



Shiloh Middle School  
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Shiloh Middle School  
The Wolf Trail

## Principal's Message

October–November 2011

As we move into the second and third month of the 11-12 school year, I would like to take the time to thank everyone for the work they have done to allow for a smooth and successful opening of the school year. **Academically**, students are experiencing the benefits of extra time in Homework Club, Homework Café, Study Island, and various other interventions. **Socially**, we had 328 students attend our Back to School Dance. A great time was had by everyone in attendance! We can't wait to see how many attend the **Fall Harvest Dance on Friday, November 11 from 3:30-5:15**. To make that even more fun, November 11 will be Hawaiian Day and the dance will have a Hawaiian Theme. Get your Hawaiian shirts ready! As for our **Character Education Program**, our staff has handed out and our students have returned over 2000 "PRIDE" Tickets for exhibiting Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, or Excellence. Wow! That is fantastic. **Our PRIDE Time** on Thursday's is off to a great start. During PRIDE Time, students in need of extra help, extra time, or enrichment can meet with their teachers. Along with getting extra help or enrichment, teachers and students have the time to work together to establish positive, deeper relationships as they work on the student's academic and character goals. Finally, we are proud to announce that the **PTA Howl-a-Thon** was extremely successful. All of the activities mentioned above, along with many more taking place throughout the school, would not be possible without the help of dedicated parents, teachers, staff, and community members. **Thank you for your continued support!**

continued ►

The mission of the Shiloh Middle School community is to create a rigorous academic program within a safe and respectful environment that empowers all students to reach their fullest potential.



Visit our web page at  
<http://www.carrollk12.org/sms/>

A few special activities will be occurring during the next two months. **American Education Week is November 14-18.** Throughout that week parents and grandparents are welcome to come to school to observe their child/grandchild in class. When you arrive, please come to the main office to sign in and get your visitor's badge. During that week we will also be celebrating the academic success of our students by holding our **Quarter #1 Honor Roll Assembly.** The assembly will take place on **Wednesday, November 16.** Students who receive all A's and B's will be bringing home information regarding this assembly with their report cards. We look forward to seeing many of you during that week. **Parent conference days** will be held **Thursday, October 13; Thursday, November 17; and Monday, November 21.** Conferences on all of these evenings will be held from 3:45-7:30. Look for further information on parent conferences in this newsletter. Other important events during the next two months can be found throughout this newsletter.

As we proceed into **October, The Month of the Adolescent,** I thought I would share a few important pieces of information that pertain to this age group.

*The middle level years are an extraordinary period of our human development. The only other time we grow as much physically, emotionally, and intellectually is from ages zero to two. But early adolescence is much more than just tripping over large feet and calling friends on the phone to discuss who likes whom. The ways we deal with conflict, relationships, and personal development as adults has direct connections to specific experiences we have between the ages of ten and fourteen. We can create a very positive future when we provide careful and compassionate experiences for today's young adolescents. As you work, play, teach, and parent your child at home, try to remember that middle school age children crave the following: positive social interaction with adults and peers, structure and clear limits, physical activity, opportunities for self-definition, and meaningful participation in family, school and community.*

We have fantastic parents, families, teachers, and staff in the Shiloh Middle School region. I thank you for all of the love, care, and support that you give to your children and our students each and every day. In conclusion, please take the time to read the remainder of the newsletter for more information on upcoming events and school activities. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Alisauckas

Principal

# CALENDAR

## October—November

### October

3	Early Dismissal (2 hr 45 min) 12:30 pm
5	Celebrity Scoop Night (Rita's Italian Ice) 4-9 pm
4,5	Flag Football Tournament (3:30—5:30 pm)
6,7	Flag Football (rain date)
6	Interims Sent Home
10	PTO Meeting (7 pm)
13	Parent Conferences (3:45 pm—7:30 pm)
21	Schools Closed for Students (10 mo. Staff)



### November

3	Early Dismissal (2hr 45 min) 12:30 pm
9	Report Cards (First Quarter) Distributed
11	Fall Harvest Dance (3:30—5:15) PTO Sponsored Event
14	PTO Meeting (7:00 pm)
14	Early Dismissal (2 hr 45 min) 12:30 pm
15	Field Trip (Career & Tech Center) Grade 8 (9:00 am—12:00 pm)
16	Honor Roll Assembly
15-19	American Education Week
17	Parent Conferences (3:45 pm—7:30 pm)
21	Parent Conferences (3:45 pm—7:30 pm)
23-25	School Closed—Thanksgiving



