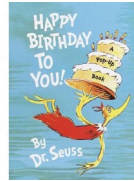


# MCGUFFEY PK-8 NEWSLETTER



Along with Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is also an opportunity to celebrate **READING**. McGuffey students will be engaged in a variety of author studies, book genres, reading activities, and more. Please encourage reading at home too!

## GOOD ATTENDANCE!

McGuffey's school goal for daily attendance is **95%**. We are presently averaging **92.5%**. Every absence counts! In order to help us meet this, students can miss no more than 8 days in the entire school year.

Please help McGuffey meet our target!



## Special Dates:

- Mar. 1—Spirit Day; 8th Grade Family Day
- Mar. 4—Hat Day; PK (Gilligan) to Library; PTA Extreme Air Night
- March 5—College/Armed Forces Shirt Day; Spring Picture Day; 3rd Grade Oh WOW ; Grades 3/4 Afterschool Program
- Mar. 6—Waiver Day
- Mar. 7—Sports Team Day; 3rd Grade Oh WOW; Grades 3/4 After School Program
- Mar. 8—Twin Day, Preschool Gymsters
- Mar. 11—Wear Green Day; Kindergarten to TAG
- Mar. 12—Grades 3/4 After School Program
- Mar. 13—Grades 3/4 After School Program
- Mar. 14—Recorder Concert
- Mar. 15—End of 3rd Grading Period; 1st Grade Concert; 1st Grade Dental Sealant Program
- Mar. 18—Pk(Rohrer) to Library; Buskirk Swimming Begins
- Mar. 19—Grades 3/4 After School Program; 4 -7 PM McTeacher Night for Grades 3-5
- Mar. 20—Grades 3/4 After School Program
- Mar. 21—Down Syndrome Awareness Day
- Mar. 22—Spirit Day; Report cards mailed home; Kindergarten Title I Family Program
- Mar. 25—PTA Meeting
- Mar. 26—Grades 6-8 Awards Assembly; Grades 3/4 After School Program
- Mar. 27—Grades 3-5 Awards Assembly; 6th Grade Phantoms field trip; Grades 3/4 After School Program
- March 29—Spirit Day; Grades K-2 Awards



We are so proud of our Prep Bowl Team who competed in February. Pictured are Coach Jill Redmond, John Waldman, Anthony Walls, Lauren McCormick, Landon Tomlin and Carlecia Rodgers.

**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!

Don't forget that we "spring forward" and move our clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 10th, for Daylight Savings!



# MCGUFFEY PK-8 NEWSLETTER



What a great time everyone had at the Sweetheart's Ball. Nearly 400 parents and students were at McGuffey! Thank you to all of the volunteers, GLO Tanning for the balloons and DeLucia's for donating the delicious pasta.

Up next is our Family Night at Extreme Air on March 4th. \$5 to jump (wear your own jumpsocks or you can purchase ones there) and all students get a slice of pizza and a slushy. Our elections for next year will be in April, so please make sure not to miss out by liking our Facebook page for the latest info.

McGuffey is  
Warren Strong



## Spring Fever!

As the cold days of winter are coming to an end, we are definitely ready to begin seeing signs of Spring! Though we all look forward to daffodils, blue skies and green grass, we still have a need for focused instructional time at school. After snow days and long weekends, it seems that some of our students are out of practice with many school routines, and it is showing in their behavior.



Many of our students are showing symptoms of "Spring Fever!" Though we know that the students are desperately needing to go outside and play, and we give them that opportunity as much as possible, we still need to remind them that appropriate behavior is expected all the way until the last day of school! This includes their walk or ride to and from school.

Please have a conversation with your child(ren) about behavior. Ask your child(ren) what sorts of behaviors they might struggle with in the school. If they are not struggling, please reinforce whatever is allowing your child(ren) to continue make the right choices. As always, we value your support, and so anything that you can do to help maintain routines will be beneficial both at home and at school!



## Upcoming Tests:

Throughout the next several months, there will be a variety of assessments given in all grade levels. You may hear your child talking about some of these tests. Aside from reinforcing the importance of your child(ren) doing their best on all assessments, there are a few things that you can do to help. Please be sure that you child(ren) are in school, on time, each day. Please try to limit the number of times that your child(ren) are being signed out early from school. Please be sure that your child(ren) are getting adequate rest.

