

Middle JAGS

Newsletter Brought to You by Madison Middle School PTO



Dear Middle School Teachers, Students, and Families,

As the holiday season approaches, we want to extend our warmest wishes to each of you. This time of year is perfect for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. We are incredibly grateful for the dedication of our teachers, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our families. Your hard work and commitment have made this year truly remarkable. May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones.

-MMS Administration

First Semester Exam Schedule

Exams will count as a major grade and will be weighted accordingly.



| Monday December 16 (B) | Tuesday December 17 (A) | Wednesday December 18 (B) | Thursday December 19 (A) | Friday December 20 60% |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 th Test | 1 st Test | 5 th Makeup | 1 st Makeup | 2 nd Makeup |
| 6 th Review | 2 nd Review | 6 th Test | 2 nd Test | 4 th Makeup |
| 7 th Test | 3 rd Test | 7 th Makeup | 3 rd Makeup | 6 th Makeup |
| 8 th Review | 4 th Review | 8 th Test | 4 th Test | 8 th Makeup |

Important: Exam schedule will run like a normal school day Monday-Thursday and absences **will count against exemptions** in the spring.



Our 8th-grade science team went to the National Conference on Science Education in New Orleans. They learned about new and exciting ways to maximize instruction for our students.



Strings students performed a Christmas concert on December 2nd in the MMS entryway.



Academic Excellence



Field Trip

7th graders participated in a field trip to the MS History & Civil Rights Museums and toured the Old Capitol Building in Jackson, MS, on November 22nd. This day off campus was the culmination of our semester-long study of our MS Studies course.

Our students were able to see artifacts from our state's past, watch videos and view exhibits curated to express the hardship and struggle during the civil rights era, but ultimately witness the changes and growth we've seen in our state.

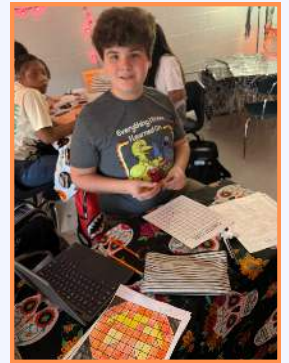
We are so grateful for the support from our administration, fellow staff, and parents in making this day such a fun and meaningful experience for our students.

-7th Grade History Team



Spooky Stations in ELA

Halloween was in full force on the 7th grade halls. ELA reviewed skills with fun Halloween Spooky Stations & the teachers had some tricks up their sleeves (sheets)!





World Tour Day

Get your passport ready and put on your favorite tourist shirt, because it's time for an epic adventure! Our 6th graders had a blast "traveling" through the seven continents and immersing themselves in different cultures with fun, hands-on activities. It was a fantastic day filled with learning and exploration together!



Introducing our MMS 2024-25

Teacher, Para-Professional, and Parent of the Year!

We couldn't be more grateful for their incredible contributions to our school community every single day. Thank you for all that you do!



Teacher of the Year! Sara Carpenter

Sara Carpenter is an 8th-grade teacher at Madison Middle School. She is a devoted wife to Jay Carpenter and mother to three children: John Mackey (24), Evan (19), and Rachael (18). Mrs. Carpenter also has several pets, including a black-mouth cur named Creed, a calico cat named Gizmo, three fish, and a rat snake. In her free time, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends.

With over 25 years of teaching experience, she holds a Bachelor's degree in education from Mississippi College and is certified to teach K-4, elementary school (grades 4-6), middle school science (grades 7-8), and biology (grades 7-12). Mrs. Carpenter began her career teaching 2nd and 4th grades at Bentonia-Gibbs Elementary School in Yazoo County. She then moved to Pearl Junior High School to teach middle school science. After the birth of her last child, she started teaching science at Madison Middle School, where she has been for the past 18 years. Currently, Mrs. Carpenter is pursuing a Master's degree in Secondary Education through William Carey University.

Mrs. Carpenter takes pride in creating a fun, safe, and inclusive learning environment. She encourages her students to research and investigate information rather than simply memorizing facts. Her goal is for every student to feel safe, heard, and confident about their future.

