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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Our school year has gotten off to a great start and we have a lot to celebrate so far, but a lot of work is yet to be done. From construction to parent involvement to Edline, we are striving to improve our school.

Construction is an ongoing process. We continue to finish projects that were started over the summer and hope to have most done by the New Year. We have new flooring, new sidewalks and our alumni area is now complete. Our open house was a huge success and allowed us to showcase the bond work that was done. If you would like a personal tour of the school at anytime, do not hesitate to call me.

One of our main goals this year is to increase parent involvement in our school. We have been able to begin this process by offering two new programs – Coffee with the Principal and our Parent Education Nights. Our coffees have been a huge success, with approximately 40-50 parents coming each month. The coffees offer parents the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker and engage in discussion with me through a question and answer time. We held our first Parent Education Night this month and had approximately 250 people attend to listen to Tom Haller talk about Bullying in our school.

Our next coffee will be November 18th from 7:30-8:30 and 8:30-9:30. Our next Parent Education Night will be in January. We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us for one. If you have any questions or suggestions about either of these programs, please do not hesitate to contact our main office.

Sincerely,

Matt Schmidt

Principal, Handy Middle School

Coffee With The Principal:

Two Sessions: 7:30-8:30 am and 8:30-9:30am

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Please come visit our school and our principal and ask questions you may have been wondering about. Location is the Library Media Center



*Home of the
Wildcats*

November 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,

Thanks to all of you who are actively involved in your child's education as we all know how important this is to their success in school and in life. Generally this is the time of year that you have an opportunity to participate in parent-teacher conferences and I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to see and hear how your child is doing at school.

In last month's newsletter, I highlighted Ms. Colleen DeSanto who was named the Michigan Art Education Association's elementary "Art Educator of the Year."

This month, another of our dedicated teachers, Matt Reid, who teaches at Wenona, received the Milken National Educator Award along with a \$25,000 cash award. Dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by *Teacher Magazine*, Matt is one of more than 50 teachers nationwide this year to receive this very prestigious award. If you would like to view more information related to Matt's award, visit the Milken Family Foundation at www.mff.org and link to "Recipients." The district congratulates Matt for his accomplishments and dedication to the students of the Bay City Public Schools.

Trimesters are underway at our high schools. This is the first year we have used trimesters and with any change of this size, there are adjustments that have to be made. The main concern we have at this time is the coordination of starting and ending class times between our high schools and the skill center. This has impacted time students have to eat lunch and drive between their school and the skill center. We're working toward a viable solution for the second trimester which begins at the end of November.

Many of the curriculum changes that are being directed from the State have to do with high school. A new change at high school will pertain to students in the class of 2012. This change will not permit students to opt out of physical education if they are involved in certain alternative class selections such as marching band. The main reason for this change is the national and state concern regarding children's obesity and physical health.

At our October board meeting, our auditors presented the 2008-09 audit report. The good news is that the audit report was clean and without any findings or issues. The bad news is that our financial picture, like most other school districts, is getting worse and we will be discussing this year how to stabilize our finances in the face of funding cuts this year and even larger cuts next year.

I hope that you and your loved ones have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

If you have comments or questions, I can be reached at newcombed@bcschools.net or 671-8165. As always, thank you for your interest and support of the Bay City Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Douglas L. Newcombe
Interim Superintendent

Handy Yearbook

It's time to order your 2009-2010 Handy Yearbook. This hardcover book with over 65 pages of Handy memories can be yours for only \$17.00. Order forms will be arriving home soon. You may also order a Yearbook at Parent Teacher Conferences in October or online at www.yearbookordercenter.com. Books will be delivered in May.



Counselors' Corner

Important Parenting Tips!

The counseling department would personally like to invite and encourage all of you to attend our November 4th Presentation by Thomas Haller, M.Div., LMSW. DST; a parenting and anger aggression specialist, motivational speaker, author and Radio and TV personality during our HANDY FAMILY NIGHT. Topics to be discussed are: Bullying, Discipline Strategies for Kids and Parent Tips! The program starts at 5:30 PM with a hamburger supper and runs through 7:30 PM. There will be activities scheduled for children 4 years of age and older to keep them busy and occupied so you are able to attend Mr. Haller's presentation. Please RSVP to main office if you plan on attending dinner. We hope to see you there!

Struggling Students:

Parents if your child is struggling in school we strongly encourage you to keep in regular contact with your son/daughter's teachers. This can be done through Edline, email and through the use of your child's planner. Please encourage your child to utilize their planner every single day. Ask to see the planner and ask them questions about their day and about what they are learning in their classes. Please help your child to become better organized, to complete and hand in assignments, and to learn to become responsible so they can be more successful.

