 Principally Speaking...

The number of closures and delays of school this winter have been obviously disruptive to the instructional process of this grading period. Therefore, grading period four will be extended until Friday February 21st. This will allow for one extra week of instruction and finalization of grades for the six-week period. Grading period five will also be extended accordingly to Friday April 11th. The final grading will end when the second semester is officially completed.

The official completion of the second semester and the last student day of the school year have also been adjusted due the weather. As of today, the last student day of the year will be Wednesday May 28th, 2014. Please plan accordingly as we continue to adjust our schedules to accommodate the needs of our students. Our staff and students have performed admirably while adjusting schedules with Acuity and ISTEP Readiness testing. Thanks for your continued patience as we make these necessary adjustments.

Siegelin’s Sideline—Athletics

As the boys basketball season winds down, the rest of our winter sports are in full swing. The 8th grade boys finished their season on a positive note claiming 2nd in the county tournament, while the 7th grade team fought to a 3rd place finish. The girls’ teams are off and running. The 8th grade girls are a tough-minded team that have gotten off to a fast start. The 7th grade girls continue to improve game-by-game. The wrestling team has pinned their way to a 3-0 record. The swimming and diving team got an earlier jump on the season this year – practices began the week we returned from winter break. They are still looking to add members, so please let us know if you are interested. As we look forward to the spring, our track and field team will start their season on Tuesday, March 25th with a boys’ conditioning practice. This practice will be followed by a girls’ conditioning practice on Wednesday, March 26th. As always, we are looking for STUDENT-athletes. Make sure your students grades and conduct in class are appropriate if you want them to participate.
Guidance Counseling

It's your body's reaction to the pressures and challenges of life. There are 2 basic types of stress:

Positive Stress - Even things you enjoy or look forward to can be a course of stress. For example, making new friends, playing a sport, acting in a play, a new baby in the family.

Negative stress - This comes from things you find unpleasant or threatening. For example, concern about grades, conflict, family problems, changing grades or schools, a busy schedule, peer pressure, an important test or fear of being hurt.

Coping Basics - Face your problems rather than trying to run from them. Take responsibility for your decision and the way you react to stressful situation. Talk to others about your feelings and concerns. Bottling up feeling just adds to your stress. A friend, parent, school counselor or teacher are just some the people you can turn to. Find time for yourself—to relax or do something fun.

Good health is an important defense against stress: Eat healthy foods, get plenty of sleep and exercise regularly. There is no way to avoid negative stress completely and positive stress helps make life interesting?

Attendance Matters!

Students may be absent 10 days each school year, but parents must call in to report each absence. If a parent does not call in, then the absence is marked unexcused. Students who are frequently absent may fall behind in academics and can miss important socialization concepts that enhance their ability to understand and follow directions or, ultimately, plan for the future. It is essential for students to report to their classes on time and to attend all classes. Students must arrive in their classrooms and be in their seats by the conclusion of the bell tones, or they will be marked tardy. After the bell tone sounds, students will be tardy to class unless they have an authorized signed school pass. At Tri-North we are working to implement positive and proactive strategies to increase attendance and decrease tardies. Students have opportunities to earn incentives throughout the grading period for getting to class on time. If you have questions about attendance please contact Miss Ewing or one of the members of the Attendance Team.

Trojan Students Called to Serve

A - ATTITUDE
R - RESPECT
M - MATURITY
O - OWNERSHIP
R - RESPONSIBILITY

It is our goal in the months ahead to improve the level of community service opportunities for our students. These service projects will be offered to improve our school, city, and greater Monroe County area. We feel this is the appropriate age for our students to be exposed to service for the greater good of others. Our Tri-North PTO will be assisting with many of these projects as we move forward with these essential opportunities. We are looking forward to implementing the Presidential Service Award as an annual recognition for our students. Please contact Tri-North if you are aware of service projects that would be appropriate for our students, and thank you for your support of these upcoming endeavors.
Tri North Evaluates Lunch Crunch

In December, we began to evaluate the Lunch Crunch Program. This program was put in place three years ago to support students who struggle to complete their homework. The first part of this evaluation was a three-part survey. Using three different tools, we surveyed parents, students and parents regarding homework habits, completion, and student learning.