For the past three years, Mrs. Carpenter has led the 8th-grade science department. She values teamwork and aims for a common goal. Under her leadership, the science department has achieved the highest science and biology test scores in the state, demonstrating her high standards for students and their potential to excel.



Para-Professional of the Year! Emily Belote

Hello! I'm Emily Belote, and I'm a special education assistant here at Madison Middle School. This is my 4th year with Madison County Schools. My role has involved a variety of responsibilities in a variety of special education classes at Madison Station Elementary for 2 years and here at Madison Middle for the past 2 years. Special needs has always been a passion of mine, and I'm so grateful to have made it a career and found a home here at Madison Middle.

Outside of work, you can find me outdoors with my son Case, daughter Jolene, and husband Morgan. Throughout the year I also run special needs summer camps and weekend retreats at Camp Bratton-Green or one of my CampAble locations across the Southeast. I'm so appreciative of this recognition and look forward to many more years serving children here at Madison Middle with our special education team.



Parent of the Year! Melanie Hataway

Melanie does so much for our school in her role as PTO President, and we are thankful for her leadership and service to Madison Middle School!



Veterans Day Program

On November 13th, Madison Middle School proudly held its annual Veterans Day Program, honoring approximately 60 veterans who are family members of students and faculty. The event featured a special performance of "God Bless America" by Vertreace



Sanders, a proud alumna of MMS. Jeanna Crowder, a retired teacher from the school, served as the mistress of ceremonies.

The program also highlighted a guest speech by Danny Dukes, who served in the Army National Guard, adding depth to the celebration. Mrs. Watkins and her yearbook staff created a poignant video tribute featuring veterans who are alumni, family members, currently deployed, and those who have passed away.



Madison Middle School extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Veterans Day Program, including Vertreace Sanders, Jeanna Crowder, Danny Dukes, the 8th grade Beta Club students, Student Council members, the 8th grade History team, the MMS Band and Choir, the MMS art teachers and students, and Mrs. Watkins and her dedicated yearbook staff. **We honor all veterans for their service, not just on Veterans Day, but every day. God Bless America!**



FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025
7:00P.M. - 9:00P.M. MMS GYM

MMS 7th & 8th Grade

Winter Dance

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM @ MMS Gym

Armbands (which serve as your ticket) will be passed out on Friday, January 10 during 1st block.

Important Information:

- Students who wish to attend must purchase a ticket.
- Each student is required to buy their own ticket.
- Only 7th and 8th grade students who attend MMS are invited.

Suggested Dress Code: Semi-formal

\$20 cash in-person ticket sales will be January 6-9, from 7:30 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. in the MMS Foyer.

[Click here:](#) Online ticket sales are \$20 with a .50 cents convenience fee until January 9 at 10:00a.m.

When making an online purchase, you will need to provide the following:

1. Student Grade
2. Homeroom Teacher (if the Homeroom Teacher name is not listed select "Not Listed")
3. Student Full Name
4. Parent/Guardian Contact Number

| DECEMBER | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 20th | 6th Grade - Christmas Chaos |
| | End of Semester - 60% Day |
| 23rd- Jan 3rd | Winter Break |
| January | |
| 6th | Students Return to School |
| | Paw Print Assembly |
| 9th | Report Cards |
| 10th | 7th & 8th Grade Dance |
| 20th | MLK Day - No School |
| 31st | School Fundraiser Starts |

Spinners Celebration

7th and 8th graders flew high with their stellar 2023-2024 State Testing results, celebrating with a fun-filled trip to Spinners! Thanks to the dedication of our amazing students and staff, MMS is the **number one middle school in Mississippi!** ✨ Look at us shine!



