MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL UPDATE

Friday, March 1 , 2024

Happy Staff Appreciation Day!

February 2024 - Character Virtue Winners

Congratulations to the following students for demonstrating the character virtue for February 2024

Friendship:

Grade 4:
Ava S.
Aniyah G.
Gianna S.
Daniel C.
Natasha D.
Caleb A-B.

Grade 5:
Jared A.
Nyani M.
Arianna G.
Stella V.
Nohely G.
Layla A.

Grade 6:
Jaden M.
Pamela K.
Max F.

Cheryl D.
Hillary P.
Ryan U.

Grade 7:
Perin F-O.
Kayque A-S.
Bridget O.
Kay Yee G.
Shania D.
Jovanni J.

Dean of Students Spotlight

Grade 4
Joelle N - Kind, cooperative and comes to school each day focused and determined to do her best.

Rachel A - Respectful, hard working and sets an example for her peers daily.

Grade 7
Jonathan B and Kai J - Working hard in Math and overcame resistance to trying a new method to solve word problems.

Special Education Update

THE IEP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND THE NEW IEP
The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) recently made updates to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) form. These changes are intended to strengthen the IEP process and improve the educational outcomes and experiences of students with disabilities in the Commonwealth.

The IEP Improvement Project is intended to provide schools, districts, and families with more than newly designed and updated forms. It is also intended to provide opportunities for families, schools, and districts to work together to build better systems that more effectively support students with disabilities.

Abby Kelley Foster will be implementing the new IEP for the 2024-2025 school year. We will host a parent information session in May as we transition to the new IEP. Please check your principal's newsletter for the time and date.

For more information regarding the upcoming changes please visit the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website.

https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/ImproveIEP/default.html

Local Community Events / Programs for the weekend

Please see the Worcester Central Kids Calendar for additional information.

Friday, March 1, 2024

March 1
Free Admission for Kids at OSV!

March 1
Storywalk® – Outside, Inside

10:00 am - 11:00 am
Leicester Public Library Storytime

10:00 am - 11:30 am
Toddler Story Time & Play Zone at Northborough Library

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Leominster Launch Toddler Time

10:15 am

Thayer Memorial Library: Parent & Me Yoga

10:30 am - 11:30 am
Tinker Time at Shrewsbury Library

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
FunStuf PlayAway: Glow Night

4:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Free First Friday Night at Discovery Museum!

Sat, 2 March, 2024

March 2
Free Admission for Kids at OSV!

March 2
Storywalk® – Outside, Inside

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Luv 2 Play Toddler Time

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Home Depot Kids' Workshop – It's Free!

10:00 am
Regal Cinemas Kid Flicks – $2!

10:00 am - 11:30 am
Powisset Farm Maple Sugaring Madness (Dover)

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Good Pickin' Farm Open House

10:30 am - 11:30 am

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
SUMMER CAMP EXPO & More 2024!

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Play Indoor Mini-Golf Today – It's Free!

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Elsa & Kristoff Meet & Greet – It's Free!

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
WCC Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

7:00 pm
Railers Promo Game: Wizarding World of Worcester

Sun, 3 March, 2024
March 3
Free Admission for Kids at OSV!

March 3
Storywalk® – Outside, Inside

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Luv 2 Play Toddler Time

9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Hardwick Maple Barn Breakfasts

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Discovery Museum: Meet the Artist

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Photos with the Bunny at The Candy Mansion!

Boston Children's Museum $1 Sunday Afternoon

1:30 pm
Shrewsbury Library: Origami for Young Creators (Kids in Grades 2 & 3)

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Origami for Young Creators at Shrewsbury Library

3:00 pm
Railers Promo Game: WooSox Night!

Spirit Week 2024

Line Up...

Monday, March 11th - **PJ day (No Croc's, Slides or slippers)**
Tuesday, March 12th - **Culture Day**
Wednesday, March 13th - **Wacky Wednesday**
Thursday, March 14th - **Throwback Thursday/Decade Day**
Friday, March 15th - **Color Wars (4- green, 5- purple , 6- blue , 7- red)**

*******(Reminder: No Croc's, Slides or slippers should be worn to school)*******

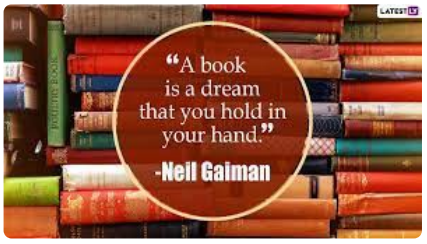
March 14th - **Pi Day Sale** (Grade 7 will be selling Table Talk Pies at all lunches for $1)

March 15th Grade 6 & 7 Dance 6pm-8pm Click here to donate refreshments.
***Permission slips for the dance will be given to students next week.**

Local Concert Recommendation from Mr. Sulski

The Little Mermaid - A Free Family Concert
March 10th at 3:00 p.m., Mechanics Hall, Worcester

Reserve Tickets Today
Please check out Worcester Chamber Music Society for more information and additional concerts.