### 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

### McGuffey PK-8

3465 Tod Avenue, NW  
Warren, OH 44485  
Phone: 330-675-6980

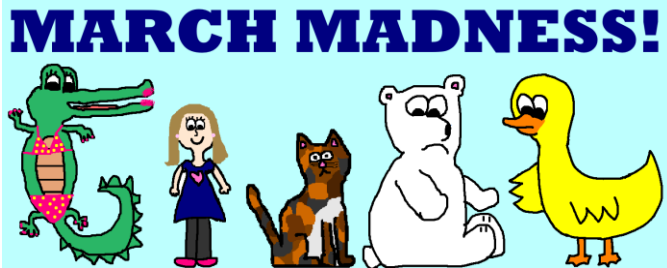
## McGuffey School Counseling March News

### Mrs. Redmond PK-4

Students in grades 2-4 are working to complete the *STICK TOGETHER AGAINST BULLYING PLEDGE* and agreed to treat others the way they want to be treated! Ask your child about *PROJECT LOVE* and how they stick together to spread kindness.

Third and fourth grade students will be working on some ways to focus and stay calm during testing. A calm mind and body help students do better work.

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



### Mr. Middleton 5-8

8th Grade Experience:

On February 21st, our 8th Graders had a great time exploring career options at Trumbull Career and Technical Center (TCTC)! They had hands-on experience learning about what TCTC offers to high school students in grades 11-12. The TCTC staff and students were WONDERFUL to our students!

Be sure to ask your 8th grader about their experience and use it as an opportunity to discuss his/her career goals and plans for the future. It's never too early!

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

**TESTING**

### SUCCESSFUL STUDENT CORNER:

State Spring Testing is right around the corner! Here are some test taking tips to make sure that you are at your best on test day:

1. Get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
2. Eat breakfast on test day.
3. Listen to instructions.
4. Read each test question carefully.
5. If you finish your test early, check over your work and make sure you have answered all questions.
6. Relax! Do your best—YOU'VE GOT THIS!

# Helping Children Learn<sup>®</sup>

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



March 2019

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## Share strategies with your child to boost success on tests

The tests your child takes in school are an important way for her to show what she knows. Teach her these strategies to help her get every point she deserves. Tell your child to:

- **Pay attention to the directions.**

Whether they are written or spoken, your child should make sure she understands the directions before she begins.

- **Write down key facts.** If she has struggled to memorize a formula, a date or the spelling of a word, your child should jot it down as soon as she gets the test. Then she can refer to it when answering questions.

- **Read through all the questions before starting.** Then your child should answer all the questions she is sure of first. She can circle the ones she needs to come back to and spend more time answering.

- **Remember the true/false rule:** If any part of an answer is false, the whole answer is false.

- **Use multiple-choice strategies.** Your child can try to answer the question before looking at the choices. Or, she can eliminate the answers she knows are wrong, then choose among those that are left.

- **Allow time to go back** and double-check her answers.



## Bring geography home

To spark your child's desire to learn about places she hasn't yet seen:

- **Help her collect** items from distant places, such as post-cards or stamps.



- **Go around your home** and talk about where various items are made. Help her locate the places on a map.

## Celebrate notable women

It's Women's History Month. Consider your child's interests and help him find a biography of a famous woman to match. If your child likes:

- **Computers,** he might like a biography of Ada Lovelace, a British countess who was the first computer programmer.

- **Sports,** he may be interested in learning about track and field athlete Alice Coachman, the first African American woman to win an Olympic gold medal.

- **Animals,** he may enjoy reading about Jane Goodall, who lived and worked with chimpanzees in Tanzania.



## March weather offers a variety of learning opportunities

In many parts of the country, March brings changeable weather—so it's a great time to explore wind, rain and other weather phenomena with your child. Try these ideas together:

- **Make wind chimes.** Help your child punch a hole in the bottoms of four clean, empty cans (make sure the edges are smooth). Then have him tie a knot at the end of four pieces of string. Thread one string through the hole in each can and tie the cans to a hanger. Hang the chimes outdoors. Have your child chart the days he hears the wind activate the chimes.

- **Measure the rain.** Help your child use a ruler to mark off each quarter inch on the side of a straight-sided jar. Put it outside. Keep track of the March rainfall.
- **Go online** to learn more about weather. Weather Wiz Kids ([www.weatherwizkids.com](http://www.weatherwizkids.com)) and The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids ([www.almanac4kids.com/weather](http://www.almanac4kids.com/weather)) offer information and activities.

## Model smartphone limits

Today's parents use smartphones for just about everything. Research shows that this can lead to more stress and less time interacting with their children. Experts recommend that parents:



- **Make mealtimes,** bedtime and family downtime "no-device" times.
- **Enjoy activities** with their kids rather than trying to capture them in photos.
- **Wait until children** aren't around to use phones for tasks that may be stressful, like checking the news or email.

