

Principal, Mr. Barnhart



MODOC JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Modoc Middle School

If we were to take a moment to look around our feet and notice the rocks and stones that appear there, we would agree that those rocks and stones currently look different than they have in the past. We would probably further agree that in the distant future, those rocks will look different than they do today. Water, wind, and other forces push rocks against each other repeatedly so that over time, a stone continually changes in appearance. My theme for this year at MMS is "Polish the Stone." I apply the same principle that causes stones to change over time to the interactions of students, staff, parents, and community members. Daily, we impact those around us in ways that can have profound positive or negative consequences. At the opening-day assembly, I reminded students to treat

each other well and to make a difference if they see students being mistreated. I want students to realize the immense power they have to make a positive difference in the lives of others, just by treating them well. I have encouraged staff members to recognize those moments where students and other staff members are positively affecting the lives of others. The purpose of this article is to communicate the year's theme to parents, and also to remind parents about the crucial role that you play in the lives of your children and other members of the school community. Children often overlook opportunities to thank parents for the daily positive influences that parents exert on their lives. I would like to thank you personally for the positive difference you make in your child's life and to encourage you in

your efforts, even though the thanks may be few and far between. Talk with your children about the interactions they are having at school, and coach them on how to continue to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Students go home each day feeling good about themselves or feeling badly, often because of how they were treated by others. Let's work together to encourage our children to choose to make a positive impact each day in the lives of those around them. Our children are going to grow and change as the years pass, and the interactions they will have this school year can have a very positive impact as we continue the journey together.

MMS Calendar

This year we have had the opportunity to post our site calendar online. If you would like to view it please go to <http://Google.com>, click on the **more** tab and then on the **calendar** tab. Be sure to click on MMS tab to view events at MMS.



News from Mrs. Montague

6th grade ELA

We have been learning about the story elements of setting and plot. Students have taken their entry level assessments so we have a baseline for measuring our progress this year. We will begin writing using the six traits soon. Most assignments are done in class, but in case your student misses a day, they have their book they can take home to use.

6th grade Social Studies

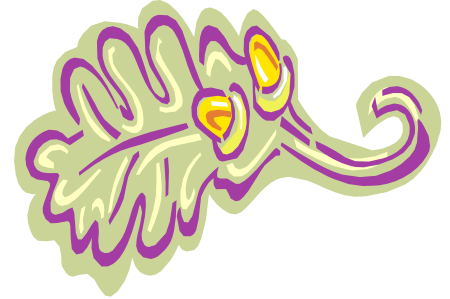
We are learning about the scientists that study the earth and the people

on it. What tools they have to use and how they make sense of the clues that are left behind. Hunter / gatherers are going to be studied in Chapter 2.

ELA SS

I have had parents ask me why there are two classes of ELA. The state has required us to double our time in Math and ELA. So the Reading class was changed to ELA Study Skills. We are learning study skills to make us better readers, like predicting, inferring, questioning, clarifying, visualizing, and evaluating. We will be doing a lot of non-

fiction reading along with the AR books. Please don't hesitate to ask questions, that's how we all learn.



Math news from Mr. Weber

Welcome to mathematics! I'm excited about the opportunity to get to know you, and I'm looking forward to a productive school year.

I teach three courses: Pre-Algebra, Algebra Readiness, and Algebra I. Pre-Algebra is a traditional seventh grade course. Algebra Readiness is designed for eighth grade students who are not quite ready for Algebra I. Algebra I is a traditional eighth grade course.

I am very excited to be teaching all courses with Prentice Hall textbooks. I urge students to get help online at phschool.com. Several students that I tutor have found the website to be very helpful. Each lesson has online tutorials and quiz-

zes that benefit the student. I will incorporate phschool.com into my daily lessons so that the students are comfortable with the technology. The students have the login codes written on the inside cover of their workbooks.

Students are asked to bring the following supplies to class every day: regular pencils, colored pencils, lined paper, MMS planner, and textbook.

Students will be required to keep track of their progress via personal student records. Parents and/or guardians may monitor student progress on the Aeries website, abi.modoc.k12.ca.us. Students may make up work. I do not offer

extra credit.

