

# October 2008

## CONNEAUT MIDDLE SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

*We will continue the educational development of our students.  
We expect positive attitudes and behaviors toward self and others,  
so that students become responsible, contributing members of society.*

### CMS NEWS

**CMS NEWS** is our monthly newsletter. This monthly newsletter will be emailed, can be accessed on the district web page or will be sent home with your child. Our newsletter is an attempt to keep you informed about events and topics which might affect your child and be of interest to you. If you have any questions about any information found in **CMS NEWS**, or any questions concerning your child's education at CMS, please call us at 593-7240. Our office is open from 6:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. on all school days.

### PICTURE DAY

CMS Picture day has been scheduled for Friday, October 3. Your child received a packet. Please make sure that you return the packet with your child with the appropriate correct amount of money.

### OCTOBER COUNT WEEK

The week of October 6-10, students across the state will be counted in every school district. The count is used in determining state funding. Unexcused absences during this week will result in an automatic loss of funds. Please help us by making sure your child attends school. If your child is absent, please make sure you send a note in with your child. Also, students that are tardy make a difference. Please help us. Thank-you.

### SPIRIT WEEK

The week of October 6-10 the students will be participating in Spirit Week. Monday has been designated as Pajama Day (no slippers), Tuesday is Hat Day and Competition Day, Wednesday is Wacky Wednesday and a donut eating contest, Thursday is CROC or Flip Flop Day, along with Guess How Many Gummi Fish, Friday is BLUE, GOLD, WHITE DAY and who can make the best sound. It is all about keeping our SPIRIT GOING!!!

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be mailed out next Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make sure you review the reports with your child and call the school if you would like to schedule. PAM ~ Parent Assist Module is another resource for parents to monitor their child's school process. For more details, contact, Mr. David Kennedy, Assistant Principal

**YOUTH OF THE MONTH** Brooke Sanford was chosen September's Youth of the Month. Brooke is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and participates in volleyball, yearbook and art club. Her parents are John and Karen Arcaro. Brooke will be honored with a plaque and a luncheon at the Conneaut Rotary Club meeting. The Rotary Club and TAPERS honor students every month. We would like to thank them for providing this honor to our CMS students.

### OCTOBER 17

NEOEA day. School is not in session.

**EARLY DISMISSAL DAY** The next early dismissal day is Friday, October 24. CMS students will be dismissed at 11:30AM.

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## TAPERS NEWS

TAPERS will be sponsoring a Fall Dance on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:30. This dance is for CMS students only, no guest will be admitted. Students who bring in a non-perishable food item will get in for \$3.00, all other students will be admitted for \$4.00. All school fees must be paid or waiver forms must be turned in before student attend the dance. The TAPERS will be having a concession stand. Also on sale will glow necklaces and Blue/Gold Roses. Chaperones are needed for this dance. Please consider helping us out.

## TAPER'S NEWS

Officers for TAPERS (Teachers and Parents Educating "R" Students) for this year include: Susan Horvath and Darla Sprague ~ Presidents; Vicki Dobos ~ Vice President; Shannon Ruffo ~ Secretary; Traci Powers ~ Treasurer; Melanie Olivarze ~ Concession Stand Coordinator. Please consider supporting this group of hardworking people by becoming a member. Thank you to all those parents that have joined.

Dear CMS Parents,

During the school year TAPERS needs your support. Below is a list of activities in which we are asking for your help. Please fill out the form and return it with your child to his or her homeroom teachers. Without your help, TAPERS would not be able to provide certain services to our students. The middle years are so very important! We ask a donation of \$4.00 to help begin our school year.

Thank-you on behalf of the Conneaut Middle School Community.

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Membership Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Child(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation;

I will be able to help with:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chaperoning dances \_\_\_\_\_ Help in the concession stand during the dances  
\_\_\_\_\_ Help in the concession stand during volleyball, girls and boys basketball

## 2008-2009 YEARBOOKS

Students will be given the chance at the end of October to begin purchasing the Conneaut Middle School yearbook. More information will follow.

## MONDAY AND THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL ASSISTANCE.

Parents, is your child having difficulty in school? If so, teachers are willing to assist your child on Mondays and Thursdays after school to 3:00. By setting this schedule you can be assured that your child will receive extra attention with their schoolwork. We chose Monday and Thursday so you would know what day to schedule your other appointments.

## COMPUTER NEWS

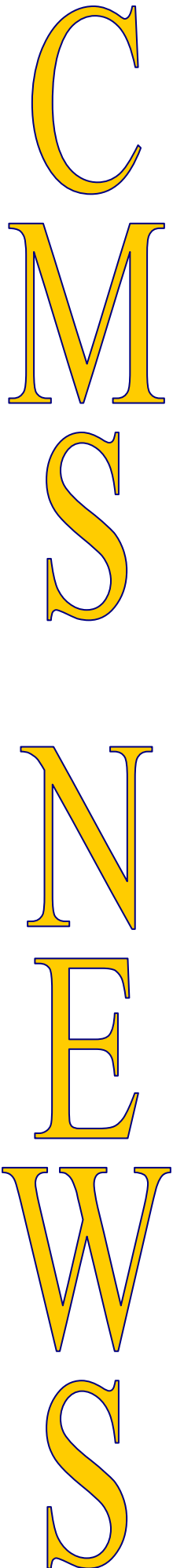
In response to some parent concerns about student access to the internet, I would like to reassure parents that school is perhaps the safest place for internet access. The Conneaut Area City School district, in conjunction with NEOMIN, blocks students from accessing sites with inappropriate content. For most classroom activities using the internet, teachers direct students to teacher-approved sites and to the INFOHIO gateway. Teachers do not let students just "surf" the net indiscriminately.