**Due to the high number of absences per day, we will ask teachers to gather work for your child only if he or she is to be absent from school for three days or more.**

## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF CONFERENCES

You may know your child better than any one else, but teachers have a unique viewpoint that can complement your own. They have daily contact with their students and are in a prime position to observe changes in academic strengths, social skills, and emotional maturity. Yet as parents, you get only one or two scheduled teacher conferences each year. These visits are your opportunity to touch base with your child's teachers, as well as your chance to share plans for his/her continued success. Making the most of parent-teacher conferences will help you support the growth your child is experiencing.

The key to a successful parent-teacher conference is two-way communication. From the teacher, you can expect information about your child's progress, as well as any problems he may be having. From you, the teacher needs to gain a better understanding of

the child you know so well.

Just like any interview, a parent-teacher conference works best if you prepare. Remember, the purposes of the conference are:

1. Review your child's achievements
2. Offer information
3. Plan strategies to solve problems
4. Build a trusting relationship between home and school

You have answers the teacher doesn't have about your child's basic strengths, preferences, and needs. The teacher can build on your child's abilities based on the knowledge you provide. Students benefit most when teachers and parents work together.

Remember, the road to success is likely to be bumpy. You may

need to schedule another meeting so you can adjust plans with the teacher as your child's needs change. Let the teacher be a resource to help you strengthen skills that support your child's growth and starting point for involvement that continues every day. Your child's teacher may ask you to make sure time is set aside each night for studying. Maybe you need to designate a quiet place in your home for schoolwork, or you might become involved by going over your child's nightly homework with him.



### PARENT CONFERENCE DAYS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13 (3:45 pm—7:30 pm)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17 (3:45 pm—7:30 pm)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21 (3:45 pm—7:30 pm)

This year parent conference days will be conducted slightly different than in the past. As you may have noticed, we have added evening conference dates to accommodate our working parents. An information letter containing details and scheduling will be sent home prior to each conference date. Please return your conference requests to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. Team leaders will assign conference appointments on a first come/first served basis.

# Greetings from the School Counseling Department!

## Welcome Students and Parents to the 2011-2012 School Year

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all students and parents to Shiloh Middle School. We are so excited to be working with this community. We would like to take this chance to share with you what our role is here at Shiloh.

As school-based counselors, our goal is to facilitate the academic, social/personal, and career growth and development of all students. Throughout the year we will be addressing topics relating to all students through the avenues of classroom lessons and school-wide programs. Other components to our counseling program include: Individual counseling, small group counseling, career development, collaboration with teachers and parents, and testing coordination.



On September 28<sup>th</sup> we hosted our annual new student breakfast, and during the month of October we will be conducting various activities related to National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. During this month we will be teaching classroom lessons, providing bracelets for students who pledge against bullying and selling anti-bullying T-shirts.

We have also planned the Career and Technology Center visit for our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all parents and students to attend the Career and Technology Center's open house on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm.

We are looking forward to an exciting and successful 2011-2012 school-year at Shiloh Middle! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us!

Most Sincerely,

Rob Daily

Alena Alsrue

## 2011/2012 Testing Dates

We wanted to let you know of the upcoming Maryland School Assessment and High School Assessment testing dates for this year. Current students must pass the High School Assessments to graduate. **The state tests are extremely important; please avoid scheduling conflicts, such as doctors' appointments, on these days.** Please ensure that your child is present and on time for the following dates:

### Maryland School Assessment (all grades)

Tuesday, March 20 - MSA Math, Day 1

Wednesday, March 21- MSA Math, Day 2

Wednesday, March 14- MSA Reading, Day 1

Thursday, March 15- MSA Reading, Day 2

### Science MSA (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)

Monday, April 16

Tuesday, April 17

Wednesday, April 18

### High School Assessment (only for students who are taking Algebra I)

Wednesday, May 23 - Algebra

### **"Attention 8th grade students and parents:**

The Carroll County Career and Technology Center will hold its annual open house on Thursday, October 14, 2011, from 6 to 8 p.m. The open house will feature a career fair, as well as student competitions, presentations, and demonstrations."

