

# MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



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Kelly Lyman / Superintendent of Schools

*It is the mission of the Mansfield Board of Education, in partnership with the Mansfield community, to ensure that all children acquire the knowledge, skills, and attributes essential for personal excellence in learning, life, and work within our global community.*

- Thirty MMS students, all of whom placed in the top three at a Regional Contest, competed at the History Day State Contest at CCSU on Saturday. It was a long day, and these students have all been working tirelessly since NOVEMBER to create what they shared at this event. The sophistication of the projects was quite impressive, and what makes me even prouder is that our students showed enthusiasm and support for one another throughout the day. Several students received special recognition and four students qualified for the National Contest in Maryland with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Group Website.
- A team of 4 MMS students out invested 143 other teams statewide to win the Stock Market Game for the 2017-2018 school year. They are the first place finisher in the Middle School Division of the Spring 2017 SMG Program.
- Four teachers at Southeast School were recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from Fund for Teachers for a ten day study in China this summer. Their visit will include meeting with members of the ministry of education and visiting schools as well as important landmarks. They sought the grant to provide them with an experience that helps deepen their understanding of the Chinese culture in order to better support our students from China (Chinese is the language spoken by the majority of our English Language Learners).

## FACILITY PLANNING STUDY UPDATE

The first phase of The Facility Planning Study has been completed. This phase included gathering a tremendous amount of data about our schools including data about our students, fiscal data, and facility information. A summary of findings was recently shared with a steering committee comprised of school staff, parents, and community members at large. In addition, more than 75 people participated in focus group interviews and open community forums to offer their thoughts on the current learning spaces and the degree to which they support the mission and goals of the Mansfield Public Schools. From this, four approaches emerged for the community to consider further. A summary of phase one work can be found at:

[http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/5335/2170/20170511\\_sup\\_board\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/1904/5335/2170/20170511_sup_board_presentation.pdf)

The next phase of the work focuses on engaging the community in consideration of these four emerging approaches: flexible classroom space, flexible common space, indoor-outdoor learning space, and green or sustainable buildings. This phase includes an informational survey that will be sent to residents at the end of the month. This survey includes several videos about each of the four emerging approaches. We hope that many will view the videos and take the survey. A second community forum will be held in early June to share all findings to date in more detail.

Following the survey, the community will be invited to participate in a design charrette. It is likely that this will occur in early fall. All of this will lead to a set of recommendations that describe the qualities and characteristics sought in our facilities to help us advance the learning goals of the Mansfield Schools.

## Southeast Enrichment Clusters

It's 1:55 on a Friday afternoon at Southeast School and you can feel an excited buzz in the air. Why is there so much excitement for learning at the end of another busy week? It's the magic of Enrichment Clusters! During Enrichment Clusters all students participate in hands-on and engaging activities that reflect authentic practices in a particular area. This year 20 classes were offered. Students choose their cluster and work with students from across the grades. That's what Charlotte loves the most about Enrichment Clusters, "It's a way for kids to meet others who have the same interest and learn more about the topic." Wilson likes the authenticity that comes from having professionals share their knowledge, "Enrichment Clusters are cool because people from different places come in to teach you about something you like or something that is new to you. You can learn what it's really like to do a job from someone who does that job or has experience." At the conclusion of Enrichment Clusters, students share what they have learned by presenting an authentic product to an interested audience.



## Vinton Robotics



Twenty-one fourth grade students participated in the Vinton Robotics Club which met after school to construct robots from a kit of parts called VEX-IQ. The students then had to modify and redesign their robots to be able to play a cooperative game designed specifically to challenge kids in this program.

All six teams of students attended the Connecticut State VEX IQ Competition on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The students had a lot of fun and learned how to work cooperatively with other teams from different towns to score as many points during their turn at the game. One team qualified with their excellent driving and strategic play to attend the VEX IQ Worlds in Louisville, KY.

### IMPORTANT DATES 2017

May 22	Parenting in Challenging Times (MMS Library Media Center 6:30pm)	June 15	MMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Class Night 5:00pm
May 24	MMS Spring Choral Concert (MMS Auditorium at 7:00pm)	June 15	Vinton 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony 7:00pm
May 25	Beginning Band Concert (MMS Auditorium at 6:30pm)	June 16	MMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic
May 29	No School: Memorial Day	June 19	Goodwin 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony 7:00pm
June 8	Mansfield Board of Education Meeting	June 20	MMS 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony 7:00pm
June 14	Southeast 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Moving On Ceremony 7:00pm	June 21	Last Day of School (Early Dismissal)

## PARENTING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Our school psychologists and counselors, in collaboration with Mansfield Youth Services, are sponsoring the first in a series of parent conversations entitled ***Parenting in Challenging Times***. The program grew out of concerns expressed by parents and staff about providing a safe environment for all students in our schools. Hearing unkind and discriminatory statements shared student to student, incidents our students have experienced with social media, and concerns brought on by new federal immigration regulations are some examples of topics that we felt everyone could use help addressing. The evening programs are meant to raise awareness of these issues and help each other as we parent children today. The first event will be held on Monday, May 22 at 6:30 in the library at Mansfield Middle School. We hope many parents will join us to discuss the topics above as well as other concerns you may have. Subsequent evenings will be held in the fall and will address specific topics in more detail. Registration is requested but not required. For more information visit:

[http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/11634/11640/21669/21671/Parenting\\_in\\_Challenging\\_Times\\_05-22-17.pdf](http://www.mansfieldct.gov/filestorage/11634/11640/21669/21671/Parenting_in_Challenging_Times_05-22-17.pdf)

### GOODWIN CITIZENSHIP



## TEACHERS AS LEARNERS

A vibrant, growing school district is one where all members of the school community are learners. Our efforts to support our educators to learn take many forms – formal professional development, book groups, collaborative problem solving, and summer learning institutes. This summer we are offering three focused learning experiences. For the second year, teachers in grades 3-6 are invited to participate in a week long literacy institute. During this week they will learn how to implement child-centered literacy instruction in their classrooms while experiencing learning as readers themselves. A similar literacy institute for teachers in grades K-2 will also be offered this summer. We expect more than 35 Mansfield teachers to participate in these institutes. In addition, as we seek ways to engage students in more authentic, self-directed learning experiences, we are providing teachers in grades K-8 a Problem-based Learning Week. During this week 25 teachers will engage in both project learning and project design. Teachers will then implement the Problem-based Learning program in their classrooms next school year.

### Contact Us

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