

MCGUFFEY PK-8 NEWSLETTER



Parent/Teacher Conferences—November 13 & 15

Parent partnerships are SO important for our students and their continued growth at school. We would love to see every one of our families at our conference nights to discuss the many wonderful things your child is learning and doing at school, as well as ways you might help at home. Information on how to sign up for parent/teacher conferences was sent home with report cards. If you did not receive the form, please call the school. Come hear about the amazing things going on at McGuffey!

November 1, 2018

**McGuffey is
WARREN Strong!**



Our attendance goal is 95%. At this point in the year, we are at 94.7%. Please continue to do a great job getting your children to school on time each day!

NO SCHOOL—Election Day

Please exercise your right to VOTE!

Tuesday, November 6, 2018



PTA Information!!!

Thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered in our second annual color run! It was truly a blast! Coming soon will be details about our Movie Night, Santa's Workshop and our amazing basket raffle during parent/teacher conferences, where you could win dinner for four at Chipotle, bread for a year from Panera or even an American Girl Doll. Don't forget to stop and buy your tickets during conference \$5 for 6 or \$10 for 15!! Congrats to the first graders who earned an ice cream party for having the most paid memberships! See you at the next meeting on November 12th!

Pinkness

As part of our McGuffey Breast Cancer Awareness activities, students and staff participated in a "How Pink Can You Be?" competition. Congratulations to our staff and student winners! A special thanks to all of our awesome judges!



Important Dates:

- Nov. 2— Warren G. Harding v. Garfield Heights Playoff Game; Mollenkopf
- Nov. 2—4th & 5th Grade Title I Family Day
- Nov. 4—Daylight Savings Time—Fall Back!
- Nov. 5—K-2 Awards Assembly
- Nov. 6—Election Day/Waiver Day/NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 8—Picture Day for 6-8 and PTA Movie Night
- Nov. 9—Picture Day for PK-5
- Nov. 11—Veteran's Day!
- Nov. 13—Fundraiser Delivery
- Nov. 13 & 15—Parent Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 15—Robotics Field Trip
- Nov. 16—8th Grade Field Trip
- Nov. 19-23—Thanksgiving Break/NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 27—Board Meeting
- Nov. 30—2nd Grade Title I Family Day, PK Tom Phoolery and 1st Grade Field Trip

Veteran's Day—Sunday, November 11th

Please REMEMBER OUR VETERANS!

We thank them for their service.



MCGUFFEY PK-8 NEWSLETTER



Cold and Flu Season

Once again, cold and flu season is upon us. During this time of year, it is important to take extra precautions to stay healthy. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the following : 1. Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water; 2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; 3. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue; 4. Wash hands after shaking hands; 5. Keep frequently touched common surfaces clean (door knobs, keyboards, cell phones etc.)

Happy Habits

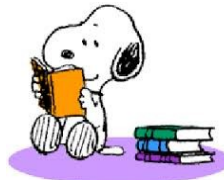
Before crossing homework off the to-do list each day, **remember the importance of daily reading.** Kids who read often, and enjoy it, develop positive attitudes about this important skill. Try to show enthusiasm! Example: "I love when we read together!"

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WARREN Strong!**



Reading Improvement & Plans or RIMPS

In the state of Ohio, all students in Grades K-3 are required to take an Ohio Diagnostic Test in Reading. If your child is not performing at grade level, their teacher must develop a Reading Improvement Plan. We ask that you are a part of creating this plan, so that we can focus on those specific Literacy skills that your student will need. Teachers will be discussing this plan with you during Parent-Teacher Conferences, so it is very important that you contact your child's teacher to schedule a conference.



**We are WARREN Strong, because at McGuffey
we:**

LEARN, WORK, BEHAVE and CARE!

This year, our focus on these four words will catapult our staff and students to new heights. In everything we do, we'll ask ourselves: are we learning, are we working, are we following the rules and how are we showing that we care enough, to leave McGuffey better than we found it? We are guaranteed success if we have this approach!

