

MJHS Friday Update

January 17, 2025

Hello Meteor Families! I'm Dr. Mike Rolinitis, principal of Mokena Junior High School and I am here today with your Friday Update for January 17th, 2025.

Today's message is going to be a little different than most. With the Geo Bee this afternoon and some unforeseen events this morning (nothing serious - just time consuming) I am going to have to keep this one brief to get it out in time. I've separated this one into grade level and all announcements. Feel free to read them all.

So here goes:

8th Grade Announcements

- Graduation Pictures - This is a quick reminder that graduation pictures will be taken for all 8th grade students on Tuesday, January 21st. We start taking pictures first thing in the morning so students should come to school dressed and ready.
- Graduation Dates - I want to share the following dates for 8th grade families so you can get them on your calendars:
 - 8th grade party will be on May 23rd at 6 PM
 - The Six Flags Great America trip will take place on Tuesday, May 27th
 - Graduation practice will be in the morning of Wednesday, May 28th
 - The 8th grade picnic will also be on May 28th
 - And Graduation will be in the evening of May 28th
 - May 28th will be last day of student attendance for 8th graders

We will share details about these events later this year. We just wanted you to have the dates so you can plan accordingly.

- 8th Grade Graduation Attendance Policy - 8th grade students who miss over 20 days of school for non-medical related issues are not allowed to attend graduation. Please take a moment to login to Skyward to check your child's attendance and do all that you can to make sure your child is in attendance. You can't learn if you are not here.

- MEF Washington DC Scholarship Applications - The Mokena Educational Foundation is generously offering scholarships to students who are already signed up to attend this year's Washington DC trip in May. I am sharing a link to the application [MEF DC SCHOLARSHIP](#) in both the script and the email. Paper copies will be available in the office.

7th Grade Announcements

- Chicago Wolves Trip - Today is the last day to sign up and pay for the 7th Grade Chicago Wolves trip. Please see the link [WOLVES TRIP](#) in the script or the email.
- Springfield Trip - I am including the link to sign up for this year's [SPRINGFIELD TRIP](#) in the script and the email. There is still room if you have not yet signed up your child
- MEF Springfield Trip Scholarships - Like the DC trip the MEF provides scholarships for students who are signed up for the trip. I'm sharing the [MEF SPRINGFIELD SCHOLARSHIP](#) in the email and in the script. Paper copies will be available in the office.

6th Grade Announcements

- Dental Exams - The state of Illinois requires that we collect a "[PROOF OF DENTAL EXAM](#)" for all 6th grade students. It is not due until May, but I know that a lot of people go in for their six month check ups around this time of year. Please have your dentist's office fill out the form that I'm attaching to this message and return a copy to Nurse Kim Talty. If you have already had your exam this school year, most dentists will fill it out and send it back to you.

Announcements for Everyone

- Food Deliveries - Just a reminder that the office does not accept any food deliveries for your children. Parents can drop off a lunch at the cart in the vestibule.
- Cell Phone Violations
 - We have had several parents show up because their children have sent them a text during the day saying that they don't feel well and need to go home. Students should always come see the nurse if they don't feel well and she will either call home or let them call home if they are sick.

- Students are to have their phones off and put away in a locker during the day. When they text parents or others, they are violating the policy which could lead to disciplinary actions that may include not being able to bring the phone to school.
- It is also a very bad idea if parents text their children during the day. Often students feel the need to text you back which could lead to discipline. If it is an emergency, please call the office and we will get the message to your child, otherwise please save all messages until after 2:15 PM
- Possible Emergency Closures and E Learning Days - We are at that time of the year when snow and extreme cold are a distinct possibility. You should have received a message from the district earlier in the day to remind you that we will be monitoring the extreme cold predicted for next Tuesday and as a precaution we told students to be sure to bring their Chromebooks home.

Should there be a need for an emergency closure, the district will send out a message to families as soon as they know for sure that the weather will be prohibitive for students to come to school. It is likely that we will have an E Learning day and have school remotely if an emergency closing is called on Tuesday.

I recommend that you take a few minutes to review the district's [E LEARNING PLAN](#) that I've linked in the email and script. It can also be found on our District's website.

Conclusion

I want to remind everyone that we do not have school on Monday, January 20th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. I always recommend that families learn something new about Dr. King and the positive messages that he shared. I always pray that we strive to judge and be judged by one another by the character that we display over all other attributes.

Coincidentally January 20th is Inauguration Day. It would be a great opportunity to have your children and families learn about how we transfer the presidency from one person to another. It will be a great learning experience for all who watch.

I want to close by congratulating Matthew Staley, Sage Sanchez, and Chase Koeler. We held the Geography Bee this afternoon and these were our top three winners. Chase was the third place winner, Sage was our runner up and Matthew was our 2025 Geography Bee Champion. I'm pretty sure Matthew got every question correct. We are proud of our top three winners and of all of the students who participated.

That wraps it up for me today. I hope that you all stay warm and safe this weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week for another Friday Update.

If you have any questions please check the website, reply to this message or call the office at 708-342-4870. Remember the office will be closed on Monday for MLK Day.

So until we meet again... GO METEORS!