



# ***WE A.R.E. SPARTANS***

— ACHIEVEMENT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EMPATHY —

*Indian Mound Middle School*

*January 2012*

*Newsletter*

*608-838-8980*

*david\_witte@mcfarland.k12.wi.us*

*David Witte, Principal*

## *Greetings from Aaron Tarnutzer...*

### **No Child Left Inside**

By the middle of January Wisconsinites tend to respond to the winter weather in one of two ways. We either say, "There's so much to do in the snow. I love this weather!" or "Why do we live here?" As the parent of a 9 and 7 year old, the only choice I have is to love this weather. When my children ask, "Dad, will you play outside in the snow with us?" their enthusiasm is so contagious I can't say no. My children remind me that the snow is a new toy we are given each year as they spend hours outside playing and creating. Unfortunately, as our children enter middle school we may no longer be asked if we will play with them outside, as they may now ask, "Do we have to go outside?" Whereas our 9 year olds build snow forts and love to go sledding, our 12 year olds often want to stay inside looking at a screen of some sort. At IMMS, we see the same students who in the fall were standing in a huddle calling the next play in a football game begin to stand in a huddle just to keep warm.

While it is tempting to assume that this change is natural and developmental, there are so many benefits to being physically active and spending time outdoors. From an educational perspective, research shows the more active we are and the more time we spend outside, the more we learn. Yet, in January it begins to feel as though we are constantly fighting the tendency for our children to stay inside and hibernate all winter.

This year at IMMS we are excited to add activities to the winter recess options for our students. Last year we experimented with providing sleds for students to use at recess. While we knew a few students would be excited to sled, we were overwhelmed with how many students from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade lined up for a trip down the hill. This year we plan to add even more sleds to our inventory and teach all students proper sledding techniques and safety guidelines. In addition, as a result of a grant from the Wisconsin Dairy Council as part of the Fuel Up to Play program, we are also adding snow shoes for use at recess! We are certain that the students are going to love this new option. We are also looking forward to snowman building contests and joining the students in football games in the snow.

We encourage you to talk to your child about how they can stay active during the winter months. From skiing, sledding, building forts, skating, hockey, or simply walking to school, the more active our children are, the happier they will be and the better they will learn. Please don't hesitate to join them outside for a family snowball fight or even a trip down the hill at IMMS on a sled. At a time when our children begin to push us away as they seek their independence, having fun together will create memories that last a lifetime. Just be prepared for the possibility that they may roll their eyes and smile at you, instead of giving you a hug and saying thank you like they did when they were little. So, please join me and instead of waiting for your child to ask you to play outside, tell them to put on their snow gear and get ready for some winter fun!

Aaron Tarnutzer  
IMMS Associate Principal



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## **Conduct and Effort Grades**

In addition to teaching children the academic skills they need to be successful, at IMMS we recognize the importance of teaching students the skills and habits they need to be respectful, responsible, and empathetic citizens that contribute to society. We know that there is a clear relationship between these behaviors and academic success. We have formally recognized the importance of these skills for many years by providing two grades to students each quarter, an achievement grade and a conduct and effort grade. This school year we have linked this conduct and effort grade to the expectations of achievement, respect, responsibility, and empathy that are part of our motto, “We ARE Spartans.” For example, students are assessed on their responsibility in relation to how often they bring the necessary materials to class and turn their assignments in on time.

In order to ensure that students understand these expectations, teachers regularly discuss the rubric we use to assess this grade with them and acknowledge students who meet these expectations. Many teachers also have students self-assess their conduct and effort grade and compare it to the teacher’s assessment. We recently revised this rubric to clarify the assessment for students and teachers. In the coming months you will be hearing more about conduct and effort grades both from your child and from your child’s teachers. We encourage you to talk to your child about this grade, review the rubric that is on the IMMS web page, and/or contact your child’s teacher(s) with your questions.



## Middle School Music Notes

**Solo/Ensemble** – The format of the Festival is that students prepare a solo or small ensemble piece to perform for a clinician. The clinician listens to the performance and provides both written and verbal comments to the student(s). The comments are intended to help the student understand what steps may need to be taken to improve future performance opportunities.

The Festival itself will take place on March 10, 2012 at McFarland High School. We will have some flexibility to arrange the schedule to best meet the needs of not only the students in the McFarland music program, but also all of the students participating from the Rock Valley Conference. So, if your son or daughter has a specific time request, we need to know before February 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to properly plan the schedule to meet everyone's needs. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the event.

### **Solo/Ensemble for Band Students**

Every 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band student is expected to perform at the Festival. If your son or daughter is unable to Perform; please send a written note to school as soon as possible. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade band students will select a piece for Solo/Ensemble Festival during the beginning of January. We will provide some individual and small group help during our regular classes, but it is very important for the students to spend time practicing these pieces at home. We recommend 20-30 minutes of practice per day.