I run a study hall in my classroom from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Students are welcome to drop in for help.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to schedule a conference, you can contact me at 233-7201 ext. 319. I frequently check my email:

kweber@modoc.k12.ca.us.

Once again, welcome to seventh and eighth grade mathematics. Let's work together to make this the best year ever!

News from Hughes

Digital Citizenship is the idea of how we spend our time online, interacting with other and the path we leave behind. Students are spending our first quarter with the focus on learning how to conduct ourselves in the digital world; internet, email, social networking, blogs, chat rooms etc. and how they affect the rest of our lives with the choices we make. "Stop. Think. Click." is a motto that we will be using to remember this idea. We

are using curriculum from commonsense.org which is also a wonderful resource to parents about helping your students make smart decisions about media. There are TV, movie and music reviews for all the latest ones hitting the media which can provide some insight to what your children are really viewing and hearing. It is a free resource and can be found at www.common sense.org. Throughout the first quarter we will be using

the topic of digital citizenship to also address internet safety, email etiquette and cyber bullying. In addition to digital literacy, we will also be focusing on reading literacy with our AR program and tabbing. Our students will be using their AR library books to focus on elements of plot and literary devices authors use.

PE news from Coach Christie

We have 33 students signed up for the 10,000 push-up club. There are 3 levels of which the students receive a reward. 1,000 push-ups earns a Gatorade, 5,000 earns a mini pizza and at 10,000 push-ups the student earns a large pizza.

To date 10 students, Sean Anderson, Tristian Osborne, Paden

Smith, Alex Valencia, Isaac Newport, Timmy Reed Anthony James, Jordon Wade and team Dawn Waterman and Crystal Commacho have all each earned a Gatorade.

I would also like to welcome all the new students to Modoc Middle School.

7th & 8th grade Science with Mrs. Gardner

In 7th grade science, students are learning about the 12 body systems found in multi-cellular organisms, such as the nervous system, digestive system, cardiovascular system and so on. In 8th grade science, we are studying the Solar System and different parts of the universe.

Each Friday, all students take a vocabulary quiz on the terms that relate to the standard that they

are learning. I am so proud of the kids this year as the 7th graders have scored an average of 99.4% on the two quizzes, while the 8th graders have scored 98.8%. This is going to be a fun year teaching these two groups!

Please visit my website: <http://ranchwifegardner.googlepages.com/> to obtain copies of assignments and notes,

and to see class progress on vocab quizzes and benchmarks. Also, don't forget to visit MMS's website [http://www.modoc.k12.ca.us/Schools/modoc middle school/](http://www.modoc.k12.ca.us/Schools/modoc%20middle%20school/) to obtain information on weekly assignments for most classes at MMS.

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Art!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer! We started off by creating an artwork to represent our summer vacation then doing a show and tell as a class. We did an activity to demonstrate that there are multiple solutions to a single problem. Have your student read the instructions to you family and have each person do their own drawing without looking at the others. Compare your drawings when done; each one should be completely different! All you need is a pencil or crayons and a piece of paper!

Directions:

- Draw 4 straight lines from one edge of your paper to the other
- Draw 2 more straight lines from one edge of your paper to the other only this time, make the lines cross over the lines you have already drawn.
- Draw 5 circles, any size, anywhere on your paper
- Fill in three of the five circles
- Draw 2 curved lines beginning at the edge of the paper and ending up somewhere in the middle of the paper.

- Make 2 of your existing lines BOLD
- Put stripes in 1 of the sections
- Fill in 4 of the sections however you would like

Even though the drawings were not the same, they were all correct solutions to the problem which is one of the many great things about art!

We are currently learning about the Elements of Art which are the components used to create a work of art. So far we have done activities to learn about line, organic & geometric shapes, and positive & negative shapes.

Want to get rid of stuff you no longer need? Here is a list of things you may have around the house that you no longer need which could be used in the art room:

- School appropriate magazines or books
- Old calendars
- Yarn
- Buttons
- Clean plastic containers
- Fabric

- Items for still-life drawing (vases, hats, fake flowers, driftwood, jars...anything that the student can draw!)
- Any craft or art supplies that you no longer need or want!