McGuffey PK-8

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McGuffey Administration

Jeanne Reighard: PK-2 Principal

Holly Welch: 3-5 Principal/Campus
Leader

Tracey Ryser: 6-8 Principal

Katie Fallo: Supervisor of Special
Education

Jim Joseph: Supervisor of School
Improvement

Want to know more about
Warren City Schools? Check
us out at:

www.warrenschoools.k12.oh.us

Or Follow us on Twitter

@warrencityschools

McGuffey School Counseling News

November 2018

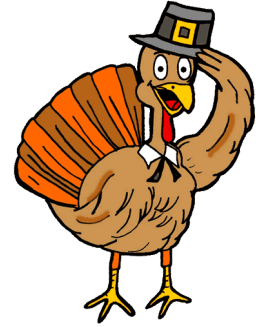
Happy November, McGuffey!

Mrs. Redmond PK-4

During the month of November our classroom focus is on listening and respecting other's opinions in our community. This is not only an important skill to learn for school, but also for everyday life!

Think about reinforcing this at home by asking your child's opinion about a topic and discussing your opinion with them.

Mrs. Jill Redmond
McGuffey PK-4
Phone 330-675-6980 ext. 5111



Thanks to all who participated in Red Ribbon Week!

Students had the opportunity to hear McGuffey's Message: "Life is a Journey... Travel Drug Free!" and showed their commitment to living a drug-free life by signing a pledge and wearing red on Friday.

Coming Soon: Our 3-5 Career Day will be in December. Stand by for more information!

Successful Student Corner:

Remember to be thankful for what you have, including McGuffey School!

Mr. Middleton 5-8

McGuffey has been busy these past 9 weeks! Before we know it, we will be getting some well-deserved time off to rest and enjoy the company of family and friends over the holidays! KEEP WORKING HARD UNTIL THEN, MCGUFFEY!

I am proud to take 5 selected students from McGuffey to the We ARE I.T. conference held at the Trumbull Career & Technical Center (TCTC) on November 8th. WE ARE IT! is for young women in eighth grade who may be interested in exploring careers in Information/ Technology.

McGuffey is SEL focused! Through our new 2nd Step Curriculum, students are learning EVEN MORE about themselves, their relationships with others, and responsible decision-making.

Mr. Middleton, School Counselor
McGuffey Grades 5-8
Phone: 330-675-6980 Ext. 5232



ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in November. Be sure to schedule an appointment to see your child's teacher. Also feel free to ask to speak with their school counselor if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help!

Helping Children Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



December 2018

Warren City Schools

<http://www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us>

Don't let your child miss out on the advantages of attendance

December is a busy month for schools, students and families. There's a lot to fit in before winter break arrives. And with so many festive activities going on, you may even be planning to take your child out of school for an extra day or two.



But absences can matter a lot. As early as kindergarten, absenteeism is linked to lower academic achievement. Even if your child can make up the homework assignments, he'll still miss learning that *can't* be made up, such as:

- **Class discussions.** The conversation about the book everyone is reading can't be captured by doing homework.
- **Science demonstrations.** Doing a worksheet or reading a textbook is not the same as seeing science in action.
- **Group projects.** Interaction with peers is a key part of the lesson.
- **Math explanations.** Math builds on previous lessons. Missing any of those lessons may leave your child confused going forward.

Avoid unnecessary absences and help your child establish positive attendance habits. He'll reap the benefits throughout his school years.

Source: A. Ginsburg and others, "Absences Add Up: How School Attendance Influences Student Success," Attendance Works, niswc.com/nomiss.



