleasure in 8th Grade Math

COMPLETING THE ALGEBRA CURRICULUM A POSSIBILITY FOR PRE-ALGEBRA STUDENTS

Technology has once again brought changes to what was once viewed as typical for the 8th grade math student. Previously, students coming into 8th grade would be assigned to either Pre-Algebra or Algebra. This assignment was based on Standardize test scores, STAR test results and the level of success Math 7 was completed. The student's emotional readiness to handle the rigor of Algebra in a High School setting was also considered. Students qualifying for Algebra would then skip Pre-Algebra (8th grade curriculum) and continue on to Geometry as freshmen.

This model was successful for many students but there were areas of concern. Red flags were identified when areas of weakness on standardize tests were directly related to the content missed by skipping eighth grade math. This is where technology helps.

Last year, the pilot of an on-line curriculum at the eighth grade level was very successful. As a result, the curriculum was purchased for this year. It includes both Math 8 and Algebra. We start in Math 8. Students are given a timeline for when the material must be completed. Students that complete the requirements before the deadline, continue to work in Algebra. "Algebra" work days are also scheduled. Please email Mr. Chambers with any questions or for an update on your child's progress (michael.chambers@mp.k12.wi.us).

Students completing the Algebra curriculum will also be required to take the semester exams administered by the High School. 🐾

From the Desk of Ms. Dahl, Middle School Principal

The 2015-2016 school year is upon us at Mineral Point Middle School! The beginning of this new school year starts off with us welcoming new staff and new students to our Middle School.

New staff include special ed teacher Mrs. Payne and Mrs. Wiegel as a special ed assistant.

We also extend a warm welcome to our new students! In 6th grade: Payton Hamilton, and Ellie Janetka. In 7th grade: Donavin Botsford and Trenton Lewis. 8th grade: Trinity Hocking.

I would like to remind parents of the requirements to be included in our Middle School reward activities. Students meeting the following requirements will be eligible for the end of the quarter reward activity.

1. Assignment completion according to classroom policy.
2. Absences (Maximum of 4 days for any reason except unexcused absences). Students should bring a note for dentist, doctor and ortho appointments.
3. Tardiness (Maximum of 4 unexcused tardies).
4. Citizenship:
 - A. Is respectful to all staff members (no discipline referrals).
 - B. Is respectful to peers.
 - C. Is prepared for class (has all required materials).
 - D. Follows classroom rules and procedures.

All assigned homework clubs must be completed or made up to be eligible for all quarter rewards. At the end of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarters, there will be a gift card drawing. The 4th quarter reward activity is the end of the school year field trip. Other reward activities include dances, holiday games and ski trip. Please refer to page 7 of the student assignment notebook for more information.

I would also like to remind parents about our "Lunch Bunch". Students will be required to attend "Lunch Bunch" if assignments are not completed and turned in on time. If a student fails to report to "Lunch Bunch" they will be assigned to "Lunch Bunch" the following day and may also receive a detention. Students who are assigned to "Lunch Bunch" frequently and fail to complete assignments will be required to attend homework club until the missing assignments are completed. Please refer to page 9 of the student assignment notebook for more information on missing assignments.

I encourage all parents to take the time to read their child's student assignment notebook which contains information regarding this school year. If you have any questions about this information or any other issues, please contact Vickie Dahl, Middle School Principal or Kelly Riechers, Middle School Administrative Assistant at 987-0720. 🐾

Just for fun:

Q: What type of bagel can fly?

A: A plain bagel!

Worth quoting:

"If you want the rainbow, you have to put up with the rain."

Dolly Parton

Thank you and have a great school year!