### **Are you ready for some Football?**

**October 4, 5**, will be the dates for the annual Flag Football Charity Tournament from **3:30-5:30**. (October 6th & 7th rain date) Feel free to help out in any capacity (concessions, scoreboard, player, music, set-up/clean-up, etc.) to help make this special occasion eventful for the students. Anyone wishing to help out in any capacity, please **contact Mrs. Griffin**. Keep in mind, you must complete the volunteer training in order to help out with the event.



# SKI CLUB NEWS

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## THE FACTS ARE...

- \* You are purchasing a Night Club Card that is valid any night from 4 PM to 10 PM Monday through Saturday, 3 PM to 10 PM on Sunday.
- \* Your Night Club Card is valid from Jan. 2, 2012 until the close of the resorts in the spring of 2012.
- \* **Your Night Club Card is valid at Liberty Mountain, Ski Roundtop & Whitetail**
- \* Parents are encouraged to join in on the fun. The same incredible offer is available to all adults.
- \* Shiloh Middle School will provide 5 bus trips to Ski Liberty on the following Thursdays:  
January 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb 2

A bus fee of \$55 will be charged for all 5 trips. Buses are fully insured and chaperoned. Skiers will leave the school at 3:30 and return by 10:00 PM. **If a ski trip is cancelled** for any reason, it will be rescheduled on the next available Thursday.

- \* Ski Liberty must have a signed parental release form for each participant before a Night Club Card can be issued. Parent or guardian signature is required for all participants under the age of 18.
- \* Night Club Cards are non-transferable. Tickets obtained through the use of your card are for your personal use only.
- \* Ski Liberty is not responsible for lost or stolen Night Club Cards. A \$25 processing fee will be charged to re-issue lost or stolen cards.
- \* If your Night Club Card includes rental equipment, you may choose ski or snowboard equipment. Snow blades, ski boards and demo equipment **are not included.**

\*\*\* Please select your package and complete your Liability Release Agreement form carefully. Once your form has been submitted, there is a **\$25 fee for any changes to your original order.**

## SKI CLUB RULES ....

1. I will follow the Responsibility Code listed on the back of the Ski Liberty Program Release Agreement.
2. I will maintain a passing average in all classes.
3. I will attend school the day after every ski trip.

4. I will be cooperative with chaperones, ski personnel and teachers. I understand that being a part of the Ski Club is a privilege and not a right.
5. I will report to the bus by 9:00 PM prepared to leave the ski area for each trip.
6. I will not ski black diamond trails without first receiving parent and instructor approval.

## SKILL LEVELS

### Type I

- Ski conservatively
- Prefer slower speeds
- Never skied

### Type II

- Ski moderately
- Prefer a variety of speeds
- Ski on varied terrain including most difficult trails

### Type III

- Ski aggressively
- Normally higher speeds
- Prefer steeper and more challenging terrain



