

# *Eye of the* **HURRICANE**

TODAY'S LEARNERS • TOMORROW'S LEADERS

NOVEMBER 2017

ISSUE 4

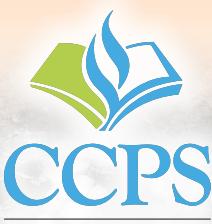
**MANATEE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Hurricanes,

We lost twelve days of learning due to Hurricane Irma in September. Many people ask me how does a B-rated school like Manatee Middle get back on track towards improving student achievement with a huge gap in learning. My answer is simple. I believe in our students, our families and our teachers. I know through this difficult weather-related interruption that the best will come out in everyone. I also know that we need your help.



I'm writing to you with a heightened sense of urgency now that your child's learning was interrupted due to the hurricane. It is important that we get your help in order to achieve our school goal this year! Our big goal is for every student to make learning gains this year in both math and language arts.

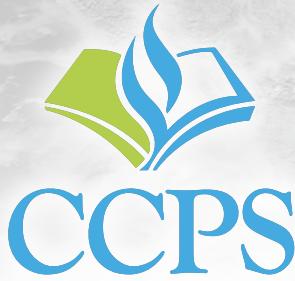
In order for every student at Manatee Middle to make learning gains in math and language arts this year, every child **MUST** attend school every day and be on-time. The MMS staff and teachers are working around the clock to ensure your child learns grade level material prior to sitting for state assessments. Being absent is really not an option. I encourage you to do your part to schedule appointments outside of school and to ensure your child is at school every day and all day long.

As we continue to recover from the devastation the hurricane left behind in our community, I would like to sincerely express the gratitude we continue to feel across our campus due to the outpouring of support from many local and out of state communities, churches, groups and organizations. On Thursday, October 5th we held our annual Curriculum Night. The night began with a home-style spaghetti dinner. Students received new uniforms, listened to the amazing tunes of our Hurricane Jazz Band and went on their way to the classrooms with a good meal and sense of pride for our school. This meal was made possible from the donations provided to our school for our families. It was a great day to be an MMS Hurricane!

*continued on page 2...*

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...Principal's Message continued

Please join me for another family-style dinner on Thursday, November 16th as we come together for our annual Hurricane Harvest and Turkey Dinner. Get ready for a delicious Thanksgiving turkey dinner and a fall festival right in the center of our courtyard. Bring the whole family!

As we say at Manatee Middle, never underestimate the power of a hurricane! With your help, our school will continue to help every child learn and grow. Don't forget to do your part! We are counting on your support! Please take a look at the upcoming events in each newsletter or follow us on Twitter @ROARMMS or Facebook @CCPSMMS to keep in the know about how you can be involved. We need you!

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Vickaryous

Principal

*From the Office of Curriculum & Instruction*

## **ESTABLISHING A SOLID HOME-STUDY ROUTINE WITH YOUR STUDENT**

Encouraging, supporting, and participating in this vital activity will improve your student's attitude and performance at school and support a work ethic that endures for a lifetime.

- SET A SCHEUDLE:** Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity. Seek your child's agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study (even reading!). Encourage this habit. In many ways, it's his/her job and should become routine. Your support and involvement in your student's home-study effort makes a huge difference in the high school experience.
- CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT:** Students can be easily distracted. Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration. Having a defined study area works with some students but not all. The most important requirements are time, focus, and your support. Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention.
- OBSERVE AND ENGAGE:** Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit. Now that the new school year has begun, commit three weeks to this routine with your student. Make it become a habit for both of you. Your daily assistance and attitude toward school have a huge impact on your child's success.

## **TESTING UPDATES**

District Pre-Tests were given in late August in many CTE, related arts, science and social studies classes. These tests did not count as a grade, but will be used to measure student growth throughout the school year in the designated course.

Quarter 1 Benchmark testing was delayed slightly due to Hurricane Irma, but did occur from October 17-26, 2017. Students in ELA, Math, Civics and Physical Science took a computer-based or paper-based test during the school day in their class. These tests account for 5% of the students first quarter grade and will be used to determine what information may need to be reviewed or retaught before the Quarter 2 Benchmark (Midterm) and state assessments.

A Quarter 2 Benchmark (Midterm) schedule will be posted on the school website before prior to the November break. **Midterms will be scheduled from December 11-21**, with specific class periods testing on specific days. **Parents, it is very important that students are in attendance on all of these days, in order to take their exams when scheduled.**



# From the Office of Attendance & Discipline

## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

An estimated 5 million to 7.5 million U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.

Research shows that missing 10 percent of school days, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.

- Chronic absence is a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their school performance.
- Good attendance is an important life skill.

