

# MCGUFFEY PK-8 NEWSLETTER



Happy Holidays!

Because this newsletter goes out to you on the last day of school in December, we want to wish you all a safe and joyful holiday season. We hope that you and your children have the opportunity to spend quality time with family, friends, and loved ones during the time away from school. It's important to take advantage of these moments, so that we can rejuvenate, refocus, and approach the new year with a renewed sense of purpose. As we make our way through the winter months, let's take advantage of this time and make sure our students continue to embrace each school day with purpose. It's important to remember that hard work, learning, and achievement develop the invincible spirit that our students can carry with them throughout their lives.



## ***Victory Christian Church Donates New Coats to McGuffey students in December***

Victory Christian Center supported our school generously by giving many of our students brand new winter coats. They had a huge assortment of colors and designs, and the students were very grateful and excited about their new wardrobe additions.

## **8th graders and 1st graders "Buddy Up" in our Buddy Program**



Once a month, our 1st and 8th graders get together in 1st grade classrooms to allow 8th graders to mentor students. During these monthly meetings, they read to each other, talk about connections in one another's lives, and provide a sense of community and support. At McGuffey, we are committed to one another and support everyone's success.



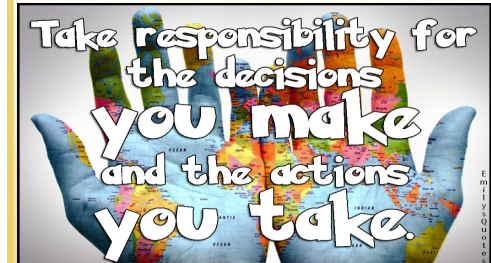
## **United Way**

Students and staff contributed to the United Way drive to give back to our community. Classrooms who gave the most money were treated to donuts and

were photographed. (Mrs. Waldman's 1st grade is in the picture above.)

January 1, 2019

**We are WARREN Strong!**



## **Important Dates:**

- Jan 1—New Year's Day—No School
- Jan 2—Students return to school
- Jan 10—6-8 Pod PBIS incentive and 4th grade recorder concert
- Jan 11—End of the 2nd Quarter and student early release
- Jan 14—5:30 pm PTA meeting
- Jan 15—McTeacher Night at McDonalds
- Jan 16—6th grade Family Literacy Day @10:45 and grades 3-8 Spelling Bee
- Jan 17—4th grade Butler Art class visit and grades 5-8 Family night
- Jan 18—Geography Bee and report cards go home
- Jan 21—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—No School
- Jan 22—1st grade Title 1 Family program
- Jan 23—7th grade Family Literacy Day @ 9:40
- Jan 24—9:00 6th grade Awards Assembly; 9:30 3-5 awards assembly; 2:00 7th grade awards assembly; 2:30 8th grade awards assembly
- Jan 25—K-2 Awards assembly
- Jan 28-Feb 1—Scholastic Book Fair (Lunch With Loved Ones—Dates to be announced)
- Jan 29—Parent Teacher Conferences
- Jan 30—8th grade Family Literacy Day and Parent Teacher Conferences

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## McGuffey Robotics Move on to District Competition

Our very own Titonics Robotics team qualified to compete at the District competition, which was held on December 15th. A big thanks goes out to the team, their coach Amanda Colbert, and Mr. Nelson. While “Robotics” is certainly about the robots they build, this program also inspires career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills.



## 8th grade Girls Attend “We Are IT”



Several of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls were chosen to be among the 90 others from 14 Trumbull County school districts recently to see different IT careers as part of the “We Are It” program held at Trumbull Career and Technical Center. They were exposed to such programs as graphic design, computer networking and engineering. These are fields that traditionally have fewer women.

## Awards Assemblies coming up!

Please plan on attending our awards assemblies for the 2nd quarter! We love to honor our great students and their hard work.

**K-2: January 25th (9:30)**

**Grades 3-5: January 24th (9:30)**

**Grades 6-8: January 24th (6th grade at 9:00, 7th grade at 2:00, and 8th grade at 2:30)**

## PTA Corner

Santa’s Workshop was a success in December. Thank you to all of our shoppers, and especially the Santa’s helpers who volunteered to shop with the little ones.



We have exciting things happening next year, including the Sweetheart Dance on Valentine’s Day, Extreme Air Night in March and Tilt in April. Please come to the January meeting for more details. There will also be a chance to win a Giant Eagle gift card for anyone who attends!

Our next meeting is January 14th at 5:30 pm.

