



Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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In this edition:

- New Health Website for MNPS*
- Task Force on Student Assignment Community Meeting*
- Special Education Reports Major Upswing in Graduation Rates*
- Standard School Attire Changes*
- West End Middle Nominated for MHC Preservation Award*
- MNPS Awarded Ombudsman*
- Earn While You Learn This Summer*
- Summer School Registration*
- MNPS Schools Receive Picturing America Award*
- Enhanced Option Schools Back in Class*
- SLC Summer Institute a Huge Success*

New Health Website for MNPS

The office of MNPS Coordinated School Health is pleased to close its inaugural year with the launching of the Coordinated School Health Website. The site is located on the MNPS website (www.MNPS.org – Our Schools – Programs – Coordinated School Health). It contains links and information about the Coordinated School Health Program and participating MNPS schools. Numerous health related links are easily accessible and organized under each of the Coordinated School Health's eight components. These links run the gamut from student games to recipes, physical challenges to lesson plans, and academic articles to state statistics. The links and information will be continually updated. The site can be found at www.MNPS-CSH.org.

Task Force on Student Assignment Community Meeting

The task force on student assignment will hold a public hearing **Tuesday, June 3, at 6 p.m.**, at East Literature Magnet School, located at 110 Gallatin Road. The public is invited to attend the meeting and voice their opinions.

The community task force on student assignment presented its report to members of the MNPS Board of Education at a work session Wednesday, May 28. The report was the result of a months-long study of building capacity and student assignment needs. The Board will consider the group's report when making assignment decisions for the 2009-2010 school year. For the complete report of recommendations made by the task force, visit www.mnps.org.

Special Education Reports Major Upswing in Graduation Rates

During the May 27 school board meeting, MNPS Special Education Department reported a tremendous upswing in the district's special education students. In 2003, 35% of special education students graduated with a regular diploma. Just four years later, the district nearly doubled that number with 67% of those students graduating with a regular diploma.

Other department highlights from the 2007-2008 school year include: the department provided therapists to middle school students receiving MIP services to support inclusion; the department

and FACE hosted the 4th Fall Conference at West End Middle School for parents and students with disabilities; the department purchased *Voyager Math Intervention* and *Passport Reading Journeys* to address math and reading instruction in high priority middle and high schools; the department hired an instructional facilitator to provide instructional support to schools; the department purchased *Algebrocks* to support conceptual understanding of algebraic skills; the department provided training to implement social skills curriculum in MIP classes; the department purchased *EDMARK Reading* to support reading instruction for students with cognitive disabilities and provided training to elementary and middle school special education teachers; and the department maintained collaboration with Vanderbilt University and EdExcellence to establish Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) as a school-wide discipline strategy.

Standard School Attire Changes

In the fall of 2008-2009, Standard School Attire guidelines will change slightly for some students. Pre-K and Kindergarten students are exempt from wearing belts, and fleece fabric will be allowed for sweaters and lightweight jackets, without hoods, to be worn indoors. Please remember hooded sweaters and jackets are not allowed for wear indoors.

West End Middle Nominated for Metro Historic Commission Preservation Award

West End Middle School won an Honorable Mention in the Educational Institution Category for a Metropolitan Historical Commission Preservation Awards. The Preservation Awards program was held Thursday, May 29, at 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Public Library downtown. The awards ceremony was followed by a reception.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission is a municipal historic preservation agency designed to document history, save and reuse buildings, and make the public more aware of the necessity and advantages of preservation in Nashville and Davidson County. The commission, created in 1966, consists of 15 citizens appointed by the mayor.

Hispanic Student Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, May 31, at 5 p.m., the Comité de Padres Latinos (COPLA), [Committee of Latino Parents], a parents group focusing on communication with MNPS Latino parents, hosted a Hispanic Student Graduation Celebration Event for the Class of 2008. More than 200 MNPS Hispanic students graduating from high school this year will be honored, along with their parents. The event was held at the Allen Arena of Lipscomb University.

The community stakeholders working with COPLA for this year's event included the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Lipscomb University, Harding Place Family YMCA-Hispanic Achievers, Conexión Américas, Prevent Child Abuse of Middle Tennessee, Spanish-TV, Tennessee Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations.

Guest speakers were Mayor Karl Dean, attorney Gregg Ramos, Pastor Tommy Vallejos and others.

A reception was held following the ceremony, with food provided by members of the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and live entertainment by Son Latino and Maria Benham.

COPLA was organized two years ago to help build relationships with the parents of Hispanic students, who comprise more than 14% of the district's student population. The organization meets monthly to share information and resources available to Spanish-speaking families, as well as develop ways to educate families on the important role of parental involvement in student success.

MNPS Approves Ombudsman Program

MNPS school board voted unanimously to contract with Educational Services of America to offer students the Ombudsman Educational Services during the 2008-2009 school year. This program offers students an alternative pathway to graduation through personalized, computer-assisted learning. Eight Ombudsman learning centers will open in the fall of 2008 at various locations in Nashville. These centers will serve more than 480 7th – 12th grade students who have either dropped out of school or are at risk of dropping out.

