ST. JOHNS MIDDLE SCHOOL ST. JOHNS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SJMS School Newsletter September 2017

Principals' Message

Parents and guardians,

The kids are back! A school is just not a school without halls and classes full of kids, and we are so very excited about the start of this school year. The kids have done a fantastic job so far, and we are already very proud of them!

During these first twenty days of school, students develop behavioral and academic patterns that impact the rest of their school year and can set them up for success right through graduation. At SJMS, during the first 20 days, we monitor three important factors that predict student success (and risk): attendance, behaviors, and academics.

Attendance: We thank you, parents and guardians, for your support in setting the expectation that your child attends school every day. Of course, illness and appointments happen, but every day missed is instruction missed...learning opportunities missed.. Regretfully, though makeup work can address the points missed during an absence, we cannot recreate the group interactions and discussions that happened that day. So, attending every day possible is an important priority. (See Truancy policy in the ***Student/Parent Handbook***.)

Behaviors: Like attendance, when a student loses time in class due to office referrals or suspension, learning opportunities that cannot be recreated are lost. The most common referrals at the end of last year involved personal technology. Smart phones bring great resources and an amazing temptation that also steals instructional time through direct use and social complications.

Student know our expectations at SJMS, and most are doing a great job living within them. The first time students have phones out/on or are using phones in an inappropriate manner, the phone is confiscated for the day and returned to the student at the end of the day. On the second offense, you (parents and guardians) will need to pick it up from the school. On the third offense, the phone will no longer be welcome at school.

Your discussions of this expectation at home have really supported a strong, positive start to the year. Students and teachers have noticed high levels of attention and low levels of tech distractions in classes. We appreciate your help on this. Of course, at any point, if you need to get a message to your child, you can call the school and we will make sure that happens.

Academics: The start of the year can be deceiving for students and families because they are not many grades yet. The few entered in the gradebook carry a lot of weight and, for the most part, reflect *parts* of the learning process rather than assessment of mastery or new knowledge. Nonetheless, these grades matter. Setting up a time and place for homework every night is a great way to set your child up for success, and despite the story *some* students share at home, middle schoolers *do* have homework, ☺ including ongoing reading assignments and studying for upcoming assessments. Please check your child's student planner regularly. He/she should be writing in it daily. When it doubt, visit the ***SJMS Teacher Pages*** or ***Email*** your child's teacher to clarify expectations and upcoming assessments and projects. Looking forward to working together with you as a TEAM in support of your child again this year.

Yours in service,
Mrs. Adel DiOrio, Principal
Dr. Daniel Kemsley, Assistant Principal

First Day Fun

The first day of school was a huge success. Students saw old friends and met new ones, learned the ropes of being a middle schooler, attended assemblies, and kicked off 2017-2018 with a bang.

At SJMS, we provide students with a non-traditional first day of school for a lot of very good reasons. Just like with adults, first impressions are important. We care deeply about our students, well-rounded academic and personal growth, and the health of our school as a learning community. The first day at SJMS walked students through seven activity sessions planned by a team of SJMS teachers and staff to provide support in each of these areas. We TEACH the behaviors and academic habits that support student growth. We TEACH the elements of school culture that foster belonging and pride. We TEACH what we expect of students in various settings on campus. Most importantly, we TEACH students that we care about them, that we love our school home and our jobs, and that what each of us does here at SJMS matters!

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i'm lovin' it

Honor Card Committee Thanks Local Supporters

With the support of these local donors, the Honor Card students will be able to enjoy various rewards throughout the school year. The Honor Card Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations:

- **Avery Eye Care**
- **Dr. Christine Mason**
- **Dr. Robert W. Jansen**
- **Dr. James B. Schweigert**
- **McDonald's Restaurant**

How does a student earn an Honor Card? Students earn an Honor Card after each trimester in which they earn a qualifying grade point average or GPA of 3.50 or higher (just like Honor Roll) or improve their GPA by 0.5 points from the previous trimester AND earn NO suspensions.

Parents can make the Honor Card program successful. How can you help? (1) Donate your time by joining the Honor Card Committee. (2) Help collect donations, organize and run programs. (3) Donate prizes to hand out to Honor Card students. (4) Ask family/friends who are local business owners to donate.