Study skills at home pay off in school

As students reach the upper elementary grades, their study skills become more important to their academic success. Encourage your child to:

- **Use time wisely.** Show your child how to use short periods of time productively. She could flip through flash cards on the way to an activity, or solve a few math problems on the bus ride home.
- **Get organized.** Help her use a planner to keep track of her assignments. Have her clean out her backpack once a week and file returned papers with her other schoolwork for that subject.
- **Take notes.** Your child may not practice this skill at school yet, but she can try it at home when she reads. Help her write down key words and facts. Then she can summarize the main points.
- **Think ahead.** Have your child make a to-do list for her study time before a test: Take notes, review, do practice problems. Show her how to make a study schedule, and help her stick to it.

Hunt for fun at the library

To have some reading fun with your child, go on a library scavenger hunt. Make up a list of facts to find—the world record number of hot dogs eaten in a contest, the average temperature at the South Pole, the country with the largest zebra population—then help your child use the library's reference tools to find them. Offer a small reward for finding them all.

Steer your child's character

Your child's teachers will guide her academic growth. But you are in the best position to teach her the values that will help her learn. To provide a moral compass:



1. **Discuss the values** that are important to your family—honesty, responsibility, consideration, etc.
2. **Be a role model.** Ask, "What lessons is my child learning from my behavior?"
3. **Set high standards.** Expect your child to tell the truth, live up to commitments and cooperate with others.

Celebrate to motivate

Reaching a challenging goal feels wonderful, and that feeling can be a powerful motivator for your child to tackle other challenges. So when he sets and reaches a major goal, help him celebrate it!

One fun way is to "frame the occasion." Get a snapshot of your child holding that improved report card. Or have him draw a picture of himself and his accomplishment. Put the picture in a frame by his bed. Every time he wakes up, he'll see an image of himself as an achiever.



Source: M. Borba, Ed.D., "Helping Kids Be Goal-Setters," Micheleborba.com, niswc.com/celebrate.



My child has become a 'mean girl.' What can I do?

Q: My fifth-grader was picked on by a group of girls last year. She was miserable. So I was horrified when her teacher told me that my daughter is now part of a group who is being mean to another girl. What should I do to stop this behavior?

A: It can be just as painful to watch your child being mean as it is to watch her be a victim. While your situation is not uncommon, particularly with girls at this age, it's important to take action.

Here are some things to do:

- **Talk with your child.** Say you understand that she's happy to be part of a group again. But be clear that just as it was wrong for the other girls to be mean to her last year, it is wrong for her to do it now. She knows how it feels to be teased—she should take a stand against such behavior.
- **Review the school's policy on bullying** with your child. She may face consequences if her mean behavior continues. Bullying does not only refer to physical violence—mean words and exclusion count as well.
- **Let the teacher know** what you are doing at home. Ask what the classroom rules are about this type of behavior. Work together to get your child's focus back on learning—and away from being mean to others.



Are you encouraging reading fluency?

Reading with *fluency* means reading aloud quickly, smoothly and with expression. Fluency helps students understand what they read. Are you helping your child improve his reading fluency? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

- ___ **1. Do you ask** your child to read to you regularly?
- ___ **2. Do you let** your child choose what to read aloud, even if you think his choice is too easy?
- ___ **3. Do you avoid** interrupting when your child reads a word incorrectly?
- ___ **4. Do you offer** help if your child asks what a word is, and then encourage him to keep reading?
- ___ **5. Do you discuss** the reading with your child?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are helping your child build reading fluency. For each no, try that idea.

"So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well: They begin to take flight into whole new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky."

—William James

Home can be a science lab

Turn your child on to the science happening all around her in your home. To help her investigate:

- **Give her a magnifying glass.** Ask what she sees. What's similar and what's different?
- **Ask questions** and help her look for answers: Which cereals get soggy? Why do foods get moldy? Why do some plants need more water than others?
- **Experiment.** Which weighs more, a cup of water or a cup of snow? Why? What if the snow melts?



Don't give your child a reason to cheat

Some children cheat in school because they are afraid of what their parents will do if they come home with a bad grade. Make sure your child knows that a low grade would never affect your love for him. Tell him you would be concerned, but you would not be angry. Remind him that learning is a process, and he will get better at it.

