



Summer 2016

PUMA TEAM,

It is a very exciting time of year for the PUMA students and their families! Not surprisingly, the kids are excited with the summer vacation looming and their opportunity to move up a grade level in August. I share their excitement and appreciate the wonderful school year they have given to Helfrich Park through their efforts, leadership and academics.

It has been a tremendous ending for many of our students and teams. Our Academic Super Bowl Team once again swept their division in regional competition. Our English and math teams placed in the Top Ten in state competition and our entire team placed third in the state when total scores were tallied! Wow! What a tremendous accomplishment and congratulations to the students and their coaches! Our second annual 7th grade international culture was a smashing success. Students represented over forty countries with different foods, history, clothing and cultural information. This was a fantastic project. The students really enjoyed researching and setting up for their fellow students and community members.

Congratulations to our eighth grade students that competed in the National History Day competition at USI and in Indianapolis! The kids did a variety of projects that included: research papers, video presentations, power points, and web based presentations. Excellent job students!

Kudos to the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students that competed at the annual math competition and math-orama at USI. This competition is extremely rigorous and includes individual work as well as students being on teams to do different problem solving activities. Super job students!

Congratulations to the boys' varsity track team for earning a district and City Track Team Championship! Outstanding job students! It has been many, many years since that feat has been accomplished. Also, congratulations to all of the individual City Track Champions: Claire Mattes, Hope McGuire, Clayton Groves, Marc Vincent, Hunter Hinderliter, and Bryce Weatherford. Superb work students and Mr. Whipkey. Congratulations to the girls track team for winning a second consecutive District Championship.

There have been several other fun activities for the kids this month which include: our annual Honors Night recognition, a school wide pizza lunch party to celebrate being PUMAS, a school wide instrumental concert performance by students, our end of year positive citizenship ice-cream party with GD Ritzy's ice-cream, a tremendous and very much appreciated (and delicious), Teacher Appreciation Week with many items donated from PUMA families, our PTSA, and O'Charlie's restaurant. Your generosity is beyond words and the entire staff appreciates your support throughout the year!

In closing, this will be my last newsletter as principal. I will be moving to the exercise science lab (physical education) at Helfrich Park and go back to my roots of teaching. I am very excited to be able to work with the kids in this position on a day to day basis. Serving as principal the past thirteen and one-half years has been nothing shorter than exhilarating, humbling, and such an honor. Every day was like a box of chocolates and what a blast it was (and is) to work with middle school kids with their enthusiasm, eagerness and creativity. Plus, working with a staff of teachers and support staff that has literally carried me through the years has been a blessing that I will cherish forever. Finally, it is no secret, parents and guardians, that your support of your children, your support of Helfrich Park, and allowing us to educate your child to the best of our abilities is such an example for others.

Thank you and God bless you and your families!

Mac

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Cory Herrin as our new principal. Cory comes from SICTC. He lives on the west side with his wife, Staci, and their two daughters. We are very excited to have him on our Helfrich Park team! WELCOME DR. HERRIN!!

6TH GRADE STARS



Wow, what a year it has been for the sixth grade! The six graders have had many wonderful field trips this year: LBL, Lloyd Pool, Skate World, and Barker field day. As the year comes to an end, we would like to say thank you to the students for all their hard work in the classroom and a big thank you to the parents and guardians for all your hard work, support, and dedication to your child's education.



From The Nurse

Parents of incoming 6th graders, or students new to EVSC, please schedule school physicals early and do not wait until August when appointment times are scarce. All 6th graders will need to have immunizations updated.

If a student has diabetes, asthma, seizures, food allergies, or hemophilia, the student will need to have care plan paperwork filled out by the doctor prior to the first day of school. Forms are on the EVSC website:

(http://www.edlinesites.net/pages/EVSC/EVSC_Offices/Center_for_Family__School__and/Health_and_Wellness/Health_Services).

Have a safe summer!

Save BOXTOPS over summer for the yearly homeroom contests!

Supply List for 2016-2017

Grade 6

Pencils
Pencil Pouch
Loose Leaf Paper
Colored Pencils
Markers
Blue or black ink pens
Red ink pens
Folders (5)
Composition notebooks (4)
1" binder (1)
One-subject notebooks (4)
TI 30X II S Calculator
Blue or gray t-shirt and shorts (gym)
2 boxes of tissues

Grade 7

Pencils
Loose Leaf Paper
Colored Pencils
Markers
Thumb drive (2 or 4 GB)
Tissues (2 boxes)
Accordion folder
Spiral notebooks (3)
1" binder (1) (*Mr. Hartmann only*)
Bright colored ink pen
Blue or gray t-shirt and shorts (gym)

Grade 8

Pencils
Pencil pouch
Loose Leaf Paper (3)
Colored Pencils
Markers
Spiral notebooks (6)
Composition notebook (1)
Ruler (metric)
Red ink pens
TI 30X II S Calculator
2-pocket folders w/prongs (2)
Blue or gray t-shirt and shorts (gym)

NO GEL PENS OR MARKERS

7TH GRADE M&M'S



Mrs. McDurmon, Ms. Ashley Wright, and Mr. Hartmann thank each and every seventh grade math student for their hard work this school year. From Acuity testing, homework, virtual homework, projects, and ISTEP, the students have handled each challenge with determination. As we enter the summer, it is time to reflect on a great year and look forward to the new school year. We wish all of our students the best of luck in the future.

The seventh grade science teachers hope the students at HP enjoyed all the learning experiences this year! The summer is a great time to get outdoors and investigate nature. We encourage visiting museums, parks, zoos, and other fun family trips. Have a wonderful summer!

