



Selvidge Middle School
235 New Ballwin Rd
Ballwin, Missouri 63021
636-891-6100

Sean Stryhal, Principal

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Veteran's Day Assembly
November 10th



Selvidge Stampede

'Whatever It Takes'

www.rockwood.k12.mo.us

November 2011

Dear Parents,

I wanted to thank all of our parents who attended conferences in late October. We had a large turnout and great responses on our surveys. A quick review of the surveys indicated that 85%+ rated the conferences a 4 or 5 out of 5 when it came to ability to schedule time, the conferences fitting their needs, meeting with their child, teacher and the format in general. Some of the concerns expressed regarded the time spent waiting for a teacher or teachers and crowding in some rooms. I appreciate both the positive feedback and constructive comments as we continue to work to provide for our community. Each year we review the survey responses in our School Improvement Meetings to discuss ways to address those concerns and make sure we build on the positive before our next conferences.

For the last two months the Selvidge Staff and School Improvement Committee has been working to revise our School Improvement Plan. The SIP is where we evaluate our progress from the previous school year to map out our goals and objectives for the coming school year. A great deal of the work on the SIP is done by teachers during their planning time and on Staff Development days as they review available data on academics and school climate so that they can develop strategies for our continued growth and improvement. For example; we know that our 8th grade cohort group(s) gained on the MAP index from 6th to 8th grade. Starting in 6th grade, our teachers use data from multiple sources to learn about the strengths and needs of our students. From 6th grade through 8th grade we build on that knowledge to adapt lessons and activities **to student needs. It is this ongoing review and evaluation that helps us 'grow' our students in their time at Selvidge.**

Have a great November and please, stop by to enjoy one of the many upcoming concerts and activities such as our play this month.

Have a great November!

Sincerely,

Sean F. Stryhal

Sean F. Stryhal, Principal

November 2011

5 Selvidge Trivia Night - 7:00pm
10 EARLY RELEASE DAY—11:15 Dismissal
10 Veteran's Day Breakfast and Assembly
11 No School for Students
15 M.S Swim Meet @ LHS 5:00pm
16 Fall Drama Production 7:00 pm
17 Fall Drama Production 7:00 pm
19 Ballwin Elementary Craft Fair, 9-3
22 Celebrate Selvidge Assembly
23-25 Thanksgiving Holiday
29 M.S Non-Competitive Bowling 3:00 –4:45
29 MIOS Orchestra Concert @MHS
30 M.S. Competitive Bowling 6th gr. 3:00 pm

December

1 M.S. Competitive Bowling 7th & 8th grade
1 Band Concert 7:00 pm
5 Choral Concert 7:00 pm
6 Early Release Day, 11:15 dismissal
7 Geography Bee - 2:30 Café
8 PTO Meeting—6:30 pm
16 Winter Dance –2:30 - 3:30
22 Early Release Day—11:15 dismissal
22 Blizzard Bash
23- Jan. 2 -Winter Break

January 2012

4 Braggin' Rights Volleyball Game, 6:00 - 9:00
10 6th grade Band Concert - 7:00 pm
12 Spelling Bee - 2:30
13 Early Release Day, 11:15 Dismissal
16 No School—MLK Jr.'s B.D
18 Curriculum Night for Incoming 6th gr. 7-9 pm
21 M.S Volleyball Tournament Summit H.S, 8:00am

Selvidge Needs Donations for Adopt-A-Family Program!

Who: Selvidge students, parents, and local businesses
When: November 1-10
What: **Collecting funds during students' classes**
Why: **To help Selvidge's "adopted" families and other families in need**



The annual Holiday Adopt-A-Family Program. Needy families in Rockwood are assisted (confidentially) by providing them with holiday gifts of clothing, food, household supplies, and toys for the children. We also supply gift certificates for food to several families who are in need during these difficult economic times.

The need this year is especially great!

Parents can submit checks payable to Selvidge Middle School.

Businesses can donate funds or items for prize drawings.

(Businesses will be acknowledged in a later newsletter).

Questions? Please contact: Sally Blackburn, blackburnsally@rockwood.k12.mo.us or the Selvidge office at 636-891-6128.



