

THE MERANCAS PACK NEWSLETTER



MERANCAS PACK TEACHERS ATTEND THE CMS SYMPOSIUM. WHAT IS AHEAD FOR MMCHS?

The CMS Symposium was held during the week of August 20th. Each department attended specific content sessions and one session collectively. The superintendent spoke of CMS' mission and vision for fostering an inclusive, student-centered environment, and educational excellence. He further emphasized student ownership in learning, content mastery by teachers and rigorous content for students. For more information about the strategies, please visit the CMS site at <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/mediaroom/strategicplan/Pages/default.aspx>.

Reflecting on the mission at hand, we can proudly say that all teachers at Merancas Middle College High School are highly qualified, dedicated, and motivated. We are the first middle college to embrace the personalized learning environment and continuously work to understand, implement, and improve upon it. Read the academic section for a glimpse into rigor at MMCHS.

CMS initiatives for 2018-2019 include a rigorous curriculum with a focus on the writing standards. Students will not only learn how to closely read, analyze, and comprehend a text, but also how to write strong argumentative and analytical essays that include textual evidence. The English department at MMCHS will utilize various teaching strategies and online tools in order to engage our students in the writing process such as pathways, playlists, workshops, ThinkCERCA, Commonlit, novel studies, debate sessions, and finally, by providing ample opportunities for project-based learning that will extend learning beyond the classroom while incorporating writing.

DATES TO REMEMBER

01

9/5/2018
Senior Night
(early/midyear
graduates ONLY)

02

9/7/2018
1st Quarter Progress
Reports.

03

9/19/2018
Senior Night
(13th year students)

04

9/18/2018
College Application
Assistance (CJ
computer lab) @
10am

A NOTE FROM THE COUNSELOR

This year kicks off an exciting time as seniors prepare to graduate! The process to graduate can be daunting if you do not plan ahead. Seniors please be sure to attend one of the upcoming Senior Nights to get more information on what your timeline should be this year. We will discuss the college application process, financial aid resources, scholarships, and graduation. I look forward to seeing you all there. Parents, be sure that you are supporting your students academically by asking them to log into their various accounts to show you their college grades. We will not receive any academic progress updates from CPMC so we need your assistance in helping to identify any potential issues.

05

1/30/2019
Midyear Graduation @
Bojangles Coliseum

06

9/25/2018
ACT Writing Field Test
All Juniors

07

9/26/2018
ACT Writing Field Test
All Seniors

08

10/24/2018
PSAT
Juniors Only

09

9/24 – 9/28
October bus passes

10

9/26/2018
CMS lunch roster
changes.

TECHNOLOGY

Only a CMS issued Google account can be used to access the Chromebook. Students will be required to sign-in to the web filtering system when using the device off campus.

Username: studentidnumber@cms.k12.nc.us

(Do not include the "student" from your normal student email address)

Password: 8 digit birthdate (YYYYMMDD)

Will you have the right career to sustain your fabulous lifestyle? Go to Reality Check <https://nccareers.org/realitycheck> to see how much money you'll need.

NOTE FROM ADMIN

Please see Mrs. Dawkins for October bus passes during the dates listed in item 09. For lunch roster changes, see Mrs. Dawkins by the due date listed in item 10.

ACADEMICS

The first few weeks of school are important for both students and teachers, especially in a dual-enrolled environment. Teachers have been focused on getting to know the students and establishing norms of academic excellence and rigor. Likewise, the students have been focused on getting to know their teachers, classmates, and understanding the expectations while learning how to rise to the challenge.

A few suggestions to ease the transition include:

- calender to help manage due dates
- remind app to stay informed
- a binder to help with organization
- review the course syllabus to understand expectations and policies for high school and college courses, especially, topics such as late work, absences, testing, and academic integrity.