Happy Birthday to Our Teachers and Staff! December

- 4 – Taylor Hildebrand
- 18 – Michelle Houston
- 19 – Shannon Green
- 24 – Brittany Massey
- 25 – Kelsey Scoville
- 27 – Myron Powell
- 28 – Kelly Hooks
- 29 – Drew Wardlaw
- 30 – Melissa Rogers

Nurse Notes

SPREAD KINDNESS NOT GERMS

Cough and sneeze into your elbow, not hands

Wash hands OFTEN

Keep your hands off of your face

Students must be fever-free for **24 hours** before they return to school





**By Melanie
Hataway
PTO President**

It has been a great first semester at MMS, but if your family is like mine, you are ready for an extended break. I am truly grateful for all you have done to make our fall successful. Your support and engagement make MMS the special place it is. While we may be winding down for now, planning is already underway for our second Paw Print Assembly, the 7th and 8th grade dance, and our school fundraiser which will launch on January 31st. These funds will go toward completing our courtyard expansion in the back. Keep your eyes open for more information about our one and only school fundraiser in the days to come.

Thank you again for your time and efforts this fall. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Meet our PTO - 6th Grade Activities Committee



Katie Stewart (Chair)

I have a 7th grader, a 6th grader, and a 3rd grader at MAUE. Outside of PTO I teach kindergarten, travel with my family, and love watching my kids play sports.



Brandy Andrews

I have been married to Ike for 16 years, and we have two boys, Brant and Spence. Most of our free time is spent on a ball field watching those two!



Elisa Oswald

I am the mom of Fin and Fisher. My husband is Michael, and we have been married 16 years. I am a radiologic technologist and instructor for the Radiologic Technology Program at Hinds Community College. We love a good road trip traveling & spending time with family and friends. Go Jags!



Del Adams (Co-Chair)

I work for Digio Strategies (US96, Y101, Mix98.7, 93.5 Legend and 93.1 Blues). My husband, Chris, is a Physical Therapist & Athletic Trainer at Capital Ortho. Our kids are 9th, 7th, 6th, and 4th.



Meredith Portera

My husband and I have two girls, one at MMS and the other at MSE. I teach College and Career Readiness and Humanities at Madison Central! We LOVE the JAGUARS!



Sarah Duren

I have been married to my husband Jason for 14 years. We have two kids, Meyer (6th grade) and Lola (5th grade). We enjoy spending time with family and friends and traveling.



Meredith Hegi My husband, John, and I have four children: Lyla Grayce in 7th and Finn in 6th at MMS, Beck in 4th at MSE, and Townes, a soon to be kindergartener at MSE! We spend most of our time watching baseball, soccer, basketball, cross country, and any other sports my kids can get involved in! I love volunteering at both the middle school and elementary, but I also love spending time reading and shopping!



Counselors are here to help



The PTO helped to honor our veterans with a special reception following the MMS Veterans Day Program.

A big thank you to our Hospitality Committee for putting together such a wonderful reception!



The holidays can be a wonderful opportunity to rest, reflect, and spend time with loved ones. They can also be a stressful time for families. Here are some tips to keep your student stress-free during this holiday season:

1. Keep your routine as consistent as possible.

Maintain reasonable bedtimes during the break. This will greatly help the transition back to school in January.

2. Don't overextend yourself or your family. It's ok not to attend every holiday function you are invited to. Your student needs down time after putting in hard work first semester!

3. Keep expectations realistic. While the holidays are a meaningful time, the idea of a "perfect" Christmas often gets in the way of an already special reality. Gifts are great, decorations are fun and beautiful, but time with family in ordinary moments is what makes the holiday season so sweet.

4. Take time to do something good for others. What better way to boost your own mood than by taking part in the spirit of giving! Helping others is good for the soul and is a great way for you to spend quality time with your teenager.

5. Manage your stress as well! Children often take their cues from the adults in their lives. Your anxiousness is theirs. Model good stress-relieving techniques that you use in your life and encourage them to find their own that work for them.

6. Take time to reflect. Expressing gratitude can provide a much-needed mood boost during the holiday season.

We promise never to take for granted that you are sending us your most treasured people on earth. Thank you for sharing the gift of your child with us.

Your MMS Counselors:

Lindsay Bouchillon-6th

Karen Boutwell- 7th

Lindsey Montgomery- 8th

The ARTS at MMS

Art



Band

Parade

The 8th grade band will be marching in the city of Madison Christmas parade on December 7.

Winter Concert

The beginner and 7th grade bands have their winter concert on December 10 at 6:00 pm in the MMS gym.