Central Services
Administrative Center Annex
500 North Central Avenue
Eureka, MO 63025-1203

636.733.2141
636.938.2365 Fax
pulsjeffrey@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Jeff Puls
Coordinator of Testing

October, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This fall, children in grades 2, 4 and 6 will be taking the *Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition* (Stanford 10). The Stanford 10 is a norm-referenced standardized test. This means that your child's scores provide a comparison of his or her performance to that of thousands of other children in the same grade who took Stanford 10 at the same time of year when the test was normed in 2002. The results will be returned several weeks after testing and will help show teachers what your child has learned and what your child has not yet mastered. Teachers can use this information to better plan classroom instruction during the school year. It is important to understand that no one "passes" or "fails" the Stanford 10.

The Stanford 10 includes many of the subjects that your child is taught in school (reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science). Please keep in mind that individual results from this assessment are only one measure of student performance or ability, a snapshot in time. Equally important ways to measure student performance or ability include teacher observation, progress reports, daily work, and classroom assessments. All of these factors need to be considered when evaluating your child's academic progress.

If you have any additional questions about how schools will use the assessment, please contact your child's school or visit the Rockwood website at www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/dataguality/testing. Thank you for your time, effort, and support of the Rockwood School District as we strive to improve education for all students.

Sincerely,

Jeff Puls,
Coordinator of Testing

Middle Years

Working together for school success

Short Stops

The art of compromise

The next time your middle schooler disagrees with a friend, use the opportunity to help her learn about compromise. Encourage her to think of solutions that are acceptable to everyone. For example, she might say, "So you pick the movie this week, and I'll choose one next week."

Attention, please

Help your child get the most out of class time. How? Share the SLANT method with him: Sit up straight and near the front, Lean forward, Ask questions, Nod to show you understand, Track the teacher with your eyes.

Curbing foul language

Middle graders might think swear words make them sound cool or grown-up. But explain to your youngster that cursing gives others a bad impression of her and is not acceptable. To help stop it, consider creating a "swear jar"—it will cost a quarter each time a family member uses bad language. At the end of each month, donate the money to a charity.

Worth quoting

"Gratitude consists of being more aware of what you have than what you don't." *Anonymous*

Just for fun

Q: What do you lose every time you stand up?

A: Your lap.



Discipline that works

Your usually pleasant middle grader kicked his brother when he got frustrated. Or he invited friends over when he was home alone. You know you need to discipline him, but what's the most effective way at this age? The right consequences can be a useful tool to help your child improve his behavior. Here's how.

Make it fit

Decide on consequences before you need them. That way, you can choose them carefully. If you wait until your child breaks a rule to announce what will happen, you're more likely to overreact and come up with something that's difficult to enforce. ("You're not going anywhere for a month!") Be sure to tell your tween about the consequences up front so he knows what to expect.

Make it matter

Tie the results of your middle grader's behavior to his actions (say, not being able to go out next weekend if he lied



about where he was last weekend). And choose consequences that matter to your child so he cares about their impact. For example, if he texts at the dinner table, he's likely to be more upset about losing cell phone privileges than being sent to his room.

Make it right

Let your tween know that he must make up for bad behavior. If he throws and breaks the controller after losing a video game, he will have to replace it with his own money. Having to correct the situation will help him stop and think before he does the same thing again. 👍

Teaming with teachers

To support your child's education, put parent-teacher conferences high on your to-do list. Here are some tips:

- Review your middle grader's schoolwork and interim reports before the conference. If you see areas where she's falling short, ask her teachers for suggestions.

- Let teachers know about things that might be affecting your child (divorce, parent out of work, deployed family member). This can help teachers understand your child and offer support when necessary.

- If you need a translator at the conference, request one in advance. Or arrange to take along a friend or family member who can help. 👍



Good thinking!

Can your middle grader come up with more than one solution for a problem? Determine whether something she reads is valid? Draw conclusions based on what she reads? These are all critical-thinking skills—and your child needs them to thrive in middle school and beyond.



when she has a problem to solve, encourage her to think of several ways to handle it.

Solving problems

Share issues that you're trying to address ("I need to save money on gasoline"). Let your youngster hear you brainstorm solutions: "I could carpool with a coworker, combine errands, or drive the smaller car that gets better gas mileage." Then,

Evaluating information

Have your middle grader read an editorial in the newspaper. Ask questions to help her analyze what she has read. *Examples:* What are the writer's credentials? Does he use facts

and statistics to back up his views? Are they logical? She'll need to distinguish between facts and opinions and may have to do some research to answer those questions.