Source: J. Radesky, M.D. and M.A. Moreno, M.D., "How to Consider Screen Time Limits...for Parents," *JAMA Pediatrics*, [nswc.com/smartphone](http://nswc.com/smartphone).





## My child is in trouble at school. How can I fix this?

**Q:** My fifth grader shoved another kid to the ground. As a result, he will be suspended for a day. I understand that this is the school policy. But my son says the other child called him bad names first. Should I try to get this decision overturned?

**A:** When kids make poor choices, what matters is the lessons they learn from them. Trying to remove the consequences of your son's action can teach the wrong lesson. Instead:

- **Talk with your child** about what happened. Does he admit that he pushed the other child? It is important that he learn to tell the truth about what he has done.
- **Make it clear that pushing is not acceptable**—even if people call him names. Discuss other ways he could have reacted. He could have ignored the child, for example, or walked away.
- **Say that if the name calling continues**, he should tell his teacher or the principal. If he won't, then you should. Repeated name-calling is a form of bullying, and the school needs to be aware of it in order to stop it.
- **Let him experience the consequences.** On the day of his suspension, have him study during the time he would have spent in school. At day's end, let him know that the incident is over, and that you love him.



## Do you encourage independent work?

When your child struggles with schoolwork, does she immediately call on you for help? Building her self-reliance can help her achieve. Are you encouraging her to try to work things out herself? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you tell** your child that you believe she can figure things out?
- \_\_\_ **2. Do you help** her break problems and projects down into smaller, more manageable pieces?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you remind** her of all the things she has learned to do in the past?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you ask** questions to help her think instead of providing easy answers?
- \_\_\_ **5. Do you praise** your child when she solves a problem on

her own, even if you would have done it differently?

### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you are teaching your child to be an independent learner. For each no, try that idea.*

"Education is not an affair of 'telling' and being told, but an active and constructive process."  
—John Dewey

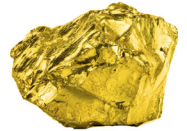
## Review results to empower your child to improve

When your child brings home corrected tests, homework or projects from school, take time to review his work together. Discuss:

- 1. The things he did right.** Notice these first. Talk about what he did well, even if the grade is disappointing.
- 2. The teacher's comments.**
- 3. The things he got wrong** and why he thinks he did. Does he need more practice with a skill? Did he misunderstand a question? Did he make careless errors?

Knowing why he got the results he did will help your child know what to do next time.

## Pan for history gold on the internet



Have some fun as a family practicing internet research skills. Choose an event from history and give family members 15 minutes to search for interesting facts about the event. After each person takes a turn, share what you learned. Vote for whose "nugget" of information turned out to be gold!

## Four steps help students stop procrastinating

Don't let your child get into the habit of putting off homework until the last minute. This four-step process can give him a jump start. Have your child:

- 1. Choose just one assignment** to focus on.
- 2. Set a timer** for 20 minutes, and use the time to work on that assignment.
- 3. Avoid breaks** while the timer ticks.
- 4. Reward himself** with a quick break when the timer rings.

Encourage him to repeat the process until the homework is complete.

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# Daily Learning Planner

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

Warren City Schools

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



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**PARENT**  
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## March 2019

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- 1. Consider giving your child an allowance. Help her create a budget that includes spending, saving and donating.
- 2. Have your child help you make a family chore chart. Everyone can check off jobs as they are finished.
- 3. Encourage your child to write a letter to a lawmaker about an issue that matters to him.
- 4. Play Alphabet Mixup. Choose a word and put the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 5. Find pictures of people in the newspaper. Ask your child to make up a story about each picture.
- 6. Talk about a familiar place with your child. Decide which direction it is from your home—north, south, east or west.
- 7. Come up with unique pizza toppings with your child. Who can think up the tastiest combination?
- 8. Have your child choose a news story and report on it at dinner.
- 9. Plan a later bedtime so everyone can read in bed tonight.
- 10. Remind your child that you enjoy her company and you love her.
- 11. Give your child ads with prices ending in 98 or 99 cents. How much would four of the items cost? Have him round off and estimate.
- 12. Read a poem aloud. Stop to let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- 13. Write an encouraging note and tuck it in your child's jacket pocket or a school book.
- 14. Let your child see you reading. Then say, "Reading is so much fun!"
- 15. At dinner, pretend your family is in an opera. Sing everything you say to one another.
- 16. With your child, set a timer for five minutes. Then, each of you start writing a story. When the timer rings, switch stories and finish them.
- 17. Pay your child a sincere, specific compliment.
- 18. Review math facts with your child.
- 19. Give your child a book or article to read about her favorite hobby.
- 20. Ask your child to design and name a new car.
- 21. At dinner, have family members share their favorite part of the day.
- 22. Talk with your child about the importance of telling an adult when a person is being bullied.
- 23. Help your child put on a talent show with his friends.
- 24. Ask your child to write to a friend or relative today.
- 25. Encourage your child to start a collection. Provide a place to keep it.
- 26. Have your child draw a picture of a scene from a book by a living author. Send it to the author in care of the book's publisher.
- 27. Together, think of several words that start with the same letter. Put them in a sentence that makes sense.
- 28. Encourage your child to take risks as long as they don't affect safety.
- 29. With your child, think of words that sound like what they mean, such as *buzz*, *smash*, *hiss* and *thump*. These are examples of *onomatopoeia*.
- 30. Visit the library. Help your child find a book about a famous woman.
- 31. How many words can your child think of to describe today's weather?