We are currently analyzing the results from the 211 parents, 28 staff members and 501 students who took part. Early analysis shows that the Lunch Crunch Plus program, put in place more recently to support students who repeatedly do not complete homework, has proven more effective in helping students learn.

We appreciate our stakeholders being a part of this evaluation process.

Band Brings Home Honors

The TNMS Advanced Jazz Band performed at the Bloomington Jazz Festival on December 13, 2013. Outstanding Musicianship Awards were awarded to Jeffrey Parker on trumpet, Alex Smith on tenor sax, Alex Galbreath on drum set, and Miles Main on trumpet.

Tri-North band students were selected to perform with the Jr. All-Region Band in Cloverdale, IN. Members of this honor band included Grace Hwang on flute, Thalia Halloran on oboe, Minjae Chung on clarinet, Richard Rhee on clarinet, Margaret Comentale on clarinet, Grace Donahue on alto sax, Thea Showalter on tenor sax, Phoebe Powell on bari sax, Madeleine Allard on trumpet, Darin Woodley on trombone, and Emily Record on euphonium.

Two Tri-North students, Minjae Chung and Richard Rhee, were selected to perform in the Jr. All-State Band at the Indiana Music Educators Association Convention in Fort Wayne, IN on January 25, 2014. This is a huge accomplishment!

Feature Teacher

This issue “Feature Teacher” is Mrs. Sandy Wever. She was given our “Above and Beyond” award, a traveling trophy passed from one teacher to the next. Mrs. Whitney Eads, our former winner, says, “Mrs. Wever effects everyone at Tri-North Middle School with her upbeat personality. I appreciate how she gets to know all students—whether they are in her classes or not. She loves her work and cares for all those around her.”

From Mrs. Wever, “I have been with Tri-North Middle School for fifteen years as a Physical Education and Health teacher. I am a graduate of Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education, and Master’s Degree in Education from Indiana Wesleyan University.

My husband & I have two children. Our eldest is Mrs. Taryn Martin. She is a graduate of IU. She and her husband Cory live here in Bloomington IN. Our son Tyson Wever is also an IU graduate and is currently a resident of Dublin OH. Our only child at home is a 14 year old rescued mutt named Rocky which we have raised since he was a few weeks old. I love to Bike in my spare time, and I enjoy making baskets, but most of all I love Tri-North and am thrilled to come into the school every day and work with your children! I don’t see this as a job but a passion that I love. Tri-North Middle School ROCKS and I am Blessed to call this place my home!!!
Our Mission

Tri-North Middle School will provide a learning environment where all students master the fundamental knowledge and skills of their classrooms’ challenging curricula, are evaluated using a variety of assessment tools, and are continuously supported to ensure success academically and as part of our community.

TNMS Piloting Partnership with Monroe County Public Library

Tri-North is proud to serve as the pilot MCCSC secondary school for a special partnership between MCCSC and Monroe County Public Library. We are starting to distribute Monroe County Library Cards to Tri-North students that aren’t current cardholders. This is being done through our social studies classes. Parents, a Monroe County Public Library Informational brochure will go home to all students in your child’s social studies class when the cards are distributed. We welcome parents to join us in helping students understand the responsibilities that come with having a public library card.

Tri-North Middle School participates in the statewide Young Hoosier Book Program.

The purpose of the program is to promote recreational reading among Indiana students. The YHBA list of nominees contains twenty fiction and non-fiction titles. A student must read at least 5 of the titles from the middle school list and discuss them with Mrs. Hill to be eligible to vote for his/her favorite book in mid-April. Voting is held in the Tri-North Library. All Tri-North student voters are eligible to attend a special celebration party during lunch time (date TBA).

It’s time to send in your “Boxtops 4 Education” and “Labels for Education”!

All proceeds go directly to the Tri-North Library to purchase reading materials. We need to make a submission by Monday, February 17, so please send any labels you have clipped to the Tri-North Library A.S.A.P. Labels can be dropped off in the bins on the reference desk in the library or brought to the Tri-North main office and left in Mrs. Hill’s mailbox. Please keep clipping boxtops throughout the year. We will be collecting again in the fall. THANKS!