

Mr. McClure's Weekly Blog

Week of: September 14 - 18

Week 6

“The Principal’s Post”

“Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is.” – Ernest Hemingway

I appreciate Hemingway’s perspective. When we choose to “think of what we can do with what there is,” we take a pro-active posture and are able to look for positive and constructive ways to overcome challenges. As adults, we model for our children and students healthy responses . . . we model for them resourcefulness. That brings us to . . .

. . . the third R: RESOURCEFULNESS – Webster’s Dictionary defines resourcefulness as, “the ability to deal skillfully with difficulties and problems.” With the students, I explained that the “guts” of being resourceful is that hang-in-there, tough-it-out, try-and-try again attitude toward the many challenges of life. We need to work with our students to help them understand that resiliency, effort and perseverance are the keys to their success. The heart of being resourceful is learning from mistakes and past failures. And, failure is an event, not a person. I often remind my own children that I don’t expect them to be perfect, I only expect them to give a perfect effort. Of resourcefulness, motivational speaker Zig Ziglar says it this way, “The secret of achievement is not to let what you’re doing get to you before you get to it.”

BE WATCHING FOR THE MAIL

Please be watching for an important letter that will be sent home later this week. Contained therein will be several items that you will want to take note of:

1) You will be receiving information about the *ISTEP+ Parent Network* as it relates specifically to your child and his/her ISTEP+ performance results. Last Spring’s ISTEP results are going to be released this week, and you will be able to access your child’s results online with the Parent Invitation Letter being sent home. Your specific Parent Invitation Letter will include your unique Invitation Code.

The ISTEP+ Parent Network, available at www.doe.in.gov/istepparentnetwork, is a new online system that provides parents and guardians with secure access to their student's ISTEP+ scores. With the ISTEP+ Parent Network, families will be able to quickly and easily review their student's assessment results and refer to useful Indiana educational resources.

If you have any question's about your child's scores and classroom performance, please contact the school to discuss them.

2) The midway point of this first grading period was Friday, September 11th. Students who are earning below average grades at this point in the grading period will be sent progress reports home in this mailing. Those not receiving a progress report in the mail, but are interested in receiving information as to your child's progress, will find an information sheet regarding how to access your child's grades online. In addition, you should always feel free to contact the school.

3) Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday, October 1st. We are making slight changes to our parent teacher format this year at SMS. You will be receiving information regarding these changes and the opportunities that you will have to meet with your child's teachers.

REWARD ACTIVITY

As mentioned above, the midway point of the first grading period was Friday. Those student demonstrating responsible behavior (as demonstrated by no discipline referrals to the office), having no more than one tardy to any class, and having no more than one absence to school these first 4 ½ weeks enjoyed an afternoon reward activity on Friday at SMS 7/8. They were invited to participate in the "big screen" showing of Disney's, "Race to Witch Mountain" in the gymnasium. Four hundred and fifty 7th and 8th grade students enjoyed this first reward activity of the year.

For the next 4 ½ week reward activity (October 16th), we are including 100% homework completion as an added condition for participation.

We hope that you will help us in encouraging your child to **earn** the privilege of attending. (Oh! Did we mention that free popcorn is provided to the students during the movie! Who watches a movie without popcorn?!)

THIS WEEK'S OWLSTANDING QUOTE:

"Results and Responsibilities, NOT Excuses"

THIS WEEK'S PROJECT WISDOM THEME:

"Courage and Confidence: Overcoming Obstacles"

Until next week,