Drawing conclusions

Let your child choose a paragraph from a mystery and read it out loud. What does she think is going on? Suggest that she use what she has read to draw conclusions. For instance, if it says, "His hands shaking, Mark turned the key," she can conclude that Mark is scared or nervous. 👍

Clever cards

Here's a study technique that can help your middle grader remember facts and formulas.



Sequencing

Sometimes information needs to be remembered in a certain sequence, such as steps in a scientific process or events in history. Suggest that your child write each step or event on a separate index card (without numbering the cards). To study, he can shuffle and reshuffle the cards, putting them back in order until he consistently gets it right.

Matching

Your youngster can also use cards to study facts. Have him write each term and its matching fact on separate cards. *Examples:* vocabulary words and definitions, countries and their capitals. Then, he can shuffle the cards, spread them out facedown, and try to match up pairs.



Idea: Suggest that he make studying into a game by playing with a classmate or family member. Each person could create a set of cards for the other one to put in order or match. 👍

Q & A

Help for ADHD

Q My son was just diagnosed with ADHD. How can I help him be successful in middle school?

A If your child doesn't already have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or a Section 504 plan, ask the school to create one. The plan should spell out what he needs academically (extra copies of textbooks at home, more time to complete tests, less homework).

Also, it's more important than ever for your son to be organized. Having a daily planner or to-do list can be helpful. He should also sort through his backpack and locker on a weekly basis.

At this age, your child needs to be involved in managing his ADHD. Together, discuss strategies he can use to help himself. For instance, he might call a friend to double-check on assignments each evening or take a homework break every 20 minutes. Suggest that he experiment with ideas and see what works best for him. 👍



Parent to Parent

Cooking up healthy meals

Our family had a habit of grabbing fast food because it was convenient. After reading several articles that said home-cooked meals are healthier than most fast food, I decided to make a change.

I started with a goal of three home-cooked dinners a week. I made a list of the items I needed for each meal and went shopping.

One night, I made a tossed salad and salmon and added a loaf of hot, crusty

bread. For another meal, I put chuck roast, potatoes, carrots, and onions in a slow cooker before I went to work, and dinner was ready when I got home.

We still get takeout sometimes, but we're making healthier choices. Last week, we ordered a thin-crust pizza with light cheese and vegetables.

Eating at home is a lot easier than I expected. And my family is eating foods that are more nutritious. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5540



Safe Surf



Keep your kids safe while
they surf the internet!



The Safe Surf workshop discusses:

- ◆ How to prevent exploitation of your child
- ◆ Cyber-bullying and cellphone dangers
- ◆ Social networking sites such as Facebook
- ◆ Avoiding identity theft
- ◆ How to report Internet crimes/cyber-bullying
- ◆ Good cyber-citizenship



FREE to all parents!

Rockwood Valley M.S. -- 1220 Babler Park Drive Glencoe, MO 63088

Monday, December 5th 9:30 -- 10:30 AM

Presented by:

Jewish Family and Children's Service
Child Abuse Prevention Program

To request a free presentation, contact:

Jennifer Bernstein
(314) 812-9378

jbernstein@jfcs-stl.org



November 2011 PTO News...



2011 - 2012 Executive Board Members

President - Rhonda Costa

Vice President - Anna Speaker

Treasurer - April Stelzer

Co-Treasurer - Sherry Myers

Corresponding Secretary - Soundhra Lakshmanan

Recording Secretary - Cheryl Egan

Volunteer Coordinator - Becky Ingh

Hello Selvidge Families,

Can you believe that the first quarter is already over? I hope that you are all had a great start of the school year. It has been very eventful!

I want to say Thank You to all of you who have volunteered your time and/or donated items for Selvedges' many events and activities; Production Room, Appreciation Days, Book Fair, Teacher Conference Dinner, Buzz Books, Trivia Night, School Store, Conference Scheduling, Magazine Sales, Picture Retakes, Nature Trail, Intramural Activities . Thank you also for supporting the Sucker Sales, Stuffed Animal Donations and Canned Food Drive. Thank you to those of you who donated Used Books and Money to One for Books for East Middle School in Joplin. All of your time and support has been greatly appreciated!

