

More Snapshots of Summer...



Guided Reading Libraries

This summer, the Guided Reading Libraries at the elementary schools were completed. Leslie Rowe will provide a list of books available in our Guided Reading Libraries and how to do an interschool loan during our PD day on November 7th.

The libraries have grown to the point where we are pricing additional bookshelves. As of July, 649 titles were available at West, 851 at North, and 1100 at East. More than 90 titles have been catalogued since July, and we are waiting on leveling information on another 193 titles.

OGT Multimedia Updates

The OGT *Web site for Students* and the OGT *Tools for Teachers* were updated July 3. The OGT *Web Site for Students* is available online through the ODE website at http://www.ede.state.oh.us/proficiency/ogt/OGT_Website_For_Students.asp. Released Ohio Graduation Tests in all five subjects were posted July 3, 2006 on the ODE website at http://www.ede.state.oh.us/proficiency/released_tests.asp.

New Elementary Committees Being Formed

We have two new committees at the elementary level—**Grade Book Committee** and **Social Studies Textbook Adoption K – 6**. I would like to have two teachers from each grade level represented on the committee. I also want all buildings represented, too. Please contact Dr. Pugh at 926-3737 or cpugh@midviewk12.org if you wish to be on either committee. The first committee meetings will be scheduled in November.

New Teacher Orientation

As a special addition to this year's NTO program, Midview's new teaching staff was taken on a guided tour of the Midview Local School District—all 64 square miles of it. The purpose of the tour was to help our new staff members understand the diversity of our student make-up, and the varying backgrounds which may influence their behaviors, attitudes, and support in and out of the classroom. Thank you to Sue Anielski and her staff for preparing this educational tour, and to Bob Maxwell for sharing his knowledge and true blue Middie spirit as he helped to guide the tour. In addition to Midview's new staff, tour participants included Dr. Cathy Pugh, Director of Curriculum, and Howard Dulmage, Superintendent. It was a unique bonding experience for all participants, and a wonderful opportunity for such a rare and intimate view of Midview.



Preparing for the 2006-2007 School Year

It was still several weeks before school was to begin, and our hallways and classrooms were already bustling with activity—there were even U-Hauls parked at the back of the buildings getting ready to unload! And who should be so eager to get back into our buildings? Midview teachers. Midview support staff. And yes, plenty of Midview students. That's Middie Pride. And believe us, such commitment does not go unnoticed. Not only by Midview administration and the many community members who drive by our schools every day, but by our students who enter these buildings on the first day of school and see quite clearly—it's time to get down to business. It's time to learn, because all of us are expecting more, achieving more at Midview.

MIDVIEW LOCAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- When parents actively involve themselves in their children's academic learning, student achievement is enhanced.
- Two new elementary level committees now being formed.
- Questions stimulate students to think critically so that they arrive at a hypothesis or conclusion.

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Curriculum Update

This publication is brought to you by Dr. Cathy Pugh, Director of Curriculum

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Midview is On the Move!

100%. 100%. 100%. At central office we applaud the hard work of teachers and building principals that earned us an EFFECTIVE rating this year. Now that the celebrating is over, the bar has been raised, and the challenge is on. New books, new technology, and professional development days are not enough. Everyone has to step up to the plate and make things

happen at the classroom level. Read through our first edition of the *Curriculum Update*. Much is happening in our district. When, as a district, we focus on something, we make progress. **Success in education hinges on what happens at the classroom level.**

Snapshots of Summer



Writers Workshop for K – 6 Teachers

On August 9th and 10th elementary teachers had the opportunity to attend the Writers Workshop in-service, the third component of our Balanced Literacy initiative. The authors of *Writing Workshop* draw an analogy comparing writing to playing soccer. During practice the athlete can trap the ball and kick a goal, but can the same be done during a game? We cannot teach writing skills in isolation. Teachers "watch to see what skills kids put to use in their drafts...students' writing—their strengths and shortcomings—determines what skills you will teach and when you will teach them (Fletcher & Portalupi, 2001, p. 90).

Entry-Year Teacher Program

On August 18th, Midview's entry-year teachers met with the EYT program directors to become familiar with our district and learn about expectations for their first year. This excellent program, which included meeting and becoming connected with their mentors for the year, is a wonderful way to teach our newest additions to "The Middie Way" and provide the needed support for excellence in the classroom. There were 13 teachers new to the district this year.



First In-Service of 2006-2007

Now that the year is in full swing, it's hard to remember that first in-service of the year, isn't it? For us at central office, it's one of the days we look forward to most—when all our staff come back, rested and geared up for another successful year. And we know, the minute we see Midview's staff enjoying those first few moments together, catching up and rekindling friendships—the students aren't far behind. **More "Snapshots" on Page 4.**



eSIS Parent Assistant Module

It has been said that “parents are their children’s first teachers,” and educational research indicates that when parents actively involve themselves in their children’s academic learning, student achievement is enhanced (NASA Connect website). Information is power. We are always complaining that we are not communicating enough. It is the same with parents. In conferences, parents say “I didn’t know they had homework.” More than 81 teachers use schoolnotes.com to let parents know what homework their child has been assigned, what day there is a test and when a project is due. In some cases,



Several staff members took time over the summer to learn about the new eSIS Parent Assist Module, and then provided training on August 28th.

teachers cut and paste worksheets, project instructions, rubrics, and field trip permission forms so parents have access to even more information. If it is at schoolnotes, teachers do not need to hunt for copies. Students can printout a new copy at home or at the public library. "It has increased parental involvement, and I think teachers would say that if there's one thing that could turn around public education, it's . . . parental involvement" (Blake, 2003, quoted in the *Washington Post*).