How do you sign up? Contact Mrs. Michelle Wells, Honor Card Advisor, via e-mail wellsm@sjredwings.org, voicemail (989-227-4483.

Welcome New Student Teachers!

SJMS is excited to welcome four students teachers to Team SJMS. From left to right: Chris Kimball (with Wendy Smith), Joe Foster (with Jill Loznak), Laura Hundt (with Abby Brewer), and Vinny Costanzo (with Melissa Lonsberry). The SJMS community is glad you are here and looks forward to working with you!

3-D Design Welcomes Back Our "School of Fish"

Last school year's third trimester 3-D Design students (under the direction of art teacher Jared Fromson) returned to school this year to find their final projects "swimming" together in the shrubbery at St. Johns Middle School.

The levitating ceramic fish installation is meant to bring a smile and contribute to the school's positive culture, reinforcing the idea that at SJMS we are a TEAM where individuals contribute to the whole.

ST. JOHNS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Fall 2017 Fundraiser

Parents & students, we NEED your help! We about to begin our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year, which raises money for those "extras" that help provide an engaging, student-centered experience. Our goal is for each student to sell at least FIVE items.
THANK YOU for all you do to help make St. Johns Middle School GREAT!

IMPORTANT INFO

SALE STARTS: Mon, 9/18
SALE ENDS: Mon, 10/2

COLLECT NO MONEY:
Customers receive invoices by mail. Magazines & smartphone apps ship directly to customers.

COLLEGE TUITION REWARDS

STUDENTS CAN EARN UP TO $2500 PER YEAR IN COLLEGE TUITION REWARD (TR) CREDITS BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS FUNDRAISER!

Sell $100 = $1,000 TR Credits
Sell $250 = $2,500 TR Credits

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
tuitionrewards.com/gao

TAKE A PIC & SHARE

Hi, friends & family!
I'm selling magazines & other items to raise money for my school. My goal is to sell 5 items in 24 hours. Can I count on you for 1 or 2 items?

Please reply letting me know how you will help. I'll call you to take your order, or you can online at www.gaschoolstore.com & enter code: **2503357**

SHOP THE CATALOG ONLINE AT WWW.GASCHOOLSTORE.COM (SCHOOL CODE: 2503357)
ALL ONLINE SALES COUNT TOWARDS PRIZES!

Monday, 9/18 through Friday, 9/22	**COOP WEEK!** Win a COOP collectible for every TWO items sold! Turn in orders at the PRIZE PATROL in front lobby *before school* every day this week to earn COOP collectibles. Earn COOPs for every 2 online orders sold before Friday. Trade at lunch to collect them all! Your orders ALSO count toward end-of-sale prizes listed below.
Friday, 9/22	**REACHOUT BOOKLET CHALLENGE!** Return COMPLETED **"Reach Out" Booklet** with out-of-town addresses by Friday, 9/22, and win an Egg-Splat Ball. Your name will be entered in a drawing for CASH!
Monday, 9/25	**MONEY WHEEL DAY!** Turn in orders at the PRIZE PATROL (front lobby) *before school*, and earn one spin on the money wheel for every FIVE sales by today! We'll print online orders and include them with your paper totals.

EARN THESE GREAT END-OF-SALE PRIZES, TOO!

PRIZE CHART

***ALL Magazine sales count as double for prizes on the chart!**

Sell more...EARN MORE!
CHECK OUT THE GREAT PRIZES ON THE CHART!

PIZZA PARTY **LIMO** LUNCH

Sell 15 Items: Go on the Limo Ride!
Sell 20 Items: Bring-a-friend!

VIP FORD FIELD EXPERIENCE

Sell 25 **Items**: Earn two tickets to experience Michigan's professional football team like never before!

SJMS Magazine Fundraiser Kicks Off on September 18

Each year, we count on community support in so many ways. This fall, soon after the start of the school year, students will attend an assembly to kick off our annual magazine sale fundraiser, and we have a huge favor to ask of all of you:

MAKE THIS YEAR'S SALE OUR BEST YET!

