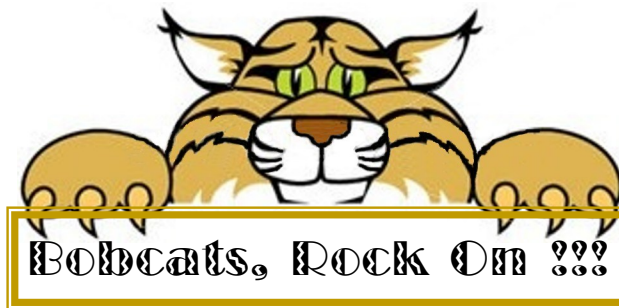


Arlington Middle School
 5470 Lamb Road
 Arlington, TN 38002
 867-6015



PTSA Newsletter
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 Editor: Teresa Henry
 ams@thenry.net

Transition to Middle School: Tips for Parents

Adapted from ASCA Web Site

Students entering middle school are experiencing a tremendous amount of change. Just a few months ago, they had only one or two teachers. Now they may have six or seven. Their bodies are growing and developing every day. Added to the equation are the hormones and emotions that accompany the physical changes. This all can create the perfect storm for unrest at home and at school. Although they are beginning to look like adults, middle school students still need parental and adult guidance and assistance. Here are a few tips for parents and caregivers as they navigate the middle school years.

Require an Assignment Notebook

Many schools, including ours, provide students an assignment / agenda notebook or planner at the beginning of the school year. Parents should require their student to record all homework assignments in the planner and then check it daily.

Read Course Syllabi & Teacher Web Site

Parents should read each course syllabus and regularly check the teachers web site for course information / assignments. This will provide you with information about classroom policies and expectations and will provide a timeline for major projects and assignments.

Check Homework

Parents should check to see that homework assignments are being completed in a timely fashion. If students would spend a little time every day on each class, that will save a great deal of stress and time the night before an assignment is due.

Designate a Study Time and Place

Work with your student to pick a time and place where school work should be completed each day. If students do not have a homework assignment, they should read. Study areas should be as free from distractions as possible and should have available a study survival kit. A regular study schedule is one of the most impactful tools for academic success.

Create a Study Survival Kit

This kit should contain pens, pencils, paper scissors, and any other supplies necessary for completing assignments. Having all of these materials in one place will keep students from wasting time looking for them.

What is Inside:

Transition to Middle School	1
Cultural Arts	2
Clinic	2
Library	3
Career Day	3
Dates to Remember	4
All Pro Dads & Mornings With Mom	4
PTSA Fall Fundraiser	4
PTSA Membership	5
Membership Dance	6





Cultural Arts - Reflections Contest

The theme this year is "Diversity Means...."

There are 5 categories the students can place entries into: Literature, Photography, Visual Arts, Musical Composition, and Dance Choreography. Each entry must have an artist statement; this simply tells how your entry supports the theme. Each entry **MUST** have an entry form completed and signed by both the student and parent. Your student can only be in the picture or video if it's taken with a self-timer or on a tri-pod. There is a new requirement for Reflections this year. Each entry that has a recognizable face or voice must have a signed consent form along with the entry form. No entry will be accepted or judged if both forms are not attached to the students entry. All forms and guidelines will be available for you to print and view on the AMS school web site and at www.amspts.com. The deadline for all entries is September 21st. Do not expect your teachers to make copies for you at school. All forms will be available in the office and a short packet will come home with each student. Our judges are from various people in our community, AHS teachers, local business men and AES teachers.

If you have any questions please contact me at suzyhaylee@aol.com.

Look forward to seeing all the wonderful entries.

Suzanne Smith
AMS PTSA
Cultural Arts VP

Transition to Middle School: Tips for Parents

Continued from Page 1

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

Communicate with your student's teachers by phone or e-mail. Introduce yourself to them at back to school nights and PTA meetings. Let them know to contact you if ever they have a question or concern. Also communicate with your middle school student. Although they are growing up and peer relationships take a higher priority than family relationships, it is important the students know that you are available to talk to them and listen when they need it.

