

HUTCHINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Trimester 2-2023



8th Grade LINK Crew Help Lead the Way

The **LINK Crew** has an important role at HMS. As we continue to build student voice in decisions made at the middle school, the leadership of the LINK Crew is valued, growing and appreciated. Link Crew members model the **TIGERS Values and Expectations**, mentor 6th grade students, read daily announcements and help plan activities for Tiger Celebrations at each grade level. LINK Crew members are excited to continue planning Winterfest which will take place the week of January 16th.

Culture and Outreach Committee

The Link Crew Culture and Outreach Committee is a subgroup of our Link Team and is open to any current Link Crew members. This committee helps to build a positive school culture and will provide a student voice at HMS. The committee will work directly with advisors to plan school related events and will also have an opportunity to participate in community outreach and/or service projects.





We are excited to share that our very own Mrs. Tera Telecky has been selected as **Teacher of the Year** by the Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce and the Hutchinson Jaycees. Mary Hodgson, President of the Chamber, and Miranda Piepenberg, Membership Support Coordinator, were at Hutchinson Middle School to present Mrs. Telecky with her award. Mrs. Telecky has been teaching for 24 years. She has been teaching at HMS for 21 years as a math teacher.



The Environmental Learning Field Trip to Prairie Woods (for 6th graders) is drawing near. At this time, we have started collecting the \$30.00 fee and permission forms from your student to attend. All forms and money will be due on January 26th. Checks can be payable to HMS, you can also pay by cash or online thru SmartSchoolk12.

Fall PE Students will be going on Tuesday, February 21st while Spring PE Students will be going on Wednesday, February 22nd.


6th Students will need to be at school by 7:30am on their trip date and be picked up at 6:15pm in the MS parking lot. Please make arrangements ahead of time for pickup. Your student will need proper winter clothing, as they will be outside all day.

We are still in need of chaperones if you are interested, please contact Dawn Altermatt at dawn.altermatt@isd423.org.



MCA's (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments) and the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) will be administered in all math, all reading/Language Arts and Science (8th grade) classrooms on the dates indicated below. The purpose of the assessments is to provide information as to whether students have mastered the academic standards in the areas of reading, math, and science. We hope as many students as possible take these state assessments so we can analyze the data as we determine student achievement needs. Parents may refuse to have their child complete state assessments. To do so, parents must complete and return the "Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments." This form that is located on the middle school's website in the "Parent" section and should be returned to Mrs. Vathauer, Principal.

We highly encourage you to plan appointments around the dates of testing. It is very important to support students at home to do their personal best on the MCA's and at school by obtaining solid sleep habits, eating a healthy diet, drink plenty of water and set limits on cell phone use and digital media.

	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
	Reading 4/17- 4/21	Reading 4/17- 4/21	Reading 4/17- 4/21
	Math 4/24 - 4/27	Math 4/24 - 4/27	Math 4/24 - 4/27
			Science 5/1- 5/13

REACH



Within our walls is a program that is making a difference. This program is known as **REACH**. We asked some of our students to share what REACH is to them.

What is REACH?

"REACH is a safe place for me to talk about my home life and my personal problems without being judged. REACH also helps with Relationships, Education, Accountability, Character, and Hard work."— 8th Grade Student

"We are a TEAM. Gives HOPE and shows up when you need them at most, its a place where you can share anything and not be judged, this places helps people stay chemical free, and holds people accountable, it's also a place to help you get a good start with your future(doing academic days when we focus on grades/missing work)." -7th Grade Student

"It is a place where you build people up with confidence and energy to get stuff done and you will have to get real at times and you may cry and that's ok."— 7th Grade Student



"Reach is a safe family that you can always go to if you need someone to listen or even someone to talk with, also somewhere where you can walk into the room and know you won't be judged."— 6th Grade Student

"REACH is like a 2nd home, a safe place where nobody will ever judge you if you cry, have a terrible day, or that reach will open to you and help make it better for you." —8th Grade Student

Why I like REACH?

"I like REACH because it has helped me a lot while I was struggling with chemicals. I also like it because I get held accountable for my actions."—8th Grade Student

"The reason I like REACH is that it feels like the only safe place for me most days, it helps deal with my emotions better and that is something I really need right now."—7th Grade Student

"I like REACH because it's a safe place where I can get connected with people socially, work on my school work and feel safe about talking about my emotions. Being in REACH I can work on my grades and classes I'm having trouble in."— 6th Grade Student

What would I tell people about REACH?

"I am so grateful that this program exists, without it, I wouldn't be here. I remember when I first joined, I was kind of embarrassed to be in REACH, but now I'm proud. I thought I would regret asking to join, but I didn't. It's helped me so much." - 8th Grade Student

"That it's a safe place kinda like a big support group where it's safe and it helps you be a better person, get your grades up, find happiness in life and much more."—6th Grade Student

Operation Hope

REACH at the middle school and high school, joined with Middle School teacher, Jeff Schmidt to support Operation Hope. Operation Hope is a mission of providing much-needed items for the homeless throughout Minnesota. There were three drop-off locations where students, staff and community members could bring donated items. As a result of a widespread community and district effort all three drop-offs were overflowing with acts of kindness.





Breakfast with Berwin-a Therapy Dog!

Berwin has been a great addition to Tuesday and Thursday mornings at HMS. Students have an opportunity to sign-up to have “Breakfast with Berwin.” Berwin enriches student’s lives in many ways. Berwin is, tested, certified, and registered as a Therapy Dog. Berwin helps to improve student’s mood, calm, alleviate stress and gain the strength and confidence to overcome the challenges students sometimes face. Berwin has love and unconditional affection and provides emotional support. Everyone who meets Berwin loves him!