We offer exciting experiences to our students here in St. Johns, and funding is always a real challenge...just like other schools across the state. YOU can make a difference by making a purchase and filling out postcard books. Each year, we also have families who donate directly to the school in lieu of fundraiser participation. The fundraiser has four elements:

- **ReachOut Books** - No selling, just addresses of out-of-town friends and family members on postcards.
- **Online Photo Memory Products** - Like Shutterfly or Snapfish, but this company raises money for our school. Share your creation on social media!
- **Magazines** - Your favorite print and digital subscriptions are all here.
- **Online Store** - 1,700 products including magazines at our online store.

AND, we've put the FUN back in FUNdraisers. Did you hear about last year's prizes for top sellers and participants? Prizes (See below for this year's awesome prize chart.), cash, ice cream, pizza, LIMO RIDES, and up to $2500 in TUITION REWARDS?!?!

Support our school, and have fun!

Lunch Forms from EVERY SJMS Family

We need your family to complete a lunch form...

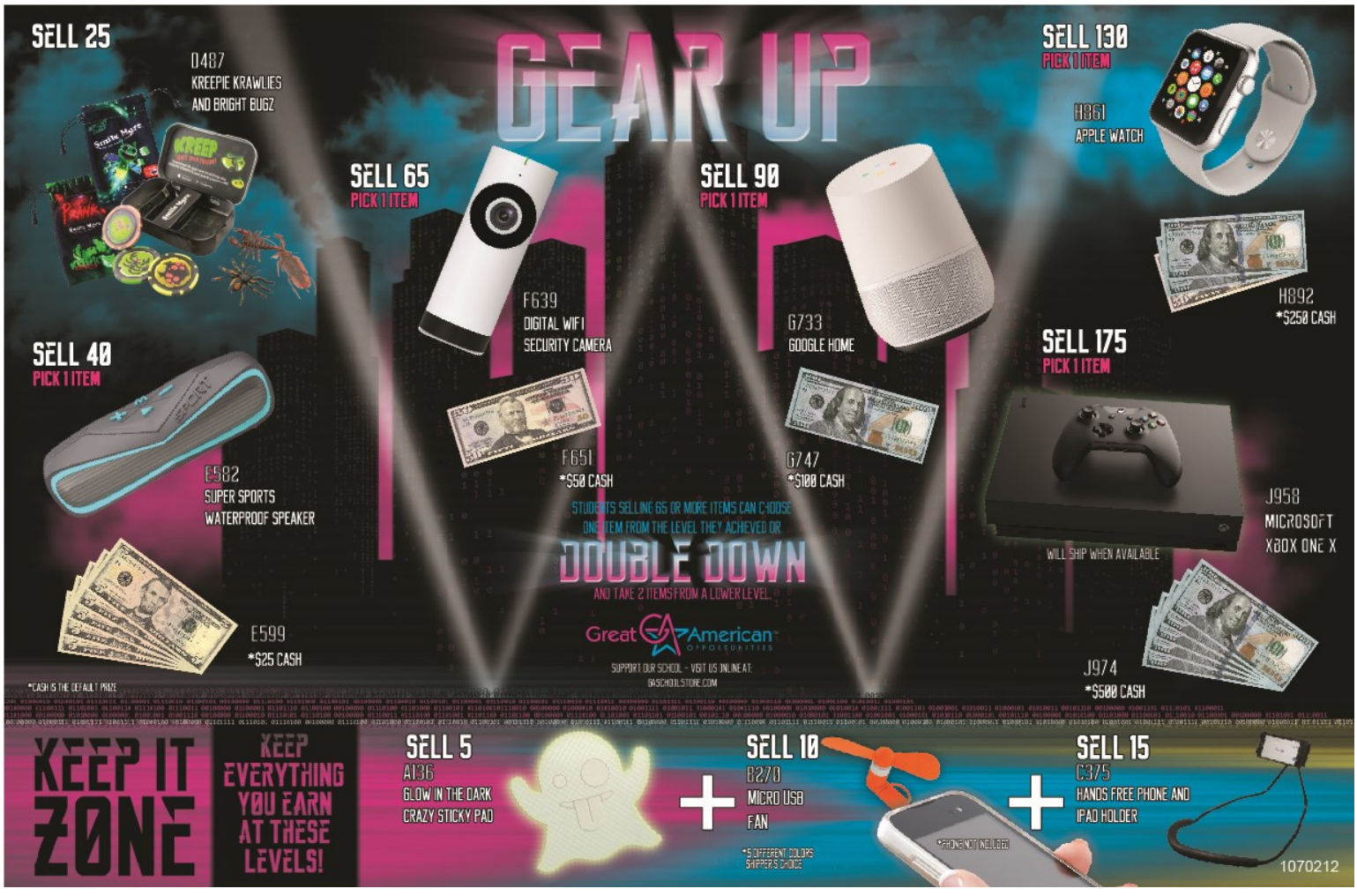
- ***Even if you are confident your child will never order a single student lunch.***
- ***Even if you are confident that your family would not qualify for free or reduced-rate lunch.***