March Madness Reading Challenge

Information: We will be tracking free-reading minutes---reading for enjoyment not school work for the month of March. The school-wide reading goal is 100,000 minutes. The stretch (Michael Jordan or Lebron James or?) goal is 150,000 minutes. We will keep track of the minutes on the March Madness basketball themed bulletin board outside the office. Students and staff can record their minutes on a tracking ticket or staff can add them directly to the spreadsheet through the grade level google form-links below. There will be large envelopes in homerooms and by the office to deposit completed tickets. The totals will be updated biweekly and written on a basketball on the bulletin board.

Kickoff: On March 1st (READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY), the ELA classes can use it as a day to gain minutes and preview books students might want to read. Read Across America is about student readers and about diverse literature.

Library Time Available:
On Monday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5 the library will be available for teachers to sign up to bring their class to check out books. Please sign up in the Library Sign Up Sheet. Decide as a team when each homeroom class will get to the library.

Grade 4 March Madness Recording Form
Grade 5 March Madness Recording Form
Grade 6 March Madness Recording Form
Grade 7 March Madness Recording Form

Happy reading!!

Bookmark Design Competition

Bookmark Design contest will **begin** March 1, and bookmarks will be **due March 15** with one winner from each grade announced that day. Their bookmarks will be copied and distributed to everyone in their grade. Bookmarks must be completed in black and white only-no color, with the theme of reading.

Celebrate Community Reading Day with grades 4 & 5 on March 15th

The AKF middle school is celebrating Community Reading Day on March 15 at 8:15 in all grade 4 and 5 classrooms. This year, we would like to involve the AKF community! Please complete the

form if you are willing and able to come in to read to your child's class. There will be one reader per class-the first to respond will be scheduled to read in each class. Books will be provided or bring your favorite picture book!

Click the link below to sign up!!!!
Community Reading Day Survey

Upcoming Dates and Events...

March 4th (week of) - Progress reports will available in Power School Parent Portal
March 1st - March Madness Reading Challenge Kick Off
March 1st - Bookmark Design Contest
March 11th - 15th - Middle School Spirit Week *(more information to come)*
March 14th - Pi Day Sale
March 15th - Community Reading Day (Grades 4 &5)
March 15th - 6th & 7th grade Winter Dance (6p-8p) *(more information to come)*
March 20th - Early Release Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences *(information provided by teachers)*
March 21st - Early Release Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences *(information provided by teachers)*
March 22nd - Grade 4&5 Dance (2:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
March 29th - Good Friday (No School)
April 4th - Bingo for Books
April 4th - Perfect Attendance Recognition
April 5th - Quarter 3 grades close
April 10th - ELA MCAS Testing
April 11th - ELA MCAS Testing
April 15th - April 19th - Spring Break (No School)
April 22nd - Dental Visit
April 25th - Character Virtue Breakfast
April 27th- AKF Block Party (12:00PM- 4:00PM)
May 1st - Science/Technology /Engineering MCAS
May 2nd - Science/Technology/Engineering MCAS
May 3rd - Progress reports will available in Power School Parent Portal
May 6th - May 10th - Scholastic Book fair

May 7th - ELA iReady Testing
May 7th- Grade 7 Field Trip (Apex Entertainment 8am-2pm)
May 8th - ELA iReady Testing
May 11th - Middlesex Math Madness Tournament
May 14th - Math MCAS Testing
May 15th - Math MCAS Testing
May 16th - Spring Concert
May 21st - Math iReady Testing
May 22nd - Math iReady Testing
May 30th - Character Virtue Breakfast
May 31st - Grade 5 Field Trip (more information to come)
June 6th - MS Arts Festival

See the AKF website and calendar for additional dates / information https://www.akfcs.org/

Girls on the Run - Spring Season

Girls on the Run spring season at AKF Middle School
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Season starts: March 9th
Season ends: June 3rd
Celebratory 5k at Polar Park: June 2nd

Spring Season Coaching Staff:

- Reeva Bagley (Multilingual Education Teacher)
- Jessica Martin (Grade 5 Teacher)
- Amanda Noguiera (Grade 4 Teacher)
- Kelly O'Brien (Grade 4 Teacher)

See attached flyer to sign-up and for additional information.

Worcester Abby Kelley Foster Charter (1).pdf

Download
1.7 MB

WPI Programs and Events for Students

Massachusetts Academy of Math & Science at WPI

Opportunity for rising 7th Grade Students
Junior STEM Academy at Mass Academy of Math and Science at WPI
TWO WEEK PROGRAM
JULY 8 - 19, 2024
Deadline to Apply: March 8th 2024

Full day program:
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Monday - Friday
Free before and after care
7:30 am - 5:00 pm
*Transportation not provided

2024 Junior Academy Flyer SP.pdf

Download
2.0 MB

PROGRAMA GRATIS PARA FUTUROS ESTUDIANTES ENTRANDO AL GRADO 7
Academia STEM (ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas) para jóvenes
PROGRAMA DE DOS SEMANAS
8-19 DE JULIO DE 2024
FECHA LÍMITE PARA APLICAR: 8 DE MARZO DE 2024

Programa de día completo:
8:00 a. m. - 3:00 p. m.
Lunes Viernes Atención gratuita antes y después
7:30 a. m. - 5:00 p. m.
*Transporte no es incluido

WPI Sonia Kovalevsky Day 2024

An Empowering Day for Middle School Girls Who Love Math

When: Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: Salisbury Labs on WPI's campus

Who: 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls with interest in math

For more information and to register to participate, please visit:
https://www.wpi.edu/news/calendar/events/sonia-kovalevsky-day
Space is limited, so please register early (**no later than Friday, March 22**)!
We hope you will be able to join us!
Please contact gr-ma-skday@wpi.edu with any questions.
SK Day 2024 is supported by a grant from the Women's Impact Network.

