

NORTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Husky Pride

August 2011

Every day, everyone at Northwest Middle School will experience success.

99 Kings Drive
Taneytown, MD 21787
(410) 751-3270
(410) 751-3275 – fax
www.carrollk12.org/nws

Angela McCauslin, Principal

David Bortz, Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

August

- 17 Meet the Principal (6pm)
- 24 Volunteer Training (5pm & 8pm)
- 24 6th Grade Orientation (6pm)
- 30 Schools Open – 1st day for students

September

- 5 Schools Closed – Labor Day
- 8 Volunteer Training (6pm & 8pm)
- 8 Back to School Night (7pm)
- 16 Back to School Dance (7pm)
- 29 Schools Closed – Rosh Hashanah

Message from the Principal

Dear Students and Parents,

Summertime provides all of us with much needed rest, relaxation, and time to catch up with our friends and families. The staff of Northwest Middle School hope that you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready for an exciting and successful academic school year. Our new student and sixth grade orientation is August 24th at 6:00 pm in the Cafeteria. Back to School Night for 7th & 8th grades will be held September 8th at 7:00 pm. Volunteer Training will be offered to our parents and community members both evenings.

As I return to a school and community that I consider home, I want you to know that I am passionate about Northwest Middle School, the community, and working with all stakeholders to make a difference in the lives of our students. Communication and clear expectations are two essential ingredients in the achievement of a school, as well as the staff and students in it. I invite all stakeholders to become active participants in our school community and continue to enrich the lives of our students.

We look forward to seeing you at Sixth Grade Orientation on August 24th, and Back to School Night on September 8th.

Angela McCauslin

Husky News

The staff of Northwest Middle School has been busy this summer and has experienced some changes.

We would like to announce the following staff changes:

- Ms. Proudlock, Spanish Teacher, has accepted a full-time position at Sykesville Middle. We welcome Ms. Eser to the husky team. She comes to us from Queen Anne's County.
- Ms. McNemar, Health Teacher, has retired after many successful years of service to Carroll County Schools. We thank her for all of her efforts in teaching our students. Mr. Bevans will be taking over for Ms. McNemar. He comes to Northwest from Francis Scott Key High School.
- Ms. Thompson, School Counselor, has moved on to Central Office as a Pupil Personnel Worker. We welcome Ms. Wallach who comes to us from Sykesville Middle.
- Ms. Fowler will be joining us as the school nurse from New York state. Please welcome her to the Northwest community.
- Mr. Yingling has moved to West Middle School as the building supervisor. Congratulations Mr. Yingling.
- Mr. Miranda will be Northwest's new Speech/Language teacher.
- Ms. Harrison will join us as the new Media Clerk.

We wish all of the staff leaving Northwest the very best and look forward to working with the new staff members.

H U S K Y

P reparation

R espect

I ntegrity

D etermination

E xcellence



Homerooms and Bus Routes

Use the room number listed on the mailing label to determine your homeroom teacher. School bus assignments will be posted on the Carroll County Public Schools website beginning on August 12 and will be in the Carroll County Times on August 23.

Husky Learning Lab

The Husky Learning Lab is an after-school program to help students with homework, classwork, and test preparation. Various teachers will be available during this time to assist students.

When: Monday – Thursday (beginning September 19)

Time: 3:40pm – 4:30pm

(Parents/guardians are expected to pick up their students at 4:30pm. Walkers will be dismissed at 4:30pm)

Location: Media Center

Learning Lab Procedures:

- Students must have written permission from their parent/guardian to attend as well as information on how the student will get home. This will be turned in to the homeroom teacher during attendance procedures.
- Students will report to the media center with all their assigned work and sign in on the register.
- Once students have completed their work, they will remain in the media center and work independently until dismissal time at 4:30pm.

Other Information:

- Learning Lab will be closed the 2nd Monday of each month, on early dismissal days, or on evening conference nights.
- A schedule of the days that the Learning Lab is closed can be found on the school website www.carrollk12.org/nws.

Classroom Supply Lists

The 2011-12 student supply list can be found on the school website at www.carrollk12.org/nws or copies can be picked up in the school office Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 3:30 pm.