Please consider joining us for our next PTO meeting: **November 2nd @ 2:30 PM**. Please sign in at the office and find out the location for the meeting.

We hope to see you there!

Rhonda Costa ☺
Juspoo41@charter.net

Trivia Night

There's still time to get a table!

Selvidge Middle School's Annual Family Trivia Night: Saturday November 5th.

Join us for an evening of fun, friends, food and lots of laughter. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the game will begin at 7:00 pm. Table price is only \$40 (8 people max at a table). There will be door prizes, table prizes and raffle items. The best decorated table will win a prize! Please see attached Flyer for more information and order form. Please contact Annie Martino if you have any questions! Martinogirls@hotmail.com

2011 – 2012 PTO Committee Chairs still needed

Thank you to our parents who have volunteered to chair several of the PTO committees. The following Committee Chairs are still open for the 2011 – 2012 school year. Volunteering to chair one or co-chair one of these committees is a great way to meet other parents and staff at Selvidge. Descriptions of these positions are on the PTO website. If you are interested or have questions regarding these positions, please contact Rhonda Costa at juspooh41@charter.net.

Book Donations

Concessions

Donation Coordinator



Magazine Sales



Thank you for the orders placed during our magazine sales fundraiser in October! Did you forget to place your order? No problem! You can still order online year round and Selvidge PTO still gets the profit.

Go to www.QSP.com and enter our school code: 1080099.

Please contact Annie Martino if you have any questions! Martinogirls@hotmail.com

Schnucks E-script Cards!!!

Help the PTO raise money just by doing your shopping! What can be easier than that? Stop by the Selvidge Office and pick up your **Schnucks E-script Card** today! Activate the card and every time you grocery shop, just hand it to the cashier at Schnucks and a portion of your purchase will automatically go towards Selvidge PTO.



Volunteer Spot

Did you know that Selvidge has a school store?

Its open Monday thru Friday 7:00-7:30am and Fridays at lunch. Students can purchase items such as notebooks, flash drives, candy and much more! Parents help run the school store and can volunteer for different shifts. Please fill out a volunteer form from the PTO website and turn it into the office or email it to Becky Ingli our volunteer coordinator at Twnsx2@earthlink.net

Selvidge PTO is on the web

Did you know you can find Selvidge PTO news on the web?

You'll have access to executive board meeting minutes, the PTO budget and more.

Just click the PTO link on the right hand-side of the Selvidge home page.

<http://www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/selvidge/Pages/default.aspx>



**AS SEEN BY
TEENS**

Substance Abuse PSA & Poster Contest



CALLING ALL.... 6-12th grade students
in the Rockwood community,
including private and home school students.
Posters and PSAs will be judged separately.
Please, only one entry in each category per person.

Rules

- 30-second PSA or 11" x 17" poster
- Must address a substance abuse topic
- Can be done in groups or individually
- Must include at least one fact
(For resources, see website.)

Questions



For submission information and details:
www.RockwoodCoalition.org
or call Kristin @ 636-733-2158

Dates

PSAs and posters due **January 20, 2012.**
Awards ceremony: **February 23, 2012.**

Prizes

2 CATEGORIES: 6th-8th grade and 9-12th grade

1st Place PSA: \$750	1st Place Poster: \$500
2nd Place PSA: \$500	2nd Place Poster: \$300
3rd Place PSA: \$250	3rd Place Poster: \$200
People's Choice: \$200	

Winning entries will be aired and displayed
throughout the community.



You're Invited

BALLWIN ELEMENTARY PSO CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, November 19, 2011
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

400 Jefferson Ballwin, MO
Between Ries Road & Ballpark Drive off Jefferson behind Lowes

Shop a Wide Variety of Vendors for you, your home and your gifts!



For more information, ballwinbearboutique@gmail.com



Selvidge Middle School and the Selvidge Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society along with Character Congress cordially invite you to attend our annual Veterans' Day Assembly. The assembly will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 9:30AM in the SMS gymnasium.

Please accept our invitation to attend this ceremony of recognition. There will be a reception for all our guests at 8:30AM in the cafeteria. A light breakfast will be served.

Please RSVP to Marie at 636-891-6100 or rileymarie@rockwood.k12.mo.us. Please also include your service branch if you are a Veteran so we may include your name in our program. Will you be attending both the breakfast and the assembly?