SKDay2024_EventFlyer (2) (1) (1).pdf

Download
262.1 KB

AKF BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, April 27, 2024

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

New Bond St

Food, ice cream, handcrafted items, raffle tickets available for sale.

Mini golf, arts and crafts, sports clinics, haircuts, music, yard games and more!

Questions? Email Amelie Cabral at acabral@akfcs.org

Joe Schwartz Little League Registration Open Now! Baseball & Softball

Season starts in April

Joe Schwartz Little League

Joe Schwartz Little League

joeschwartzlittleleague.com

JSLL 2024 Registration Flyer (2).pdf

Download
195.5 KB

JSLL 2024 Registration Flyer (with Translations).pdf

Download
276.0 KB

Joe Schwartz Little league is not a AKF sponsored program

Season starts in **April.** For any questions, please contact Patrick Jones at jsll.signups@gmail.com

---

Middlesex Math Madness Tournament

Middlesex Math Madness Tournament

4th, 5th and 6th grade students who have been participating in the Math Olympiad and The Continental Math League after school clubs at the middle school will have an opportunity to participate in the 7th Middlesex Math Madness Tournament. Students will compete face-to-face against 26 school teams on ***Saturday, May 11th at Memorial High School in Burlington, MA.*** Teams will be made up of 5 students each.

More information to come.

Middle School Arrival and Dismissal Reminders

- Middle School doors open at **7:05 a.m.**
- First breakfast ends at **7:19 a.m.**
- Students arriving after **7:25 a.m.** are marked late
- Second breakfast ends at **8:06 a.m.**

Student dismissal begins at **2:00 p.m.** with buses leaving the Middle School at approximately **2:15 p.m.**

Half Days: Student Dismissal begins at **10:35 a.m.**, with buses leaving the Middle School at **approximately 10:42 a.m.**

Any requests for **same day transportation changes should be made before 12:30 p.m. on full days and before 9:30 a.m. on early dismissal days.

****Family Requested Early dismissals** should occur before 1:00 p.m. on full days and before 9:30 a.m. on early dismissal days.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

New Middle School Traffic Pattern

Thank you to our middle school families for your patience and understanding as we make every effort to improve parent drop off procedures.

New traffic pattern for student drop off only

As of February 5th, all morning parent drop off's for Middle School Students will **be at the Elementary school parking lot.** Students should not be dropped off on New Bond Street (either side). Nor should students be dropped off in the parking lot to the left of the Middle School.

Parents can enter the elementary school parking lot via Brooks St and stay straight along the athletic fields to the front of the Elementary School. Parents will drop off and then take a left onto New Bond St and exit onto West Boylston Street.

Parents that enter New Bond St from West Boylston St will be directed down New Bond St past the Middle School turning right and directed around the building and athletic fields to the Elementary School parking lot.

Staff will be available to direct you to the right spots. Thank you for your cooperation and patience while we make these adjustments.

Please continue to follow the previous traffic pattern for afternoon pick-up.

No U-Turns on New Bond Street

Please refrain from making U-turns on New Bond Street. We realize that everyone is busy during the morning and afternoon commute but we must work together to keep our community safe.

Paper copies of the new drop off pattern with map were provided to all middle school students on Thursday, February 1st and are also available on the district website.

Please be sure to share this information with any family members or friends who may be dropping your child off or picking our child up from school.

Uniform Reminder

Reminder: UGG Slippers and Crocs - Not Allowed As Part of the Middle School Uniform

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School Parent/Student Handbook

Please refer to the 2023-2024 Parent /Student Handbook (Page 16) for the middle school uniform policy.

Closed toe, closed heel only. (No Crocs, sandals, flip flops, dress shoes with heels, or open toe shoes allowed).

Students and Social Media - FAMILIES WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please monitor your students **social media & gaming accounts** at home. Negative social media & gaming exchanges between individual students and student groups are impacting relationships within our school environment.

Remember:

- Manage your privacy settings.
- Remember: once posted, always posted.
- Build a positive online reputation.
- Keep personal info personal.
- Protect your computer /tablet /phone
- Use strong passwords.
- Be cautious on social networking sites.

Resources for Middle School Families

Middle School Lunch Menus

Middle School Bus Routes

Middle School Staff Directory

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

Follow Abby Kelley on Instagram @AKFCPS
Email: info@akfcs.org
Website: www.afkcs.org
Location: 10 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA, USA
Phone: 508-854-8400
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AKFCPS
Twitter: @twitter_akfcs

Shelly Hinds

Shelly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters