November Newsletter

Bad Weather - School Closing

Whenever weather conditions are such that classes may not be held or buses might not run, students and parents should listen to the following media outlets: KOFO, 94.5 Country, KTKA-TV, KSNT, Fox 43 TV, and WIBW-TV. We will also use the Power Announcement system along with the school website and Channel 10 for cancellations. If school is called off for inclement weather, there will be no practice or activities that day or night, unless approved by the Superintendent. If school is not held on subsequent days (ex., Saturday), the administration shall decide whether or not to hold such activities or practices based on expected weather and road conditions at the time scheduled for the activity or practice. Your primary phone number will be called. If you have any additional phone numbers that you would like to be included in the calling system (ex. cell or work), please contact the office and notify them of your need.

ThrillShare

We have been utilizing our parent calling system, and it has proven to be a valuable communication tool. If you have not received these calls, I would encourage you to contact the middle school office to make sure that your phone numbers have been updated and are correct. You may include work numbers, home numbers, and/or cell numbers. The system will call one or all three numbers. It is up to you how many times you want the message or where you would like to receive the message. The system also allows for text messages if this is more convenient for you. This system will be used in case of school cancellation or early dismissal due to inclement weather and other school notifications.

Communication

Osage City Middle School is committed to ensuring open lines of communication between the school, students, parents, and community. On occasion, a parent may have a question, concern, complaint, suggestion, or request related to a school or classroom issue, decision, policy, or practice. Many questions are easily and completely answered by communicating directly with the teacher, coach, or sponsor in charge of the class or program. The most effective process of communication follows the proper chain of command when an issue needs to be brought to the school's attention. Without a clear communication process, a simple issue could become a major problem, often due to a lack of communication, knowledge, and/or information. Each situation should first be addressed at whatever level the initial issue took place, with questions moving on to the next level. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and we will do our best to answer them.

Student Led Parent Teacher Conferences

The middle school had a good turnout for conferences. Teachers and administration would like to thank all of the parents who took the time to attend your student's conference. Parent involvement is a major factor in determining a child's success in school, and the more parents that are involved, the better the chance for their child to succeed. These conferences shouldn't be just once a year; this communication should be constant and continuous throughout the school year. Please know that you can call and visit with a teacher during their planning period or make an appointment. All teachers also have an email address that you may use to contact them. Just go to www.usd420.org and click on MENU, then click on STAFF. Once you reach the STAFF page, you can then narrow your search by building and look for the teacher you would like to communicate with. Email may be the fastest and easiest way to take care of simple questions or concerns.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool is a database that will allow you to see your student's grades in real time. PowerSchool has made it easier and quicker to retrieve and report grades. All parents have the capability to access their student's grades online through the Internet. PowerSchool is not only a tool for students and parents, but it is also a tool for our teachers. Teachers may make notes if an assignment is late, missing, or if a student did not complete an assignment. They can also put in a description, comment, or other information about an assignment. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Girls and Boys Basketball

Basketball season is here. Games will be played in the following order. Both B-team games will be played in separate gyms beginning at 4:30 pm. A-Team girls will follow the B game in the primary gym starting at 5:45 pm, and the night will be finished up by the A-Team boys starting at 7:00 pm. If C-Team games are available, they will be played at the same time as the A games in a secondary gym. If C-teams can be played, the C-team boys will play during the A-team girls' game, and the C-team girls will play at the same time as the A-team boys' game in a secondary gym. Game times will be approximately 4:30, 5:45, and 7:00 pm. We will try to stick to this schedule as much as possible at Osage City. Games may start before these times when we are the visiting team. It is always a good idea to be a little early, but hopefully, this will give everyone a better idea of when they need to get to the game their student is playing in.

Dates to Remember at the Middle School

November 3	Winter Sports Pictures 1:45 pm
	Pep Rally 3:00 pm
	Basketball vs. Mission Valley 4:30 pm
November 4	Collaboration Day – School Dismissed at 12:30 pm
November 5	Basketball @ Chase County 4:30 pm
November 9	Basketball @ Wabaunsee 4:30 pm
November 11	Veterans Day
	Board of Education Meeting 6:30 pm
November 12	Basketball @ Lyndon 4:30 pm
November 16	Basketball @ West Franklin 4:30 pm
November 19	Basketball vs. Council Grove 4:30 pm
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
November 30	Basketball @ Cair Paravel 4:30 pm
December 2	Collaboration Day – School Dismissed at 12:30 pm
	6-12 Choir Concert 7:00 pm

A Note from the Middle School Principal

Student Absences: If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, we require that you excuse them within 24 hours, either by sending a note, email, or a telephone call.

Just a reminder that the main doors to the building will not open until 7:35 am. This is important to remember as the weather begins to get colder.

If you have any questions about any middle school issue, please feel free to email me at triemann@usd420.org or call me here at school at (785) 528-3175.

Mr. Riemann

COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

Welcome

It is the month of November! I am always available to visit with your child if there is ever a need. Please contact me by phone or email whenever there is a need. You can always find more resources for parents and students throughout the school year located on the counselor website:

https://sites.google.com/usd420.org/6th-8thcounselor/home

Second Step

Students are wrapping up their first unit in our Second Step curriculum, which is Mindsets and Goals. The next unit that we will be transitioning to is Recognizing Bullying and Harassment. Throughout this unit, students in the middle school will be learning how to recognize various types of harassment and understand how they are different from bullying, as well as learning how to stand up against bullying behavior.

Contact Info

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Monthly Tip

VALUE HARD WORK!

One of the most important traits you want your child to develop is a really good work ethic. We want our kids to learn to work hard, and that hard work pays off. When you pave the way for them, you are depriving them of very important social and emotional tools for life. Make them get a job. Encourage them to take care of other people and not just themselves. The most important key to success, by far, is not your GPA, or your SAT, or what school you go to—it's social and emotional intelligence.

So how do we do that? Well, we might need to learn some new responses. When we praise, we need to value our teenager's effort versus the outcome (the grade, the win, etc.). If your teenager gets an A, you can say, "Wow, you worked hard and the results show." If it's a poor job, you could, say "Wow that grade really seems to be upsetting you." Or, with empathy you say, "That really stinks. You tried hard and you didn't get what you wanted." If they didn't try hard, you can say, "What choices did you make? Did you try your best? To me, going out with your friends all day Saturday and Sunday doesn't look like you maximize your study time."