

# MCGUFFEY PK-8 NEWSLETTER



McGuffey is  
WARREN Strong!



May, 2019

## YSU English Festival



The YSU English Festival was held on Thursday, April 11, 2019. We had four students representing McGuffey PK-8 in the English festival and we would like to thank them for representing McGuffey: Emily Leonard (8<sup>th</sup>), Reality Smith (8<sup>th</sup>), Carlecia Rodgers (7<sup>th</sup>), and Ameir Alhudais (7<sup>th</sup>). Congratulations to 8<sup>th</sup> grader Emily Leonard, who placed 1st in "Not So Trivial Pursuit". The students enjoyed their day learning, exploring and competing on the Youngstown State University campus!

Thank you for all your support this year. We had a great year. Our officers for next year were voted on. Melanie Boucher is President, Amanda Colbert is VP, Antoinette Washington is Intern Secretary and Shanika Clark is Treasurer. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

### McGuffey PTA

## May Calendar



- 01- 6-8 Awards Assemblies (9:00am-7th, 9:30am-6th, 10:00am 8th)
- 02- 3-5 Awards Assemblies- 9:30am
- 03- 6th Grade Butler Art Trip- 10:30am
- 06-10- Staff Appreciation Week
- 07- K-2 Awards Assemblies (9:00am-2nd, 9:30am-1st, 10:00am -K)
- 07- BOE Meeting
- 08- Celebration of the Arts, Picnic and Talent Show  
Band and Choir Concert (4:30-8:00)
- 10- Kindergarten Pony Time Day
- 10- Math/Sci AIR Window Closes
- 13-17- Book Fair Week
- 13- Kindergarten Lunch With A Loved One
- 14- 1st and 2nd Lunch With A Loved One
- 14- 4:00-7:00pm- McTeacher Night (PK-2)
- 15- 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Lunch With A Loved One
- 15- 4th Gr. Inventor's Fair @ 11:35am
- 15- 5th Grade Transition Meeting
- 16- 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Lunch With a Loved One
- 17- 3-5 Baseball Game Trip
- 22- 4th Gr. Recorder Concert
- 23- SMARTS Program (select classes)
- 23- 1st Grade Akron Zoo Trip
- 27- No School, Memorial Day
- 28- PK-3 Field Day
- 28- Last Day for Book Bags (6-8)
- 28- 8th Gr. To Kennywood (8:30am-6:00pm)
- 28- BOE Meeting
- 29- WGH Graduate Walk
- 29- Last Day for Book Bags (K-5)
- 29- 4-8 Field Day
- 30- Last Day for Students; Early Release
- 30- 8th Grade Completion Ceremony- 10:00am
- 30- WGH Graduation
- 31- Last Day for Teachers

## 3RD ANNUAL MCGUFFEY PK-8 CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

**4:30-8:00 pm Celebration of the Arts & 6-8 Concerts**

Please mark your calendar for our annual McGuffey Family Picnic and Celebration of the Arts! This will be held from 4:30-8:00 pm, with the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band and Choir Concert from 7-8 pm.

In addition to a free picnic dinner (Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Pasta Salad, Chips, Cookies and Water), we have many arts activities for you and your child. We have rock painting, a drum circle, a giant floor piano, face painting, jewelry making, a pottery wheel/painting, sand table, dancing, and much, much more! We will also have a free book give-away for your child's summer reading library! Watch for the flier and RSVP form to come home soon!

## Winding Down

This year is quickly drawing to a close. The last day for the students is **Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 1:15** which is an Early Dismissal. It has been a great year and we want to personally extend a big THANK YOU to all parents and guardians for your cooperation and support.

Have a great summer and make sure your child continues their learning with reading and writing all summer long!

[www.warrenschoools.k12.oh.us](http://www.warrenschoools.k12.oh.us)

**Mrs. Reighard—PK-2 Principal**

**Mrs. Welch—3-5 Principal & Campus Leader**

**Mrs. Ryser—6-8 Principal**

**Mr. Joseph—Supervisor of School Improvement**

**Mrs. Fallo— Supervisor of Special Education**

## **We Have A New Security System!**

Here are McGuffey, we are always trying to improve on the security for our students and staff. We want everyone to be safe! We just recently had a new security system installed. When you approach the front of the building, please ring the buzzer located on the right outside wall. There is a slight delay, then you'll hear the secretary ask if they can help you. At that time, please state the reason why you're at the school and the secretary will buzz you in. The you can proceed to the door of the main office.



peace.



love.



community.