Honors English IV: Students are currently in the middle of Unit 2 which focuses on the Early Ages Period and its literature. Students are analyzing the text, collaborating with their peers, as well as exploring creative writing as they design their own epic hero story based off of the epic poem Beowulf. As the unit draws to a close, students will be assessed with the task of writing an analytical essay focusing on the themes of Beowulf and the characteristics of an epic hero.

English III: Students are currently working on their first novel study, *The Crucible*. They are analyzing the text using close-reading strategies and participating in class discussions. In addition, each student is collaborating with a group to complete a weekly choice article, as well as designing a page for the weekly Merancas Pack Magazine. The first edition of the student-created magazine has been sent digitally and is on the MMCHS website.

9/24/2018: Graduation Paper Rough Draft Due

MATH AND SCIENCE

As we enter the fifth week of school, **AP Biology** will be balancing the new unit on Biochemistry with a long-term genetics lab and four other biochemistry labs. **Honors Chemistry** is rising to the challenge. The pace is steady but always moving forward. As we begin the third unit, the students will also begin their independent study on Tarriffs, Metals, and Medicine. This will be a group-based project focused on one topic to research and present. We also look forward to using the sensor technology for the upcoming labs.

Small classes in **Math** have a bonus. The small class environment allows them the time and space to build their knowledge in Math 3 and AP Calculus. Math 3 is presently focusing on modeling with functions. They are currently working on a building custom piece-wise functions to predict the cost of a protest trip to Washington, DC for a issue of their choosing.

AP Calculus is presently studying derivatives and position equations. As both courses continue, the complexity of each course compounds. If students are looking for help, there are several options: students are encouraged to form a study group with classmates or schedule a tutoring session with Mr. Coon.

STUDENT LIFE

Congratulations to all of our newly elected club officers. We look forward to your leadership and creative talent to build our school spirit.

Thank you to all students that are part of the Yearbook team 2019. The team has started to create the 2019 Yearbook and are in the process of planning a Yearbook Theme Reveal Party. Follow their Instagram for the Reveal Party updates, student spotlights, and yearbook deals:
merancas_yearbook.

If you know of any businesses that would like to include their advertisement in our yearbook, please contact me at tiffany1.bartram@cms.k12.nc.us.

Impact the Outcome Officers: President: Reueca Grande, Vice President: Jada Dixon, Representative: Tiffany Vidales

SGA Officers: President: Savannah Reeves. Vice President: Katherine Johnson, Senior Representative: Jamcarlo Hernandez Linares, Junior Representative: Kyla Morrison, Secretary: Sanaa McClendon, Treasurer: Ceili Gray, Parliamentarian: Mikaelah Stanley, Historian: Kennedy Williams McCord

Merancas Middle College Math Club (M^3C^2) meets the second and last Fridays at 12:45 in Mr. Coon's room. We will be playing with probability and other advanced mathematics topics. Additionally, M3M2 will also participate in Moody's Mega Math Challenge in the spring. Two teams of 5 students each will spend 14 hours solving a real world math problem without input from Mr. Coon. Lastly, we are trying to create a Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society.

National Honor Society NHS members in good standing will be announced on Monday, September 10th. The first meeting for returning members will be one hour prior to the fall induction ceremony, refreshments will be served. New candidates will be announced on Tuesday, September 18th with an invitation letter. Candidate form due Thursday, September 13th.

PTA

First order of business. Parents, thank you for volunteering your time. We look forward to building a great relationship and community at Merancas Middle College High School. Secondly, we held our first team challenge and celebrate with a pizzas party for the top three teams. Thank you for sponsoring this event.

If you are interested in joining the PTA, please contact one of PTA leaders.

Karen Lafferty, President, kclafferty@yahoo.com

Lisa Jatulis, Treasurer, lisa.jatulis@gmail.com

Brandi Hadden, Membership, haddencrew@aol.com

Len Fiorillo, VP, len.fiorillo@gmail.com

Taiwo McRae, Secretary, ktkk4n1@yahoo.com