Lunch forms are about a lot more than lunch. Your participation in completing the form puts our school in the very best position to receive the most funding and provide the most support to every SJPS student.

Great news, starting this school year, you can complete the form online via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Learn how ***HERE***. Don't have internet access? Or perhaps you feel more comfortable in a pencil-and-paper environment? We have you covered there as well. Paper forms will be available at Student Orientation, Parent Open House, and in the school office.

Rest assured that the information you submit on your form is confidential and will not be included on transcripts or report card. We protect this highly sensitive data securely. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

If you have any questions regarding the form or food service, contact Mrs. Rachelle Bendall at bendallr@sjredwings.org or 989-227-4138.



Personal Student Devices

Technology is a wonderful tool to access our district's curriculum. Teachers find creative ways to enhance education through use of devices such as smartphones & tablets.

Personal technology use is a privilege, not a right. Students are allowed to bring in devices to school, provided they adhere to the following guidelines:

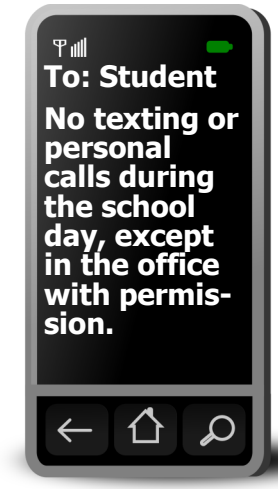
1. Devices must be clearly labeled with student's first & last name.
2. If the device has 3G or 4G capability, it must be disabled at school. Disabling the 3G and 4G options ensures that students will be visiting appropriate sites only while at school.
3. With permission, students may text or call parents from their personal devices in the office. ***Students are not to make other personal phone calls or send texts during class or passing***.
4. Assuming they earn the privilege at the start of the school year, student ***may*** be allowed to use their devices on the lunch hour to play games, read, or listen to music (excerpted from Student/Parent Handbook, p. 11).

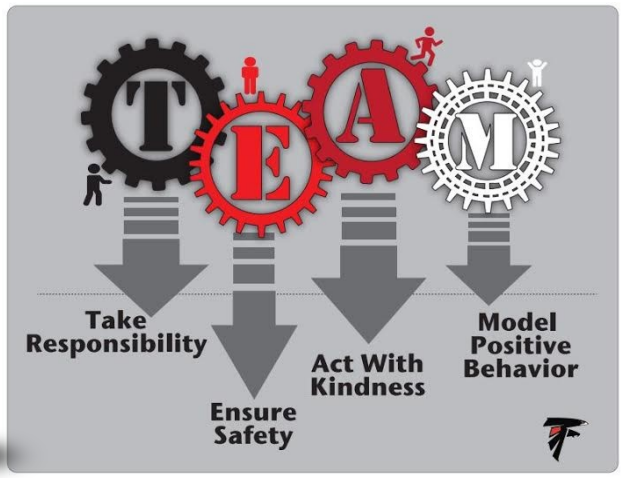
Parents, please help us help our kids safe and focused on the learning that needs to happen in the school setting. We are sure you see how much students use their phones at home and in social settings. The temptation to use (or misuse) technology is very strong. We count on your to communicate with your child and with us to ensure they understand the benefits, guidelines, risks, and consequences of using technology in the school setting.