### **McGuffey School Counseling May News**

#### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!**

**ATTENTION PARENTS:  
WANT TO HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD?**

**ASSIST THEM IN FINDING A SERVICE PROJECT YOU CAN DO IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:**

- Clean up litter in your community.
- Send a letter or thank you to a special someone, including service members.
- Collect donations for a special cause.
- Create care packages for the homeless.
- Draw pictures for, or visit, residents in nursing homes.
- Help out at an animal shelter.
- Create busy bags and activity packs for the local children's hospital.
- Do yard work for a neighbor.

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McGuffey 8<sup>th</sup> graders are scheduled for high school! Thanks to teachers, administrators, and our students for making this years' scheduling a success!

May is full of activity! We will complete State Testing, as well as embark on a trip to Kennywood! Finally, we will celebrate at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Completion Ceremony!

Be sure to encourage your child to make the decision to finish this school year **WARREN STRONG!**

Mrs. Jill Redmond, School Counselor Grades PK-5  
Mr. Middleton, School Counselor Grades 5-8

Developing a  
Growth Mindset



#### **SUCCESSFUL STUDENT CORNER:**

The 2018-2019 school year is rapidly coming to an end!

It is very important for students to finish the year **STRONG!** Some people don't finish strong, but some do. Those that **DO**, continually see the results of their effort.

**Here's How YOU can finish strong:**

**DON'T GIVE UP!**

**Realize that sometimes things are difficult and it takes hard work to get good things. Successful people push themselves, overcome their fears of failing, and see what they're made of.**

**It's all about having a GROWTH MINDSET!**

**The difference between average people and top-performers? The choice to finish strong and doing the actions behind it!**

# Helping Children Learn<sup>®</sup>

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



May 2019

Warren City Schools

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

## Show your elementary schooler that math is a natural part of life

Your child will use the math skills she is learning now throughout her life. To give her an idea of just how useful they are, involve your child in daily math activities.

To sharpen her skills, together you can:

- **Prepare to ride.** Before you go somewhere with your child, do the math. Show her how to measure the air pressure in the bike or car tires. Look at a map and calculate how far you will go. If you are driving, how much gas will you need?
- **Follow recipes.** Let your child help with measuring and weighing. Discuss sizes, shapes and fractions. Ask questions like, "When we add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup to  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup, what do we get?"
- **Shop for bargains.** Use coupons to inspire math problems. "If we use this coupon, will this item cost less than the other brands?" Have your child use a calculator to keep a running tally of your purchases.
- **Save for a purchase.** Help your child choose an item to save for, such as a book she wants. How much will she need to save each week? How long will it take her to reach her goal? Make a chart to help her keep track.
- **Play games.** Math is part of a lot of fun games. Try dominoes, Uno, Life and Connect 4.



## Academic achievement depends on attendance

Your child woke up late and can't get going. She has a big test today and forgot to study her notes. When things like this happen, you may wonder if missing a day of school here and there is really a big deal. The answer is *yes*. Attending school regularly is important—right up to the very last day.

## Encourage summer reading

To keep your child reading when school is out, never make it feel like homework. Instead, try a summer approach:

- **Suggest that your child** reread a favorite book. Then help him find another book by the same author.
- **Let him stay up** past bedtime when a book is just too good to put down.
- **Ask the librarian** to recommend a "thriller" series at your child's level. These can hook kids on the reading habit.



## Help your child be on time

Kids often seem to think of time as endless and schedules as unimportant. But learning to manage time is part of being a responsible student. To encourage punctuality:



- **Be a good role model.** Instead of racing around in a mad dash, show your child the value of getting ready early.
- **Create routines.** For example, establish a "launch pad" where each evening your child can put everything that needs to go to school the next day.
- **Take action.** Nagging your child probably won't help her hurry up. Instead, look for concrete actions that will make a difference. Hand your child her hairbrush. Help her put on her backpack.



## Maintain your child's motivation all the way to year's end

With summer vacation around the corner, some students begin to act as if the school year is already over. It isn't! There is much for your child to learn in the coming weeks. To help him stay focused:

- **Show him how far** he's come. Talk about all the things your child has learned this year. Review old homework papers, quizzes and tests. Finding them will also help him be prepared to study for end-of-year tests.
- **Connect learning** to your child's interests. If he has another book report due, suggest that he choose a book on a topic he loves.
- **Share strategies** for managing long-term-projects. Help your child break down a big project into smaller steps. Then encourage him to apply this rule of thumb: Make the deadline for each step two days earlier than necessary. That way, if something unexpected happens, your child will have a cushion of time to work around it.