**McGuffey PK-8**  
3465 Tod Avenue, NW  
Warren, OH 44485

Phone: 330-675-6960  
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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

## Band/Choir News

The Holiday 6-8 Band and Choir concert was held on December 19, 2018. Students gave us a fantastic performance that helped us all get in the holiday spirit. A big thanks go out to Mr. Kifer and Mrs. Gruver for getting our students ready for their beautiful performance.

# McGuffey School Counseling January News

## Mrs. Redmond PK-4

The new year is a great time to set new goals. It gives us an opportunity to focus on better grades, improving behavior or making new friends. Take time to set a goal and stick to it.

In December, we also focused on Career Exploration. January will focus on Conflict Resolution. We will be teaching students ways to solve problems with each other.

Happy New Year,

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

**OUR 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE CAREER DAY WAS A SUCCESS! STUDENTS WERE EXCITED TO HEAR FROM OUR PRESENTERS AND THE PRESENTERS DID A FANTASTIC JOB!**

## Mr. Middleton 5-8

WELCOME BACK!

I hope that McGuffey staff and students had a relaxing and fun Winter Break!

As we move into the second half of the school year, let's make sure that we keep our momentum and continue to *give our very best*.

When we all give our best, it is *unbelievable* how much we will learn and grow by the end of the school year!



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

### Successful Student Corner:

Successful students have a GROWTH MINDSET!

This means that in order to be successful, we all must face each new day believing that our EFFORT AND ATTITUDE MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

Whether in class or at home, having this mindset will make a difference in your life.

## Tips for Parents

Listen!

Many conflicts start because of misunderstandings and miscommunication. Teaching children good listening habits can be an important tool.

You can start with a discussion about conflicts that may have occurred recently. You are likely to hear things like “you wouldn’t listen” or “they didn’t understand what I was saying.”

This is a good opportunity to let your child realize the power of listening. It also lends itself to teaching “how” to listen.

Teach them to:

- Look directly at the speaker and make eye contact.
- Let the speaker talk without interruption.
- Ask questions.
- Give the speaker positive reinforcement by nodding or smiling.
- Repeat what you have heard in your own words.

***Teach children the power of careful listening.***



# Helping Children Learn<sup>®</sup>

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



January 2019

Warren City Schools

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

## Bring out the leader inside your elementary schooler

Children who are leaders at school develop important skills, such as problem-solving, communication and responsibility. These students are often self-confident, creative, helpful and friendly. That makes their classmates want to work with them.

All children have the ability to become leaders. To nurture your child's leadership skills:

- **Point out leaders of all kinds.** Talk about successful group efforts, from winning football seasons to community food drives. Remind your child that someone led those groups. Discuss what makes a good leader.
- **Teach her to look at things** from other people's points of view. Good leaders aren't bossy or mean. They make people want to work together.
- **Offer her leadership opportunities.** Athletic teams, clubs, Scouts and many other activities can provide chances for your child to lead. At home, let your child lead a family meeting or manage a family project.
- **Don't push.** Too much pressure can backfire. If your child seems stressed or unhappy, it's time to lighten up.
- **Set an example.** When you take a leadership role, talk to your child about what you are doing and why.



Source: "Leadership and children," Better Kid Care, PennState Extension, [niscw.com/lead](http://niscw.com/lead).



## Be a reading role model for your child

The best way to show your child that reading matters to you is to let him see you reading every day. Be sure to:

- **Make it clear** that you *choose* to read. Pick up books, newspapers and magazines whenever you get the chance.
- **Explain the purpose.** Are you reading to find out information? To double-check something? To learn how to do something? Or just for pure enjoyment?
- **Look up words** you are unsure of in the dictionary. Ask your child if he knows the meanings.
- **Share.** When you come across something that would interest your child, read a small part of it aloud to him. He may be motivated to continue reading the rest to himself.
- **Join him when he reads.** Grab something you'd like to read and enjoy the time together. Look for ways to make it fun—turn off the lights and have everyone read by flashlight, for example.

## Improve conversations with observations

Greeting your child in the afternoon with questions about school can shut down the conversation fast. Instead, take time to look at the schoolwork she brings home. Offer several observations about what you see—what you remember liking about the topic, what it reminds you of, etc. Only then, ask, "What did you learn about this today?"

## To see symmetry, fold here

Fold a picture of a butterfly in half, and the two sides match up. That means the butterfly is *symmetrical*. The fold line is the *line of symmetry*. Lines of symmetry can be vertical, horizontal—even diagonal.

Go on a symmetry hunt with your child. When he finds an item he thinks is symmetrical, have him:

1. **Take** or draw a picture of it.
2. **Predict** where the line of symmetry will be. (There may be more than one!)
3. **Fold** his picture along the line. If the sides match, he's right!