The band program devotes a significant portion of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band curriculum to solo/ensemble. We feel it is a time of significant growth as a performing musician, and vital for every student. We devote nearly 9 weeks of class time to this one event. We ask that parents make every effort to help the students clear at least 2 hours on the day of solo/ensemble festival (March 10, 2012) to make sure everyone can have a chance to participate.

### **Solo/Ensemble for Choir Students**

Preparing a piece for the festival is *optional* for choir students but is highly recommended. Ms. Lemens will help students select solos, duet and double-duets, and will give out the registration forms and information you will need for the festival. She will be available after school on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> for students who wish to sign up and select a solo. Students who study privately will also need to come and fill out the paper work. However, you may select your piece with your private teacher. If requested, Ms. Lemens will provide students with practice CD's or MP3 files and will also be available for some individual and small group help after school. Sign-up will be on a first come first serve basis. Regular individual practice at home is very important. All pieces must be memorized.

### **Solo/Ensemble for Orchestra Students**

Every 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra student is expected to perform at the Festival. If your son or daughter is unable to perform, please send a written note to school as soon as possible. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade orchestra students will select a piece for Solo/Ensemble Festival during the beginning of January. Some individual and small group help during our regular class will be offered, but it is very important for the students to spend time practicing these pieces at home. 20-30 minutes of practice is recommended per day.

The orchestra program devotes a significant portion of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum to solo/ensemble. We feel it is a time of significant growth as a performing musician, and vital for every student. We ask that parents make every effort to help the students clear at least 2 hours on the day of solo/ensemble festival (March 10, 2012) to make sure everyone can have a chance to participate.

**Piano accompanists** – Each student performing a *solo* and all vocal pieces will be assigned a piano accompanist. The accompaniment is a vital part of the performance, and is an important experience in musical growth. The accompanists will meet with students during, and occasionally after school. It is customary to present the accompanist with a token of appreciation prior to performance (i.e. – “Thank You” card).

**Solo/Ensemble costs** – The entrance fee for students will be covered by the Music Department budget (the average fee is \$5.00 per solo). The McFarland Music Boosters will also help pay for piano accompanists for the soloists. The accompanist fee is \$25.00 per event, and the Music Boosters will reduce that cost by paying \$5.00 per event. The total cost of an accompanied piece at Solo/Ensemble will be approximately \$30; students will be responsible for \$20.00 of that total. Please contact one of the music teachers if scholarships are necessary.

**Band-O-Rama** – February 18, 2012 is the date for the First Annual McFarland Band-O-Rama. The Band-O-Rama will involve all band students from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in a concert celebrating band music in McFarland Schools. Band Directors will provide more information as the date approaches, please put this one on your calendar – you will not want to miss it!

Thanks for your continued support!

# From the Guidance Department

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Register for High School

On our way to the high school!

**Dates to Remember for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and H.S. Registration:**

With the start of the New Year comes the impending transition to High School for our IMMS 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a very exciting time full of choices and uncertainties. These decisions can be supported and anxious times alleviated through active involvement for students and their parents in the decision making process. Therefore, it will be crucial to keep in mind some important dates when looking to allow for an efficient and successful transition:

**Quarterly:** Eighth grade counselor, Mr. Kramer, will be conferencing with each student to discuss their goals for high school and results from their career assessments done in Prime Time and Tech Tools. The overall goal of the conferences will be to create an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for each student as they enter the high school. These plans will follow the students to the high school and continue to be updated through conferences in 9th and 11th grade with MHS counselors, Mr. Feldner and Ms. Guenther.

**Jan. 19th:** 8<sup>th</sup> graders will travel to the high school to hear about elective choices and tour the building. This will be a great opportunity for students to get familiar with the high school environment and become more aware of the opportunities available for interests outside of the required core classes.

**Jan. 26th:** Jackie Guenter and John Feldner (McFarland High School counselors) will be coming to IMMS in order to provide further information to students regarding high school and possible electives. These meetings will allow 8<sup>th</sup> graders to indicate their tentative elective choices.

**Feb. 6th:** This will be the Parent Orientation Meeting at the high school. Registration forms will be handed out and the process will be explained. After this meeting, you and your child can talk through all decisions for next year and make final choices regarding course selections. **Finalized registration forms with parent signatures will be due at IMMS by Feb 17th.** Please honor this deadline so that your child may be assured of getting the classes he or she has as their highest priority. If you have any questions, please call Jim Kramer at 838-4576 – he will be most happy to help!

## **Coming Winter 2011**

McFarland High School presents...  
“Parenting with Love and Logic”  
Parenting: the most important job you will ever do!

