

SPARTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

MAY & JUNE 2010 ~ NEWS, EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Report Cards Will Be Mailed Home the week of June 14

SCHOOL WILL BEGIN ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

Dear Parents,

The end of the year is filled with many activities and events, inside and outside of school. Students are often drawn into the thoughts of these instead of their academics. We call it Spring Fever. I would ask that you maintain the homework structure and academic expectations during this time. We still cover many academic areas and could use your help to achieve success. We appreciate your teamwork. Please have a safe and enjoyable late spring and summer. Thank you for your continued support.

Best Wishes,
Joel Stoner

Know Someone Who is Looking for a New School District?

All 20 public school districts within Kent ISD participate in the county Schools of Choice program. This program allows people to send their children to school, outside of their resident district, without getting a superintendent's "release" or the receiving superintendent's "permission". The open enrollment for Schools of Choice closes at the end of the day on Friday, June 4. The only limit on movement between school districts is the space available in the desired district. Sparta has well over 200 students attending via the Schools of Choice program. Sparta has openings at every level, grades K-12. Once a student is enrolled through Schools of Choice, that student can remain in the district for his/her entire school career.

If you know of a family looking for a new school home for their child or one interested in learning about the programs and opportunities available here in Sparta, please encourage them to call any Sparta school building. *Application forms are available in every school.*

Pre-Packaged School Supplies

We are offering you the opportunity to buy your child's school supplies for next year's grade this spring. Order forms were sent home on April 23. The orders are due back on May 7. We used the grade level lists to create a bundle of the supplies at very competitive prices. Like everything else, especially gas prices, the price of school supplies will continue to rise. Take advantage of this opportunity to save your time, and gas, searching for and purchasing school supplies this summer. Buy them now and save!

Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony/Dance

Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony/Dance is **Tuesday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m.** The dance will begin immediately following the ceremony. The dance ends promptly at 10 p.m.

Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony/Dance Academic Expectations

Students who fail a class in the second or third trimester will not be eligible to participate in Eighth Grade Recognition. Please encourage your child to give his/her best effort and finish this year strongly. An appeals process for second trimester was mailed home to pertinent families.

May Meet in the Middle Meetings

The final Meet in the Middle meeting for the 2009-10 school year will be held on Friday, May 7 at 8:15 a.m. **The Monday, May 10 meeting has been cancelled.** We will hold our Meet in the Middle/PTC meeting on Monday, May 24 at 6:15 pm. We'd love to see you there!

Dress Code

This is a friendly reminder to review the building dress code with your child. The warmer months tend to lead to an increase in questionable clothing length or style. Common problems include short skirts or shorts, spaghetti strap tops, and inappropriate tank tops. Students who wear something that violates the dress code will be asked to change or cover their clothing. Additional violations will result in progressive discipline. We will contact families along the way.

April Students of the Month!

Each month teachers have the opportunity to recognize students for outstanding achievements. Each Student of the Month will receive a certificate and a coupon for a snack of their choice from the Spartan Cafe'. Parents will also receive a letter recognizing their child's achievements. Student of the Month names are posted in the cafeteria.

6th Grade: Carley Andrews, Jesse Berdan, Amber boyce, Kelly Ring, Tawnie Swanberg, Emily Tilli

7th Grade: Frankie Buchanan, Alexi Knight, Gabe Rowley, Brittney TerBeek

8th Grade: Isaac Anderson, K.C. Pope, Esmeralda Cruz, Kaylee Kuipers-Berry

Open House, Every Day!

Sparta Area Schools is eager to invite prospective new families to check us out. If you have friends, family or neighbors who have children who do not yet attend our schools, we ask you to help us. Please encourage them to stop in at any school building and find out who we are, what we offer and to take a tour. The best time to feel the Sparta culture is when school is still in session. So we welcome them to visit us this month!