## How can I ease my child's move to middle school?

**Q:** My child will be going to a different middle school next year than most of his friends. He's really worried about it. How can I make this transition easier?

**A:** It's normal for your son to feel anxious about this transition. The move to middle school is a big adjustment. Instead of being in the highest grade in school, he'll be in the lowest. He'll have to change teachers and classrooms several times a day. And the emotional swings that can come with puberty don't help.

To ease your child's worries:

- **Arrange for a tour.** See if he can tour his new school when classes are in session. Seeing the building and the students will give your child a better idea of what to expect on his first day.
- **Remind him that he won't be the only new kid** in the school. Everyone in his grade will be starting fresh.
- **Learn about school activities.** Some may start over the summer. If your child participates, he'll start school already knowing some kids.
- **Help him feel competent.** Suggest that he set up systems to help him organize his schoolwork, for example. He might plan to color-code binders and homework folders. You can also assign him a few household responsibilities and include him in some family decision-making.



## Do you help your child prepare for tests?

At this time of year, students often face tests in a variety of subjects. The way your child prepares will affect her results. Are you helping your child do her best on year-end tests? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you write** test dates on your family calendar and avoid scheduling big activities the day before?
- \_\_\_ **2. Do you encourage** your child to study a little each day for several days before a test?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you make sure** that your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast before a test?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you suggest** that your child dress in layers to be comfortable on test days?

- \_\_\_ **5. Do you express** your confidence in your child's abilities?

### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you are helping your child get ready for test success. For each no, try that idea.*

*"You hit home runs not by chance, but by preparation."*

*—Roger Maris*

## May is cause for celebration

Share a laugh, strengthen bonds and honor service with your child this month on these special days:

- **May 5**—World Laughter Day. Check out some joke books from the library for family members to read. Have everyone tell their favorite jokes at dinner.
- **May 15**—International Day of Families. Discuss what family means to you. How is your family special?
- **May 18**—Armed Forces Day. With your child, do something special to thank someone who is serving in the military.

## Offer screen alternatives

Don't let the increased free time of summer vacation turn into increased screen time. Set limits, then encourage your child to:

- **Get some exercise.** Take a hike or fly a kite together.
- **Be the entertainment.** Instead of watching a show, ask her to create one.
- **Keep a journal.** She can describe the people she meets and the places she sees.

## Plan a summer of learning

School may take a break for summer, but education shouldn't! To keep your child learning all summer:

- **Help him pursue** interests. If your child loves playing the guitar, for example, read books about the instrument, go to a free concert or encourage him to write to a famous guitarist.
- **Make time to talk.** Having back-and-forth conversations with you supports your child's brain development.
- **Find a new activity** you can do with your child. Choose something that excites him, then show your own desire to learn and improve—and never give up.



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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®

## May 2019

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

- 1. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go, and why?" Together, learn more about this location.
- 2. Look at a photo in the newspaper today with your child. Talk about it. Then read the article together.
- 3. Have your child choose a new unit of measurement. How many fingers long is her desk? How many pencils long is the hall?
- 4. Take an early morning walk with your child. Notice signs of spring.
- 5. Challenge your child to start a neighborhood newsletter.
- 6. At the grocery store, have your child estimate how many bell peppers are in two pounds. Use the scales to check.
- 7. Tell your child a story about when he was a baby.
- 8. Have your child look at her reflection on the back of a shiny metal spoon. How does it make her appear?
- 9. Ask your child what he thinks the world will be like in 10 years.
- 10. Have your child draw on paper with a white candle. The picture will magically appear when your child paints over it with watercolors.
- 11. Try a new sport with your child.
- 12. Encourage your child to put on a puppet show. You provide the popcorn and the applause.
- 13. Have your child place a piece of paper on a tree trunk and rub with a crayon to see the pattern in the tree's bark.
- 14. Let your child see you keep your temper when you are angry. Talk about how you feel instead of yelling.
- 15. Ask your child to add up all the change in your pocket or purse.
- 16. Have your child complete this sentence: "I'm getting better at ..."
- 17. Suggest that your child design a new cover for her favorite book.
- 18. At the library, help your child check out a book on insects. Together, find and identify some in your backyard or a nearby park.
- 19. Make it a compliment day! Encourage family members to give lots of genuine compliments.
- 20. Hide pennies around your home. Give your child a bag and have him find as many as he can.
- 21. Have your child hold her nose while she eats. Does it affect the taste?
- 22. Look at photos from a year ago. Your child will be amazed at how much he has grown!
- 23. Play a board game with your child that uses math, such as Monopoly.
- 24. Show your child how to call 911 in an emergency. Practice what to say.
- 25. Have your child look through magazines and newspapers for 90-degree angles, then create a collage of these angles.
- 26. Have a Family Reading Night. Have everyone bring a good book and relax and read together.
- 27. Enjoy some outdoor exercise with your child.
- 28. Use a flashlight to write words on the ceiling of a darkened room. Can your child guess what they are?
- 29. Role-play a difficult situation your child may face.
- 30. Let your child decorate a piece of cardboard to make a bookmark.
- 31. Ask your child, "What if dogs could fly?"