Teachers set the parameters in the classroom for using phones. Our hallways area and always have been "red light" (no use) zones. Likewise, bathrooms and locker rooms are always "red light" zones for safety and privacy reasons. According to our Student/Parent Handbook, "When use of PEDs (personal electronic devices) is prohibited the devices must be powered completely off (not just placed in vibrate or silent mode) and kept out of reach" (p. 21).

- **Violations of this policy will result in confiscation of the cellular telephone or WCD (wireless communication device) and additional consequences may be assigned on the first offense.**
- **The second offense will result in progressive consequences and confiscation of the cell or WCD device that will be returned to parents.**
- **The student who possesses a cellular phone or WCD shall assume responsibility for its care. At no time shall the district be responsible for preventing theft, loss, or damage to cell phones or WCDs brought onto its property (p. 22).**

See the Student/Parent Handbook for the complete Code of Conduct. Especially, see the following sections and how they impact your child's use of technology at school: Student Telephone/Messages (p. 4), Student Devices from Home (p. 11), Behavior Matrix, Online (p. 14), and Wireless Communication Devices (p. 20).





*At St. Johns Middle School, our **PURPOSE** is to educate the whole student through building relationships, establishing high expectations, and providing innovative and engaging instruction to become independent, responsible, self-confident, contributing members of an ever-changing global society.*

Paperless Communication, Communication Tools, and Inclement Weather

At SJMS, we value school-home communication. However, we only print the August edition of the ***SJMS School Newsletter*** to limit our ecological footprint. For remaining months of the school year, we publish in device-friendly, full-color PDF format for those accessing on the go, and a black-and-white paper copy is available to any of our parents in the SJMS main office.

In addition to the monthly newsletter, we send messages via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, send updates via the auto-dialer, your email, and your text (according to your preferences in the Portal). We are available by mail, phone, email, and appointment.

And you can follow us on social media, as well:

- **Facebook** — **facebook.com/StJohnsMiddleSchool**
- **Athletics** — **www.facebook.com/SJMSAthletics**
- **Twitter** — **twitter.com/sjmsredwings**
- **Website** — **www.sjredwings.org/middleschool/**

In the event of school cancellation/delay due to inclement weather, utility failure, or other unforeseen circumstance, we also communicate via the media outlets listed at right:

Finally, we have a great feature on our webpage: ***www.sjredwings.org/middleschool*** At the top right of the navigation panel, click on "Announcements." You will find the daily announcement Google slideshow and the "SJMS News" RSS feed right below it.

Bookmark this page for timely updates and releases. Share it and post it on your social media for fellow parents. If you use an RSS reader, subscribe to the feed by clicking the RSS icon. In addition, all new content on this feed will also automatically be posted to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

We are happy to provide this communication system to our families.

Radio Stations
97.5 FM WJIM
1240 AM WJIM
99.1 FM WFMK
94.1 FM The Edge
106.1 FM Q106
94.9 FM WMMQ
99.7 FM WUGN
100 FM WITL
1010 AM WITL

Television Stations
Ch. 6 WLNS TV
Ch. 10 WILX TV
Ch. 47 WSYM TV
Ch. 53 WLAJ TV

SJMS Community Group

Greetings, parents and guardians,

Wow! Where has the summer gone? We hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy a little fun and sun. As we head into a new school year, the St. Johns Middle School Community Group (SJMSCG) would like to welcome our incoming sixth graders, St. Joseph and St. Peter students, and new families to our community.

For those new to our school or are not familiar, the purpose of SJMSCG is to bring together parents, guardians, teachers, staff, students, and community of SJMS for the benefit and gain of students enrolled in SJMS. We are looking for volunteers that would like to help us with activities and fundraisers throughout the year. We also have positions available for those interested in a leadership role. We believe many hands make light work, so any time donated to our Community Group is greatly appreciated. Our current Board Members are:

Jamie Hope, President

Nicole Gregory, Vice-President

Amy Riedel, Treasurer

Trisha Kloha, Secretary

We will had booths set up at Student Orientation (see below) for volunteers to sign up, and we will be announcing meetings throughout the year that SJMSCG members can attend. And, you can still find meeting and event notices in the newsletter and on our social media (***https://www.facebook.com/SJMSCG***) and website (***sjmscg.weebly.com***).