Successful students do more than the minimum

When your child is doing homework or studying, encourage her to ask herself what more she could do. For example, she could:

- **Reread the chapter** if she doesn't understand it the first time.
- **Take time to write** out her report neatly, instead of turning in sloppy work.
- **Start on projects early**, rather than waiting until the last minute. Then she'll have time to add an illustration or practice her presentation before delivering it.

Helping Children Learn[®]

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Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help children
do well in school*

Warren City Schools

<http://www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us>



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

December 2018

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Share the responsibility for holiday preparations. As kids help, they appreciate holidays even more.
- 2. Set aside time today to work on a craft project with your child. Handmade items make great gifts!
- 3. Give your child a magnet. Have her use it to find out which things in your house contain iron.
- 4. Talk with your child about a choice you made and its consequences.
- 5. Put on some music and have your child spend 15 minutes drawing how it makes him feel.
- 6. Ask your child, "If you could have any animal as a pet, which would it be? Why?"
- 7. Make a jigsaw puzzle together. Glue a picture from a magazine onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle pieces.
- 8. Help your child research what happened on the day she was born.
- 9. At the grocery store, ask your child to estimate the weights of different vegetables and fruits. Then weigh them.
- 10. Give your child a plant to care for. Put him in charge of watering it.
- 11. Hold a family meeting. Decide on some goals as a family.
- 12. Post a new vocabulary word and its definition on the bathroom mirror. Change it every three or four days.
- 13. Talk with your child about times when it's important to say *no*, even to an adult.
- 14. Look at a weather map. What is the coldest place in the nation today? The warmest? Have your child calculate the difference in temperature.
- 15. Exercise as a family. Choose an activity everyone will enjoy.
- 16. Have a family sing-along. Ask everyone to share their favorite songs.
- 17. Make a "clock" by using a fastener to attach two strips of paper to a paper plate. Help your child practice telling time.
- 18. Have your child track the amount of time she spends reading this week. Help her figure out the average time she spent reading per day.
- 19. Talk with your child about how animals survive the winter months.
- 20. Recreate a favorite tradition from your youth. Share it with your child.
- 21. Have your child make a list of things he can do when he's bored.
- 22. Bake cookies with your child. Have her do the math to find out the amounts of ingredients you'd need if you doubled the recipe.
- 23. Share a favorite quote with your child.
- 24. Talk with your child about *courage*. Point out examples of people who demonstrate courage.
- 25. Ask your child to tell you a bedtime story tonight.
- 26. Take a walk with your child. Look for things you see only in winter.
- 27. Help your child think of something nice he can do for a neighbor.
- 28. Ask your child about the best gift she ever got. What made it special?
- 29. Remove the headline of a news article. Have your child read the article and write a headline. Compare the two headlines.
- 30. Tell your child you love him today and every day.
- 31. Help your child create a time line of the last year.

Helping Children Learn
TIPS Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Helping Students Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



December 2018

Warren City Schools

<http://www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us>

Encourage estimating to give your child real-world math practice

Making a connection to real world uses for subjects your child is studying can stimulate her interest in them. Estimation, for example, is a math skill that most adults use on a regular basis. And it is often the first step to finding a precise answer to a mathematical problem.



Offer your child frequent estimation challenges using ideas from daily life. Then encourage her to check her answers by working the problems through, or by comparing a "real life" answer to her estimate.

Here are some examples to get you started:

- **How many times** will she have to shovel snow off the neighbor's driveway to earn \$1,000 if she gets paid \$18 every time?
- **How long does she think it will take** her to finish the book she's reading if she reads about 10 pages an hour?
- **How many chocolate chips** does she think fit in a quarter cup?
- **How long will it take** to get to Grandma's house if the car is going 27 miles an hour and Grandma lives 5 miles away?
- **How many shoebox-sized packages** can she wrap with one roll of wrapping paper?

