

Middle School Newsletter

To Cooperatively Inspire All Students to Achieve Their Potential

Meeting In The Middle

by Troy Wiebe, Principal

Important Dates

March 15 NO SCHOOL

March 27 Early Dismissal
12:30pm

March 29–April 1st
NO SCHOOL
Easter Break

April 5 Middle School
Spring Dance
7-9pm

Dakota STEP Testing:
April 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11
(Grades 6-8)

April 12, 15, 16
(Grade 8 only –Science)

- ** Be well rested
- ** Eat a good breakfast

April 9 & 11 Middle School
Musical at Riggs
Theatre

April 23 8th Grade Trip
To Rapid City

April 24 Early Dismissal
12:30pm

May 17 8th Grade Dance

I can see warmth on the horizon. 😊

As we move into Spring, some of our most important work is yet to be done. That work being our Dakota STEP tests. Each April our school participates in the state tests that reflect student performance and progress. All students grades 6-8 take Math and Reading tests and the 8th graders take the additional Science test. Our students have shown strong performance in the past and I expect no different this year.

In preparation for these tests, our teachers gear their lessons each day towards meeting set standards set by the state in each subject area. These standards are tran-

sitioning to the “Common Core Standards” next year that 45 other states have also adopted. Our teachers have taken classes on the new standards and we have created quarterly local assessments to practice towards mastery level on such standards. This monitoring of progress helps teachers adjust pace and materials as we move towards the Dakota STEP tests at the end of the year.

This month of March we are spending time reviewing key terms and concepts directed at the standards. We also have a fun assembly at each grade level planned before the tests in hopes of motivating each student to do their best. Please help us by stating the importance of these tests to your child and encourage them to do their best.

Counselor's Corner! by Kim Rogers and Ryan Munson

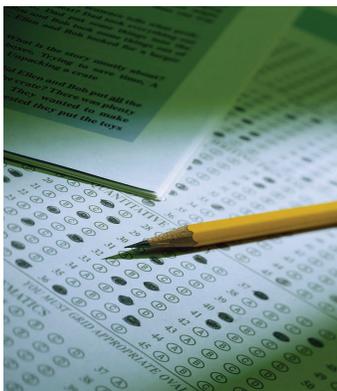
A big part of the school counselors' job during this time of year is preparing for the Dakota STEP Test. This is the standardized test that all students in grades 3-8 & 11 in South Dakota take each spring to give us an indication of our students' growth over the last year. The math, reading, and science tests are broken into three parts each and each part takes about an hour. The reading test will happen in the students' Language Arts classrooms during their Language Arts class April 3-5. We will do the math test during their Math classes on April 9-11. The 8th graders are the only class that will take the science test and they will use their Science class time to do that portion of the test on April 12, 15, 16.

Here are a few tips and tricks that parents can share with their students about taking the STEP test:

1. The STEP Test is a multiple choice test. Read each question and try to answer the question before you look at the possible answers. This saves time and will keep you from being tricked by incorrect options.

Example: The Capital of South Dakota is:

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Sioux Falls | Rapid City |
| Aberdeen | Pierre |





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2. Even though you may know the answer, look at all the options as they may spark something in your memory that you had forgotten. Sometimes, there may be more than one correct answer among the options provided.

Example: A popular tourist attraction in the Black Hills is:

Mount Rushmore

Crazy Horse National Monument

Historic Deadwood

All of the Above

*If you went with Mount Rushmore and didn't look at the other options, you would get this question wrong.

3. Do not spend too much time on any one question. The STEP Test is not timed, but your ability to concentrate and focus is limited. Mark questions that will require a lot of time and come back to them later. Do the ones you are comfortable with first. Make sure the question you are on matches the number you are marking in the answer document.

4. Don't worry about the result. Worrying can cause you to freeze up. Just do the best you can on each question. In the end, if you have tried your best, that is all anyone can ask.

Reading Is Cool At Georgia Morse! Notes From The GMMS Library

Prepared by

***Pamela Chamberlain Kringel, GMMS
Librarian***

Georgia Morse Middle School students and staff have checked out an overwhelming 20,311 items since school began in August! Please continue to encourage your child's reading enthusiasm at home. Rawlins

Municipal Library is an excellent resource for students looking for new reading materials during the evening hours or over the weekend. For more information about Rawlins' hours of operation please call 605-773-7421.

GMMS administration, staff and students would also like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped with, visited and patronized our very successful GMMS Scholastic Book Fair during student-led conferences.

Due to generous patronage, we will be able to purchase \$3000 worth of new books for the GMMS school library. The two-day book fair was run by some fabulous GMMS parent volunteers without whose help it would not have been possible to have the fair. If you are interested in helping with next year's book fair, please contact Georgia Morse Middle School principal, Troy Wiebe at troy.wiebe@k12.sd.us or 605-773-7330.

Native American Pro-

by Donna Olivier, Program
Coordinator; Candace
Hackett, Academic Coach

We are excited to announce newly elected officers to our program. The Parent Advisory Committee elected Renee Hall-Bearstops as chair, Mabel Granados as vice-chair and Roberta McGhee as secretary. We are looking forward to our next Parent Advisory meeting.

The 2013 Powwow has been scheduled for May 4th. We are currently working on many different activities for the powwow. We will be reaching out to parents for donations for the ceremonial dinner. Our Program will be mailing out information in regards to the powwow and what donations will be needed.

Warriors of Light recently had an Indian taco sale during the girl's varsity basketball game. We would like to thank all the students, parents, and community for making the event a great turn out. The money raised from the sale goes toward our spring powwow.