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



# Helping Students Learn<sup>®</sup>

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School



May 2019

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

## Help your child manage the demands of end-of-year work

The end of the school year is a busy time filled with final projects, tests and other assessments—in addition to regular classwork. Managing everything successfully requires students to set priorities and get organized.

Share these tips to help your child handle his end-of-year workload:

- **Put homework first.** Whether your child prefers to do homework as soon as he gets home from school or wait until after dinner, completing assignments and handing them in on time should be his top priority.
- **Keep track of key dates.** Few students can remember all of their deadlines and test dates without writing them down. Your child should write everything on a calendar, and use it to make daily to-do lists.
- **Don't forget reminders.** Writing "bring history book home tonight" on a sticky note and attaching it to the front of his binder can help your child remember to pack the book in his backpack at the end of the day.
- **Minimize distractions.** If your child is feeling under pressure at the end of the year, texts from friends or background noise from the TV can sidetrack him completely and waste valuable time. Make sure that your middle schooler studies in a quiet place, and have him turn off all devices that he doesn't need for schoolwork.



## Volunteering makes a difference

Community service helps adolescents understand the needs and feelings of others and recognize their own power to improve the world. It also lets kids experience new things, develop new interests and learn new skills.

Help your middle schooler explore ways to get involved in your community this summer. She could volunteer to:

- **Read to preschoolers** or senior citizens.
- **Collect items** to include in care packages for deployed military personnel and their families.
- **Be an assistant counselor** for a children's program.
- **Organize a drive** to clean up a local park or playground.
- **Mow a lawn** or help with chores for a new mom or elderly neighbor.
- **Collect books** to donate to shelters, daycare centers and schools.
- **Be an assistant coach** for a youth sports recreation league.

Source: S. Trapani, "Community Service Ideas for Middle Schoolers," PTO Today, [niswc.com/services](http://niswc.com/services).

## Make writing a pleasure

During the school year, students must write on assigned topics. With summer comes the freedom to write about whatever they love. Suggest that your child write about his favorite:

- **TV show or movie.**
- **Way to be creative.**
- **Thing about himself.**



## Change behavior positively

You and your child may have more time to spend together when school is out. Using positive discipline will help ensure that you both have a peaceful, productive summer. Here are some tips:

- **Be pleasant to your child** even when she is not pleasant herself.
- **Compliment her** when she does something right.
- **Give her the benefit** of the doubt. If she is usually trustworthy, believe her.
- **Use positive words.** If your child wants to go to a friend's house, don't say "Not until your room is clean." Instead, say "Sure, as soon as your room is clean."

## Keep reading skills sharp

When it comes to reading ability, the old saying "Use it or lose it" applies. Students who don't read over the summer break lose reading skills. To encourage your middle schooler to keep reading all summer:

- **Show your enthusiasm** for reading. Let your child see you leafing through magazines or reading a novel instead of watching TV.
- **Share.** Did you just read an intriguing article on social media? Tell him about it and pass it on.
- **Respect** that your child's interests may be changing. Help him find books that reflect his new ones.





## What can I do to help my child improve study skills?

**Q:** It's clear that my middle schooler's study skills need some work before next fall. But how can I help her improve them when school is almost over?

**A:** Beginning to tackle this now, while the problem areas are still fresh in your child's mind, can make it easier to solve them.



So don't wait! Ask your child what she thinks her strengths and weaknesses are. You may also want to ask her teachers to suggest ways you can help her with specific problems.

