

Mustang Messenger January 2019

A "Vision" brings FOCUS and EXCITEMENT!

Welcome back Mighty Mustangs! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable time playing and hanging together over the holiday break. The old adage, "the family that plays together, stays together," comes to life during the holiday season. As for me and my family, we thoroughly enjoyed our time together.

As we return, I want to share our vision at Mill Creek Academy. For those who have been with me since I began my leadership in 2012, you know I am passionate about learning for ALL. The faculty and staff at MCA have committed to a student-centered learning organization where ALL means ALL. To bring clarity to the meaning of ALL, we function in our learning environment to ensure students are learning at a high level. It looks different for each student as we learn in different ways, at different rates, and some learn concepts more than once. We have also committed to ensure our behaviors, actions, and how we interact with each other and students replicates our vision for learning. Our profession requires us to be reflective practitioners, constantly seeking new learning, and never being afraid to evaluate our current practice to ensure success. Our vision is that we are passionate about being ongoing learners and making sure our students know we are not only committed to their learning, but also committed to our own learning.

To keep our work aligned and ensure fidelity of our practices, we use these four guiding questions to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students:

- a. **What is it our students need to know?** – Identifying and agreeing upon the "essentials" or power standards our students must know! We have agreed upon outcomes and work together to identify how students will get there.
 - b. **How do we know when students know it?** Developed curricular timelines, Common Formative Assessments with agreed upon level of rigor for the learning to be assessed, pre/post or Readiness assessments, quick checks, and Units of Study ensure students are mastering the concepts as we teach. **Guaranteed and Viable.**
 - c. **What do we do when they don't know it?** Grade levels work collaboratively to develop an action plan that will reteach students at different levels in what we call All-Star time. We ensure instructional strategies through action research on what works and what does not, using the data analysis process to identify best instructional practices.
- What will we do when they already know it!** Students work in flexible groups during All-Star to extend their learning, not busy work!

As we began to reflect on our vision and the work we were doing as a Professional Learning Community, we decided to revisit our vision statement. Through a cycle of feedback sessions with faculty and staff, our current vision that reads, "**The Learning Community of Mill Creek will ensure that ALL achieve their fullest potential through challenging, purposeful learning opportunities; where learning is the only option,**" has now been revised to:

"The Learning Community of Mill Creek will ensure that ALL achieve their fullest potential through challenging, purposeful learning opportunities where lifelong learning becomes a passion!" Changing the last line of our vision communicates not only our commitment to our learners, but also the passion we have for being an on-going learner.

2019 only brings bigger and better things to Mill Creek Academy. We are goal setting with students and classes, meeting our goals, and celebrating. I look forward to advancing the learning of our students, teachers, and community as we challenge ourselves in 2019 to a year of greatness and achieving far beyond our own desires. 2019 will be a year to remember!

Amanda L. Riedl, Learning Leader



Mill Creek Academy
3750 International Golf Parkway
St. Augustine, FL. 32092

REMINDERS

Arrival of Students—Students may be dropped off during parent drop off time which is 8:05am-8:30am. Students are not to be dropped off before 8:05 am due to safety as there is no supervision before that time. Students arriving after 8:30 am are to be walked to the front office by a parent/guardian and receive a tardy slip before proceeding to class.

Lost and Found— Lost and Found is located in the front office. At the end of each month, items remaining will be donated. Please make sure to label all your student's belongings as we are able to return labeled items promptly to students.

Free and Reduced Lunch - As a reminder, free and reduced lunch accounts are good for one school year. You must reapply at the beginning of each new school year. The application can be found at <https://mealapps.stjohns.k12.fl.us/lfserver/EFORM>.

Attendance— Any student who has been absent from school is to submit one MCA Absentee form the day the student returns to school stating the cause of the absence, completed and signed/submitted by parent/guardian. If your student has been out 3 (three) or more days, you will also need to provide a note from a physician. ***There is no longer any reason to call in absences.*** You will still receive the automated phone notification that your child is absent. Please note the list of excused and unexcused absences for the [District's attendance policies](#). MCEs Absentee form in two different formats: **MCA ABSENTEE WEB SUBMISSION FORM** or **MCA PRINTABLE ABSENTEE FORM**. For more information or if you have questions, please contact the front office at 904-547-3720.

School Access—As required by Florida state law, everyone MUST have a cleared background check to go past the front office at Mill Creek Elementary. Picture ID (driver's license) is also required to enter the building at all times. You MUST have a background check and be cleared to volunteer at the school, attend any conferences, attend field trips, and to have lunch with your child. So now is the time to go ahead and apply for school access! Please make sure all spouses, grandparents, siblings over the age of 18, etc. who may visit the school are also approved to enter the building. The school access application is on-line at: <https://stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply>. The cleared application is good for 3 years and can be updated in the front office or renewed at any time. At no time should you have to resubmit another application. If you have any questions or need further assistance please contact the front office.

Health—Please visit the site below and remember students must be free of vomiting and diarrhea or fever for 24 hours without the aid of medication before they can return to school.

<http://www-mce.stjohns.k12.fl.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ILLNESS-GUIDELINES.pdf>

Celebration Treats—All celebration treats brought into the building MUST have an ingredients label and MUST be checked before going beyond the front office. NO HOMEMADE treats will be allowed on campus.

Upcoming Dates

1/18/19 Report Cards Issued

1/21/19 Martin Luther King Day—No School—Student Teacher Holiday

1/28 /19— 2/1/19 Literacy Week (Updates to come.)