Midview is going to keep parents informed about homework, project, quiz, and test grades on a more consistent basis by using the eSIS Parent Assistant Module. This does mean that teachers will need to keep records more current. However, in the long run, it will save on the end-of-the-grading-period rush to ready report card grades. Parents cannot say, “I didn’t know my child was not doing his/her homework.” Poor test scores will tell parents that their child is not preparing for tests or that parents need to help their child study. More information takes away the “I didn’t know” excuses. Parents will have access to the information. A parent will know if their child is struggling or skipping assignments. We will need to let parents know that this access is a tool. How parents use the information will make all the difference. Midview teachers who have online access to their own children’s grades find it very helpful.

Ohio Statewide Assessments

OGT Test Administration 2006 – 2007

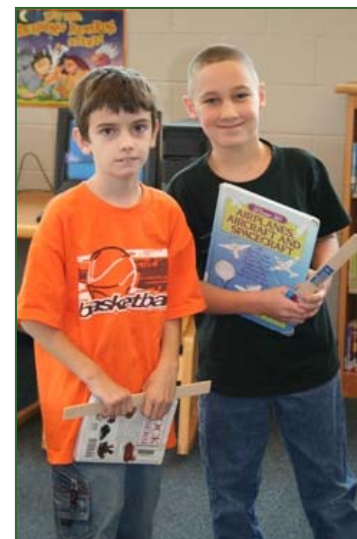
	Who	Administration	Results
Spring	Grades 10 – 12	March 12 – 25, 2007	May 24, 2007
Summer	Grades 10 – 12	July 9 – 30, 2007	September 28, 2007

Achievement Tests—Grades 3 – 8 Test Dates: April 30 – May 4, 2007 (Make-Up Dates: May 7 – 11, 2007; Results :mid-June)

Grade Level	Reading	Mathematics	Writing	Science	Social Studies
Grade 3	X	X			
Grade 4	X	X	X		
Grade 5	X	X		X	X
Grade 6	X	X			
Grade 7	X	X	X		
Grade 8	X	X		X	X

Grade Level	Diagnostic Tests
Kindergarten	Readiness Assessment
Grade 1	Reading, writing, and math
Grade 2	Reading, writing, and math
Grade 3	Writing

We're Booking It



This school year we have new science books K – 12 and math books 7 – 12. I want to thank teachers for their patience. It has been a long time since so many books have been ordered. Some items are still on back order and e-mails are flying around the district to keep everyone informed. And now we are on the trail of new social studies books. So let's talk books.

Teachers can no longer start on Chapter One in September and finish in June on Chapter 27. Instruction begins with looking at the Academic Content Standards. These standards provide a list of essential expectations for students. First we have to understand the standards. For example, Grade Six social studies indicators focus on *Regions and People of the World*. The concentration is **geographic** rather than historic. In sixth grade students are learning about the physical features of the earth and the geographic impact on culture and economics. Seventh grade social studies indicators cover World Studies from 1000 B.C to 1750. Students now learn that each **historic** event is shaped by its geographic setting, culture of the people, economic conditions, governmental decisions and citizen actions. If the book at hand does not cover the content as dictated by the standards, then the teacher must search for other resources. No one textbook is going to do it all. We have to be innovative around the standards.

If teachers look closely at the standards, each grade level is a stepping stone and allows teachers to ask good questions that require students to reason and explore beyond the textbook. Questions stimulate students to think critically so that they arrive at a hypothesis or conclusion.

If the textbook is the dominant resource in your classroom, what happens if students do not know how to identify important information or events? “Content literacy recognizes that reading is not simply a technical skill; students who are able to decode are not necessarily able to make inferences and arrive at common understandings of content (Myers and Savage, 2005, p. 18). Content teachers also need to incorporate “before, during and after reading” strategies to plan for and monitor comprehension. Basic objectives you can apply in your classroom:

- * Identify main idea
- * Distinguish Fact from Non-Fact
- * Identify supporting details in a passage
- * Determine cause and effect relationships
- * Make observations and analyze issues within a passage
- * Locate specific information in a passage
- * Use graphic sources to help interpret reading
- * Summarize a passage
- * Sequence events
- * Determine the meaning of words
- * Compare/contrast ideas
- * Make generalizations and draw conclusions from a passage
- * Identify purpose of text.

Two good resources are Literacy Matters at <http://www.literacymatters.org/content/readandwrite/textbook.htm> and Education Place at <http://www.eduplace.com/main.html>. Click on Textbook Support for Educators.

Next Professional Development Day—November 7th

Our next PD Day is November 7th. At the end of the year, we must submit a report to validate that the three waiver days were used in productive ways to improve student performance. At our September 18th Professional Development Day we offered 34 sessions. After looking over the evaluations, contacting teachers in the specials departments, and working with principals, at this time we have 26 sessions planned for teachers. I am waiting to hear from presenters to finalize offerings on this day. In addition, sessions are being planned for monitors, paraprofessionals, cafeteria staff, maintenance personnel and bus drivers. The November 7th schedule begins with the entire district meeting at the high school. Then teachers will select three breakout sessions to attend.

7:30 – 8:00	Continental Breakfast	High School APR
8:00 – 8:10	Introduction and Welcome	Howard Dulmage, Superintendent, in the High School gymnasium
8:10 – 9:10	Child Abuse Update	Ken Myers, from the law firm of McCray, Muzzilla, Smith & Meyers
9:25 – 10:50	Session 1	
11:00 – 12:25	Session 2	
12:25 – 1:25	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:00	Session 3	

As professionals, it is important to update our skills and collaborate with colleagues to improve our practice.