Parents play a key role in school attendance. Let your student know it is the expectation. Establish home-study routines and sleep habits that make attendance a non-issue. Encourage participation in school clubs, organizations, and sports. Monitor his/her progress and talk about it. Students who are engaged at home and at school rarely miss a day.

At MMS, we monitor attendance closely, provide resources and interventions for students with excessive absences, and work to maximize instructional time every period of every day. Every student is vital to our school's success and is a valued member of our school community.



### NEWS FROM HURRICANE CENTRAL

Hurricane Central (Media Center) feels like Fall. We have decorations to help us understand how people with the four seasons must feel! We have been listening to Beethoven as we check out our books and doing research. But most of all, we really are enjoying Maker Space time. We come to Hurricane Central after we eat breakfast and lunch. It's a great time to check out books, catch up on school work, play games with friends, build, create, or take machines apart.

Some of us have already started helping Mrs. Poteet in Hurricane Central. This area is a great place for the students! So much learning is going on in Hurricane Central!

### COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The MMS guidance department is excited to kick off a new school year with our wonderful students and families. Student's with last name 'A-Li' will see Ms. Gentry and students with last name 'Lo-Z' will see Ms. Millien. As always our guidance secretary, Ms. Maggie Reyes, will be available for translation when needed. Please feel free to contact us via e-mail or phone 239-377-4416 with any questions or concerns.

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL
Kelly Gentry	Lead Counselor	GentrK@collierschools.com
Mercilia Millien	Counselor	MilliM@collierschools.com
Maggie Reyes	Secretary	ReyesMa@collierschools.com



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# Department News...

## SCIENCE

We have something to Tweet about in Science.

This has been an interesting year. With the starting and stopping of school for students, the Science Teachers at Manatee Middle have never stopped preparing. We are working to increase the level of rigor in our lessons and desire to grow every single student. The Science Teachers are trying to connect parents with the classroom by posting pictures and videos of the innovating lessons occurring with your student. We invite you to follow us so you can celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of your student.

Look us up and join the conversations occurring on Twitter.



## MATH

Now with the Quarter 1 Benchmark Assessment in the “rearview mirror”, now is the time that the Math Department at Manatee Middle School is taking steps to help our students even more in order for them to be even more successful. In the Intensive portions of the math classes, small group instruction is starting to commence. These break-out groups will include technology stations, math projects that allow students to show what they know in creative ways, and small group stations that allow students to work with different math manipulatives. One important station will be the teacher conducting small group instruction at a large whiteboard table. With small group instruction the student to teacher ratio is even smaller, and they are able to get more individualized instruction. Studies have shown that small group instruction boosts not only achievement but confidence as well, and with more confidence comes the more students will be successful in their math classes.

## LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts Department is ROARing through the curriculum. With fun and innovative lessons in the classroom students are feeling engaged and excited to get to their classrooms. Teachers are providing many different lessons that are helping students prepare for their Writing Tool and Quarter 1 Benchmark. Through programs such as Achieve, Commonlit, No Red Ink, and Reading Horizons; students have been getting individualized instruction while interacting with computer systems similar to enhance their knowledge. Its starting out to be a fantastic year.

## CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridge Department is off to an amazing start! We are thrilled that our program has grown from last year and that our new students are eager and engaged learners. The first few weeks in the ELA classes, students shared their summer reading projects and relied on their summer reading assignment to participate in Socratic Seminars.

The sixth grade Cambridge ELA classes used a sleuth activity to jump start the writing process. Using their detective skills, they identified evidence that helped them form conclusions regarding the testimony of the witness. They had a blast and the end result was their first mini-argumentative essay!

In seventh grade, ELA students started the year advocating for a cause they believe in. This semester long project has students working on various issues on a local and national level. As they actively research, they must report of their findings in accordance to their awareness component of the project. Come check the final products out at the end of the semester!

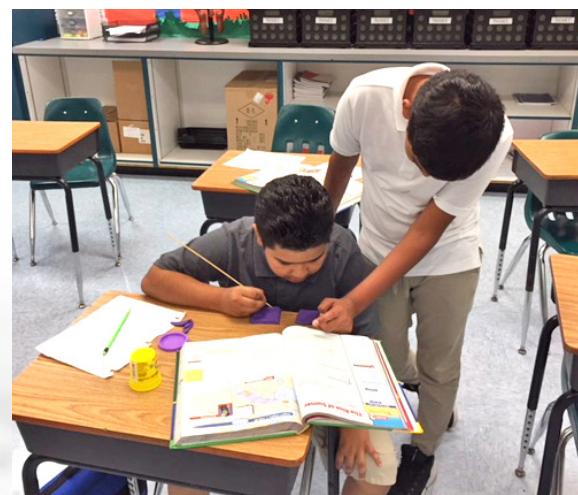
Eighth grade ELA is very unique! In addition to reading and writing, these Cambridge students are also taking a high school Global Perspectives class. To bridge both classes, the students have been assigned “iWonder” projects where they research and analyze a global problem of their choice. They will investigate possible solutions and present their findings.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

6th Grade is learning about the very first civilization, Mesopotamia. Students are taking a look at Mesopotamian daily life by examining their geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, and social structure. Students are analyzing their discoveries which include the wheel and the very first laws!