To strengthen your child's study skills now and over the summer:

- **Help her practice observing.** Are you taking a car or bus trip? Ask your child to look for specific signs or landmarks along the way. Ask her questions that require her to pay attention to details.
- **Encourage daily reading.** Does your daughter read for pleasure? Schedule regular trips to the library so she can choose reading materials to match her mood. Then make time to discuss what she's reading.
- **Have her put things in writing.** Is your child a computer whiz? Ask her to write a "Here's what to do if ... " manual. Has she seen a new movie? Have her write a review. Is she full of opinions or ideas? Encourage her to capture them in a journal.



## Do you monitor your child's social life?

Social life takes on more importance in middle school. And this is especially true in summer, when kids often have more time with friends. Are you ready to keep track of your child this summer? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

1. **Do you know** your child's friends?
2. **Do you have** up-to-date contact information for the parents of your child's friends?
3. **Do you always ask** your child what he will be doing, where and with whom, and what time he will be home?
4. **Have you encouraged** your child to participate in organized summer activities like camps and volunteering?
5. **Do you research** movies and activities to make sure

they are appropriate before allowing your child to go?

### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you are taking steps to ensure that your child's social life stays positive. For each no, try that idea from the quiz.*

*"True friendship multiplies the good in life and divides its evils."*

*—Baltasar Gracián*

## Contests can inspire effort

Whatever your child's interest—science, art, writing, cooking—there is probably a contest for it. Entering a contest allows your child to focus on her talents, and the competition may inspire her to produce a "personal best." Win or lose, she'll have taken a healthy risk. To find a suitable contest:

- **Check with the school.** Sponsors sometimes send materials and entry forms directly to schools.
- **Ask at the public library.** Librarians often know about contests for students.

Be sure to research any group offering a contest before you allow your child to enter.

## Use the summer to connect

Relaxed summer evenings are perfect for strengthening the family bonds that support school success. You can:



- **Hold family meetings.** Involve your child in planning fun things to do.
- **Take your child on errands.** He may find it easier to talk in the car.
- **Participate in family traditions,** or create some new ones together.

## Smooth a high school move

Will your child be starting high school in the fall? To ease her transition:

1. **Plan a visit** while school is in session. There may be an open house for new students. If not, call and schedule a tour.
2. **Encourage your child** to ask current students, "What do you wish you had known before starting high school?"
3. **Reinforce skills.** Urge your child to review her notes and rework some past math homework problems this summer.
4. **Reassure her.** Say, "You've got this!"

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- 1. At the store, have your child round prices to the nearest dollar.
- 2. Invent a recipe with your child. If it doesn't work, try to fix it.
- 3. Talk with your child about one thing you each learned today.
- 4. Compare your family's values to those of people your child sees on TV. How are they different or alike?
- 5. Teach your child a helpful saying, such as, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."
- 6. Drugs can be deadly the first time kids use them. Talk with your child and give him the facts about drugs.
- 7. Together, learn more about an interesting news story.
- 8. Give your child a magazine article. Have her circle all the adjectives.
- 9. Give your child a math-related household task to do, such as measuring or budgeting.
- 10. Does your child need more responsibility? More time to talk? More privacy? Ask what he thinks.
- 11. Visit the library. Have your child open an encyclopedia to a random entry. Read it together and see what you learn.
- 12. Go on a nature walk with your child. Notice things you have never seen before.
- 13. When correcting your child, focus more on solutions than blame.
- 14. Memorize a poem or quotation with your child today.
- 15. To gain more time with your child, ask her to join you as you do everyday things, like watering plants.
- 16. Ask your child to teach you something, such as a computer skill.
- 17. Encourage your child to read a biography of a person he admires.
- 18. Serve your child breakfast in bed as a special treat.
- 19. With your child, learn more about the flag of your state or province. What is represented on it?
- 20. Ask your child to give you examples of a complete sentence, an incomplete sentence and a run-on sentence.
- 21. At breakfast today, discuss what you each think the day will be like.
- 22. Make family fitness a priority. Choose at least one day a week to do something active together.
- 23. Give your child a specific compliment today.
- 24. Teach your child how to sew on a button. Self-care develops responsibility.
- 25. Visit a nearby college with your child and have a bite to eat in the snack bar or dining hall.
- 26. Avoid using problems with schoolwork as an excuse to criticize or argue with your child about other issues.
- 27. Ask your child to start a list of places your family would like to visit.
- 28. Tell your child one thing you admire most about her as a student.
- 29. Demonstrate tolerance. Don't judge others by their appearances.
- 30. Let your child invite a friend to stay for a family dinner.
- 31. Have your child make a list of 10 things he learned in school this year. Post it on the refrigerator.

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