Alcohol & Drug Prevention Program:

Middle school is often a time when students first hear about using alcohol and other drugs, see it happening, or begin to experiment themselves. To keep students safe and on track at school, we will be starting the Stepping In Program - Substance Abuse Prevention. The Neighborhood Resource Center - Bay County Prevention Network will be coming in to provide 6th-8th grade students a series of three in class presentations. Sixth grade students are scheduled to participate in this program in late November. Seventh and Eighth grade students will be scheduled to participate in the months to follow.

Toys for Tots Program: The Bay County Toys for Tots Program is again available to assist families during the upcoming Christmas season. If you are in need of providing Christmas gifts for your child(ren) (ages birth to- 13 years old only) and you are receiving assistance from a governmental agency, please contact the Toys for Tots program at Hampton Towne Center at 1415 W. Center Road in Essexville or call 892-8687 for more information. The deadline to sign up is December 11th.

Grief & Loss:

The holidays can be a difficult time for students who have lost a close family member. In late November we will be starting a Bereavement Group to assist students who have experienced the loss of a loved one. If you think your child would benefit from this group, please contact a counselor for additional information.

COUNSELOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Deb Arnst	6 th Grade Counselor	arnstd@bcschools.net	671-8855
Steve Syring	7 th Grade Counselor	syrings@bcschools.net	671-8857
Rich Klawinski	8 th Grade Counselor	klawinskir@bcschools.net	671-8856

We need your help

HANDY BOOSTER CLUB:

The Handy Booster Club meets monthly to discuss projects and activities that enhance our students' achievement and Handy pride. Join us at a future meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the media center on the following dates:

November 17, 2009
December 15, 2009
January 19, 2010
February 16, 2010
March 9, 2010
April 20, 2010
May 18, 2010

For more information contact us at handyboosterclub@bcschools.net.

SCHOOL STORE:

The School store is now open on Wednesdays and Fridays in the cafeteria during lunch hours.

Zippered Hoodies - \$26, XXL \$27
Hoodies - \$25, XXL \$26
Jackets - \$40
T-Shirts - \$10
Sling Bags - \$5

**New this year ** Temporary paw print tattoos - 25 cents
Handy Sports Window Clings - \$3**

Mini mechanical pencils still only 25 cents!!
Jumbo Book Covers - \$2.00

Shop in the school store and support Handy Middle School.



Parents as Tutors Workshop

The Literacy Council of Bay County is offering a workshop to parents whose children are having difficulty with reading. The 6 hour workshop is **FREE** as are the materials. The date is November 14, 2009 and is from 9AM to 3PM. This workshop will be held at the Literacy Council at 407 W. Ohio. You can call them at 686-8700, fax them at 686-1372 or email them at bayliteracy@bcschools.net. This program is primarily aimed at first, second and third grade skills. You must call and register ahead of time.

New Fundraiser Opportunity

You can help Handy students whenever your family and friends make everyday purchases from their favorite merchants. See more information on your child's Edline account page.

This program costs you nothing extra. Just shop at over 200 merchants including Sears, Target, Toys "R" Us, etc.

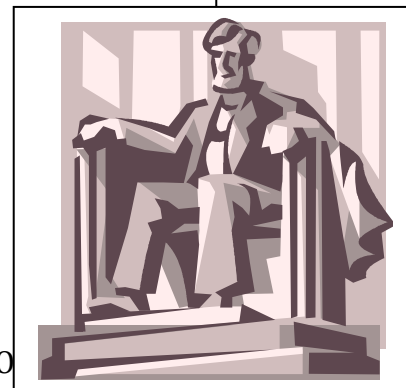
Edline Program

Edline (www.edline.net) has been a very helpful tool for students and parents. If you have not yet activated an account or have any questions please email Mrs. Luczak at luczakn@bcschools.net.

Washington, DC Trip

Think meeting the President would be cool? How about seeing Dorothy's Ruby Slippers or a real Spaceship? Or how about the opportunity to travel outside of Michigan for a long weekend away from home? If any of these things sound appealing to you... there is an opportunity for you! Again this year the 8th grade offers a trip to Washington D.C. from April 14-18, 2010.

The cost of the trip is \$630 per student and includes: travel and hotel accommodations, all meals and fees to attend all the major sites. This year's trip will include a stop at the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg, George Washington home at Mount Vernon, and all the major landmarks of D.C. There is still time to sign up! Forms are available on Edline and in the Main Office. A \$75 deposit is due November 23rd. Any questions contact Dare to Dream at 989-781-5539.