The 7th grade ELA teachers want to remind parents how important summer reading is for student development. We almost finished the second book in the "Legend" trilogy by Marie Lu. The last two books are "Prodigy" and "Champion". Both can be found at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library in book or online form. We have enjoyed watching the students become so enthusiastic about reading these last few months.

7th/8th Grade Honors Social Studies (We the People) 2016-2017:

A Summer Homework Packet was sent home with all of next school year's We The People participants. In order to best prepare for the curriculum and competition, it is important that students get a "head start" by reading Unit 1, going over some basic vocabulary, and answering some U.S. Government and Current Events questions. We have found in the past that this helps to prepare the students for August extremely well! Any questions, contact Mrs. Antey at amanda.antey@evsc.k12.in.us. Have a great summer!

VOLLEYBALL SUMMER OPEN GYM & FALL TRYOUTS

We will have Open Gym for all incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls interested in playing next fall on July 26th and 27th from 9 am-11 am and again on August 11th and 12th from 2:30-5 pm. This is a chance to get to know the coaches, just as we will get to know the players. Emphasis during this time will be on volleyball fundamentals.

Tryouts will be held August 15th-18th from 2:30-5 pm.



GENERAL MUSIC & CHOIR

It's been an awesome year in General Music and Choir classes. Thank you for your support. We still have space in 7th and 8th grade Choir classes. Let Mr. DeKemper know if your student is interested in being in the Choir next school year.

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC: AUGUST 8 FROM 5-6:45 PM

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: AUGUST 10, 2016

8TH GRADE G.8.T.O.R.S.



MATH: Many 8th grade students wonder if they'll ever really need to know how to use the quadratic equation or find the volume of a cone. Not realizing how useful math can be, some choose to only fulfill the minimum requirements that their high schools require. This can be a mistake, and there are several reasons why. According to the professionals at College Board (www.collegeboard.com), students who take geometry in high school have about an 80 percent chance of attending college regardless of race, religion and family income. Taking math is important if you're considering attending a college, university, or technical school. Many of these institutions require students to take at least two to three years of math; however, four years of math is strongly recommended. Those at College Board also emphasize how math can help you prepare for a career. The skills that you learn in math courses may be applicable down the line, even if you are not studying to become an engineer or an accountant. Many entry-level jobs require employees to have some math knowledge. Even understanding the basic math functions can be advantageous. From the professionals at College Board, here is a list of important skills obtained from math courses: The ability to identify and analyze patterns, logic and critical thinking skills. the ability to see relationships, and problem solving skills. Please keep working on your math skills over the summer and see the positive rewards of your hard work!

SCIENCE: After a year of chemistry, genetics, and the metric system, the 8th graders completed the year with Earth science. They learned about the water cycle, ocean currents, layers of the atmosphere, and renewable & nonrenewable resources. We have enjoyed teaching your students about science and giving them so many hands-on lab experiences this year. Good luck students and enjoy your time at Reitz!

ELA: 8th grade has just finished Demonstrative Speeches. We all enjoyed watching the students demonstrate how to do the things they enjoy! Also, students finished reading various books: Mrs. Thompson – The Eleventh Plague, and Mrs. White – The People of Sparks. Mr. McGee had students prepare plays and perform them for each respective class. Thank you for a great year with your student and we wish them all luck as they prepare to enter high school.

Helfrich Park Cross Country Summer Conditioning

Come run over the summer! Beginning July 18th, we will work on adding mileage and endurance to prepare for the fall season.

Where: Helfrich Park STEM Academy

Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Time: 8:00am - 9:00am (to beat the heat)

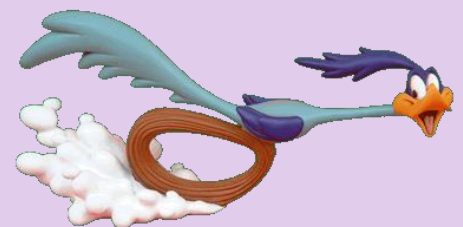
Contact Mr. Hartmann if you have any questions.

chad.hartmann@evsc.k12.in.us

(812)-868-0753

Note: Summer Conditioning is optional.

*Cross Country Team practice begins **August 15th.***



WAY TO GO!!

REGIONAL ACADEMIC SUPER BOWL ENGLISH

Erica Bateman, Coach

1st in Region / 5th in State

Lela Curtis
Emily Jarvis
Samantha Marcrum
Brooklynn Pace

REGIONAL ACADEMIC SUPER BOWL MATH

Jennifer McDurmon, Coach

Placed 5th in State

Alex Hartmann
Amanda Kessler
Elise Umbach
Lela Curtis
Allison Herr

Boys Track

Mrs. Redd, Mr. Whipkey, Coaches

1st Place in District

Jack Weinzapfel
Bryce Weatherford
Eric Dietsch
Clayton Groves
Logan Martin
Suhaib Mohammed
Tyler Gustin
Marc Vincent
Hunter Hinderliter
Josh Shrode
Joe Durham
Owen O'Reilly
Sebastian Miller
Kyle Hartmann

Girls Track

*Mrs. Redd, Mr. Whipkey, Mrs. Sellers,
Mrs. Motz, Mr. Motz, Coaches*

District Champions/2nd Place in City

Bethanie Lynch
Kyla Terry
Ava Hill
Victoria Garland
Kennedy Dannheiser
Alivia Schroeder
Kennedy Motz
Claire Mattes
Mackenzie Groben
Whitney Reiter
Sydney Smith
Jayla Collier
Kaeleigh Hart
Bailey Wissel

USI MATH-A-RAMA

Chad Hartmann, Coach

Top scholars were:

Max Welch, Pre-Algebra
Braydon Litteken, Algebra
Lela Curtis, Geometry