Ombudsman Educational Services is nationally accredited by The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), The North Central Association (NCA), and The Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools (MSCES). Ombudsman has an 85% success rate of returning students to their regular school, retaining them in the program to earn credit, or graduating them with a high school diploma. The program focuses on seven major competency areas: essential skills such as reading, writing and math; science; social studies; art, music and drama; health and recreation; career and college preparation; and life management and behavior.

Earn While You Learn this Summer!

This summer, **MNPS students** (those who will be in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades during the 2008-2009 school year) have a unique opportunity to enroll in a summer career institute at Nashville State Community College. Students will learn about 21st Century Careers and skills needed in those careers. In addition to learning, students will actually earn money for their work and expand their creativity.

Two sessions will be offered, June 9-13, "Designing for The Future" and June 16-20, "Entrepreneurship." Each session will meet Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Sessions will be taught by an MNPS teacher, an NSCC professor, and a local business volunteer. For more information, visit <http://www.mnps.org/Page37468.aspx>.

Summer School Registration

MNPS 2008 Summer School Registration is open Thursday, June 5, and Friday, June 6, from 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. K-12 students may register at the summer school site they wish to attend. Students must have a completed registration form signed by their school counselor or a report card showing the subject(s) failed, along with a **MNPS** free lunch eligibility form, if applicable.

High School students may register for first and second semester courses on these registration dates; however, these students may also register for second semester courses Thursday and Friday, June 26 and June 27, 7 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the summer school site of choice.

This year's summer school sites are:

Elementary Schools (K-4)

Amqui Elementary Schools
Carter Lawrence Elementary School
Charlotte Park Elementary School (General Education, Special Education, ELL Programs)
Cockrill Elementary School
Cumberland Elementary School
Glenview Elementary School (ELL Program ONLY)
Hattie Cotton Elementary School (General Education and ELL Programs)
Haywood Elementary School (General Education and ELL Programs)
Hickman Elementary School (General Education and Special Education)
Tom Joy Elementary School (General Education and Special Education)
J.E. Moss Elementary School (General and Special Education and ELL Programs)
Whitsitt Elementary School (General Education and ELL Programs)

Middle Schools (5-8)

Antioch Middle School (General Education and ELL Programs)
Brick Church Middle School (General Education and Special Education)
Cameron Middle School (General Education, Special Education and ELL Programs)
Croft Middle School (General Education, Special Education and ELL Programs)
Donelson Middle School (General Education and Special Education)
H.G. Hill Middle School
Head Middle School
Isaac Litton Middle School
McMurray Middle School (General Education and ELL Programs)
Neely's Bend Middle School

High Schools (9-12)

Glencliff High School (General Education and ELL Programs)
Hillsboro High School (General Education and Special Education)
Maplewood High School (General Education and Special Education)
McGavock High School (General Education and Special Education)

MNPS 2008 Summer School Times and Dates are:

Elementary Schools

June 9 – July 3, 2008
7:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Middle Schools

June 9 – July 3, 2008
7:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

High Schools

1st Semester: June 9- June 27, 2008 -- 7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. (4 ½ hours per day)
2nd Semester: June 30 – July 18, 2008 – 7:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (4 ¾ hours per day)

There will be no school July 4. For more information about eligibility, refunds and report card information, visit www.mnps.org.

MNPS Schools Receive Picturing America Award

Several MNPS schools have received Picturing America Awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). The two organizations teamed up to bring masterpieces of American art into the nation's public schools and libraries. For a complete list of schools awarded, visit http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/public_awards.php.

Murrell Special Education School Receives Laura Bush Foundation Grant

Murrell Special Education School recently received a grant through the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. One hundred and ninety school libraries in the U.S. are being awarded

\$1,097,104 in grants for 2008. Individual schools receive grants of up to \$6,000 to expand, update and diversify their library book collections.

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries was founded in 2002 as a fund of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. Since its inception, the Laura Bush Foundation has awarded more than \$5.4 million to 1,087 schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information about the foundation, visit www.laurabushfoundation.org.

Enhanced Option Schools Back in Class

Thursday, May 22, MNPS enhanced option schools headed back to the classroom for the 20 day summer session. The main goal of the enhanced option schools is to ensure success for all children. Metro currently has six enhanced option schools; they include: Buena Vista, Caldwell, Fall-Hamilton, Glenn, Park Avenue and Warner. Starting in the fall of 2008, MNPS enhanced option schools will forego the 20 additional school days, instead adding 45 minutes to every school day. Over the course of the year, the 45 extra minutes will be equivalent to 20 additional learning days. If you have questions about an enhanced option school, visit the district website at <http://www.mnps.org/Page2697.aspx> or call the Customer Service Center at 259-INFO.

SLC Summer Institute a Huge Success

MNPS recently hosted a Summer Institute for 9th and 10th grade staff of MNPS schools that will be implementing Small Learning Communities in the fall of 2008. More than 400 school staff, area directors, and all CTE instructors attended the workshop. The goal of the institute was to make sure all schools and personnel are prepared for next school year and the further implementation of small learning communities. Attendees were trained in student assessment, team teaching, teaching on a block, and many other areas associated with Small Learning Communities. The workshops were led by Mike Neubig, Robin Shrode and Dave Holden, three nationally recognized consultants in the field of high school redesign.