

**Points of Interest
and
Upcoming Events**

As we close out our first marking period, it is a good time to reflect on some of the events that have taken place so far this year. Staff and students returned to a brand new school building – fresh with new lockers, flooring, cafeteria and classrooms. While our building is looking beautiful and fresh, it is important to understand that it is a work in progress. Construction workers will be working on our building every day after students leave in order to complete all the work needed.

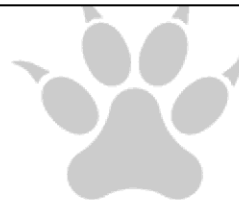
We have also implemented a new five year school improvement plan which focuses on three main areas; school safety and climate, literacy in the content areas, and parental involvement. Our first Coffee with the Principals was a HUGE success, with 58 parents showing up to learn about Edline and to meet our new administrative team. We will also be celebrating our first Parent Education Night on Wednesday, November 4th when we have a guest speaker who will educate us on bullying and school safety.

Lastly, we had our district open house on Sunday, October 18th and we had approximately 150 community members tour our building to see how their tax dollars were spent. We received a lot of positive feedback from those who toured and enjoyed having a lot of alumni return to see what we have done with the building. We do greatly appreciate all that our community has done for us – their continued support is vital to the future of our students and our district.

Matt Schmidt
Principal

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.



*Home of the
Wildcats*



October 2009

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

We are very excited as the 2009-10 school year got off to a terrific start!

We had the final five school buildings under construction this past summer: Washington Elementary, Kolb Elementary, MacGregor Elementary, Mackensen Elementary, and Handy Middle School. Most of the work was completed by the start of school. Some work has continued into fall, particularly on the exterior of Washington Elementary. There will be some minor remaining bond projects during the school year and some outside work needed on building grounds, such as the Central courtyard, that will occur in Spring 2010.

Student enrollment is slightly higher than we had anticipated with the state of our economy and declining birth rates. Last year, we had 9,094 students. Originally this year, we estimated an enrollment of 8,924. Our enrollment to date, although not yet official, is about 50 students over that estimate. To accommodate the higher student numbers, we have added classrooms as well as teachers and teacher aides at eight of our 14 school buildings.

Other items of interest to share:

As part of our push on technology, the District re-designed our main webpage at www.bcschools.net. If you have not visited it yet, please check it out and let us know what you think. Our goal is that the webpage will be easier to navigate for community, parents, staff, and students. On a similar note, one of our goals underway this year and thereafter is to update school webpage information regularly.

For the second straight year, one of our art teachers has received the Michigan Art Education Association's elementary "Art Educator of the Year" award. This year's recipient, Ms. Colleen DeSanto, teaches at McAlear Elementary and at Kolb Elementary. We are very proud of Ms. DeSanto who symbolizes the hard work and dedication of our teachers. Last year's award recipient was Diane Brown who teaches at Auburn Elementary, Forest, and Kolb Elementary.

On September 22 we hosted the Taiwanese delegation at Western High School. The Taiwanese government and Bay City Public Schools have partnered on the Mandarin Chinese language program. This year we have nearly 200 students at our middle and high schools taking Mandarin Chinese as one of our foreign languages.

In September, our board of education approved the purchase of new foreign language textbooks for French, German, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese as part of our regular textbook replacement schedule put in place several years ago.

Our middle school and high school security camera systems will be installed during October and November.

As a reminder, we are holding an open house at our newly renovated school buildings on Sunday October 18 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Elementary schools renovated with our May 2006 bond initiative are Kolb, Linsday, MacGregor, Mackensen, McAlear-Sawden and Washington. Other schools included in the renovation project were Handy Middle School, the Western Middle/High School complex and Central High. Thanks to the support of our community, the school buildings look awesome and have significant renovations from heating and cooling to the electrical systems, floors and windows along with many other changes. If you have a chance, please visit any of those schools that afternoon.

Finally, related to the H1N1 flu concern, our schools are stocked with soap and hand sanitizer and are cleaned regularly. Information has been provided to parents and students about ways to help minimize the chance of getting sick, including the most important way which is washing hands thoroughly on a regular basis. We are also working closely with our local health officials.