School Policies & Procedures

All school policies and procedures can be found in student agenda books which will be distributed on the first day of school. Please take time to review important information with your child.

SCHOOL OPERATING HOURS

The school is open to students starting at 8:25 am. Students are not permitted in the school building until 8:25 am unless they are meeting with a staff member. Dismissal is at 3:20 pm. It is important that students are in the school building only at those times, unless they are involved in an after school activity. The homeroom bell rings at 8:45 am. If a student comes into school after that bell has rung, they will be considered tardy and must report to the office to sign in.

ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

Students are not to be arriving at school before 8:25 am. According to Carroll County Public School policy student supervision does not begin until 20 minutes prior to the start of the school day. This means that supervision does not begin until 8:25 am. Students are not permitted into the building until this time. Please make appropriate arrangements so that your student arrives after this time but before 8:45 am.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

It is important that students arrive to school on time. Students who are not seated in their homeroom at 8:45 a.m. are considered tardy and must report to the office to sign in. Chronic unexcused tardiness interferes with a child's education and will result in disciplinary consequences.

Thank you for your cooperation.

EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Dismissal begins at 3:20 p.m. If you need your child to be dismissed from school before the end of the school day, you must notify the school in writing. Students should bring a note to the main office prior to homeroom to receive an early dismissal pass from a secretary. **Phone calls to change dismissal are unacceptable because of identity verification and security issues.** A child may be removed from school by a parent or legal guardian. Other persons wishing to remove a child from school may do so only if their information is listed on the student's emergency card and with permission from the parent. A note must also be provided for a student to be picked up by someone who is not on the emergency card.

In the case of a custody agreement, a non-custodial parent may pick up a child from school as long as he or she has written permission from the custodial parent or is listed on the student's emergency card, and there is no court order on file with the school otherwise prohibiting it. It is the intention of Carroll County Public Schools to remain neutral in matters concerning separation/divorce and child custody. However, school officials may intervene and make decisions in order to ensure the safety and welfare of the child, as well as maintain order and decorum in the school. In case of an emergency, the principal will make a reasonable attempt to contact the parent. If parent contact cannot be made, the principal will make a reasonable attempt to contact the individual(s) designated on the emergency card. If this contact cannot be made, the principal may authorize removal and/or transportation as appropriate.

VERIFYING STUDENT ABSENCES

Carroll County Public Schools will accept a written note, email, facsimile, or phone call from a student's parent or legal guardian as verification of the reason for the student's absence. As always, parents are strongly encouraged to report their child's absence as soon as possible, including the reason for the absence and the date of the absence. They may do so by sending a written note with their child, faxing a note to 410-751-3275, emailing the school at nwsattendance@k12.carr.org, or calling the school at 410-751-3270. Failure to verify a student's absence as a lawful reason in a timely manner will result in the absence being considered unlawful. A copy of the verification document will be kept in the student's file. Thank you for your help in verifying your child's absence in a timely manner.

HOMEWORK REQUESTS

If your student is absent for 3 days or more, you may call the school office to request homework. Teachers will need 24 hours in order to collect all work that has been missed. If you know in advance that your child will be absent for several days, please send in a note.

HOMEWORK HOTLINE

Homework assignments will be available each day by phoning the school **after 4:15 p.m.** To reach the homework hotline you will need to call the school at 410-751-3270.

To leave a message about your student's attendance: **1264**

Grade 6: **1231**, Grade 7 East: **1233**, Grade 7 West: **1234**, Grade 8: **1235**

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE NIGHTS

October 20, 2011	4:30-8:00 pm
November 21, 2011	4:30-8:00 pm
January 18, 2012	4:30-8:00 pm
March 22, 2012	4:30-8:00 pm

More information and when to set up a conference will be sent home prior to these dates.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Beginning in October, all newsletters will be posted on the school website at www.carrollk12.org/nws. Click on the newsletter link. If you do not have internet access, please contact the school office to receive a paper copy. Thank you.