# SHILOH CLUBS

Club	Advisor	Description	Dates/Times	Open to:
Homework Club	Mrs. Knox	Students receive help with their homework; have access to computers and a structured, quiet place to work.	Mon. & Wed. 3:30-4:30	All Grades
Ecology Club	Mrs. Guy & Mrs. Sexton	Students work on the beautification of Shiloh's campus, conserving energy, and recycling reusable materials.	Thursdays 3:30-4:30	All Grades
Fitness Club	Mrs. Griffin, Mr. Vaughn, & Mr. Mays	Students participate in various fitness and exercise activities to promote a healthier lifestyle.	Tues. & Thurs. 7:30-8:15	All Grades
Ski Club	Mrs. Griffin	Students purchase ski passes allowing them access to three ski resorts. Students travel once a week by bus for 5 weeks to ski Liberty. Students can rent ski/snowboard equipment and take lessons.	January	All Grades
Girls in Motion	Mrs. Griffin	For female students interested in maintaining and improving fitness levels. Topics include self-esteem, health, fitness, goal setting, and discovering one's inner beauty.	Mon. & Wed. 3:15-4:30	All Grades
SHOUT	Mrs. VanSant Mrs. Wolff, Mrs Sexton	Students participate in service learning projects, promote a healthy life style, plan school events, and serve as role models for their peers.	TBA	All Grades
Art Club	Mr. Reigel	Students engage in art related activities to promote and develop artistic creativity & skills.	TBA	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
National Junior Honor Society	Mr. Dotterweich	Students are selected for induction having demonstrated positive qualities in scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character.	Monthly Meetings TBA	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Graders Who meet criteria
Golf Club	Mr. Walker	Students will be prepared for high school golf through techniques offered by local high school coaches and players.	Spring Dates TBA	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>
Master Minds	Mrs. Browning Mrs. Weiland	Students engage in various activities (Chess, Rubik's Cube, etc.) to promote and develop higher order problem solving skills.	Tuesdays After school	All Grades
ETM/Multicultural Club	Mrs. VanSant Mrs. Wolff	Students will learn about and explore the similarities and differences between various cultures at Shiloh Middle School	TBA	All Grades
Crew Pals/History Club	Mr. Chrvala	Students correspond through letters with deployed service men and women.	During Lunch 1/2 times monthly	8 <sup>th</sup> Graders
Student Council	Mr. Dotterweich Mrs. Finch	A student-run organization that develops leadership and citizenship skills through school and community service projects. Students raise money for charity, and selected representatives attend general assembly meetings.	Monthly TBA	Students in all grades can apply
Yearbook Club	Mrs. Dixon	Students help to design and create Shiloh Middle School's yearbook.	Nov.-Jan. Days & Times TBA	All Grades
Newspaper Club	Mrs. Feustle	Students are responsible for the development and publication of Shiloh's school newspaper.	Two Tuesdays per month 3:30-4:30	All Grades
Book Club	Mrs. Owings	Students who enjoy reading meet in the media center to discuss books.	Lunch Monthly	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>
AM Mayhem	Mrs. Owings	Students deliver the morning announcements on Shiloh's morning news show. Students apply for positions in 7 <sup>th</sup> grade, and the crew must keep their grades at a "C" or better in all classes.	Mornings	8 <sup>th</sup> Graders
Student Ambassadors	Mr. Daily & Mrs. Alsrue	Students represent their school in various activities such as new student orientations, Back to School Night, American Education Week greeters, Etc.	As needed	All Grades

## DUE DATES

The Balance for the Night Club Card is due to Mrs. Griffin by Friday, October 28th.

*No cash will be accepted. Please make checks payable to Shiloh Middle School.*

## PICTURES FOR ID CARD

Participants must submit a photo by stapling it to their Release/Order Form. The photo can be no smaller than 1 1/2" X 2 1/2" and must have their name on the back of it.



## Ski Club fees:

- \* Lift only- \$174.00
- \* Lift & Advantage- \$194.00
- \* Lift/Lesson- \$219.00
- \* Lift/Lesson & Advantage- \$239.00
- \* Lift/Lesson/Rental- \$259.00
- \* Lift/Lesson/Rental & Advantage- \$279.00
- \* Protection Plan- \$8.00
- \* Helmet- \$50.00

## Advantage Card Benefits

Ski opening day and daylight hours at 40% off regular daytime rates. For \$15 you can use your Night Club Card to save 40 % every visit.

- \* Valid from opening day of the Jan.2, 2012 ski season.
- \* 40% OFF regularly priced lift tickets at Liberty, Ski Round Top and Whitetail before 4 PM.
- \* Every 6th ticket is FREE.
- \* 40% OFF on midweek non-holiday lodging at The Liberty Hotel.
- \* 40% OFF on Recreational racing.

## Rental Option Benefits:

40% OFF rental equipment when you use your Advantage Card. The card is valid at all three mountains.

Every 6th rental is FREE.

Save 40% on ski boards and snow blades.

## P O BOX SKI

CARROLL VALLEY, PA 17320-0703

PROGRAM OFFICE: 717-642-8282

SNOW REPORT: 717-642-9000

FAX: 717-642-6826

Email: [groups@skiliberty.com](mailto:groups@skiliberty.com)

INTERNET: [www.skiliberty.com](http://www.skiliberty.com)



## REMINDERS FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

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1. Please encourage your child to eat breakfast before coming to school in the morning.
2. If your child isn't feeling well please check their temperature before sending them to school. If they come to us and have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, we will have to send them home according to Carroll County school policy.  
  