Attention Parents & Students – Grades 8 to 12!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend ***“College Bound: It’s Not All About the Money!”*** hosted by BCPS College Preparation Services. Here are the details:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Western High School
-or-

Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Central High School

This event focuses on college and career preparation and planning – the earlier you plan, the better! Informational sessions for grades 8 – 12 will be offered, so whether you want help completing your FAFSA, or you’re worried about how you’ll pay for college, or you want to talk to recent H.S. graduates about their college experience, plan to attend either one of these events. Here is a sampling of the sessions being offered:

“FAFSA” (Bring your W-2’s and let experts help you complete it!)”

“Paying for College - Learn About Tax Strategies That Might Save You Money!”

“Bay Commitment Scholarship/Bay Area Foundation Scholarships”

“Preparing for College Sports – NCAA Clearinghouse, Get Registered!”

“The Value of AP Courses, ACT Scores, and Extracurriculars in the College Admissions Process”

“Organizing a Career Development Notebook”

“Financial Planning – An Overview for Today’s Family”

“U.S. Armed Forces – Could This Be Your Ticket to a College Degree?”

“Student Chats: What I Wish I Would Have Known Before I Went to College”

More sessions are being planned! For more information: 989.671.8180 – or – murphys@bcschools.net – or – www.bcpscollegeprep.com. We hope to see you there!





**Handy Middle School
After School Activities
2009-10 School Year
Session 2
November 10th to December 17th**



NO ACTIVITIES THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23rd

T - TUESDAY, W- WEDNESDAY, R- THURSDAY

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Place to Meet</u>
NEWSPAPER	6 TH , 7 TH , 8 TH	R	MR. PENNELL	ROOM 210
COMIC DESIGN	6 TH , 7 TH , 8 TH	W	MR. LAFFERTY	ROOM 130
CRAFTS (closed-full) (LIMIT OF 15)	6 TH , 7 TH , 8 TH	T	MRS. FORSTER	ROOM 205
BOYS BASKETBALL (NO LATE BUS ON MONDAYS)	6 TH	M, W	MR VELASQUEZ	BIG GYM
CHEERLEADING / POMS	6 TH	W	MISS RATYNSKI	UPPER GYM
COMPUTERS CREATIONS (LIMIT OF 15)	6 TH , 7 TH , 8 TH	T	MRS KUSSRO	ROOM 136

SPECIAL NOTES:

****ACTIVITY DAYS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

****LATE BUSES ARE AVAILABLE, BUT YOU MUST COMPLETE THE LATE BUS PERMISSION SLIP BELOW ****

**** LATE BUS SCHEDULES ARE LOCATED ON THE REVERSE OF THIS FORM ****

**** PARTICIPATION IN H.M.S. AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. IF A STUDENT HAS PROBLEMS ON THE LATE BUS, IN THE SCHOOL, OR DURING THE ACTIVITIES THEY MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM ****

All activities are from 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

PLEASE CUT AND RETURN TO HMS ATHLETIC OFFICE

Name: _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

*****Please make sure you have completed BOTH sides of this form before it returning to the Athletic Office.**

Handy Middle School

Boys 8th Grade Basketball Schedule 2009-10

Coaches: Red – Garcia

White – Velasquez

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Departure</i>
11/23	Monday	4:15	Red	Western Brown	Handy	
		5:30	White	Western Gold	Handy	
11/30	Monday	4:15	White	CMMS White	Handy	
		5:30	Red	CMMS Blue	Handy	
12/2	Wednesday	4:15	Red	White Pine Blue	White Pine	3:00 PM
		5:30	White	White Pine Green	White Pine	3:00 PM
12/7	Monday	4:15	Red	Mt. Pleasant Gold	Mt Pleasant	2:45 PM
		5:30	White	Mt. Pleasant Blue	Mt. Pleasant	2:45 PM
12/9	Wednesday	4:15	Red	Midland NE White	Midland	3:15 PM
		5:30	White	Midland NE Green	Midland	3:15 PM
12/14	Monday	4:15	White	Mid Central White	Midland	3:15 PM
		5:30	Red	Mid Central Blue	Midland	3:15 PM
12/16	Wednesday	4:15	Red	Western Gold	Handy	
		5:30	White	Western Brown	Handy	
1/6	Wednesday	4:15	White	CMMS Blue	CMMS	3:45 PM
		5:30	Red	CMMS White	CMMS	3:45 PM
1/11	Monday	4:15	White	White Pine Blue	Handy	
		5:30	Red	White Pine Green	Handy	
1/13	Wednesday	4:15	White	Mt Pleasant Gold	Handy	
		5:30	Red	Mt Pleasant Blue	Handy	
1/18	Monday	4:15	White	Midland NE White	Handy	
		5:30	Red	Midland NE Green	Handy	
1/20	Wednesday	4:15	Red	Mid Jefferson Red	Handy	
		5:30	White	Mid Jefferson White	Handy	

Administration Team – Principal Matt Schmidt, Asst. Rodney Woods, Jeff Collier, Jamie Doran
Athletic Director – Michael Toyzan



Please remember that the second game is an estimate time – the second game will start 10 minutes after the first game is completed.