NOTICE

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A.H.E.R.A.) management plans for all buildings owned or leased by the Board of Education of Carroll County are available for review at the individual Carroll County school locations and at the Office of Plant Operations located at: 191 Schaeffer Avenue, Westminster, MD 21157. Management plans are required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and depict the location, amount, condition, and response action projected for any asbestos-containing materials, if any are located in the school building.

CONSENT AND RELEASE 7/8/09

Permission to Photograph, Videotape or Audiotape

Throughout the school year, the Carroll County Public School System frequently covers school activities and may use your child's photograph, video image, or voice for educational, informational, or public relations purposes, with or without identification by name.

If you do not wish to have your child's voice reproduced on tape or to have his/her image appear in such things as a video, a photograph, or the school website, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their children being audiotaped, photographed, videotaped, or having their image placed on a school website by the school system unless such notification is received. There are also occasions when the media cover certain school events (such as when a government leader visits a school). If you do not wish to have your child's name or likeness published by the media, you should address your concerns directly to the school involved so that the media is so advised. Please be advised that the school system has no control over the media when they are covering activities such as sporting events and musical programs that are open to the public.

Use of Student Work on Websites or in Publications

There may be times throughout the year when the Carroll County Public School System wishes to display student work on school websites or in publications. If you do not wish to have your child's art, poetry, writing, etc. appear on school websites or in publications, please notify the school principal in writing. It is assumed that parents and guardians consent to their child's work being displayed on school websites or in publications unless such notification is received.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ancestry or national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The CCPS provides nondiscriminatory access to school facilities in accordance with its policies and regulations regarding the community use of schools (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Gregory J. Bricca
Director of Research and Accountability
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410.751.3068

ADA ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs or activities. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities or the Supervisor of Community and Media Relations.

Raymond Prokop
Director of Facilities
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
(410) 751-3177

Carey Gaddis
Supervisor of Community & Media Relations
125 North Court Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
(410) 751-3020

Community News

MARYLAND FOOD BANK

Northwest Middle has partnered with the Maryland Food Bank to provide supplemental grocery needs to families in the community during these tough economic times. Please contact the school office @ 410.751.3270 for more information.

From the School Counseling Office

Dear Students, Families, and Staff Members of the Northwest Community,

After a heartwarming 13 years at Northwest Middle, I made the difficult decision to apply for and accept a position within the Student Services Department of Carroll County Public Schools. Parting with this community is difficult because of the wonderful relationships I have developed with so many of you. I truly enjoyed my years as a School Counselor, and the lessons I learned from each of you will surely guide me as I face new challenges. I wish all of you a very successful school year, and I feel confident that you will embrace Ms. Marie Wallach as a delightful addition to the School Counseling Department of Northwest Middle. Please enjoy the remainder of your summer! Go Huskies!

Sincerely,
Laura Thompson

From the PTO

Meet the Principal

Please join us on August 17th at 6pm in the school cafeteria for an ice cream social to welcome our new principal, Mrs. McCauslin, to the Northwest Middle School community.

Secretary Needed

Please note that the **Secretary position** on the PTO Executive Board is **currently vacant**. If you are interested in this position, please contact Darlene Jeffers at: sdjeffers@yahoo.com. Also, PTO meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. We will initially hold two meetings to allow for maximum attendance, one at 8:40 am and a second at 7:00 pm. Attendance will dictate whether we continue with this throughout the school year. Dates for the first part of the year are as follows: September 13th, October 11th, November 8th, and December 13th.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Northwest PTO is helping to coordinate volunteers for the 2011-2012 school year. Below is a list of ways in which you can participate in the activities and events at Northwest Middle School. Please check any of the events/activities that you would be interested in helping with and then fill out your information at the bottom. This form can be returned to the office or to your child's homeroom teacher. As these events near, we will contact you about helping. If you want to help out on a weekly basis, copy room assistants & media helpers do provide that opportunity. (Please be aware that you will need to take the CCPS volunteer training in order to participate.)

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copy Room Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Aide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Fair Helpers (Oct.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall music production aides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperones for monthly dances | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th grade dance committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shultz's Sub Sale pick-up (Sept.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 th grade picnic committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall/Winter Fundraiser pick-up (Dec) | <input type="checkbox"/> PTO Executive Board |

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Student's Name _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____