Items for donation may be sent to the school with your child or dropped off at the office.

Music Notes from Mrs. Siegel



The Purple and White band has gotten off to a great start to the school year! Students are working on several different types of music and are doing a great job. Parents are reminded that all band supplies are available for purchase from Crossroads Guitar, Alturas.

Students interested in trying out for the Jr. High Honor Band to be held

in January 2012 at CSU, Chico have received their music and should be practicing every day. There will be more information soon.



MMS Sports Schedule

MMS Sports Schedule

MMS Sports are well underway, we have had our first Cross Country Meet, our first Flag Football competition and our first Volleyball match.

Cross Country

September 15—Mt. Shasta
September 27—Henley
October 7—Tri County

Flag Football

September 17—Modoc
September 24—Burney
October 1—Big Valley
October 8—Fall River

Volleyball

September 17—Surprise Valley
September 24—Burney
October 1—Big Valley
October 8—Fall River

Girls Basketball

October 22—Burney
October 29—Fall River
November 5—Big Valley
November 11 & 12—Modoc
November 19—Surprise Valley

Boys Basketball

January 21—Surprise Valley
January 28—Big Valley
February 4—Burney
February 11—Fall River
February 17 & 18—Modoc

News from Mrs. Gouveia

7th grade Social Studies: We are working our way through the Roman Empire and the Islamic Civilization. The first benchmark test will be on October 7 covering Ch. 1-4. Students need to read an AR book involving ancient history and a test needs to be taken and passed before the end of each quarter. First quarter deadline is October 28. This will count for points in their reading class as well as

an assignment for me. Books are available both in my room and the school's library.

8th grade Social Studies: We are getting ready for the Constitution test to be given on October 7 & 10. Students are required to read an AR book involving American History from the 1600's to 1915.

A test needs to be taken and passed before the end of each quarter. Books are available in my

room and in the library.

Watch for grade reports, as these are used to show missing work. They require your signature

Working Lunch

Students will be assigned a working lunch when classroom assignments are not finished and turned in on time. Missing assignment sheets will be sent to the office by the classroom teacher, and placed in a folder for that student. Students will be released for lunch, get their lunch, and report directly to a working area on the stage in the cafete-

ria. Lunch will be eaten in this area and work on assignments will be done during this lunch period. When students finish the assignments, they will be released to the yard for the remainder of the lunch time. If assignments are not finished during the working lunch time, the work may be taken home to finish as homework, but the student

will continue to have assigned working lunch until the assignment is turned into the working lunch supervisor. Students who skip working lunch will be issued 2 lunch time detentions for defiance.

If you have any questions regarding working lunch please feel free to give the school a call.

7th & 8th grade English with Mr. McCandless

Welcome to the new school year! I am looking forward to working with all of our students and families in an effort to provide great education and a memorable middle school experience. On the first day of school, your student received specific class information and my contact information. If you need to access this information during the school year, you are welcome to access my website at <http://sites.google.com/site/mccandlessmms/>. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me.

For each newsletter, I will try to provide some helpful information about how families can help students improve their English skills. The following is a great way to introduce a discussion about literature at home:

Modoc Middle School
906 W. 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Discussing Plot

During the school year your student will read many stories, both fiction and nonfiction. As a part of their reading activities, students must identify plot events and understand how they work in a story. The plot is the series of events in a story or play. Use the activities and questions below for help reinforcing the concept of plot.

STORY DISCUSSION: Encourage your child to share the plots of the stories he or she is currently reading. Listen closely and ask questions if any plot events seem confusing. Offer positive feedback when your child retells the main plot events of a story clearly.

MOVIE SUMMARY: Movies also contain plots. You may want to help your child identify the elements

of plot by having him or her summarize the events of a movie you both have enjoyed. For fun, you could work together with your child to transform the summary into a movie review.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PLOT

1. What does the main character want from life? What does he or she do to get it?
2. What stands in the way of the main character achieving his or her goals?
3. Who or what does the main character struggle with? What kind of struggle takes place?
4. At what point in the story does the suspense build to its highest level?
5. What happens at the end of the story?

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