Monthly Newsletter

September 2023 | Issue 12





From the Desk of Ms. Holliday Mexico Middle School Principal

Dear Mexico Middle School Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! Due to the power outage on Friday, September 8th, we had to move our Welcome Back Assemblies to Friday, September 22nd. During these assemblies we will remind all of our students that rules are established to keep everyone safe! We also will discuss the Dignity for All Students Act which seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. We will be explaining to students that when someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's RUDE. When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN**. However, when someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they keep doing it - even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset - that's BULLYING. We expect a climate of kindness and respect at Mexico Middle School and when that is not happening, we encourage our students to report it. DASA forms are available in the main foyer, and in the main office, for students to report bullying.

Students have received laptops and school supplies. Please let your student's teacher know if you are missing anything. We have opened our Kindness Closet and students may shop free for gently used clothing, shoes, coats, etc. and for brand new personal hygiene products as needed. Please see Mrs. V. Ladd if you are interested in shopping at the Kindness Closet.

This year, school breakfast and lunch will be free for all students!!!

All parents/guardians have access to SchoolTool to daily monitor student's assignments, grades and attendance. If at any time you need to update your information or have a new password sent to you, please contact Ms. Rupracht in Student Services for help (either by phone at 315-963-8400 ext 4206 or email at krupracht@mexicocsd.org). If you need help signing in or using the Parent Portal, visit the Student Services page of the MS MACS webpage to view a handy user guide (https://www.mexicocsd.org/Page/111)!

Once again, welcome to the new school year! If you have any questions, please call 315-963-8400 ext 4200.

All About 🎓 i-Ready

Our school will again be using a Mathematics and Reading program called I-Ready. I-Ready is an online program that will help us determine your child's strengths and areas for growth, personalize their learning, and monitor their progress throughout the year. I-Ready allows us to meet your child where they are and provides us with data to inform the instruction. The I-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions based on student responses. Each item a student receives is based on their answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly simpler ones. The purpose of this is not to give your child a score or grade, but to determine how to best support their learning. To help prepare your child for I-Ready Diagnostics, encourage them to: get a good night's sleep and eating a full breakfast the day of the assignment; try their best on each question and try not to rush; try not to worry about questions they do not know-remind them that it is expected they will get only about half of the questions correct; and to be respectful of other students who may take longer to finish. To support your child's online lessons, you can: discuss your child's progress; celebrate their learning and growth; and if your child's teacher encourages them to use I-Ready lessons at home, reference the Fridge Tips section of the I-Ready website for more tools to support your student. https://i-readycentral.com/familycenter/

WELCOME TO MMS

This year we have welcomed many new faces-and a few returning ones- to Mexico Middle School and will have a few more soon!

Ms. Samantha Walker has joined MMS as our School Social Worker.



In 5th Grade, Ms. Gilchrest got married and is now Mrs. LaPerle!

Our 6th Grade welcomes Ms. Morgan Kennedy as a Social Studies and Science Teacher and Ms. Fresch is now teaching Math! We've also added Ms. Renee Fox as our 6th Grade ELA Special Education Teacher.

In 7th Grade, Mrs. Maryellen Myers is now our filling Mrs. Archer's shoes while Ms. Proto got married and is now Mrs. Simpson!

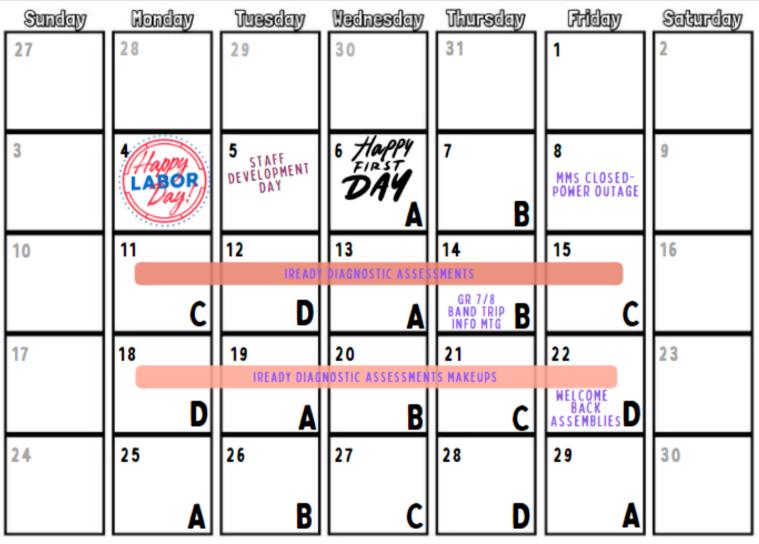
Our 8th Grade welcomes Ms. Samantha Peel as our Science/Living Environment Teacher and Ms. Amanda Brooks as our 8th Grade Math Special Education Teacher.