Handy Middle School

Boys 7th Grade Basketball Schedule 2009-10

Coaches: Red – Wilson

White – Arocha

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Departure</i>
11/23	Monday	4:15	Red	Western Brown	Handy	
		5:30	White	Western Gold	Handy	
11/30	Monday	4:15	White	CMMS White	CMMS	3:45 PM
		5:30	Red	CMMS Blue	CMMS	3:45 PM
12/2	Wednesday	4:15	Red	White Pine Blue	Handy	
		5:30	White	White Pine Green	Handy	
12/7	Monday	4:15	Red	Mt. Pleasant Gold	Handy	
		5:30	White	Mt. Pleasant Blue	Handy	
12/9	Wednesday	4:15	Red	Midland NE White	Handy	
		5:30	White	Midland NE Green	Handy	
12/14	Monday	4:15	White	Mid Central White	Handy	
		5:30	Red	Mid Central Blue	Handy	
12/16	Wednesday	4:15	Red	Western Gold	Handy	
		5:30	White	Western Brown	Handy	
1/6	Wednesday	4:15	White	CMMS Blue	Handy	
		5:30	Red	CMMS White	Handy	
1/11	Monday	4:15	White	White Pine Blue	White Pine	3:00 PM
		5:30	Red	White Pine Green	White Pine	3:00 PM
1/13	Wednesday	4:15	White	Mt Pleasant Gold	Mt. Pleasant	2:45 PM
		5:30	Red	Mt Pleasant Blue	Mt. Pleasant	2:45 PM
1/18	Monday	4:15	White	Midland NE White	Midland	3:15 PM
		5:30	Red	Midland NE Green	Midland	3:15 PM
1/20	Wednesday	4:15	Red	Mid Jefferson Red	Midland	3:15 PM
		5:30	White	Mid Jefferson White	Midland	3:15 PM



Administration Team – Principal Matt Schmidt, Asst. Rodney Woods, Jeff Collier, Jamie Doran
 Athletic Director – Michael Toyzan

Please remember that the second game is an estimate time – the second game will start 10 minutes after the first game is completed.

**HANDY MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS 2009-10 SWIM SCHEDULE**

Swim Tune-Up

**Wednesday - November 18, 2009 at 4:00 P.M.
Tune-Up Held at Handy Middle School**

<u>DAY/DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>MEET TIME</u>	<u>BUS TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MON. 11/23	WHITE PINE	5:00 P.M.	3:30 PM	Heritage
WED. 12//2	CMMS	5:00 P.M.		Handy
WED. 12/9	WESTERN M.S.	5:00 P.M.		Handy

Annual Swim Jamboree

**Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 4:00 P.M.
Meet held at Handy Middle School**



**GO
WILDCATS!
GOOD LUCK!**

Need directions to a school location out of town? Visit the HMS Athletics web page at www.bcpshandymiddle.com and click on: Directions to Away Games

Upcoming Events at Handy Middle School

November 2, 2009	No School - Staff Professional Development
November 3, 2009	Student Picture Retake Day – no money needed this day
November 4, 2009	Handy Family Night – 5:30-7:30 pm
November 17, 2009	Handy Booster Club Meeting – 6:30 pm media center
November 18, 2009	Coffee with the Principal- 7:30 and 8:30 am media center
November 24, 2009	Fundraiser Prize Assembly
November 25-27, 2009	No School - Thanksgiving Holiday Break
December 4, 2009	End of Second Marking Period
December 15, 2009	6 th grade Hawaiian Holidays dance – 2:20-3:45 pm
December 15, 2009	Handy Booster Club Meeting – 6:30 pm media center
December 17, 2009	7 th /8 th grade Hawaiian Holidays dance – 2:20-3:45 pm
December 21-31, 2009	No School – Winter Holidays Break
January 1, 2010	No School – New Year’s Day
January 19, 2010	Handy Booster Club Meeting – 6:30 pm media center
January 20, 2010	Coffee with the Principal- 7:30 and 8:30 am media center
January 22, 2010	End of First Semester/End of Third Marking Period
February 1, 2010	No School – Staff Professional Development
February 17, 2010	Coffee with the Principal- 7:30 and 8:30 am media center
February 18, 2010	Carnival

Please contact school when you move or have a phone number change. Not contacting school will affect your child's transportation needs.

T. L. Handy Middle School
601 Blend Street
Bay City, MI 48706

Handy Happenings will be published on a monthly basis.