8TH Grade - Class of 2014

Lunch Time: 12:30 p.m. - 1:05 pm
Planning Time: 1:22 p.m. to 2:50 pm

Spring is finally here! There are many exciting events planned for the end of the 8th grade year. They include the Michigan Adventure's trip on June 4 and the Recognition Night ceremony and dance on Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

Eighth Grade Social Studies classes are studying the 1800's. The Second Great Awakening and the Reformation Age contributed to beliefs that divided our country. Students are currently studying the Dividing Nation and the early stages of the Civil War. We will conclude our year with the Civil War and Reconstruction.

In math we will be wrapping up our work on volume and surface area of three-dimensional solids. Our next unit will be on quadratic functions. The concepts learned will help our 8th graders in high school algebra in the fall.

In language arts we finished writing our historical narratives. We are currently reading a historical fiction novel and working on vocabulary, comprehension skills, and writer's craft. We're also practicing grammar skills every week to prepare for English 9 next fall!!

7th Grade - Class of 2015

Lunch Time: 11:20-11:55 am
Planning Time: 11:55 -1:22 pm

Math - geometry similarity and data analysis

Science - finishing photosynthesis, advantages and disadvantages of sexual and asexual reproduction

Social Studies - finishing Africa, Europe and Russia, Monsoon Asia

Language Arts - Informational Text writing - Peters/Bradford, Biography/Autobiography, organizational webs, parts of speech - Higgins

7th Grade Girls Basketball

Both 7th grade girls' basketball teams went undefeated this season. Frankie Buchanan, Kelsey Cnossen, Brianna George, Danielle Hamell, Alyssa Hill, Erica Humphreys, Andrea Taylor and Daneigh Wilde made up the A team and went 12-0. Kristen Burley, Haley Harbin, Bethanie Harrington, Jessica Hoover, Megan McGuirl, Annie Radmacher, Shanna Rasch, Bailey Rinal, Chloe Teliczan and Brooklyn Ward compiled a record of 10-0 on the B team. Both teams represented Sparta Middle School very well on and off the court and should be very proud of their accomplishment.

6th Grade - Class of 2016

Lunch Time: 11:55-12:30 pm
Planning Time: 8:25-9:53 am

The 6th Grade Fiesta has been scheduled for May 13. Students will be learning about the Mexican culture by dancing, making authentic food and crafts, and learning a few words in Spanish.

Science: We will be finishing the school year with our Life Science unit, which is usually one of the favorites for the students. This is a very large unit, and we will cover as much as we can to help prepare the students for their future years in school. The key areas of this unit are: classification of living things as either a producer, consumer, or a decomposer; interaction of organisms; relationships of organisms; biotic and abiotic factors; and environmental impact of organisms. Fortunately, the students covered some of this material last year and we will focus on those areas that are the least familiar to them. It should be a fun unit and allow us some opportunities to get outside and observe our natural environments.

Math: May will find us continuing our work with algebra expressions and equations. As we wrap up that work, we work end the year with a short unit on probability. Remember that everything we are working on has a home in your child's math binder. Check it out!

Media Center News

The last day that students may check out library books is May 28, 2010. All library books are then due on June 2. The library will close for inventory on June 2. If your student has lost a book, we will be sending notices home with your student. The cost of the book is due by June 10, 2010. Checks may be written out to Sparta Middle School and turned in to the library. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Hahn or Mrs. Whalen. Thanks.

Health/Life Skills

6th Grade Health - We continue and finish exploring the body systems. Every Tuesday and Friday is spent in the gym for an exercise activity.

7th Grade Health - Remaining topics to cover are flexibility, muscular strength and endurance, and cardio exercise. Every Tuesday and Friday is spent in the gym for an exercise activity.

7th Grade Life Skills - The final food groups to study are fruits, dairy, and meat/bean. We will celebrate the end of the school year by cooking a food from the fats/sweets group.

8th Grade Health - Topics yet to finish are inhalants, prescription drugs, reproductive system, and a more detailed look at sexually transmitted infections.