7th Graders in Civics are off to a great start. The students are rising to the challenges teachers setting in front of them, proving that they can learn at the highest levels. Students are working hard while utilizing our Civics interactive resources, including Preworks, and iCivics.

The American Revolution is in full force in the 8th Grade. Students have worked with partners to create Brochures for Colonies and will soon begin learning about the battles and Founding Fathers. Students will continue to use videos, readings and group activities to deepen their knowledge. At the end of the Quarter, we will finish with a highly engaging American Revolution Capture the Flag Game!



## ATHLETIC NEWS

The fall sports season has arrived! Cross Country and Volleyball are in full swing. Athletes are hard at work, practicing for the upcoming meets and games.

Week 1 was a very exciting week for Cross Country and Volleyball. We had great performances from both the boys and girls cross country teams running in the Marco Invitational. 8th Grader Johan Hernandez was the stand out performer running a time of 12:18 and placing 12th overall.

The girls volleyball team had an impressive win over Gulf Coast Charter MS. The team took a commanding lead in both of their two games, winning by a score of 25-12 in game 1 and 25-12 in game 2. It looks to be an exciting year for the Lady Hurricanes.

Upcoming meet and games to look forward to. The Cross Country team is heading to Pine Ridge MS on Saturday 10/14 to compete in the Pine Ridge Invitational. Also look out for the Manatee Invitational, which will be hosted here at MMS on Tuesday 10/17.

Both the girls and boys volleyball teams are going up against division rivals Marco Island Charter MS on Saturday. Girls game will start at 8am and the boys game will be at 9am. All games are being played at Golden Gate High School.



## IMPORTANT DATES

**AUGUST 16th** - Back to School

### NOVEMBER

**3rd** - Distribution of Report Cards  
**10th** - Hurricane Makeup Day (School in Session)

**22nd thru 24th** - Fall Break  
NO SCHOOL

### DECEMBER

**1st** - Interim Period Ends  
**8th** - Distribution of Interim Reports  
**20th-21st** - Early Dismissal Day  
**22nd -29th** - Winter Break  
NO SCHOOL

### JANUARY

**1st-3rd** - Winter Break  
NO SCHOOL  
**4th** - Students Return  
**15th** - End of Quarter 2  
**24th** - Distribution of Report Cards

### FEBRUARY

**14th** - Early Dismissal Day  
**16th** - Interim Period Ends  
**23rd** - Distribution of Interim Reports/Early Dismissal

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Session Three **January 8 – February 3**

Session Four **February 26 – March 24**

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## HURRICANE PARENT CENTRAL

Learn what is happening at MMS by following us on social media for the latest updates. We will be sharing information on a regular basis through both Facebook and Twitter. Facebook will be used to share a weekly message for parents while our Twitter account is used to share up to the minute news on our school and students. All you need to do is simply follow or like us on the following:



**Facebook: @CCPSMMS**



**Twitter: @ROARMMS**

Go the CCPS Parent Portal ([portal.collierschools.com](http://portal.collierschools.com)) and update your contact information and communication preferences. Opt in for non-emergency text messages today!

## GET INVOLVED!

Our parent involvement assistant, Mrs. Cindy Canada is always looking for more families to join our PTO or volunteer! PTO meetings are held the same day as SAC meetings at 5:30 PM in the Media Center. The members of our PTO are involved in organizing some major MMS events, such as, our annual Walk-A-Thon and Turkey Dinner for our Hurricane Harvest! Contact Mrs. Canada via e-mail or phone for more information on how to get involved!

**E-Mail: [CanadaC1@collierschools.com](mailto:CanadaC1@collierschools.com) • Phone: 239-377-4473**

## EARLY RELEASE DAYS

The School District of Collier County's 2017-18 school calendar is now available online, and in checking it out, you will notice that it contains seven early release days.

The scheduled early release days at 12:50 PM for middle school for the 2017-18 school year are:

To view the entire 2017-2018 school calendar, go to the home page of the district web site ([www.collierschools.com](http://www.collierschools.com)).

December 20	December 21	February 14	May 25	May 30	May 31
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