In our LOTE program, we welcome Mms. Cottet back to the MMS, as well as new staff Ms. Cheyenne Trudell and Ms. Tierra Glover as our German and Spanish 7 teachers!

We also have Mrs. Emily DeGroff as our new Special Education Teacher in our 8-1-1 room!





Upcoming Events:

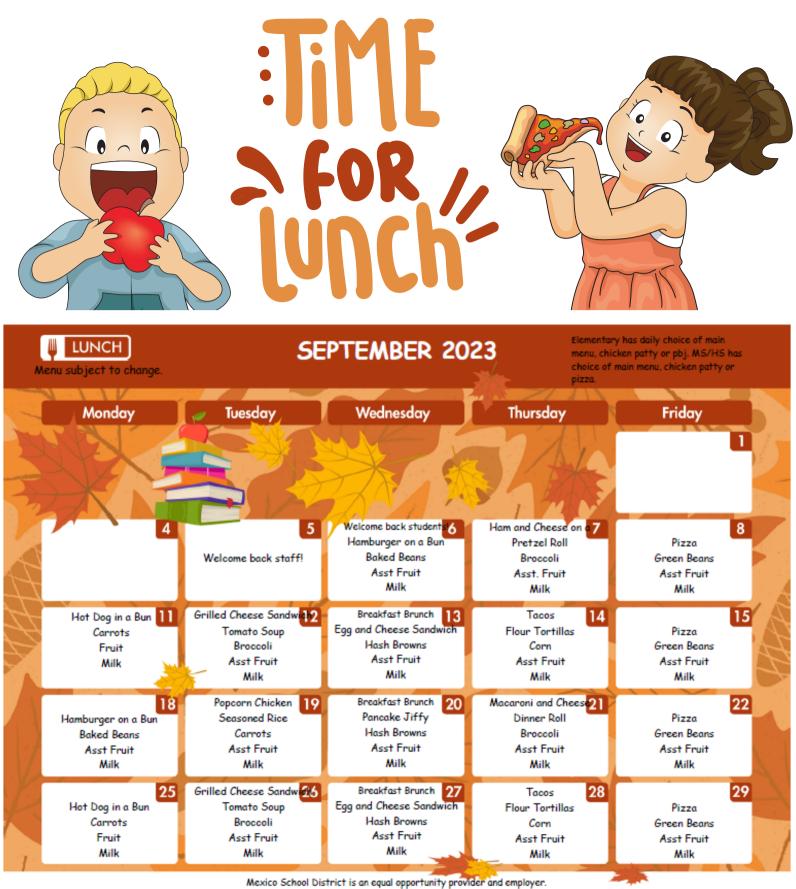
9/6- First Day of the 2023-2024 School Year!

9/11-9/15 - iReady Diagnostic Assessments

9/14 - Grades 7 & 8 Band Field Trip Information Meeting

9/18-9/22- iReady Diagnostic Assessments Makeups

9/22 - Welcome Back Assemblies



Mexico school district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision for the 2023-2024 school year. All enrolled students in our school district, regardless of income level, are eligible to receive a healthy school breakfast and school lunch at no charge each day. If you have any questions concerning the school nutritional program, please contact Brenda Thomas at 315-963-8400 x 5071.

PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE MySchoolBucks.com



Locks and Lockers

How to open your lock:

- 1. Spin the dial at lease three times to the right (->).
- 2. Enter your combination. Turn the dial to the right and stop at your first number. For the next number, turn the dial to the left (<-) going past zero and the second number, go past zero again and then stop on your second number. Finally, turn the dial back to the right (->) and go directly to your last number.
- Pull the lock open and remove it from the locker, lift the latch the lock is on to open your locker. 7th/8th Graders need to lift the latch inside the locker to open the compartment above lockers.
 To close your locker, shut the door,
 - replace the lock and press it closed. It is best to give the lock a spin before you leave.

Locker Rules

Please be responsible with your lockers and locks. Do not share your locker or lock combination with other students. Do not keep valuables or food items that may spoil in your locker. Do not put your lock on someone else's locker. lf you forget your combination locker or your jams/becomes stuck, please see Ms. Sokal-Davidson in the Main Office!



MARY POPPINS

The Musical

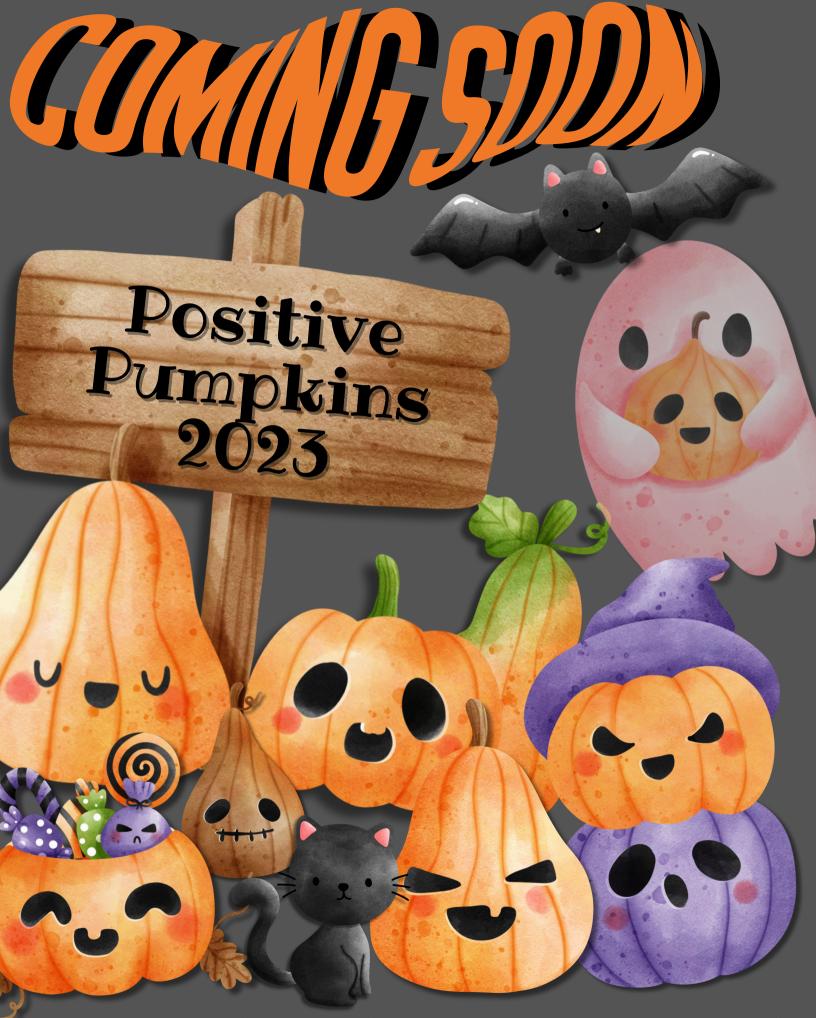
Interest Meeting: 10th Block- Thursday 9/14

Audition Days (Choose ONE to attend): 10th Block- Tuesday 9/19 OR Wednesday 9/20

Cast List Posts: 9/22

First Full Cast Rehearsal: 10th Block- 9/25

See Ms. Smith or Mrs. Upcraft for more information!



Coloring Contest begins 10/2 and ends 10/20. Rules and Categories will be announced 10/2!