



Standardized Test Preparation

Standardized tests are a part of every student's life. Doing well on them requires more than knowledge. Preparation and follow-through are also important. Your child can make the most of testing with these helpful tips.

- Encourage your child to strengthen their testing "muscle" at home with regular reading and writing practice. *Examples:*
 1. Read every day.
 2. Look up unfamiliar words while doing homework.
 3. Keep a journal about important events. Making routines like these a habit will sharp-

en their skills and help them demonstrate what they know at test time.

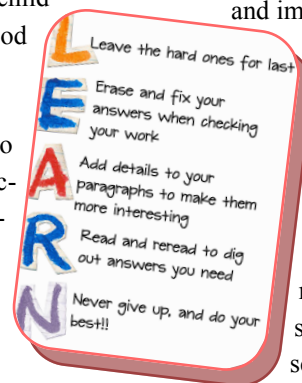
- Help your child develop good test-taking skills. Advise them to read instructions, questions, and multiple choice answers carefully and to double-check their work when they are finished. Research studies have shown that the first answer a student chooses is usually the right one. Your child should only

correct an answer if they are sure it is wrong. Being a smart test-taker will lessen their anxiety and improve their score.

- Go over test results together. If you do not understand what the results mean, call someone at the school for help.

Let your child know that, while the scores are not the only measure of school success, they can be useful in discovering their strengths and weaknesses.

Source: Middle Years, March 2013



UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Quarter Progress Reports	Feb. 2
JHS Pep Band performs at 8-3A Boys' Basketball State Tournament in Tolono, IL	Feb. 10
LEIC Tournament (7th Volleyball) at Hutsonville, IL	Feb. 10
8th Grade Recognition Volleyball Boys' Basketball Cheerleading	Feb. 12
Early Dismissal -2pm P/T Conferences 4:00-7:00pm	Feb. 15
No School P/T Conferences 8:00-11:00am	Feb. 16
LEIC Tournament (8th Volleyball) at Hutsonville, IL	Feb. 17
No School Presidents' Day	Feb. 19
JH/HS Band Concert (6:30pm)	Feb. 22
7th Regional (Volleyball) Toledo, IL	Feb. 24
8th Regional (Volleyball) Newton, IL	Mar. 3

Message from the Principal

Starting **March 1**, MJHS 8th graders will be taking the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) during their regular science periods. Then beginning the week of **March 12 through March 16**, Marshall 7th graders and 8th graders will take the Illinois standardized test, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or better known as the PARCC Test. This test will assess students' English and language arts ability, literacy

capabilities, and mathematical skills.

The PARCC assessments serve as an "educational GPS system," assessing students' current performance and pointing the way to what students need to learn to be ready for the next grade level and by high school graduation for college and/or a career.

The PARCC assessments are designed to give schools and teachers more information to improve instruction. Moreover,

PARCC is designed to let parents know how their child is progressing academically. The results for the PARCC Test can arrive anywhere from May to October. We have no control over the speed in which results are returned. **Please make sure your child is in attendance during testing, has a good night's sleep, and has eaten a good breakfast each day.** Thank you for your help in supporting your student's growth.

It's a Great day to be a Lion Cub!
Tony Graham, MJHS Principal



MJHS News Shorts



It's that time of year again! Don't miss out on the memories! Yearbook forms are due on February 23. The junior high yearbook features pictures of MJH 7th and 8th graders and captures special moments from the entire school year. They are only \$13.00. Make checks payable to Marshall Junior High School.



8th Grade Recognitions

On Monday, February 12, after the seventh grade volleyball game, the eighth grade boys' basketball players, managers, and cheerleaders will be recognized in conjunction with the eighth grade girls' volleyball players and managers. This is due to inclement weather during the basketball season. Game time for the volleyball game is at 4:30pm with the seventh grade game being first. It is advised to arrive between 4:30 – 4:45pm due to the lengths of volleyball games being somewhat unpredictable.

PEP BAND HONORED

Earlier in January, our junior high pep band found out by way of blind audition that they are one of the top 16 pep bands in the state. Our pep band will be playing at the 8-3A Boys' Basketball State Tournament hosted at Tolono Unity JHS in Tolono, Illinois on Saturday, February 10. They start performing at 10:00am.



High School Scheduling

At the beginning of February, 8th grade students were introduced to and started working on high school schedules for their freshman year. Mrs. Salvato-Meeker, the high school guidance counselor, and Mr. Ritchey, the high school principal, came over to the junior high to discuss the different classes that are offered and to start assisting students in forming their schedules. Students were given a high school course catalog along with scheduling form. **These forms are due back on Thursday, February 8.** Incoming freshmen receive their completed schedules at high school registration.

POWERFUL COMBINATION

On Tuesday, February 6, 8th grade students will be traveling to the CANDLES Holocaust Museum located in Terre Haute, Indiana to meet and listen to Holocaust survivor, Eva Kor. This is in correlation to their upcoming reading of *The Diary of Anna Frank* in their literature classes and the studying of World War II in history classes. Mrs. Kor shares her personal story of life in Nazi controlled Europe and her survival of the Auschwitz Death Camp. The message she has is powerful and we are excited our 8th graders have this opportunity.



Eva Kor

In the weeks before Christmas, Mr. Curry's seventh grade literature classes performed in-class plays. Students had to work together to create these productions. The drama unit was amazing as some great acting talent was exposed and the students had fun putting on some challenging performances.



January Students of the Month

Each month will have a different character trait that will be focused on when selecting deserving students. This month's character trait was **GRATITUDE**, feeling and expressing thankful appreciation for benefits received.

Congratulations to our January Students of the Month!



**7th Graders: Maverick Peterson and Gabi Lashbrook
 8th Graders: Kaelin Wilson and Dawson Duke**

NUTS AND BOLTS OF SCIENCE

Students in Mr. Stence's seventh grade science classes had the opportunity to put their knowledge of simple machines to the test. The students were challenged to build a Rube Goldberg machine to complete a task. The students were given the choice of whether they wanted to ring a bell, pop a balloon, or flip a ping pong ball into a cup. They had to use three simple machines in a series to complete the task. The students had to draw a "blue print", test their theories and designs, and then record and upload their project to google classroom for their classmates to enjoy. This unit was a great extension to the lessons on simple machines and gave the students a working knowledge of how the machines worked!