To access the INFOHIO site at home, key in [www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org). Username is INFOHIO and the password is EXPLORE.



Show your school spirit while you are at your computer! Get a Spartan mouse pad for only \$4.00 each. These would make great gifts! Proceeds will go towards technology, contact Ms. Bernay.

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## **STUDENT RULES ORIENTATION**

All students received a student rules orientation packet. During these sessions, general procedures, the Student Conduct Code, policies and behavioral expectations for the year were discussed. It is our hope that by meeting with all the students in a small group setting we will be able to avoid some possible confusion or misunderstandings at a later date. Please call if you have any concerns or questions about the information that will be given.

## **TUESDAY DELAY START**

Every Tuesday morning CMS has a delay start. Students do not have to report to school until 7:45. Therefore, you may want to bring your child in at this time. During this time teachers are planning and developing interventions to help our students become more successful in school.

## **FORMS**

If you haven't noticed, the blue folder that your child brought home on the first day contained many forms that need to be returned. We ask that if you haven't completed all the forms, please take the time to fill these out and have your child bring them back as soon as possible. The blue folder then becomes your child's homework folder.

**GEAR UP** Gear Up stands for Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs. It is a grant that is provided to us with federal and state support. It's never too soon to think about your child going to college, technical school, or the military. There are ways for each and every student to be able to go on to some kind of educational training after high school. We want to stress the importance now of students and parents having a positive attitude towards learning; of seeing the value of getting decent grades; of becoming involved in school and community activities; and of having the self-confidence to achieve true potential. Each person does indeed have the potential to be whatever he/she chooses. It's up to each individual to make that happen, and we're here when you need some help. At CMS, our programs will focus mostly on academics, with some opportunities for exposure to colleges and technical schools. There will be several activities and programs in which students and parents can get involved. The best part - there will never be any fees!! We are currently in the process of developing a tutoring program for math. Information will soon be sent home with students. We encourage you to take advantage of this service especially if you feel it would be beneficial to your child. If you have access to a computer and the Internet, I will be providing sites that may help at home. A good sight for math that you and your child might find helpful is [www.nlvm.usu.edu](http://www.nlvm.usu.edu). It is the National Library of Virtual Manipulative and has all sorts of learning tools to try. Your student's success and confidence is our main concern. We look forward to working with you and your child to make their education the best that it can be. Paula Ghiz - Gear Up Advisor,CMS

## **ACHIEVEMENT TESTS**

Every child in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking the Reading and Math Achievement test. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade the students will be taking Reading, Writing and Math. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the state Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies Achievement Test. These tests will be given Beginning April 20. In order for our students to be prepared, all teachers in LA/Reading, Math, PE, Art, Music, Keyboarding, Lifeskills, Science, and Social Studies will be implementing monthly assessments. We feel this approach will help our students be successful when they take the tests. Please encourage your child to attend school regularly and be an active participant in school.

## **INTERVENTION, TUTORS and GUIDED STUDY HALL**

Our goal this year is to increase our scores on the OAT's. Many of our students will be receiving intervention or tutoring in reading. They may have scored Proficient on their OAT's, but we feel with more strategies and test taking skills our students can score in Accelerated and Advanced.

## ASSIGNMENT BOOK

Each year we use this statement, “Those Who fail to Plan, Plan to Fail”. The statement refers to the students’ assignment books. Each student received an assignment book the first day of school. This educational tool helps to organize your child’s day and can be used for writing each assignment in the book. The student is also responsible for bringing the book home each evening. Students have been reminded that they are not to deface, remove pages, or do damage to their assignment books. Replacement cost for damaged or for a lost book is \$10.00. Teachers are responsible for checking that the assignments are written in the book. In addition, teachers are responsible for communicating problems that they see, looking for notes from the parent and responding to those notes. Teachers should not be held responsible for assignments which are not completed. The parent’s responsibility is making sure that their child has completed the assignment to the best of his/her ability. Often students will tell their parents that the assignment has been completed in school or that no assignment was given. It is suggested until some good habits have been developed, parents insist on seeing the assignment book and the completed assignments on a nightly basis. If a parent sees a problem developing where their child does not have the ability to do the assignments, please contact the teacher immediately. If your child does not bring the assignment book home, please bring him/her back to school and pick it up. This will help to reinforce the assignment book’s importance and will help to show your support for the school and the assignment book program. We know the assignment book is not the answer to all our students’ needs, but it is definitely a tool which can bring significant improvement when used as it is designed to be used.

## DATA

We believe that Data helps encourage our students to do better in school. This month **THE DATA BOARD** includes the following categories; Attendance, Bus Behavior, and Volleyball vs Football. At the end of the 9 weeks the Class with the best attendance, the Bus with the best behavior and the Team with the most wins will receive a special treat.

## Welcome

**Conneaut Middle School** welcomes our new staff members: Jenna Diorio–8<sup>th</sup> gr. Reading/English, Emily Mercer-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Reading/LA/SS, Megan Clune-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Reading/LA/SS, J.C. Lenk-6<sup>th</sup> gr.Math/Science/SS, Elizabeth Ellis-Intervention Specialist, 6<sup>th</sup> gr. Math/Science/SS, Jeff Bickel-Band, Stephen Rodgers-Choir, Jennifer Mullins-Literacy Coach, Antoinette Green-Reading Tutor, Katy Malasky-Reading Tutor, Stephanie Mischka-Reading Tutor and David Kennedy-Assistant Principal.

## FINALLY

We are looking forward to another great school year and thank-you for taking the time to read this issue of the *CMS NEWS*. Together we can make a difference!

**VOTE YES on November 4. HELP US PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS**

**WE ARE CONNEAUT**

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