



STEPHEN MACK MIDDLE SCHOOL

APRIL 2013 SPRING UPDATES



Kindyl Etnyre
Principal

Shaun Newmes
Assistant Principal

Please mark the following important events on your home calendar:



April

- April 1: RWBC Meeting @ SMMS 4:30 & 4th Quarter Begins
- April 3: Spring Pictures
- April 4: Report Card Day & Home Track Meet
- April 9: Home Track Meet & Market Day
- April 12: No Student Attendance (SIP Day)
- April 13: SMMS Track Invitational
- April 19: SMMS Rec Night 6-8 p.m.
- April 22: NJHS Induction Ceremony 7:00 p.m.
- April 23: Track @ Harlem
- April 24: Secretary's Day & BOE Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- April 25: Home Track Meet
- April 29-May 2: Upham Woods Field Trip
- April 30: Conference Track Meet



May

- May 6-10: Staff Appreciation Week
- May 6: Awards Night 7:00 p.m. HHS
- May 7: Market Day @ WPES 4:30 p.m.
- May 8: Nurse's Day
- May 10: Trills & Thrills Band Field Trip
- May 11: Sectional Track Meet
- May 13: RWBC Meeting @ SMMS 4:30
- May 14: PTO Meeting @ WPES 6:00
- May 16: SMMS Fine Arts Festival 7:00 p.m.
- May 17 & 18: State Track Meet
- May 22: BOE Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. RGS
- May 27: No School-Memorial Day
- May 30: 8th Grade Graduation @ HHS 7:00 p.m.
- May 31: Last Day of School & Field Day

AWARDS NIGHT

The Awards Night celebration is Monday, May 6, at 7:00 P.M. in the Performing Arts Center at Hononegah High School. This is always a very special evening! We have so many students who

excel at Stephen Mack Middle School. Unfortunately, we cannot honor all of these students in the one ceremony. Generally, teachers award students who have done something special in their classes this year - students who have exceeded expectations. When the list of awards is finalized, invitations will be sent to the parents via mail of all who will be honored on May 6th.



School Physical Information

Illinois state law requires that students entering kindergarten, sixth and ninth grade must show proof of school physical for 2013/2014 school year. Rockton School District and Hononegah School District require proof of physicals by the first day of school. The physical must be on an Illinois school physical form. A tetanus booster is required every 8-10 years. Most students entering ninth grade need a tetanus booster.

All sport physicals must be done on a yearly basis. This includes **ALL** sports, even cheerleading and spirit squad. Physicals must be completed before a student can try out for a sport. Dental exams are required for students entering kindergarten, second and sixth grade. This exam is not required by the first day of school.

The Illinois school physical and dental exam forms are available on the school website under the Stephen Mack Middle School drop down in the nurse folder.

If you have any questions, please call our school nurse, Terrie Ruchti at 815-624-2611.

8th GRADE GRADUATION

The ceremony will occur on Thursday, May 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the Hononegah High School

Performing Arts Center. **This is a change from the original district calendar!**

Graduation gowns were ordered and should be paid for at this time. Please send a check for \$18.50 made out to Stephen Mack Middle School to pay for your gown. Please identify your child's name in the memo section of the check. If you are paying in cash, please send it in a marked envelope. All money will be turned into the office. If this presents a financial hardship, please contact Principal Kindyl Etnyre. If you are using a gown from a previous year, you do not need to send a check.

Additional and detailed graduation information will follow on May 2nd with 4th quarter interim reports.



*** 8th Grade Students:** Mark your calendars for the 8th grade graduation dance on Thursday, May 30th, after the graduation ceremony at HHS. The dance for 8th grade graduates will be from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. Location TBD. What a great way to celebrate the end of your middle school years! More information concerning the dance and sign ups will be sent out in late April. This dance is organized and supervised by parent volunteers.

7th Grade Update

The Upham Woods field trip is approaching quickly! Have you asked your child which part of the week he or she will be attending? We're excited to take another group of students to Wisconsin for outdoor education. Students will learn about the area's history, participate in leadership activities, and undergo new experiences. The 7th grade team will be sending home a packing list soon so that students know what they will need to bring. If you have any questions about the trip, please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

7th Grade Science

The seventh graders will be wrapping up the year with a unit on animal taxonomy. We will examine the various animal phyla, with an emphasis on vertebrates. The students will compare the attributes of different animal groups and learn how biologists have used physical traits and genetic data to organize the animal kingdom.

One of our big projects will be frog dissection. In May, pairs of students will experience a guided dissection of a grass frog to see how the anatomy of this representative species compares to the anatomy of other vertebrates, especially humans.

We will also spend time exploring the traits of different invertebrate groups. Students will use what they learn to design their own "insect."

6th Grade News

It's been an amazing year in 6th grade! We are looking forward to sharing the following exciting events with your dynamic kids this May:

- Medieval Times
- Published Student Books
- Economy Day
- Amazing Race and Field Day

If any parent would like to help out the sixth grade teachers, we are looking for a few more volunteers to make copies, assemble activities for classes, or laminate. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if interested. You can come in any time and as often as you want. We appreciate it all!

Team 8 Spring News!

Whew! Only one more quarter to go and our 8th graders will be proudly walking across the stage on graduation night. On May 1st and 2nd, students will be going to the Burpee Museum in Rockford for a hands-on science day where they will learn about the ecosystems of the Rock River. Keeping in line with the new Common Core Standards, students have been writing and reading across the curriculum with DBQs (document-based questions), historical-fiction novels, and more! In English, students will continue working on their career

research papers. Look out for those future lawyers, teachers, pilots, forensic scientists, hair stylists, welders, writers, and even actors who will be on their career paths in four short years! Pre-algebra students thought 'outside the box' with Bungee-Barbie experiments. Get ready for your child to be talking about quadratics in math!

With a great emphasis on reading and writing across the curriculum, the 8th grade teachers have worked hard to prepare your child for HHS, and they, themselves, have worked hard to be successful. This is an exciting time to be an 8th grade teacher as we collaborate to bring your child a well-rounded education. Thanks, parents, for all your support this year!

Yearbook Reminder

By: Mr. Shook

The end of the year is approaching fast and this is the last reminder. We have a limited number of extra yearbooks this year. Don't let your child miss out. Yearbooks are the history of your child's time at SMMS. Embrace history! Order one for your child through the office today.

7th Annual 'Little Dreamers' Book Drive

Two former SMMS students and current HHS students, Nikki Luczak and Emma Porter, are continuing their efforts to collect books for the Rockford Literacy Council's READy to Learn Program. They are searching for new or barely used books for children ages 0 to 3. We have a drop-off box at SMMS.