We are here to help!

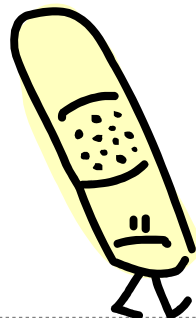
Our counseling team is here to help you through the many challenges as your child moves through middle school. At AMS, our counselors "loop" with their students or stay with the same students as they progress through middle school. You may reach any of our counselors (Mrs. Johnson: 8th grade, Ms Burt: 7th grade, Mr. Ruzicka: 6th grade) either by phone or e-mail.

The AMS Clinic needs your help!

The AMS clinic is in need of and would appreciate any donations of the following items:

- Antibacterial wipes
- Lysol Spray
- Ziploc bags (sandwich size)
- Paper Towels
- Feminine sanitary pads
- Lysol/Clorox wipes
- Dixie paper cups
- Tissue

*Thank you in advance
for any help you can give!*





Library News

Book Fair report: As I write this, the Book Fair has just finished. We collected \$387.12 for the library at our partner school, Corning Elementary. Our students read 20 million words, which was a little short of our 26 million-word goal. (But still--20 million words, as measured by AR tests, in one week!!) Our total sales were \$7646.04 after taxes, which is an increase over last year. Our profit was \$1911.51, which will allow some of the purchases I hoped to make for the library. My goals were for a color printer for the library, more audio books, some fiction e-books, and a small collection of graphic novels. I'll start shopping for these items soon! Thank you for supporting the Book Fair. If you'd like to participate in a survey about the Book Fair, please go to this link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TKX8S9Y>



Next up, Bobcat Book Club. Sign-ups for BBC will begin right away. Students who want to participate in this activity should come by the library for a permission slip and info about purchasing the book. There will be 2 separate times and clubs. Seventh & eighth grade club will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Sixth grade club will meet on October 7. Both groups will meet at 7:45 in the 214 computer lab.

Library hours outside the school day are 8:15 to 9:00 Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and 8:45 to 9:00 Thursday and Friday. The library remains open until 4 p.m. every day. For other times or for specific reading guidance for a student, please make an appointment with me.

Library Web Page can be found at this address:
<http://arlingtonms.scsk12.org/~khaggard/Site/Welcome.html>

Calling 8th Grade Parents

The Eighth Grade Career Day will be on the morning of Friday, November 4th. Please come share your career information with the eighth grade students as they begin to consider a possible career direction in planning for his or her high school coursework. The classroom sessions are only twenty-five minutes long. During this time, you simply state what you do, the

training that was required for you to acquire the needed skills to do what you do, and

give an example of what a typical day in your chosen career is like. Then you entertain questions about your career. You will be assigned a teacher and a Bobcat Ambassador to assist you with your session. Career Day is a great opportunity to be an involved parent. The contact person for this event is the Eighth Grade School Counselor, Mrs. Marjorie Johnson. Please email Mrs. Johnson, m7johnson@scsk12.org, to sign up.





Mornings with Mom
and
All Pro Dads

This is a great program at AMS.. It is a wonderful time to have breakfast with your children and hear a speaker from our community. As in the past, chicken biscuits will be provided by Chick-Fil-A. The dates are as follows.

All Pro Dads
Sept. 29th at 7:45 a.m.
Jan. 26th at 7:45 a.m.

Mornings with Mom
Oct. 27th at 7:45 a.m.
March 1st at 7:45 a.m.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. Please be looking for sign-up sheets to come home. As a reminder, you may turn the RSVP in and pay at the door the day of the event.