If you have any questions regarding these events, or would like to help us by becoming a member, please contact the SJMSCG at sjmscg@gmail.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at SJMS Community Group. We look forward to meeting you!

Jamie Hope

President, St. Johns Middle School Community Group

WE LOVE OUR SJMS PARENTS!

CHECK IT OUT!

Infinite Campus

If you do not already have access to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal or have forgotten your username or password, visit the Parent Portal login screen and submit the form to have information emailed to you.

Visit *www.sjredwings.org* and select the QUICKLINKS tab at the top right of the page, and select Parent Portal. If you experience difficulty with the form, send an email to *ICHelpDesk@sjredwings.org* and include (1) your name, (2) your child's name, (3) your child's grade, and (4) a detailed description of your difficulty.

We don't distribute outside flyers.

If your organization wants to provide students access to flyers, seek approval through the SJPS superintendent's office by emailing your flyer and organization info to ***thelenj@sjredwings.org***. Upon approval, we'll POST a link to your flyer on Community Connections on the SJPS website. Visit and browse approved flyers at *http://www.sjredwings.org/community-connections/*

Important Upcoming Dates

September

4—Labor Day (No school)

5—School begins. (7:50am-2:43pm)

7—Open House (6:00-7:30 pm) Parent arrival starts at 5:30.

11—Patriots Day (Moment of Silence @ 8:46)

11—SJ Invitation Cross Country Meet

11—Board of Ed. @ Wilson Ctr. (7 pm)

18—Constitution Day in Social Studies/History

18—Fundraiser Kickoff (See pp. 3-4.)

18—Cross Country @ DeWitt

18—Volleyball vs. DeWitt (7-Home, 8-Away)

19– Choir Parent Chicago Trip Mtg. (6:30 pm)

18—Math Lab starts (2:45-3:30, Mondays)

20—PM Extended Day starts (7:15-7:45 am, 2:45-3:30 pm Tu/Th weekly)

20—Builders Club Mtg. in Info Ctr. (7:10 am)

20—Volleyball vs. Portland (7-Home, 8-Away)

21—Orchestra Chicago Parent Mtg. (7:00 pm)

25—Volleyball vs. Ionia (7-Away, 8-Home)

25—Cross Country @ Ionia

25—Board of Ed. Mtg. @ Wilson Ctr.

27—Volleyball vs. Holt (7-Home, 8-Away)

October

2—National Custodian Appreciation Day

2—End of Fundraiser

2—Volleyball vs. Charlotte (7-Away, 8-Home)

2—Cross Country @ Haslett

4—Builders Club Mtg. @ Info Center (7:10 am)

4—Volleyball vs. Mason (7-Home, 8-Away)

5—World Teachers' Day

6-20—Orchestra Sub Fundraiser

9-13—SJMS Spirit Week (Details soon!)

9-13 Book Fair (Tentative)

9—Volleyball vs. Gd.Ledge (7-Away, 8-Home)

9—Cross Country @ Mason

9—Board of Ed. @ Wilson Ctr. (7 pm)

11—6th Grade Field Trip to AgroLiquid (tent.)

11—Volleyball vs. DeWitt (7-Away, 8-Home)

12—Picture Retake Day

13—Homecoming (6-9 pm)

16—Volleyball vs. Portland (7-Away, 8-Home)

17—Parent Teacher Conferences (5-8 pm)

18—Builders Club Mtg. @ Info Ctr (7:10 am)

18—Volleyball vs. Ionia (7-Home, 8-Away)

19—Parent Teacher Conferences (4-6 pm)

20—No School, Students and Staff

23—Board of Ed. @ Wilson Ctr. (7 pm)

24—MS/HS Choir Concert @ HS (7 pm)

26—MS Solo & Ensemble (3-10 pm)

27-28 Orchestra Sub Build @ HS

31—Halloween