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



# Helping Students Learn<sup>®</sup>

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



March 2019

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## Test preparation shouldn't stop when the test is over

Tests are an important way teachers, schools and school districts can see what students have learned. By middle school, most students are used to learning and studying *before* a test. But unless your child gets a perfect score every time, there is more he can learn from the tests he takes.

Educators agree that proper review *after* a test is one of the most effective ways to improve scores on future tests. When your child gets a graded test back, encourage him to:



- **Review his answers** and note which he got right and which he got wrong. Have him correct the wrong answers and make sure he understands them. If he isn't sure why an answer was marked wrong, he should ask the teacher.
- **Determine the types of errors** he made. Mistakes are generally caused by one of two things: carelessness or lack of preparation.
- **Adjust his study strategies.** Brainstorm with your child about ways to avoid careless mistakes—such as circling key words in questions, double-checking his answers, etc. For mistakes based on lack of preparation, the solution is probably more studying. Experts suggest that students begin to review five days before a test. The last day before a test should be spent reviewing a final time, not trying to learn new material.



## Journals help students see the future

Most middle schoolers don't have a firm idea about what they want to do with the rest of their lives. But by sixth grade, it is helpful for kids to begin thinking about what they like and don't like, and what their strengths and struggles are. Writing in a journal is a great way to process these ideas.

Give your child a notebook, and encourage her to write down her thoughts about questions such as:

- **What are my strengths** in school?
- **What are my weaknesses?**
- **What do I love doing** outside school?
- **What am I good at doing** outside school?

- **What do I like** to learn about?
- **What would I like** to learn more about?
- **What is important to me** right now?

Ask your child to update the journal regularly. Over time, her ideas will change, and that's OK. But the things that don't change could provide clues to her future success.

## Education is everywhere

Every meaningful experience can have an impact on your child's learning—from shopping for groceries to seeing objects from the past in a museum. On your next family outing, challenge your child to think of ways the things he is seeing and doing relate to what he is learning in school.



## Make organizing a routine

Your child's organization skills can make the difference between doing well and struggling in middle school. To help her make organization a regular part of studying:

- **Sit down together** each Sunday to plan the week ahead. Bring your family calendar and mark deadlines and events.
- **Have your child write** all assignments and activities in a planner.
- **Teach her to use** checklists to keep track of daily homework tasks and long-range project steps.
- **Have her choose** specific places to keep school belongings, and expect her to put her things away each evening.

## Ride out the ups and downs

In addition to physical changes, adolescence brings many emotional changes. Your child may be experiencing:



- **Self-doubts.** Help him get past these episodes by praising him when he does well and catching him when he stumbles.
- **A desire for respect.** Honor your child's need to feel more grown up. Give him real responsibilities and allow him to make some decisions on his own.
- **A need for independence.** As he separates a bit from you, remember that he still needs your love and support.



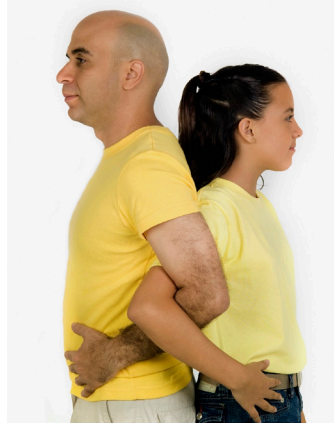


## My child wants me to stay away from school. Should I?

**Q:** I want to get involved at school. I thought that helping out in one of my child's classes could be good for both of us. But she says she'd be embarrassed. Should I volunteer, or not?