Dates To Remember:



September:

- 5 No School—Labor Day
- 13 PTSA Board Meeting 6 pm
- 15 Parent Conference 4-7pm
- 16 No School—Teacher In Service
- 19 Fall Fundraiser Starts
- 23 Fundraiser coupons due
- Membership Dance 4-6 pm
- Room Parent Meeting 5 pm
- 29 All Pro Dads 7:45 am
- 30 Turn in Fundraiser orders

October:

- 11 PTSA Board Meeting 6pm
- 17-21 Fall Break
- 24-28 Red Ribbon Week
- 27 Mornings with Mom 7:45 am
- 28 Character Counts Breakfast 9:30—10:30 am
- Harvest Dance 4-7 pm

PTSA FALL FUNDRAISER

THIS YEAR THE PTSA WILL BE SENDING HOME THE "ENTERTAINMENT BOOK". THE COST OF THIS BOOK IS \$25. THIS IS THE COUPON BOOK THE HAS THE KROGER COUPONS. IF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THIS BOOK, YOU KNOW IT MORE THAN PAYS FOR ITSELF WITH THE \$65 IN KROGER COUPONS PLUS ALL THE OTHER COUPONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BOOK. THEY ALSO HAVE AN APP THAT YOU CAN LOAD ON YOUR SMARTPHONE (BOTH I-PHONE AND ANDROID). NO NEED TO CARRY THE BOOK WITH YOU. YOU MAY SEE OTHER COUPON BOOKS BEING SOLD, PLEASE HOLD OFF ON BUYING ONE. THE BOOK WILL COME HOME ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011. ALL ORDERS AND MONEY FOR ADDITIONAL BOOKS WILL NEED TO BE TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011. IF YOU DO NOT WANT THE BOOK AND DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUNDRAISER, PLEASE SEND THE BOOK BACK TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD TO TURN IN TO THEIR HOMEROOM TEACHER.



ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 WE WILL NEED HELP COUNTING MONEY AND TALLYING ORDERS. IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE, PLEASE CONTACT TERESA HENRY AT AMS@THEHENRY.NET.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SUPPORTING ARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL!



PTSA Membership



Don't worry....if you missed your chance to join the PTSA during registration, it's not too late!!

Highest percentage: The homeroom within each grade, with the highest membership percentage will win a Sonic Ice Cream Party (courtesy of Sonic/Hwy 70).

Every homeroom teacher that reaches the school wide membership goal of 140% will receive a donut party.

AMS PTSA Membership includes:

- ❖ FREE Admittance to the September dance
- ❖ National discounts (T-mobile, Liberty Mutual, etc.)
- ❖ Opportunities to become involved in AMS and your child's education

Please complete the information below, enclose payment and send with your child in an envelope marked "PTSA Membership". The cost is \$5.00 per person. Please make checks payable to AMS PTSA.

Student: _____ Grade: ____ Homeroom: _____

Student: _____ Grade: ____ Homeroom: _____

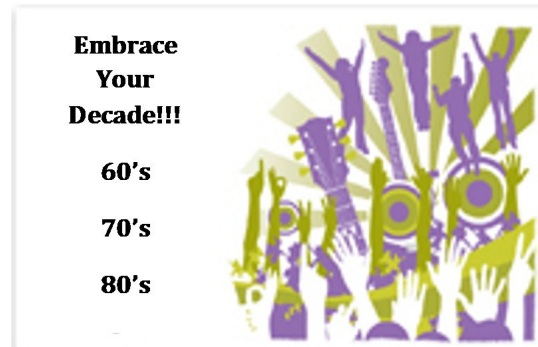
Parent: _____ Parent: _____

Sibling: _____ Sibling/Other: _____

Address: _____ Phone number: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Come and "Rock On"
to the first dance of the year!!!
PTSA Membership Dance



Friday, September 23, 2011

4:00pm - 6:00pm

\$5.00 per person

FREE for PTSA student members (student must be a member)

Membership dance tickets will be on sale during lunch starting

Monday, September 19th - Thursday, September 22nd.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

This dance is for AMS students only. All students MUST have a completed/ parent signed permission slip to go to the dance. This includes students that have signed up for PTSA. If a student does not have a permission slip completed and signed by the parent on the AMS dance permission slip form, they will not be able to attend the dance. Permission slips will be coming home the week before the dance.