## Offer tips, not answers

Some kids arrive at a hard question in their homework and immediately look to parents for help. Instead of providing answers, help your child learn how to find them herself:

1. **Have her skip** the difficult question and answer all the others that she can. Then she should think again about the one she skipped. It may be clearer now.
2. **Ask**, "Where could you find out about that? Was there a class handout?" Show her how to use resources like the encyclopedia, too.





## Is it a good idea to offer money for good grades?

**Q: My son gets average grades, but I know he could do better. Should I pay him for top grades?**

**A:** It's natural to want your child to live up to his potential. While researchers have experimented with paying students for performance, the results don't show much long-term benefit. And there are some serious drawbacks to this kind of incentive.



Paying for grades:

- **Deprives your child** of the satisfaction of learning for its own sake. Mastering new skills and learning new things gives kids confidence in themselves and their abilities as students. When you pay your child for grades, you run the risk of decreasing his self-confidence.
- **Ignores effort.** If your child is giving his best effort, neither of you should worry if he earns a B instead of an A. And if he's trying hard and earns a low grade, you know that it's time to consult the teacher about how to help your child.
- **Reduces internal motivation.** A love of learning will always motivate your child. But paying him shifts his focus to the money. And he's more likely to put his hand out every time he's asked to do something.

Instead of offering cash, help your child build his study skills and focus on what he is learning. Encourage him to recognize and be proud of his new abilities. And praise him for working hard and doing his best.



## Are you encouraging resilience?

Failure is scary for kids—and parents. But learning how to bounce back from a failure is a valuable lesson. Are you teaching your child that failure isn't the end of the world? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you allow** your child to solve problems on her own, even if she may fail?
- \_\_\_ **2. Do you encourage** her to think about what she can do differently next time, when things don't go right?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you admit** your own failures, and talk about how to fix them?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you help** your child put setbacks into perspective?  
"You didn't ace your test, but you earned a higher grade than last time!"

- \_\_\_ **5. Do you teach** her to win graciously and lose cheerfully?

### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you are showing your child how to rebound from failure. For each no, try that idea.*

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

## The new year is a new chance to achieve goals

If your child set some goals in September, but didn't really follow through, January is the perfect time to start again. To make this the year your child learns how to achieve his goals, encourage him to:

- 1. State** his goal. Have your child write it down and post it where he will see it.
- 2. Plan** how to meet the goal. What specific steps will he take?
- 3. Talk** about the goal with others. This builds commitment. Have your child tell the teacher his goal.
- 4. Carry out** his plan, one step at a time. If problems arise, your child can discuss possible solutions with you.

## Review the rules together

Sometimes children get in trouble at school because they don't remember the rules. Review the school rules with your child. Talk about how they are needed to keep the school a safe, peaceful and orderly place where kids can learn. Let your child know that you expect her to follow the rules.

## Stay flexible when your child solves problems

When you find yourself stuck in traffic, you can sometimes choose another route. Getting to your destination matters more than which road you take.



When your child has a problem to solve, instead of giving him a road map (first do this, then do that), remind him of his destination: "You need to find a way to finish your report even though your classmate has the book you need." He may not select the solution you would. But if he arrives at his destination honestly, let the solution stand.

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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>



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- 1. With your child, invent a special holiday just for your family.
- 2. Encourage your child to start a journal this year.
- 3. Have your child name a food she loves. Help her learn more about where it comes from.
- 4. Make an appointment to spend some one-on-one time with your child this month. Write it on your calendar.
- 5. Ask your child to help you plan three healthy breakfasts.
- 6. Encourage your child to be a critical TV viewer. Watch programs with him and ask questions like, "Why do you think the character did that?"
- 7. Play a card game such as Go Fish with your child.
- 8. If you don't have time to read to your child at night, read in the morning instead. It's a real "power breakfast."
- 9. What is your child's favorite time of year? What does she like about it?
- 10. Have your child draw something that happened in school today. Then talk about it.
- 11. Ask your child about the qualities he looks for in friends. Talk about why *values* are important.
- 12. Have your child help you organize something, such as a closet.
- 13. Compliment your child on a recent accomplishment.
- 14. Model good manners for your child. Say, "Please pass the ..." and "Thank you very much."
- 15. Watch a funny video with your child. Then have her draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- 16. Pick a category, such as colors. Have your child pick a letter. How many colors can you each name that begin with that letter?
- 17. Help your child record herself reading a story.
- 18. Watch a TV show with the sound off. Ask family members to make up the dialogue.
- 19. Teach your child to make paper snowflakes.
- 20. Encourage your child to sort his books by subject.
- 21. Help your child make an "I am special" scrapbook. Add photos and mementos throughout the year.
- 22. Ask your child to measure the dimensions of objects in your house. How many six-inch long items can she find?
- 23. Pretend to go back in time with your child. Reenact an event together.
- 24. Ask your child to help you do a household chore today. Remember to thank him when he finishes.
- 25. Plan a weekend activity the whole family will enjoy.
- 26. In the car, ask your child to add up the numbers on the license plates she sees.
- 27. Have family members try doing activities with the hand they *don't* favor.
- 28. Teach your child how to sew on a button.
- 29. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.
- 30. Have your child teach you something he is learning in school.
- 31. Read a story to your child. Later, ask her to retell it from memory.

**Helping Children Learn**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

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## Teach your child strategies for improving reading comprehension

Reading comprehension is much more than being able to recognize the words in a passage. It means understanding the meaning of the passage as a whole. In middle school, your child's ability to comprehend and think about what he reads has a significant effect on his academic success.



To strengthen your child's reading comprehension, encourage him to:

- **Read often.** The more your child reads, the easier reading will become for him. And the easier it becomes, the more energy and interest he'll have left over to focus on the meaning of what he reads.
- **Create links to things he already knows.** When your child reads something that reminds him of something he has learned, seen or done, the material has meaning. To reinforce these links, suggest that your child mark the passages with a sticky note saying what they remind him of.
- **Ask thinking questions** before, during and after he reads. For example, he might ask: *What do I hope to learn from this? What kind of personality does the main character have? What do I think will happen? How is this different from what I expected?* As he comes across passages that relate to his questions, he can add more sticky notes with thoughts about his answers.

Source: J. Willis, "Aiding Reading Comprehension With Post-its," Edutopia, [niswc.com/stickyread](http://niswc.com/stickyread).



## Coach your child to school success

By January, most middle schoolers can use some guidance, encouragement and inspiration to keep doing their best in school. Think of yourself as your child's academic coach. To support and motivate her:

- **Talk** about what she is learning. Grades are important, but the real point of education is knowledge. Emphasize the learning process. This includes responsible effort, persistence and improvement.
- **Act** as a resource. When your child studies, be available whenever you can to answer questions and offer suggestions on where to find the information she needs, such as in her textbook.
- **Accept** that there will be times when you can't answer your child's questions. It's OK to say, "I don't know. Are there any hints on the class website?"
- **Understand** that your child has strengths and weaknesses. Support and encourage her in every subject, but don't expect the same results in every class.

Source: K.T. Alvy, Ph.D., *The Positive Parent*, Teachers College Press.

## Foster school friendships

Forming friendships with other kids at school can help your child feel more connected to school. The strongest friendships, however, often involve spending time together outside of school. If your child has been eating lunch with the same four boys for the last month, encourage him to ask them to your home to hang out. Or perhaps you could offer to drive them to the movies.



## Translate science into life

Science is all around us all the time. To encourage your child to notice, help her translate science terms into middle school experience. In physics, for example:

- **Rest** is the state of the book your child has dropped on the floor—not moving.
- **Inertia** is what's keeping her from moving to pick the book up.
- **Force** is the energy it will take for her to get up and put the book away.



Source: D. and C. Johnson, *Homework Heroes, Grades 6-8*, Kaplan Publishing.

## Give your child a blueprint for better paragraphs

Paragraphs are the basic structural elements of writing. Once a student knows how to build paragraphs, writing a paper isn't quite as overwhelming. To construct a strong paragraph, your child should:

1. **Write a topic sentence** that says what the paragraph will be about.
2. **Include details** that support the topic sentence.
3. **Read the paragraph** out loud to see if all the sentences relate to the topic and make sense together.
4. **Proofread** spelling and grammar.



## What can I do to help my child get back on track?

**Q:** The first half of the school year didn't go very well for my seventh grader. Her grades were lower than we both would have liked. How can I make sure she does better in the second half?

**A:** Encourage your daughter to look at the new calendar year as a fresh start. To promote positive school habits:

• **Help her set appropriate goals.**

You can't expect your child to turn the year around overnight. For goals to be motivating, they should be attainable. For example, if she slacked off on finishing assignments, she can strive to complete them all on time.

• **Insist on a regular homework time.** If your child is freshest right after school, then make that her work time. If she needs a little downtime first, give her an hour before having her crack open the books.