\*\*Also, according to new CCPS policy, if your child is sent home from school with a temperature of 100 or higher, they MAY NOT return to school until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications such as Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen. If your child returns the next day we will have to call to have them picked up. This new policy will hopefully reduce the spread of infection within our schools. Please remember that body temperatures are normally lower in the morning and a student's fever may again spike as the day progresses.
3. If your child has any symptoms of possible "pink eye", conjunctivitis, such as redness, discharge from the eye, or itching, please consult with their doctor. If your child comes to us with these symptoms we will have to send them home. They can return to school when symptom free, or with a doctor note stating it isn't contagious.
4. Please remember that students may not carry medication with them to school. This includes all over the counter medications. The only exception to this is if they have a doctor's order on file with us to carry their inhaler or Epi-pen. In order for any medication to be given at school, a parent must bring in a bottle of medication with age appropriate dosing for the child, and sign our form. Any medication other than Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen must also have an MD order to be given in school.
5. As we face the illnesses that come along with Fall and Winter, please remind students that good hand washing is the best way to stay well. Students may carry their own hand sanitizer, any brand, for personal use only.
6. Flu symptoms include a characteristic high fever of 100-102 F, lasting 3-4 days, headache, body aches, fatigue and cough and chest discomfort. It may also cause, although less commonly, cold symptoms such as stuffy nose, sneezing and sore throat. Symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are not usually associated with the flu virus. These stomach symptoms may be caused by a different virus which is often referred to as the "stomach flu".
7. Our health room does not supply cough drops. Students may carry non-medicated cough drops with them to school. Shiloh requires a parent note be sent giving the child permission to take them during the school day.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a healthy Fall!

Sherry Auffarth, RN  
Shiloh School Nurse



## Notes from the Music Room:

Things are rocking in the Shiloh music room. General Music classes have been studying and practicing rhythms. 6th and 7th grade classes have started World Drumming and the 8th graders are preparing a 20th century style classical composition using "Found Objects". Chorus classes have been working on posture, vocal & physical warm ups, and melodic singing using Kodaly/Curwen Hand Signs. Chorus classes are already working on music for their upcoming Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. We are looking forward to an exciting and "musical" year.

### News from the Media Center

If you would like to help your child with their research, but do not know where to turn for reliable, safe websites try this:

Type in <http://members.thinkport.org/sms>

Click on "Go Here for Research!"

The password is: sms

Click GO (The site will not forward you to the next page if you press Enter.)

Now you can access Grolier and many other websites for your child to use. Please encourage your child to cite their sources as he/ she researches.



## It's Yearbook Time!!

Currently Ms. Dixon is working on forming a yearbook committee. Students who are interested in being on the yearbook committee will need to write a short essay explaining *why they'd like to be on the yearbook committee*. The essay is to be returned to the student's homeroom teacher by Friday **October 28, 2011**.

Students selected for the yearbook committee will need to be able to stay after school on selected Wednesdays until 4:30 during the months of November, December, and January. Parents are always welcome to attend our meetings.

## Do you want a free yearbook?



Enter the yearbook cover contest. The winner of the contest will receive a free yearbook and will have his or her design placed on the cover of Shiloh's Yearbook.

Rules:

- \* Our cover is going to be in color this year! Use as many different colors as you like.
- \* Our yearbook will have both a back and a front design. You can design the back or the front or both!
- \* Please use plain white 8.5 by 11 inch paper (standard copier paper) **or** plain white 17 by 11 inch paper (front and back).
- \* You can design your image on the computer. Images cannot be copyrighted. For example, Sponge Bob is a copyrighted image and cannot be used.
- \* You may want to create your design and then scan your work into the computer and fix any problem areas before you submit your final piece.
- \* Turn in all designs to your homeroom teacher by 10/28.

**Have Fun and Be Creative!!!!**

# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Now is the time for you to let your children know you are interested in what they do in school. If you show an interest, your child's achievement and behavior may improve. One of the best ways to show your interest and concern is to visit your child's school.

During the week of November 14 through November 18, Shiloh Middle School will join schools nationwide to celebrate American Education Week. You are always welcome to visit Shiloh Middle School, but we want to extend a special invitation to visit and watch the school in session during that week.



*One of the best ways to show your interest and concern is to visit your child's school.*

You may visit any day, but, if your schedule permits, we ask that parents of students whose last name begins with the letters A-M visit on Tuesday and Thursday, and parents of students whose last name begins with the letters N-Z visit on Wednesday and Friday. This will help the school to accommodate the many expected visitors and make your visitation a rewarding experience.