Engaging in Reflective Conversations

By Mr. McDowell

Expert from Hutchison Leader 12/14/2022 Publication

As we move into the new year and reflect on our students' success or possible areas of improvement, it's important for us as parents and mentors to collaboratively engage with our children in reflective conversations. Within these conversations, we can discuss areas that we feel are going well or need improvement. Reflection is a skill that many of us tend to forget about, due to the fast pace of life, school and work. Although this takes time, it's an incredibly important part of working with our children and teens. These conversations encourage them to reflect on skills and habits that will help them as they mature into young adults.

Reflective conversations start with an open mindset and honesty. They must be handled with care and at times, our children and teens may not seem ready. None-the less, their importance is invaluable.

Some conversations and topics might be easier to approach than others. These topics include promoting healthy peer relationships, healthy technology and social media use, and encouraging a growth mindset to overcome challenges.

Reflective conversations allow us to get a glimpse into our children's lives and offer them a chance to connect with a trusting adult about a variety of important topics. By engaging in these topics and modeling the habit of taking time to reflect, we as adults can continue to find opportunities to guide and promote continuous improvement with our youth.



GRIT



WHY GRIT AT HUTCHINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL?

What is Grit? Grit is a term used to describe a student's resilience, determination, and perseverance when faced with difficult tasks. Grit is not determined by intelligence or talent, but is rather a commitment to persevere in the face of failure or struggle.

The habits we observe in many students include giving up to easy as well as an "I don't care" attitude. This is concerning as middle school is a time where habits are formed as the basis for a successful high school experience. Challenging academic requirements and expectations can cause students to give up. With "coaching" conversations and opportunities for re-do's of academic work, students can develop grit.

Hutchinson Middle School Values and Expectations

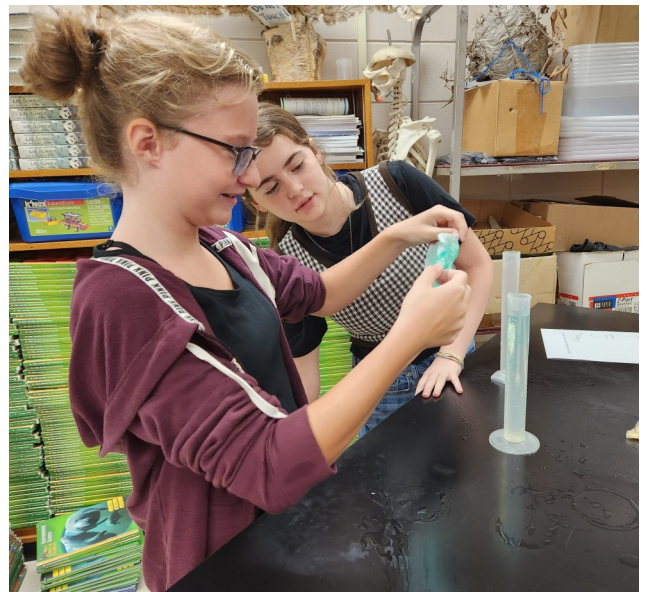
T TEAMWORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build positive relationships with others• Work well with others• Be supportive and kind to each other
I INTEGRITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make positive choices• Do your own work• Be honest and own your mistakes
G GRIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set high goals• Have a growth mindset• Overcome challenges
E EFFORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strive for your personal best• Be responsible for yourself• Participate in your classes and in school activities
R RESPECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Show respect to yourself and others• Be mindful of your actions and words• Keep your hands and feet to yourself
S SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote a safe school environment• Listen and follow all directions• Be a responsible digital citizen



Grit is part of our middle school TIGERS Values and Expectations.

Anyone who works with middle school students know that middle school can be hard, and it will take grit. Grit involves the effort that students display and the process by which they successfully overcome challenges. One thing to think about is that grit is not about completing a task successfully, but rather embracing the process without giving up. It is important to help students see that **the end result is not as important as the process by which they tackle the challenge**. Rewarding and encouraging students for their efforts in lieu of the end result is key. Habits and self-control require grit.

What can parents do to help develop this important skill in their child? **Make an example of a present situation.** If your child comes home and shares how they powered through a tough situation, acknowledge the process they used vs. staying fixed on the outcome. Challenging academic requirements and expectations, sports and outdoor opportunities are all ways to provide opportunities for developing grit. Allow multiple opportunities for re-do's at home also. You want your students to take risks, power through challenging tasks, and help them understand how to navigate frustration without giving up.





Promoting Good Attendance With Your Middle School Student

- Schedule vacations and appointments outside of school time.
- Set a routine for bedtime, morning wake-up and transportation to school, so time is not lost due to poor organization.
- Sign-up and check out Parent Portal, so you know exactly how many days your student has missed. Set a goal of 95% or better attendance every year (less than 9 days out of school per year, or an average of 1 day per month).
- If your student is absent, please call the Middle School office at **320-587-2854**.

Dates to Know

January 16th– No School; MLK Day
 January 17-20th– Winterfest at HMS
 February 1st– 2 hour Late Start
 February 2nd– Parent/Teacher Conferences
 February 3rd– No School; Parent/Teacher Conferences
 February 3rd-February 5th- HMS Musical
 February 20th– No School; President's Day
 March 3-10th– No School; Work Day/Spring Break



@hutch_middle