

Gator Gazette



MT. HOREB SCHOOL

PTO NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

From the Principal, Mr. Cook...

Dear Mt. Horeb Community,

What does homework look and feel like in your household? Is it a smooth, well-established procedure that needs infrequent reminders? Is it a sticking point between kids and parents each and every night? Does your child engage naturally with the work assigned or does she/he struggle to find the motivation after a long day of learning and exerting energy?

The purpose of homework is to provide an opportunity to hone a skill previously learned in class, practice a process, experience responsibility, and to exercise organizational skills. Beyond that, homework could be a discussion at home. It could be an opportunity for you and your child to talk about what is being learned. Perhaps a conversation is sparked as a result.

I would imagine that homework in each household differs by the day and the time of year. Here are some thoughts about homework that may help you guide your child to success.

1) How long should homework take at each grade level?

Homework should be developmentally appropriate and should take **up to** ten minutes a night for each year a child is in school. Providing encouragement, support in locating an appropriate place to work, and minor explanations if something is not understood are great ways for parents to be involved in homework. It is important to communicate with the teacher if your child is demonstrating difficulty with a homework assignment.

2) How much should my child read at home every day?

In addition to their content area homework, children should read for a minimum of 20 – 30 minutes a day outside of school. Reluctant readers will resist doing this and it is important to establish and maintain this daily expectation. One suggestion is to link the amount of reading a student does to the amount of electronic screen time they are allowed at home.

This reading, coupled with the daily reading experiences completed at school, will ensure that your child is reading or being read to for at least an hour every day. This is an important benchmark for children as we know that students who reach this critical level of engaged reading time will generally fall within the 90 to 100 percentile nationally in terms of reading comprehension and fluency.

3) What if my child is an emergent reader who is not yet reading independently? Reading aloud to your child counts as reading time! For developing readers (and for older students as well), the read aloud experience provides an excellent model for reading, develops a child's sense of language and phrasing, and provides opportunities for a parent and child to spend quality time together.

4) What if my child forgets his/her homework?

If the teacher or Mr. Cook is not available to bring a student to the room, a child will not be able to retrieve assignments. Rooms are locked when teachers leave for the day and custodians have been instructed not to provide entry into classrooms. When a child forgets homework, sometimes the best consequence is to have the child write a note to the teacher stating that he/she forgot the assignment and having them do it the next day.

A Note from the School Nurse.....

Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

All children born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering Grade 6 are required to receive one booster dose of the Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine.

Please make arrangements with your physician to have these vaccines administered prior to the start of school in September. This is required by NJ State law and your child will be excluded from school in September without these vaccines. If your child has already received these vaccines, please send in the documentation from the MD ASAP.

Documentation signed by the physician stating the type of vaccine and the date of administration is required and should be forwarded to the School Nurse, so complete records can be forwarded to the Middle School prior to the start of school in September. Should your child not be able to receive these vaccines until the summer or after their 11th birthday, you are then required to provide the appropriate documentation to the Middle School nurse to prevent your child from potential exclusion from school.

Please call me with any questions or concerns.

Scoliosis Screenings for 5th graders will be conducted in March. This is a visual exam only to detect a lateral curvature of the spine. A parent letter will be going home with specific screening dates.

With upcoming spring sport season upon us, I wanted to share information on concussion education. The CDC has an excellent website on concussion with signs/symptoms to look for after a head injury, as well as when it is safe to resume sport activities. Go to www.cdc.gov/concussion to download your own copy of Know Your Concussion ABCs.

Doris Zanchelli RN, CSN

SPIRITWEAR

The Mt. Horeb PTO is excited to announce that Gator hats and blankets are now available to purchase.



Download our order form here: <https://secure.myfooddays.com/cache/ImageData.aspx?id=mm-5a5bf1a5881ac865df288c3e>

ICE CREAM DAY

The next ice cream days will be held on Friday, March 9th and March 23rd. The cost of ice cream is \$1.00. Snack cards may also be used to pay for ice cream. Snack cards can be purchased for \$5.00 on ice cream day from our volunteers. If paying by check, please make it payable to "Mt. Horeb PTO".

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Parents Night Out was a huge success and lots of fun! Thanks to everyone who came out! Brian and James, the acoustic duo from the band, The Hollow, received several requests for business cards.

Here is their website and youtube promo video. Enjoy!

www.thehollowband.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOvjM4At0uU>

2018-2019 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Chairs Needed for 2018-2019 School Year:

- School Kits (Starts now in preparation for 2018-2019 school year)
 - o Coordinate and submit the teachers' school supply lists to 1st Day School Supplies; teachers' final lists are submitted to the vendor in March.

- o Oversee distribution of ordering information for families (all purchases are made online by the parents)
- o Distribute school supply kits to the classrooms 1-2 days before school starts.

• **Book Fair (November)**

- o Work with Ms. Burkhardt to promote and organize
- o Set up and break down of book fair
- o Day of help checking out purchases, helping students find books, etc.

• **International Day**

- o International Day gives Mt. Horeb students the opportunity to take a world tour, visiting 8 - 10 countries over the course of a school day
- o The Chairs are responsible for assisting and managing the country heads and volunteers for the event, assist with the scheduling of the class visitations to the countries, plan any assemblies for the day, etc.

o **Spirit Wear**

- o Coordinates the purchase and sale of school spirit items (T-shirts, pants, and sweatshirts)

o **Staff Appreciation Week (2 chairs needed)**

- o Chairs are responsible for working with their committee to plan a week where we celebrate our teachers at MH

The chairs work with their committee to come up with a "theme" for the week, to plan breakfast or lunch throughout the week, and work on putting together baskets which are raffled off each day to our staff

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Read Across America Day on Friday, March 2nd
- The Science Fair will be held on Friday, March 16th.
- PTO General Meeting Thursday, March 22nd at 9:30am

Teacher Appreciation Week will be held the week of May 7th. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Stacy Sackett at delstay@aol.com.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS. WITHOUT YOU WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RUN THESE PROGRAMS WITH SUCH SUCCESS!

Superintendent's Corner

Although Punxsutawney Phil predicts that winter will hang around a little longer, preparations are underway for Summer Fun 2018. This year's five-week program will be held at Mt. Horeb School beginning on June 26, 2018.

Summer Fun is a unique program offering students the opportunity to attend enrichment courses. Unlike other summer camp experiences, certified teachers instruct students in Summer Fun in a variety of areas such as music, arts, literature, science, technology, and physical education.

Early-bird registration is available through May 4, 2018, along with several discount options and extended-, early-, and after-care services are available for families as well.

This fully customizable experience allows families to choose one to four courses per day for any number of weeks. More information and a link to the registration form can be found at <https://www.warrentboe.org/schools/summerfun/>.

I hope you'll consider Summer Fun for an enriching experience this year!

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

MARCH 2018	C A L E N D A R
2	NO PRESCHOOL CLASSES READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY
9	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY/ICE CREAM DAY
11	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS-SET CLOCKS FORWARD
15	GR. K—3 T2 MARKNG PERIOD ENDS
16	SCIENCE FAIR—6:00 –7:00 PM
20	COMBINED 4/5 CONCERT REHEARSAL 2:20 PM EVENING PERFORMANCE 7:00 PM
22	PTO GENERAL MEETING—9:30 AM
23	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY/ICE CREAM DAY
28	GR. K—3 T2 REPORT CARDS EMAILED COFFEE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT-BOARD OF ED. CONFERENCE ROOM 2:00—3:00 PM
3/30—4/8	SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED –SPRING RECESS