**Schedule Next Two Weeks:**

February 25th – March 11th – Applied Skills ISTEP 3rd – 6th  
March 10th – 12th – IREAD 3  
March 10th – 5th Grade to IU MAC 9:15 - 11:30

**Marlin Twitter Account:**

Please make sure you follow us on Twitter at @MarlinDragons

**ISTEP Testing:**

ISTEP testing will start this week at Marlin. Our staff members have been working hard to prepare students for the upcoming assessments. However, you also play a critical role in your child’s performance. Many of these suggestions are well known, but they probably bear repeating:

- Visit our school website for links to the Indiana Department of Education and materials to help prepare your student.
- Make sure that your child is aware of the upcoming testing.
- Encourage and support your child in doing her or his best.
- Be certain that your child gets a good night’s sleep before each day of testing.
- Provide your child with a good breakfast, at home or at school, during each day of testing.
- Ensure that your child is in attendance and on time during the days when testing is to occur.

**Celebration of Dr. Seuss:**

The Monroe County Public Library will be holding its annual celebration of Dr. Seuss. It is being done in collaboration with Bloomington Parks and Recreation and WTIU. The event is free and open to the public. There will be games, costume characters, an opportunity to film a book talk for public television, and a live performance of “And to Think That I Saw it On Mulberry Street” by BHSN Drama. I have attached an informational flyer for you.
**Snow Make-Up Days:**

Parents, all snow make-up days will be added on to the end of the school year. MCCSC’s calendar does not have any built in make-up days.

**Marlin Book Fair:**

The Marlin Book Fair will be March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Shari Sanders at sesander@mccsc.edu.

**Kindergarten Registration:**

Kindergarten Registration is open! Please come in and register your Kindergartener for next year. You can get a tour, and we can answer any questions you may have.

**ISTEP Information:**

*This exact information can be found on our website. This will make it easier to access the links.*

Applied Skills Portion of ISTEP February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>:

The following links will take you to the item samplers and scoring rubrics that have been provided by the Indiana DOE. These are for the Applied Skills portion of ISTEP that will be taken February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 11<sup>th</sup>. I would encourage you to view the example questions and rubrics. They will assist you in knowing the content and rigor of the questions on the open-ended portion of ISTEP.

**ELA Rubrics**

**Math Rubrics:**

**ELA Item Samplers**

**Math Item Samplers (Grades 3-5)**

**Math Item Samplers (Grades 6-8)**

ISTEP Online Assessment April 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup> Information:
The following link will take you to a site provided by the Indiana DOE. Through this site you can access the new technology enhanced questions your student will answer on this year’s ISTEP Online Assessment given April 23rd – May 15th. Teachers have been working with students on these types of questions, but we wanted to provide the information to parents and guardians, too. I would encourage you to view the example questions. They will assist you in knowing the content and rigor of the questions on the online portion of ISTEP.

Please click here to access the website for the online practice ISTEP questions.

**Change in Dismissal Plans:**

Please make sure to call by 3:00 if you have a change in your dismissal plan for your student. It allows our secretary time to get the message to the teacher in time for dismissal.

**Late Start, Early Release and Cold Weather Plans:**

Please make a plan with your student for potential late start, early release, and cold weather days. Please make sure your student is dressed appropriately for the weather, and they know their plan should it be a late start or early release day.

Also, please make sure your student is dressed appropriately for outside recess.

**Peaceful Playground Story in Herald Times:**

Marlin Elementary had a story covering our Peaceful Playground in the Herald Times! Please take a moment to read it at:

Peaceful Playground Story

**Early Drop Off:**

Please make sure you do not drop your students off before 8:20 on M/T/Th/F and 9:20 Wednesday. Students are unsupervised and not allowed in the building before this time.

Also, please make sure students are dropped off by 8:35 on M/T/Th/F and 9:35 Wednesday. If students arrive later than 8:35 on M/T/Th/F and 9:35 on Wednesday, they will need to report to the office and be counted tardy.

**Anti-Bullying Programs and Interventions:**
Please find attached an informational brochure that outlines some of our anti-bullying programs and interventions.

**Conferences:**

As a reminder to our existing parents and information to our new parents, please feel free to contact your classroom teacher at any point throughout the year if you would like a conference with your student’s teacher. We are here to work closely with you.

**Lunch with the Principal:**

Our next Lunch with the Principal will be Friday, March 27th.

**Field Trips and Volunteers:**

If you plan on volunteering or chaperoning, please make sure you have a current background check on file with the office. We have several field trips coming up, and I wanted to give a friendly reminder.

**Important Dates – Extended Look:**

- February 25th – March 11th – Applied Skills ISTEP 3rd – 6th
- March 10th – 12th – IREAD 3
- March 10th – 5th Grade to IU MAC 9:15 - 11:30
- March 16th – 20th – Spring Break
- March 24th – PTO Meeting from 5:30 – 6:30
- March 26th – 3rd Grade to IU MAC from 9:30 – 11:30
- March 30th – April 3rd – Marlin Book Fair
- March 31st – 6th Grade to Leonard Springs from 9:30 – 2:30