Source: B. Hoffman, M.S.Ed, "Why Teaching Both Estimation and Accuracy is Important," My Learning Springboard, niswc.com/estimate.



How to listen to your middle schooler

Open communication between parents and children can be a challenge. For many parents, talking with their adolescent seems like talking to the wall. But often, it's because the parents are talking more than listening.

To improve communication with your middle schooler:

- **Create times** when your child can have a chance to say what he wants. Time in the car is ideal. Be quiet and give him an opportunity to break the silence.
- **Let him finish.** Don't assume you know what your child was going to say. Allow him time to pause and think.
- **Don't hijack** the conversation. Your child begins talking about the new kid in school. You jump in to say that you met his parents and they Your child may have been about to share something with you. But now, he may not.
- **Don't always delay.** You may be busy when your child wants to talk. But if you always put him off, he may save his news forever.

Parenting instills respect

Your child needs you to be her parent, not her friend. Friends have equal power in a relationship; parents and children do not. Be firm and consistent when dealing with your child. Treat her fairly and you'll demonstrate respect. Be reliable and set a good example, and you'll earn it.

Keep attendance strong

How was your child's attendance this fall? Was he in school every day? Did he make it to every class?

If so, congratulate him and help him keep up the good work. If not:

- **Emphasize** that attending every class every day is your child's top priority.
- **Make sure** he gets the rest, nutrition and exercise he needs to stay healthy, alert and in school.
- **Establish** consequences for missing school. Now he'll have to miss activities he likes and use the time to study material he missed.



Get set for group study

Working in groups can teach students to collaborate and reinforce learning. When your child sets up a study group, help him:

- **Choose participants carefully.** They should all want to do well in school and be comfortable with one another. Students should take turns leading so one member doesn't dominate the group.
- **Be clear about the purpose.** Structure and routines make study groups productive.

Source: K. Eckart, "Group project? Taking turns, working with friends may improve grades," Science Daily, niswc.com/group.





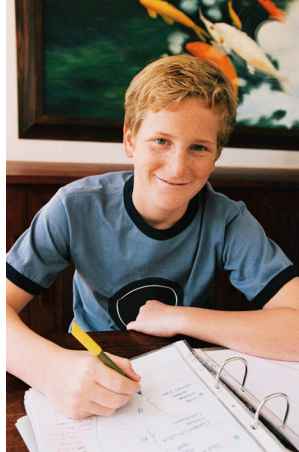
How can I help my child handle a bigger workload?

Q: Now that my son is in middle school, he has a lot more homework. He seems a bit intimidated. How can I keep him from being overwhelmed?

A: Keeping up with the demands of six or seven classes can make even confident students worry sometimes. The key is to help your child see his assignments as a series of small, manageable tasks, rather than as one giant workload.

To help him break things down:

- **Give your child a calendar.** He should note when assignments are due. Have him block out times, such as school hours and sports practices, when he won't be able to do homework. Now he can see the tasks he has to do, and the time available in which to do them. That puts your child in control.
- **Divide up big assignments.** If he has a research project to do, explain that he should do it in steps: Choose a topic, gather research materials, write an outline, etc. Have him set a deadline for completing each step. Then encourage him to make daily to-do lists.
- **Regroup each week.** Every Friday, review assignments with your child. What has he completed? What's on for next week? Is his calendar up to date? The last week of the month, have him flip the calendar page to see what's coming up. Then compliment him on his organizational skills!



Are you unlocking your child's potential?

What does it mean to be a success in school? Successful students work to the best of their abilities to reach their own potential. Are you encouraging your child to be all she can be? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___ **1. Do you compliment** your child's positive study habits? "Your binder is so organized—I'm impressed."
- ___ **2. Do you point out** how much your child has learned? "You knew no Spanish in September, and you can say whole sentences now!"
- ___ **3. Do you model** a strong work ethic? "I'm going to edit my report; I can make it better."
- ___ **4. Do you help** your child focus on what she can learn from the mistakes she makes?

