

## Principal's Message



**Shiloh Middle School**  
 PHONE: 410-386-4570  
 FAX: 410-386-4579

**Shiloh Middle  
 School**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is difficult to believe that we are already into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year. As we proceed through the next few months of school, I would like to take the time to thank you for your generosity and support of the various programs and activities that have taken place during the fall and winter months and to update you on activities that will be occurring.

On March 14, 15, 20, and 21, your child will be taking the MSA (Maryland State Assessment). These exams will produce an individual score that reflects how well your child is performing. It is very important that you encourage your child to do his/her very best on these exams and to take the exams seriously. Take a moment to read through this newsletter for tips on how to help your child be successful on these exams. *Also, please try to avoid scheduling appointments on these dates.*

In this newsletter you will also find an MSA Calendar with a concept of the day. Please take a moment each day to weave the concept into your daily conversations with your child. A letter is also in this newsletter to help you with these conversations. Along with you talking with your child about the concept of the day, your child's teachers will also be weaving the same concept into their daily instruction. Some of the teachers have also produced their own MSA Concept Calendar which you may see coming home in the next few days. We appreciate your help and support with this initiative as we all work together to make the students of Shiloh Middle School successful.

Having your child be successful on these exams and, on a larger scale, having your child achieve personally, socially, and academically are all focal points of the school. To help your child achieve success, I am including in this newsletter...

### ***"10 Ways to Help Your Child Do Well in School."***

- Pay attention to your child's schoolwork. Ask regularly and with genuine interest, "What are you learning?"*
- Offer support. Provide reassurances and help as your child tackles educational activities and situations for the first time.*
- Promote good health habits. If your child gets enough sleep, balanced meals, and proper exercise, classroom participation and learning will come more easily.*
- Stimulate you child's growing interests. Have a variety of reading materials available at home.*
- Be positive about education. Show how much you enjoy and value learning.*
- Help to organize a quiet study area at home for your child. It should have needed supplies easily accessible and be free from distractions.*
- Offer praise for your child's achievements and efforts. Praise helps to build self-esteem and encourages children to keep trying their best.*
- Discuss current events with your child to promote interest in learning about the world.*
- Be available when your child wants to talk about school or other issues. Then offer help and advice as needed.*
- Get involved in your child's school. Call or meet with your child's teachers, attend school events, and be prepared to intervene to assure that your child's classes provide opportunities for success.*

### **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**

Thank you for your continued support.

Jeffrey J. Alisauckas  
 Principal



Dear Parent/Guardian

On March 14, 15, 20, and 21, your child will be taking the Maryland State Assessment (MSA). Throughout this school year, your child has been working very hard to master the skills needed to be successful on these exams. We are asking that over the next month, you work with your child on the **“Concept of the Day”** on the calendar attached. At school, we will also have a “Concept of the Day” and your discussions with your child will make a direct link back to school.

During your daily conversations with your child weave the **“Concept of the Day”** into your discussions. This can take place in the car, at the dinner table, at a social event, or even watching the TV. Use the news, what happened in school, billboards on the road, the newspaper, or whatever to start these conversations.

**The key is to have your child defend his/her answer and tell you why they came up with that answer.**

**Also, it is very important to give your child descriptive, constructive feedback on their answer (ie. telling them why it is or isn't correct and how they can better answer the question next time if they were incorrect).**

As always, your support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions on what the concept is, or how you can work it into your daily conversations, please feel free to call the school.

Finally, I encourage you to visit the Maryland Department of Education website at the link below this paragraph to see the MSA Item of the Week.

***<http://www.mdk12.org/>***

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey J. Alisauckas  
Principal

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# February/March 2012



## MSA Concept Of The Day

Over the next month please work with your child on the Concept of the Day through discussions you have with them in the car, at the dinner table, at an event, or even watching TV.

Have your child defend their answer and tell you why they came up with that answer.