• **Monitor her progress.** Don't wait until your child fails a quiz to discover she's struggling in a class. Talk often with your child about what she's learning, and stay in contact with her teachers.

• **Recognize signs of improvement.** Is your daughter more organized? Is she making schoolwork a priority? Congratulate her. When you do, avoid bringing up her past habits. She already knows she made mistakes; there's no reason to remind her of them.



## Are you encouraging careful work?

Careless mistakes are the downfall of many middle school students. Are you emphasizing the importance of doing thorough, accurate work? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

\_\_\_ **1. Do you remind** your child to pay attention to details, such as putting his name and the correct date on papers?

\_\_\_ **2. Do you encourage** your child to double-check his answers before submitting work?

\_\_\_ **3. Do you reinforce** the concept that "neatness counts," both at home and at school?

\_\_\_ **4. Do you suggest** that your child include time for editing and proofreading when he plans his time for projects?

\_\_\_ **5. Do you review** your child's finished work with him to ensure it is neat and complete?

### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you are helping your child produce work he can be proud of. For each no, try that idea.*

*"It's the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen."*

*—John Wooden*

## Snuff out inhalant abuse

According to a national survey, abuse of inhalants is on the rise again after years of decline. Inhalants—including household products like glue, nail polish remover and canned whipped cream—are abused by eighth graders more than any other group. To deter your child from abusing inhalants:

- **Talk about the dangers.** Fewer eighth graders now see inhalant use as very risky. But these drugs can cause serious health problems, including death—even the first time they are used.
- **Make healthy living** a family priority.
- **Switch to non-aerosol products,** and keep paints, solvents and similar items locked up.

Source: L.D. Johnston and others, "Monitoring the Future: Key Findings on Adolescent Drug Use," National Institute on Drug Abuse, [niswc.com/noinhale](http://niswc.com/noinhale).

## Reward conduct with praise

When your child earns a good grade or makes a great play on the sports field, it's appropriate to praise his accomplishment. But be sure you also praise your child for demonstrating good character. Compliment his kindness and his sense of responsibility. Applaud him for not giving up, even when the going gets tough.



## Bolster vocabulary growth

The greater your child's vocabulary, the more she will understand higher-level reading, conversation and thinking. Encourage your child to:

- **Read** something a little above her level every so often.
- **Practice.** New words your child encounters won't stick if she doesn't use them.
- **Speak** with adults. Be careful not to do the talking for her!

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- 1. Have your child write down learning resolutions for the coming year. Make some for yourself, as well.
- 2. Together, make a list of the best low-cost activities you did during the last year. Schedule time on the calendar to do them again this year.
- 3. Celebrate your child's accomplishments when he achieves a goal.
- 4. Ask your child, "What do you wish we did differently at home?" Be open to suggestions.
- 5. Ask your child to recommend a book for you to read.
- 6. Let your child take over a responsibility you've previously done for her.
- 7. Pause when you talk with your child. Silences allow time to think.
- 8. Have your child solve a personal math problem: "How many days have you been alive?"
- 9. Does your child hate to lose? Tell him that trying is more important than winning.
- 10. Do something you and your child have never done before. Try a new food. Listen to a new type of music. Visit a new place.
- 11. Write your child a letter about how wonderful you think she is.
- 12. Read an article from the newspaper together. Discuss your opinions.
- 13. Look through some job listings with your child. Have him circle jobs that look interesting. Notice the requirements.
- 14. Have your child figure out the average of something, such as the age of family members.
- 15. Tell your child a story that teaches her an important lesson.
- 16. Play Math Jeopardy. Say a number. Can your child come up with an equation for which your number is the answer?
- 17. Notice the states on license plates. Challenge your child to name something about each state you see.
- 18. With your child, think of synonyms for common words. For example, a synonym for *talk* is *converse*.
- 19. Watch a TV show about nature with your child.
- 20. Start a family book club. Give each person a turn selecting a book. After everyone reads the same book, talk about it.
- 21. Tell your child about what middle school was like for you.
- 22. Today, talk to your child as you would to a friend or co-worker. How does your child respond?
- 23. Encourage your child to get to know at least three new people outside of his normal group of friends.
- 24. Teach your child a card game.
- 25. Ensure there is adult supervision when your child visits a friend.
- 26. Review your rules for your child. Are they appropriate for her age?
- 27. Ask your child, "If you could change one thing in the entire world, what would it be?" Listen carefully to his answer.
- 28. Tell your child about your day—in as much detail as you'd like to hear about hers.
- 29. With your child, try to list things you each did two days ago.
- 30. Ask your child how he feels the school year is going so far.
- 31. Take a walk with your child today.

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