Choir



Pictured: band and choir celebrating our veterans.

Activity Sponsors

Advanced Art

Catie Stoltzfus

cstoltzfus

@madison-schools.com

Band

Ms. Ross

leigh.ross

@madison-schools.com

Choir

Mrs. Bruening

jbruening

@madison-schools.com

Drama

Mrs. Maze

kmaze

@madison-schools.com

Athletics and Clubs at MMS



The MMS dance and cheer teams loved having Superintendent Ted Poore and Athletic Director Toby Collums help cheer on our girls and boys basketball teams to victory! We love basketball season!! You can catch us perform again at our next home games on **December 9!**

Activity Sponsors

Archery

Coach Britt
abritt
@madison-schools.com

Coach Stoltzfus
cstoltzfus
@madison-schools.com

Basketball

Coach Matthews (Girls)
zar100
@madison-schools.com

Coach Reed (Boys)
Travis.Reed
@madison-schools.com

Cross-Country/ Track

Coach Shuster
kshuster
@madison-schools.com

Coach Cook
rcook
@madison-schools.com

Cheer

Coach Peters
apeters
@madison-schools.com

Dance

Coach Collins
mar112
@madison-schools.com

Football

Coach Rogers trogers
@madison-schools.com

Golf

Coach Bayliss (Girls)
tbayliss
@madison-schools.com

Coach Beach (Boys)
tbeach
@madison-schools.com

Volleyball

Coach Morgan
ale124
@madison-schools.com

Beta Club

6th Grade Beta Club Dates

Pictured Right: 8th grade Beta Club raised over \$400 for Our Daily Bread in Canton, MS. Our students also donated hygiene items to make over 100 hygiene bags to deliver to Our Daily Bread.

7th Grade Beta Club

Meeting Dates*

December - Field Trip - date TBD

January 15, February 19, March 19

April - Service Day - date TBD

May - Service Hours Celebration Breakfast date TBD

**Other meetings may be scheduled as needed*



8th Grade Beta Club

Next Meeting: December 17th

Robotics

7th/8th Grade V5 Robotics

The Robo Jags had some significant wins in November.



Acidic French Toast earned the very top award at the Space City Signature Event in Houston, Texas!



In the local high school/blended division, Nexus, who includes, Daiwik, Maddie, and Ty, earned Tournament Champions.



In the middle school divisions, The Default, who include Lucy, Edison, Brandon, and Hunter, were awarded Tournament Champions.



Hail Storm, who includes Lucas, Yuva and Krish, won the Judges Award as well as Tournament Champion.



6th Grade IQ Robotics



The 6th grade Madison Middle Robo Jags had a magnificent competition at Shirley Simmons Middle School. The Microwavable Pizza Potatoes triple crowned by earning the Skills Champion Award, Tournament Champions and Excellence Award (the highest honor!) for their strong work in Vex IQ. These achievements have earned them an invitation to the State competition! Similarly, The Smart Squad did so well in Skills that they too have received an invitation to the state comp at Mississippi College. Spreading the cheer, The Potato Bois won the table decorating contest! What fun! We are proud of all of our Robo Jags!



Activity Sponsors

Beta Club

Mrs. Furr (6th grade)
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@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Turpin (7th grade)
lturpin

@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Hudnall (8th grade)
car220

@madison-schools.com

Chess

Mrs. Doyle
adoyle

@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Adams
chr136

@madison-schools.com

FCA

Mrs. Clegg
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@madison-schools.com

Mr. Male
set100

@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Walker
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@madison-schools.com

Math Counts

Mrs. Selph
jselph

@madison-schools.com

Robotics

Mrs. Rice (6th grade)
mrice

@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Berry (7th & 8th grade)
sberry

@madison-schools.com

Spirit Club

Mrs. Bouchillon
lbouchillon

@madison-schools.com

Student Council

Mrs. Hawk (6th Grade)
chawk

@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Gilmer (7th Grade)
fgilmer

@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Garletts (8th Grade)
agarletts

@madison-schools.com

Mrs. Doyle (8th Grade)
adoyle

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