If you need help or ideas, please feel free to call us at School 410-386-4570

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19 Compare/ Contrast	20 Justification of Opinion/ Answer	21 Sequencing Events	22 Using Supporting Evidence In answer	23 Analyze, Summarize ideas in literary / informational text	24 Graphs Read/ Interpreting/ Best Represents Data	25 Sequencing Events
26 Analyze, Summarize ideas in literary / informational text	27 Compare/ Contrast	28 Justification of Opinion/ Answer	29 Sequencing Events	1 Making Inferences	2 Graphs Read/ Interpreting/ Best Represents Data	3 Compare/ Contrast
4 Justification of Opinion/ Answer	5 Using Supporting Evidence In answer	6 Analyze, Sum- marize ideas in literary / informational text	7 Compare/ Contrast	8 Justification of Opinion/ Answer	9 Sequencing Events	10 Making Inferences
11 Graphs Read/ Interpreting/ Best Represents Data	12 Analyze, Summarize ideas in literary / informational text	13 Using Supporting Evidence In answer	14 MSA READING	15 MSA READING	16 Graphs Read/ Interpreting/ Best Represents Data	17 Justification of Opinion/ Answer
18 Compare/ Contrast	19 Using Supporting Evidence In answer	20 MSA MATH	21 MSA MATH			

# Calendar

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
M's	Shiloh Masterminds 3:00—4:30 pm
6, 14, 22, 28,	MESA—3:30—5:30 pm
T's	Girls in Motion 3:15—4:30 pm
M & W's	Homework Club 3:30—4:30 pm
1	Report Cards sent home
2	Ski Club 3:30—10:00 pm
2	North Carroll High School transition meetings 5:30 & 6:45
3	All County Orchestra N. C. High School
1 - 3	Book Fair
8	Honor Roll Assemblies - Grade 7, 9:00—9:30, Grade 8, 9:45—10:15, Grade 6, 10:30—11:00
9	Ski Club 3:30—10:00 pm
9 or 13	Parent/Student/Advisory Scheduling Conferences Westminster High School 4:00 - 7:30 pm (8th graders only)
10	All County Band @ South Carroll High School
10	Valentine's Dance 7:00—9:00 pm
13	PTO Meeting
15	Multicultural Club/SHOUT
16 or 22	Parent/Student/Advisory Scheduling Conference North Carroll High School 4:00—7:30 pm (8th graders only)
20	Schools/Office Closed (President's Day)
21	Schools Closed For Students
1/30 - 2/3	Outdoor School 6th Grade - Team 1
2/6 - 2/10	Outdoor School 6th Grade - Team 1
<b>MARCH</b>	
M's	Shiloh Masterminds 3:00—4:30 pm
6, 12, 19, 20, 26, 27	MESA—3:30—5:30 pm
T's	Girls in Motion 3:15—4:30 pm
M & W's	Homework Club 3:30—4:30 pm
5	Spring Pictures
5	Interims Sent Home/Early Dismissal (2 HR. 45 Min.) Dismiss at 12:30 pm

## Calendar Continued

<b>MARCH</b>	
7	Multicultural/SHOUT Club
12	PTO Meeting 7:00 pm
14/15	MSA Reading: Testing
20/21	MSA Math: Testing
23	Talent Show 7:00—9:00 pm
26	Faculty v Student Basketball during PE/RA
26	Shiloh Hoops (Sixth Grade) 3:15—5:00 pm
27	Shiloh Hoops (Seventh Grade) 3:15—5:00 pm
28	Shiloh Hoops (Eighth Grade) 3:15—5:00 pm
29	Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00—7:30 pm
30	Eisteddfod Chorus 8:15—2:00 @ Westminster High
30	Last Day Before Spring Break
<b>April</b>	
2– 9	School Closed—Spring Break
10	School Closed for Students

## HOME ACCESS CENTER

Home Access Center is available for parents and legal guardians to login and view information pertaining to their students. Please follow these directions to login to your account:

1. Go to the Carroll County Public Schools website at [www.carrollk12.org](http://www.carrollk12.org)
2. Click on the 'Home Access Center' link. (bottom left corner)
3. A new page will open; click the 'Request Password' link.
4. Enter the email address you provided on your student's emergency card (it will be the email account where you received this AlertNow message). You will receive an email to that account with a link to a web page. If the email message does not appear within several minutes, check your junk mail folder and make sure it wasn't delivered there. It will come from [donotreply@carrollk12.org](mailto:donotreply@carrollk12.org).
5. Click the link from the email message and follow the instructions on-screen. You will be prompted to answer 3 questions about one of your students. Once you have answered the questions correctly, your password will appear on-screen. Click the link on that page to be taken to the Home Access Center login screen.

Login using your email address and the password that was displayed on-screen. After logging in, be sure to click 'Profile' in the top right-hand corner and identify a new password for your account.

Please make sure you review the User Manual located here: <https://mystudent.carrollk12.org/HomeAccess/HomeAccessFAQs.pdf>. It contains important information and FAQs regarding getting connected and navigating Home Access Center.

# Greetings from the Counseling Office!

Greetings from the School Counseling Department!

We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday! As the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is coming to an end, we have many exciting things going on here at Shiloh.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are currently in the process of selecting courses for high school and considering their post-secondary plans. To help facilitate this process, the counselors and administrators from both Westminster and North Carroll High Schools will be presenting on high school planning and course selections. Recently, Alert Now announcements were sent to parents regarding important dates for the high school transition process. They were as follows:

## Westminster High School

February 9<sup>th</sup> or February 13<sup>th</sup>: Parent/Student/Advisory Scheduling Conferences: 4:00 pm and 7:30 pm  
Westminster High School - phone number - 410-751-3630

## North Carroll High School

February 16<sup>th</sup> or February 22<sup>nd</sup> : Parent/Student/Advisory Scheduling Conferences: 4pm-7:30pm at NCHS.  
North Carroll High School - phone number 410-751-3450

# Testing



In the Classroom:

## MSA

### Testing Dates:

March 14 & 15	Reading MSA
March 20 & 21	Math MSA
April 18, 19 & 20	Science MSA
April 23	Algebra 1 HSA

\*Please assist us by having your child at school and on time for these testing dates. Thank you!!!!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. And, thank you parents for all of your support!

Good luck to the students for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters! Finish Strong!!!



## Parent Pick-Up Procedures

**We are asking for your help! For all early dismissal's, a note must be written by a parent/guardian and turned into the Counseling Center upon the student entering in the morning. When this procedure is followed a pass is given to the student for the time of dismissal. Their name is then added to our daily attendance bulletin so the entire staff is aware of all the early dismissals for the day. If this procedure is followed, there is no need to disrupt the classrooms.**

**Shiloh Middle School dismisses at 3:15. If you have forgotten to send a note in with your student, please call into the school office before 2:50. Calling after this time could result in the message not getting to your student in a timely manner.**

**Any help that you can provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated.**



## Friendly Reminder

For the safety of our children and to keep the flow of traffic moving, please do not park along the front curb when picking up your child from an after school activity. Please use the parking spaces provided or use the side parking lot. Thank you.

### Reminders from the nurse:

- 1) Please encourage your child to eat something for breakfast before coming to school.
- 2) Our health room does not supply cough drops. Students may carry non-medicated cough drops with a parent note.
- 3) If your child isn't feeling well, please check their temperature. If your child is seen in the health room with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, per CCPS policy, we will have to send them home. If they are sent home with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher they may not return to school until they are fever free (less than 100 degrees) for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
- 4) Remember that over the counter acetaminophen or ibuprofen can be given in our health room only when a parent has brought in the medication and signed the CCPS medication form. All other medications require parent and MD signature.
- 5) All medications must be in the original container. All prescriptions must have the pharmacy label with your child's name.
- 6) We are unable to administer expired medications. The expiration date on the prescription label must be current.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

# **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



**Visit our web page at**

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

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