2/14/19 Deadline to Order your Yearbook



“Legos with Literature!”

Celebrate Literacy Week

Jan. 28– Feb. 1, 2019



Rules

1. Build a LEGO creation that represents a character, setting, or any other feature from a favorite book.
2. Students must use LEGO pieces from home and must create their LEGO display outside of school.
3. Commercially-made characters may be used as part of a larger **original** literature-based LEGO display. (Ex.- a Harry Potter LEGO piece may be used, as long as it's as part of a larger, original Hogwarts castle display that you create from scratch.)
4. LEGO creations may be completed by individuals or groups of students.
5. LEGO creations must fit on a base no larger than a 12" square.
6. LEGO creations can be stationary or include movement.
7. To enter a LEGO display, complete the entry card attached and turn it in to your teacher **no later than Wednesday, January 23, 2019**. Only the entry card needs to be turned in on Jan. 23 Actual LEGO displays will be brought to school on **Friday, Jan 25th** or **Monday, January 28th**.
8. Print out a color copy of your book's cover and place it in the top-right corner of the entry card attached.
9. LEGO creations will be on display in the MCA Media Center during the week of January 28– February 1.
10. The media team will do our best to monitor the projects and to keep little hands from touching but please note that other groups use the media center that are not monitored by media team.
11. HAVE FUN and BE CREATIVE!!!! Work with a friend or make it a family project!

If you have any questions, please see Mrs.Bergmann in the Media Center or contact by email at abby.bergmann@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Entry cards MUST be turned in by Wednesday, January 23, 2019.



LEGOs with Literature Official Entry Card

- Title of Book: _____
- Book Author: _____
- Names of Student Creator(s): _____
- Grade Level(s) and Teacher(s): _____

Below, write one 30-50 word paragraph description of how this LEGO creation correlates to your chosen book. You can write more on the back of the card if needed.

LEGOs with Literature Official Entry Card

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- Book Author: _____
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- Grade Level(s) and Teacher(s): _____

Below, write one 30-50 word paragraph description of how this LEGO creation correlates to your chosen book. You can write more on the back of the card if needed.

Submit this Entry Card to Mrs. Bergmann no later than Wednesday, January 23rd, 2019.



Physical Education News

After a successful and enjoyable first semester we are ready for the new year. We will continue to improve our skills and learn new strategies in our games. We will build on the fundamentals we learned in locomotor and skill development. We are excited to continue our learning together.



Snowmen from Ms. Achberger's first grade. A shivery art lesson on pattern and texture.





4TH GRADE CHORUS PREVIEW

March 2019

Chorus Preview

4th Grade Chorus Opportunity

The Chorus Experience

STUDENTS: YOU are invited to enjoy a brief Chorus experience! This Chorus Preview gives all 4th graders an opportunity to enjoy being a part of our Chorus team as they highlight their talents during a one-time performance during school on Wednesday, March 6th at 9am.

All music rehearsals take place during music resource class!

Music In Our Schools

A National Celebration

Performance: Wednesday, March 6th at 9am.

Mill Creek will be celebrating the National Observance of "Music In Our Schools" during the month of March.

4th Grade Chorus will perform alongside of our 5th grade Orff Ensemble.

How Do I Join?

REGISTER & BRING YOUR BEST

Students will simply need to indicate interest on the form below that they would like to participate. Then, during music resource classes, they will need to bring their best behavior and effort.

UNIFORM FOR PERFORMANCE

Students will need to wear their favorite MILL CREEK shirt or MCA colors on March 6th.

4th Grade Chorus Permission Form

(please cut this portion of the newsletter and return to Mrs. Neal)

4th Grade Student First/Last Name: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

My student has permission to perform with this team on Wednesday, March 6th at 9am

My student will be able to wear their favorite MCA shirt to the performance

Parent Email: _____

Parent Signature: _____



Student Council News

The Candy Cane Grams were a big success. We donated \$1,030.25 to The Empty Stocking Fund, that's helps families in need during the holiday. Thanks so much for supporting Student Council.

Valentine Candy Grams information coming soon!!!!



Math

St. Johns County School District curriculum department representatives and adoption committee members have completed the review process for the Instructional Materials Adoption for Mathematics. On January 22, 2019, the School Board will conduct a public hearing to receive comment from the community regarding the final list of recommendations for math instructional resources for this adoption. Committees composed of teachers, district content experts, parents and community members compiled the lists. The hearing will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the District Administrative Building located at 40 Orange Street in St. Augustine.

Please visit <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/instructional-resources-media-services/textbooks/adoption/> to view the final recommended selections. If you would like access to available printed materials or require assistance reviewing the online resources, please call the Instructional Resources and Media Services office at 904.547.3947. Materials are available for review from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Board action on the final recommendations for math instructional materials is expected to take place at the School Board meeting on February 12, 2019, at 9 a.m.

$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab$$

Mill Creek is Filling up with Mustang P-R-I-D-E!

Elementary Students can earn “Pride Bucks” for displays of Politeness, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Effort.

Students deposit their pride bucks in the hopper and we draw student names each week to receive the Golden Pride Trophies to keep on their desk for the week!

Mustang P-R-I-D-E

P—Politeness

R—Respect

I—Integrity

D—Discipline

E— Effort





Middle School Students can earn “Pride Bucks” for displays of Politeness, Respect, Integrity, and Effort, Students deposit their pride busks in the hopper and then we draw students names each week to receive the VIP Badge to wear for special privileges during the week! Keep up the great PRIDE Mustangs!