All classes will meet from 6-8 pm in the  
McFarland High School Library

### **Class Dates:**

Wednesday, January 18th  
Wednesday, January 25th  
Wednesday February 1st  
Wednesday, February 8th  
Wednesday, February 15th  
Wednesday February 22nd

Fee: \$10 (Cost of parent handbook)

To register for this awesome experience please call or email:  
Janice Gerlach, Facilitator: Becoming a Love and Logic Parent  
838-4531 or Janice\_Gerlach@mcfarland.k12.wi.us  
Registrations requested by Friday, January 6th, 2012.

Comments shared by former participants:

*“outstanding course, one of the best I have ever taken:*

*“Learning control myself, not my child”*

*“Realizing the problem is my child’s and not my own”*

*“I learned the importance of controlling my anger and giving kids  
choices”*

*“importance of not giving reminders to child”*

# ***Reminders from the Attendance Office***

## **Appointments**

Does your child have an appointment during school hours? On the day of the appointment, please send a note with your child so that they may stop at the office in the morning before primetime to get a pass.

## **Absences**

If your child will be absent please call in anytime before 7:50am. You may leave a message or talk to the front office staff for absences at 838-8980.

## **Homework Requests**

If your child has been absent for two or more days, you may request homework for pick up by 8:00am. Please plan to pick it up in the office after 3:05pm that day. If there is an anticipated absence and you would like to collect homework in advance, please inform the front office at least one week prior to the absence. If your child is particularly concerned about a class you are more than welcome to email the teacher directly.

# **Project HUGS—Announcing Meetings for 2012**

***Starting in January we will have meetings for  
Project HUGS as follows:***

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month – Stoughton, WI  
6:30 – 8:00pm at Lakeview Church  
2200 Lincoln Ave. Stoughton

***NEW: 4<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY MORNING of each month – Madison***  
10:00-11:30am at Youth Services  
1955 Atwood Ave. Madison (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Chase Bank Building)  
ENTER the door on WINNEBAGO STREET across from MERMAID CAFÉ.  
Parking is available in the lot on Atwood across from Youth Services

***We have some great speakers lined up for 2012.  
Beginning in January....***

Tuesday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> in Stoughton, 6:30-8 pm  
Linda Kustka  
Topic: Parenting Teens to Twenty-Somethings

Saturday, January 28 at Youth Services in Madison, 10 am – 11:30 am  
Michelle Marking, Madison West Social Worker  
Topic: REAL Ideas – from a HS Social Worker Dedicated to  
Helping Parents

For more information about Project HUGS, please go  
to the *Guidance office/General information* tab on the  
IMMS Website.

## Medal Volleyball League

*There is a spring volleyball league for girls in grades 5-8. It starts mid February and ends before spring break. Practices will be held twice a week with 3-4 Sunday tournaments*

*in the Dane County region. Please view the following website for more information, schedule and the registration form.*

*[http://www.mcfarland.k12.wi.us/mhs/teams.php?sport\\_id=0020](http://www.mcfarland.k12.wi.us/mhs/teams.php?sport_id=0020)*

*View the downloads next to YMCA/McFarland Volleyball Medal Volleyball League.*

*If you have any questions, please contact Trish Fortune:  
608-279-2649*

## Keep Warm this Winter at the MYC!

Too cold outside? Not a problem! The McFarland Youth Center has tons of great activities going on that will make you forget about winter and have a blast! As always, this winter the MYC will have a different activity available to middle school students each day of the week! Stop by for our Monday Art Studios, Tournament Tuesdays, Wii Fit Wednesdays, Youth Council/Community Service Thursdays, or Fresh Food Fridays.

This January and February, the MYC also has a wide variety of special events coming up. We'll kick off the New Year with our month-long "Iron Chef Cooking Contest." Each Friday, teams will compete on taste, teamwork, clean-up, and presentation as they work together to invent their own dishes. Points will be added up over four Fridays, and a grand prize winner will be crowned! On Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, the MYC is excited to be participating in the Urban League's Martin Luther King Day of Service, heading to Madison for a Day of Service conference at the new Discovery Center. All middle school students are invited to attend, just contact Rachel at 838-3839 for more information. Also, January and February field trips to Boulder's Climbing Gym and Badger Gymnastics are in the works. Stay tuned for more details in January!

The MYC is open Monday-Friday from 3pm-6pm on school days, and 1-5 on days off and summer. Stop by and check us out anytime, for a great place to do everything from art, to sports, to cooking and volunteering!