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## Shiloh PBIS

PBIS started at the beginning of this school year and is going strong. The PBIS program focuses students on PRIDE in the PACK character traits. Students can demonstrate having Pride by being Prepared, Respectful, having Integrity, being Determined, and striving for Excellence. Staff members reward students for demonstrating one of these characteristics by giving the student a PRIDE card. The student completes the card and puts it into a PRIDE box (available throughout the school). On Fridays, during lunch, there is a drawing from the PRIDE cards. The student(s) get to select from a stash of items that are available to reward them for showing PRIDE at Shiloh. Some of the awards include: high school jerseys, Taco Bell tacos, bowling coupons from Greenmount Station, Shiloh merchandise, Applebee's meal, Texas Roadhouse meal, etc. The items the students can select from change each week.

We have had over 5,000 PRIDE cards submitted to date. We are tracking the data and we will announce the weekly winners during Morning Mayhem (morning announcements). We encourage the parents/community to remind Shiloh students to demonstrate PRIDE in the PACK everywhere they go.

The Shiloh PBIS committee would like to thank the community partners that have supported the program by donating items or funds. We look forward to adding additional community partners to the list as the year progresses. If you or your business is interested in supporting our efforts please feel free to contact the school for more information.

Community Sponsors: Taco Bell, Texas Roadhouse, North Carroll High athletics, Greenmount Station

Character is doing what is right  
when no one is looking!

## **Six Grade News**

6th grade is having a Zoomobile presentation at school on October 7th. We will be doing activities related to our animal unit in ELA class. Students will be researching an animal and writing and presenting their report. We will be starting our Egyptian unit in Social Studies and making mummies. In math we will be working on integers in accelerated classes and fractions in our other classes. Liquids, solids, and gasses are the units that will be covered in science.

## **Team 5 News**

Team 5 teachers would like to say thanks for a great start to the school year. It has been a pleasure to teach and work with all of your children.

Mr. Fernandez: In science, we started our year with the study of the meteorology. We are learning about the factors that influence weather, such as temperature, pressure and humidity. Our studies will also cover local and global winds, weather maps and weather forecasting. Our last area of study will focus on climate and climate change.

In Social Studies, we are beginning our study of American government. We will learn about the three branches of government, investigate the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. As we finish the government unit, we will study the first seven presidents and how they shaped the new nation that was created. Mr. Paul Seegren, a student from McDaniel College, will be with us once a week for the first semester of the school year

Ms. Flowers's ELA classes are using Wordly Wise as well as Vocabulary for Achievement to study vocabulary. They have also been reviewing basic usage and capitalization reviews. Students are reading independently for their first book report due the week of Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Both Ms. Flowers and Mrs. Gelhaus's ELA classes have been exploring the first theme in the new literature textbook -- How Do You Stay True to Yourself? – using short stories, writing, and other types of text.

Mrs. Gelhaus is piloting a new vocabulary program called, “Word-up.” Each set of new words is presented in a rap. So far, the program has had promising results! Mrs. Gelhaus welcomes Mrs. King, an intern from McDaniel College, to her ELA classes every Tuesday.

Mrs. Gelhaus's ENG I class is studying short stories and nonfiction. They have written several pieces including a eulogy, a persuasive piece, and a comparison of narrators.

Mrs. Fosnot's Algebra: These classes are currently reviewing concepts such as order of operations, integers, fractions, and equations. Once we get through these units, we will begin working on new content.

8th Grade Math: These classes are currently working on order of operations, integers, and will be moving onto equations soon. They are going to complete a webquest involving integers to increase their foundational knowledge on this.

Reminder: Mountain math is a monthly assignment for all classes that is due the last day of the month that we are in school.

We look forward to continuing the great start we've begun!

# **2012 - 2013 SCHOOL TIMES**

## **NEXT YEAR – SHILOH MIDDLE SCHOOL – 8:25-3:00**

This will be an adjustment of 10 minutes.

Students will start school 10 minutes earlier and dismiss  
10 minutes earlier than 2011-2012.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

**Q: Why is Carroll County Public Schools changing its school start and end times next school year?**

A: Last year, the Superintendent asked each department head to examine their operations in an effort to improve efficiency and to look at potential cost saving measures. The Transportation Services Department, through the restructuring of school starting and ending times and the realignment of bus routes, found significant efficiencies leading to the elimination of 40 buses with an annual cost savings of at least \$1.2 million. This change led to a reorganization of school start and end times.