In closing, I am always open to your comments or questions and can be reached at 671-8165 or a newcombed@bcschools.net. Thank you for your interest and support of the Bay City Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Douglas L. Newcombe

**Here Are Some Details Regarding This Year's Try Outs:
All 7TH And 8TH Graders Who Are Interested In Trying Out For
Boys Basketball, Girls Swimming, Girls Cheerleading, & Girls Pom-Pons**

BEFORE YOU CAN TRY-OUT YOU MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING HANDED IN TO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE BEFORE THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY ON **Thursday, October 29th, 2009:**

- **PHYSICAL** (BAY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL PHYSICAL FORM)
- **PAY \$ 30.00 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEE**

TIMES AND PLACES ARE ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALL TRY-OUTS WILL BE HELD AT HANDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

BOYS BASKETBALL INFO -

Try Outs: November 3, 4, and 5, 2009

Try Out Times:

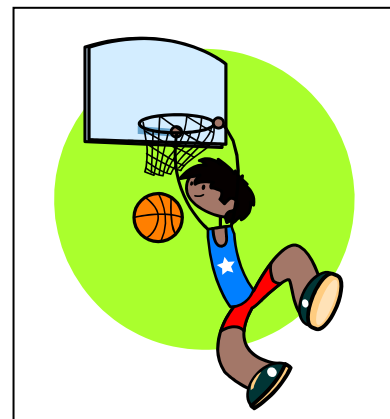
8TH Grade: Large Gym 3:30 – 5:00 pm
7TH Grade: Small Gym 3:30 – 5:30 pm

First Game:

November 23' 2009

Coaches:

8TH Grade White: Dan Velasquez
8TH Grade Red: Gib Garcia
7TH Grade White: Paul Wilson
7TH Grade Red: JimVelasquez



GIRLS SWIMMING INFO -

Practice Starts: November 3, 2009

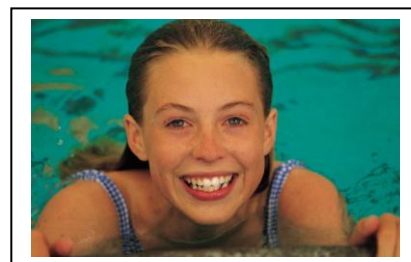
Practice Time: 2:30 – 3:30 pm

First Meet:

November 18' 2009 - Tune Up at Handy

Coach:

Holly Watson



CHEERLEADING AND POM PONS INFO -

Try Outs: November 6, 2009

Try Out Times: TBA - Upper Gym

Practice Time: TBA

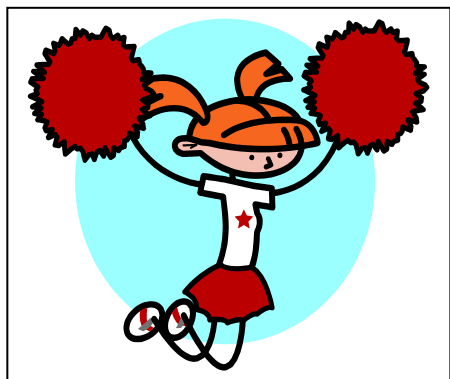
First Game:

November 23' 2009

Coaches:

Cheerleading:
7TH Stacy Ratinski
8TH Open

Pom Pons:
7TH/8TH Open



Upcoming Events at Handy Middle School

October 16, 2009	End of First Marking Period
October 27, 2009	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 4:00-7:00 pm
October 29, 2009	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 3:00-6:00 pm
November 2, 2009	No School - Staff Professional Development
November 4, 2009	Handy Family Night – 5:30-7:30 pm
November 24, 2009	Fundraiser Prize Assembly
November 25-27, 2009	No School - Thanksgiving Holiday Break
December 4, 2009	End of Second Marking Period
December 21-31, 2009	No School – Winter Holidays Break
January 1, 2010	No School – New Year’s Day
January 22, 2010	End of First Semester/End of Third Marking Period
February 1, 2010	No School – Staff Professional Development
February 18, 2010	Carnival
March 5, 2010	End of Fourth Marking Period
March 16, 2010	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 4:00-7:00 pm
March 18, 2010	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 3:00-6:00 pm
March 29-31, 2010	No School – Spring Break
April 1-2, 2010	No School – Spring Break continues
April 23, 2010	End of Fifth Marking Period
April 26, 2010	No School – Staff Professional Development

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

Handy Happenings will be published on a monthly basis.