# *Calendar at a Glance....*

Dec 22—Jan 2	Winter Break—No school
January 3	Classes Resume
January 12	6th Grade Band Concert— 7:00
January 16	All School Inservice — No School
January 20	<b>End of Second Quarter—No School</b>
January 26	5th—8th Grade Orchestra Concert – 7:00
February 3	2nd Quarter Celebration Day
February 20, 21	Conferences 4:00—7:00
February 20	Conference Release Day
March 23	<b>END OF 3RD QUARTER—No School</b>
March 26—March 30th	Spring Break— No School

# U.S. BASEBALL ACADEMY



THE NATION'S LARGEST  
TRAINING PROGRAM

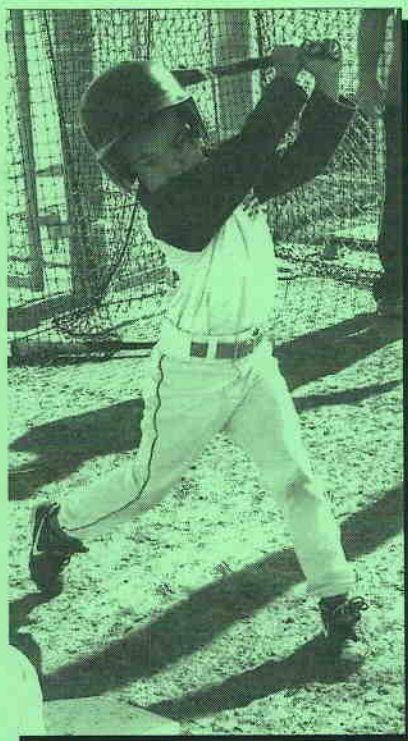
COMING TO

## MCFARLAND HIGH SCHOOL

**Feb. 18, 25; Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24**

Advance registration required. See web site for deadline.

***U.S. Baseball Academy's Spring Training 2012*** is a unique concept that provides young players with advanced hitting, pitching, fielding/baserunning, catching training programs and instruction by some of the area's best coaches.

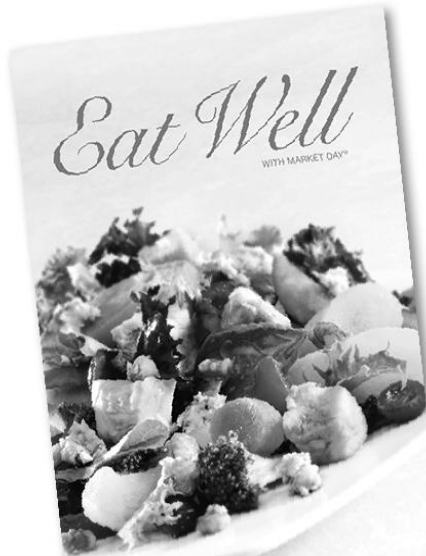


- ★ ***Sessions for grades 1 through 12*** include six weeks of instruction for as low as \$99.
- ★ ***A national baseball training program*** operated locally by Site Director John Feldner, Head Coach, McFarland HS.
- ★ ***With a player-coach ratio of 6 to 1***, each player gets plenty of individual attention in a small group atmosphere. In addition to unbeatable instruction by the area's best coaches, players get a preseason tune-up that helps them enter team practice in mid-season form. With numerous age-specific sessions, instruction is specially tailored for each ability level.
- ★ ***Register now, pay later.*** What better way to get a jump on the upcoming season than a six-week Spring Training experience, featuring instruction from some of the area's best coaches?

***For a complete description of the program and registration forms, visit***

# **[www.USBaseballAcademy.com](http://www.USBaseballAcademy.com)**

**If you do not have internet access, call our office at 866-622-4487**



# FREE

## Eat Well Guide

with any purchase\*

- 36 page, full-color guide
- Over 35 delicious recipes
- Easy serving suggestions
- Healthy eating tips

\*Limit 1 free Eat Well Guide per customer order. Promotion not available in Market Day/Sara Lee stores or on Peapod orders. No substitutions. Promotion subject to change or termination without notice.

### AND Frequent Buyers...

if you made (2) two \$40 purchases between October & December, get a **FREE Insulated Bag** when you spend \$40 in January!



### Eat Well with Market Day!

Start your year off right with a **FREE** Eat Well Guide with your January Market Day order. Keep your resolutions with the Taste for Health line. Each item has less than 300 calories, 10 grams of fat and 600 mg sodium per serving.

Frequent Buyer customers can also earn a **FREE** Insulated Bag with a \$40 purchase this month.

Visit [marketday.com](http://marketday.com) for online exclusive Deals of the Week and clearance items!



### Go Mobile!

Shop from anywhere on your web enabled phone at [marketday.com](http://marketday.com).

### This Month's Sale

Order Forms Due: Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>  
Internet Orders Due: Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> (11:00 PM)  
Pick Up Date: Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 - 6:00 PM CEELC gym

Profit This Year:	\$2,587
2011-2012 Goal:	\$5,500
Total Funds Raised:	\$104,131

Questions? Want to help? Contact Amy Lawrence or Mary Kopp at [McFarlandMarketDay@gmail.com](mailto:McFarlandMarketDay@gmail.com).