**Q: Are the school times final?**

A: Yes. The school times as published are the official start and end times for the 2012 – 2013 school year. There may be a need to make changes in future years for specific schools pertaining to student population growth, school boundary adjustments, and transportation efficiency. However, these are the final start and end times for next school year.

**Q: Why are high schools starting earlier than middle and elementary schools?**

A: The high school instructional day (6 hours and 50 minutes) is 15 minutes longer than the middle school day and 20 minutes longer than the elementary school day. If high schools had the later school times, elementary schools would have to start as early as 7:30 a.m. to allow high schools to start within the earliest time range of 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. With this starting time range, the high school day would not end until 4:05 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

High school boundaries are much larger in area. This means high school bus routes are also longer, and many students would not arrive home until well after 5:00 p.m. While students at all grade levels participate in after school activities, many high school students participate in extra-curricular activities and many have after school job requirements. In addition, many elementary and middle school parents rely on an older high school sibling to provide after-school care.

**Q: Why wasn't I notified earlier?**

A: The Transportation Efficiency Study and the proposed 2012-2013 school times were discussed at several public Board of Education meetings, beginning at the March 23, 2011 meeting. The proposed school times were published on the Carroll County Public Schools website with the opportunity for parents and community members to provide feedback. There was much public discussion about the plan and several hundred emails were received. There were also several articles printed in the Carroll County Times and other local publications regarding the proposed changes for school start times. An attempt was made by the school system to make sure that all families were informed of the proposal and received as much input as possible prior to a final decision.

**Q: Was the need for daycare considered in developing the new school times?**

A: There is no school schedule that would fulfill every family's personal schedule and daycare needs. The school system recognizes that the changes in school schedules will alter many families' current home schedules. As is currently the case for many families, before and after-school daycare service may be required.

**Q: Will my child's bus number be the same next year?**

A: Buses will be assigned to routes in the most efficient and economical manner based on the location of bus contractors and school routes. Many students staying within the same school will have a different bus number next year.

**Q: You have eliminated 40 buses; does that mean my child's bus ride will be longer?**

A: No, student ride times will not be made longer or shorter as a result of the reduction in the number of buses or the adjustment to school start and end times. However, because the school starting and ending times are changing for most schools, students will board buses and depart buses earlier or later depending on the change in school times. The reduction in the number of buses results from arranging the school start and end times to achieve the maximum use of each school bus every day. In most cases, each bus will complete three routes per day in school year 2012-13 allowing us to eliminate the 40 buses. We will not make any adjustments to bus routes that would impact student ride time beyond our normal adjustments for new students or students leaving.

**Q: Will the changes to school start and end or the reduction in the number of buses impact special education routes?**

A: No, the study that resulted in the new school times did not include special education routes. The 40 buses being eliminated are all regular education buses.

**Q: When will specific information regarding next year's bus schedules be made available?**

A: Bus routes and times will be published on the school system's website and given to schools in early August. The Carroll County Times normally publishes bus routes (by school) at least one full week before the start of school.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

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In the event it becomes necessary to close schools for the entire day because of inclement weather, the announcement will be made no later than 6:45 AM through the following media sources:

(Westminster) WTTR

(Hanover) WHVR

(Frederick) WFMD & WZYQ

(Thurmont) WTHU

(Baltimore) WBAL, WCA0, WPOC, WCBM,  
WMAR-TV, WFBR, WMIX, WLIF, B104, WNUV-54,  
WJZ-TV, WYST, WQSR, WRBS & WGRX

(Washington D.C.) WMAL, WTOP & WJLA-TV

(Williamsport) WCRH

### **HOMEWORK HOTLINE**

**Access Homework Hotline Online at**

**[www.carrollk12.org/sms](http://www.carrollk12.org/sms)**

- \* Locate and click on your homework.com link
- \* Choose your child's team

The Homework Hotline will be activated from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M.

Steps for using the Hotline:

1. Call the school phone number  
(410-386-4570)
2. A message will be given  
("You Have Reached")
3. Enter the voice mail box number of the team you wish to hear:
  - Team One is 283
  - Team Two is 284
  - Team Three is 285
  - Team Four is 286
  - Team Five is 287
  - Team Six is 288

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Shiloh Middle School

3675 Willow Street

Hampstead, Maryland 21074