**A:** You don't want your involvement at school to sour your relationship with your child. However, there are many ways you can make a valuable contribution at school outside of the classroom. To pursue volunteering without making your child cringe:

- **Listen to her.** Sit down and ask her what she's feeling. "I realize you don't want me volunteering in your class, but I'd like to know why. Is there something specific you are worried about?" When you listen to her concerns, remember the huge social pressure to fit in that middle schoolers feel.
- **Discuss her feelings.** "Are you afraid your friends will think you're weird if they see me at school?" If she says *yes*, have her put herself in their shoes. Would she think less of her friends if their parents came to school? Would she even notice?
- **Work out a compromise.** Respect your child's feelings. If after you've talked she is still nervous about having you in class, volunteer in another part of the school. Call the office to ask how you can help. And if you see your child while you're there, just give her a smile and walk away.



### Parent Quiz

## Are you reinforcing healthy habits?

By this time in the school year, the positive habits your child established in September may have started to slip. Are you helping him stick with practices that support his health and success in school? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you serve** nutritious family meals that include non-starchy vegetables and lean protein?
- \_\_\_ **2. Do you make sure** your child gets eight to 10 hours of sleep each night?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you promote** exercise for the whole family?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you discuss** the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse?
- \_\_\_ **5. Do you encourage** your child to take part in fun activities that will help him reduce stress and enjoy life?

### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you are helping your child stay in top form throughout the school year. For each no, try that idea from the quiz.*

"Character is simply habit long continued."  
—Plutarch

## Use strengths to inspire

Have you heard the saying, "Nothing succeeds like success"? If your child is struggling with a subject in school, point out the things she's doing right in another subject. Then help her apply her strengths to the situation. To begin the conversation:

- 1. Ask your child** what subject she thinks she is best at in school.
- 2. Have her list reasons** why this area is a strength. What strategies does she use to learn the material?
- 3. Add some positives** you've noticed to her list, such as her persistence.
- 4. Brainstorm together.** If she always reads the textbook in history, what about doing the same in math?

## Careful reading gets results

Two reading strategies can help middle schoolers do better on tests, no matter what the subject. Encourage your child to:



- 1. Read, then reread** the directions to be sure he understands exactly what to do.
- 2. Read each question** carefully. He should think about his answer before reading the choices provided.

## Be alert for cyberbullying

Bullying doesn't have to happen in school to affect a child's feelings about school. Research shows that bullying on the internet can make victims—and bullies—feel negative about school and learning.

Discuss cyberbullying with your child. Ask her to tell you if she sees cruel or threatening things about her—or anyone else—online. Your child should never respond to these posts. Instead, print them out and show them to school officials or the police.

Source: "Female cyberbullies and victims feel the most negative about school and learning," Science Daily, [nswc.com/cyber](http://nswc.com/cyber).

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- 1. Ask your child to list three things that would make your community a better place.
- 2. Take a map in the car or on a walk with you. Show your child where you are headed and ask her to help navigate.
- 3. Exchange persuasive letters with your child. Try to convince each other of your points of view.
- 4. Write your child a note of thanks. "It's such a help to me when you do the dishes."
- 5. Together, watch a movie based on a book your child has read. Talk about how the versions are similar and different.
- 6. Discuss an international news event with your child. How is it affecting this country?
- 7. Ask your child to take photos during a family outing.
- 8. Tonight, tell your child a story about yourself at his age.
- 9. Review any goals your child has set recently. Is she working toward them as planned?
- 10. Try a new recipe with your child. This gives him practice following directions.
- 11. When your child tells you something important, restate it in your own words to make sure you understand.
- 12. Peer pressure can be positive. Encourage your child to participate in group activities like sports and volunteering.
- 13. Suggest your child keep a notebook handy when reading. She can list words she isn't sure of, and look them up later.
- 14. Your child may be facing important exams this month. Make sure he gets enough sleep the night before.
- 15. Let your child know the things that make her precious to you.
- 16. Help your child figure out the perimeter and area of his bedroom.
- 17. Let your child see you reading for pleasure.
- 18. Link your child's responsibilities to freedom. As she becomes more responsible, grant her more freedom.
- 19. With your child, check to make sure your smoke detectors work.
- 20. See if your child can name the government leaders of your state.
- 21. At the library, look at some books of paintings with your child.
- 22. Encourage your child to write a thank-you note to a favorite teacher.
- 23. Plan a paperback book swap. Invite your child's friends.
- 24. Make a family visit to a nearby museum.
- 25. Challenge your child to create a recipe and write it down.
- 26. Talk with your child about the importance of resolving conflicts without violence. Discuss ways to do it.
- 27. Ask your child to name an *adjective* and an *adverb*.
- 28. After your child takes notes, have him draw pictures of the key ideas.
- 29. At the grocery store, talk with your child about what kinds of things affect food prices.
- 30. List your priorities in life, including family. Does your schedule reflect what's most important?
- 31. Watch a history program together.

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