- ___ **5. Do you tell** your child that all you ask is that she *do* her best, not that she *be* the best?

How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean you are helping your child *do her best*. For each *no*, try that *idea*.

"With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability, one can build a better world."

—Dalai Lama XIV

Honesty matters in school

Honesty is a defining characteristic of good students—and good citizens. Stress to your child that cheating is wrong, and it won't help him learn or get smarter. Remind him that honest people:

- **Have self-respect.** They don't have to worry about being caught in a lie.
- **Are respected by others,** who know they can count on them.
- **Earn more freedom.** Parents—and teachers—give more freedom to students they can trust.

Energize your child's efforts

Does your child have an early case of the winter blahs? To recharge her motivation:

- **Praise and encourage.** Say three positive things to your child for every one correction. "You've turned in your homework on time all month. I bet that feels great!"
- **Offer specific suggestions** to make her efforts more effective. "Taking notes while you read will help the material stick in your mind."



Neglect is more than an honest mistake

When your child makes an honest mistake—in school or at home—the best response is to help him think of ways to avoid making it again. But if he neglects his responsibilities and doesn't do work he is expected to do:

- 1. Talk to your child** about where he fell short and why.
- 2. Remind him** that his contributions as a student and a family member count.
- 3. Impose a consequence** that relates to the responsibility he neglected.

Source: K. Thomsen, M.S., *Parenting Preteens with a Purpose: Navigating the Middle Years*, Search Institute Press.

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- 1. Bake cookies with your child. Let her decorate them creatively.
- 2. Is your family celebrating a holiday this month? Ask your child to take over responsibility for one or two holiday traditions.
- 3. Ask your child about a book he is reading. Are the characters realistic?
- 4. Look in the newspaper or online for a list of upcoming festive events. Plan to attend one as a family.
- 5. Check on your child's goals for the school year. Is she making progress?
- 6. What is the coldest place in the nation today? The hottest? Have your child calculate the difference between the two temperatures.
- 7. Encourage your child to eat a healthy breakfast every day.
- 8. Play a game with your child—cards, charades, a board game—whatever he'd like.
- 9. Suggest that your child donate some of her time over winter break. Look for volunteering activities you can do together.
- 10. Books are great gifts for kids. Ask your librarian to recommend some.
- 11. Meet the parents of your child's friends. Work as a team to keep your kids safe.
- 12. When helping your child with schoolwork, be positive, even if he gets discouraged.
- 13. Do something the "old-fashioned" way with your child.
- 14. Play Alphabet Mix-Up. Choose a word, then rearrange the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 15. Have your child estimate how long an assignment will take. Write her estimate down. Then have her time how long it really takes.
- 16. Ask your child to teach you something he's learning in school. Let him explain it (even if you already know the material). Ask questions.
- 17. Discuss the importance of regular school attendance with your child.
- 18. Talk to your child about people she admires. What does she like about them?
- 19. Give your child stress-relief tips, such as taking deep breaths.
- 20. Ask your child to take photos during family events. This may increase his interest in participating.
- 21. Learn a magic trick with your child.
- 22. Have your child interview older relatives about their childhood days.
- 23. Ask your child what she feels is the most important thing she has learned at school so far this year.
- 24. Encourage your child to make lists to help him remember things.
- 25. Give your child a hug today.
- 26. Expect your child to write thank-you notes for gifts. It's polite and it builds writing skills.
- 27. Take turns calling out names of famous people and guessing what the people named did. Then look it up.
- 28. Let your child overhear you say something good about her.
- 29. Offer to drive your child and his friends somewhere. In the car, listen.
- 30. Suggest that your child play archeologist. What could she say about the people in your home, based on what she finds there?
- 31. Help your child create a time line of the past year.

Helping Students Learn
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School