

MOLINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HOME BULLETIN

August 1, 2008

1253 - 144th Avenue; PO Box 130; Moline, MI 49335 (616) 877-4688

www.molinechrsch.org

Welcome to Moline Christian School! We are excited to be here with you as a new family as well. Christine is my wife of 10 years. We have 4 amazing boys. Noah is in 4th grade and Gideon is in 2nd grade. Tristan will be 5 in December and Wyatt will be 2 in January.

Our theme this year is S.E.R.V.E. (Students Encouraging Responding Volunteering Everywhere) based on John 12:26, "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Jesus was and is the best example of how to lead people by serving them. He is the focal point of this school. It fits perfectly with our mission statement to provide a quality, Christ-centered education, equipping our students for a life of service to their Lord.

I pray that as we begin this school year together we may enjoy the journey each day realizing that it is a gift from God to have the opportunity to open it and serve each other as well as our neighbor.

God Bless,
Mr. Kevin Sall
MCS Principal

OFFICE HOURS this year will be 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

NOTE: SCHOOL HOURS - School hours this year will be as follows: The first bell will ring at 9:01 a.m. The second bell will ring at 9:06 a.m., at which time all students should be in their classroom. Any student arriving in class after 9:06 a.m. will receive a tardy. School will dismiss at 3:33 p.m. for students riding Moline's buses and Wayland's transfer buses. All others will dismiss at 3:37 p.m. If your student is riding the Wayland bus, you will receive their "Bus Tracks Newsletter." If you have Wayland busing questions or you do not get this mailing, please call the bus garage at 269-792-2262. For students riding Wayland buses, when we know what Wayland's bus schedules are, we try to set up a buddy for the younger (K & 1) ones to guide them to their correct bus.

PARENT BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT will be held Thursday, September 4, at 7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to visit the classrooms, meet the teachers, and learn about our goals and expectations for your children.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FORMS - Moline Christian School is able to assist some families with their tuition payments. This assistance is available on a limited basis since we rely on donations for this fund. If you will have difficulty meeting your tuition obligations this year, we encourage you to apply for tuition assistance for the 2008-2009 school year. Please pick up the forms in the office. Anyone requesting assistance must return the forms to the school office no later than September 2, 2008.

MEDICATION DISPENSATION - For security reasons, all prescription medications will be dispensed through the office only. No medication will be dispensed until a parental consent form is signed (Form available in the office). Students must come to the office to receive medications. Please do not allow a student to carry medication in their backpacks.

CSI INSURANCE - As stated on our enrollment forms, we do not have health/liability insurance on the students. This means that if your student is injured at school or at a school function, there is no insurance to help cover any of the parent's costs. CSI will not be offering voluntary insurance for parents to purchase this year. If you do not have any insurance or have limited coverage for your children through your work place, etc., and feel that you need coverage or additional coverage for your child(ren), please seek this out on your own.

AUGUST 25, 26, 27, and 28 **NO WAYLAND BUSING**

Wayland will not be in session yet. Please make sure you arrange transportation to and from school on those 4 days for your student(s). Moline's buses will run.

Calendar for the first week of school:

Monday - August 25	First Day of School—Full Day
Friday - August 29	No school - Labor Day weekend
Monday - September 1	Labor Day - No school
Tuesday - September 2	Classes resume

ATTENDANCE - Each day student attendance is checked for their presence, tardies, and partial days. If your child will be absent or late, please call the office before 8:30 a.m. Please do not call the teacher, e-mail us, or ask a sibling to relay messages regarding absent/late students. If your child arrives late, departs early, or is gone for part of the day, they are required to check in and out with the office as well as with the teacher. In these times we cannot be too careful about the whereabouts of our children, and it takes good communication to do this. Middle school students that are absent should arrange to have someone take their homework home for them, or it will be waiting in the office at the end of the day for parents to pick up before 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS - At the end of each school year, we award students who have shown Perfect Attendance during the year. Any student taking family vacations during school time will not receive an attendance award.

STUDENTS RIDING BUSES - NOTE: Wayland Schools is not starting school until Tuesday, September 4. Our school year begins on Monday, August 25, so for the first four days of school parents utilizing Wayland's busing will have to arrange other transportation to and from school. Note: Wayland will have other days like this during the school year, such as Teacher Improvement Days or extra holiday time off. We will keep you updated as to which days are affected.

WAYLAND BUSING RULES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
Students may NOT ride home on another Wayland bus with any other students for any reason at all. The only exception to this is if your student goes to a daycare; however, Wayland will only allow you to choose one daycare. Wayland Transportation indicated that if you have daycare, you must fill out and return their daycare form EACH YEAR before school begins. This form will be included with your mailing that you get showing busing times.

Sometimes during the school year we have students that indicate they are not riding the bus because mom or dad will be picking them up, or they may say they are going home with a friend on a Moline bus. If we only receive this verbal statement from the student, they will still be sent home via their regular bus route. If your student will be leaving school by a different route, the student is required to have a signed and dated note from the parent. In the past, many students have indicated that mom or dad is picking them up, but this is not the case. This student has then missed their regular bus home and their teacher is required to stay at school until mom or dad can be found and notified that they need to pick up their student. Please help us in this way and write a note for your student. **If your plans change during the day and you will pick up your student instead of riding a bus, please call the office before 2:30 p.m. so your student can be informed of this. Calls made after 2:30 p.m. may not be delivered in time. Note: Moline Christian requires a signed and dated note for the teacher/bus driver for any student to ride home with a friend on a Moline Christian bus or to get off at a stop other than their normal stop.**

MOLINE'S BUS ROUTES are being established. Bus drivers will either call parents or send out a note by August 11. **IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO RIDE A MOLINE BUS, BUS FEES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31.**

SHOES FOR STUDENTS - Students are required to have two pairs of shoes for school, an indoor and outdoor pair of shoes so they can change when coming in or going outside to play. Students are required to have gym shoes in the gym. Please do not have black soles. These will leave marks on the gym floor.

HOT LUNCH is available through Wayland Union Schools and will begin on Monday, August 25. MCS will send home the hot lunch menu each month. It can also be accessed by going on the MCS website. (Wayland has not given us the menu for the first week of school yet or September. You can access this on our website as soon as we have the information, but as we indicated previously, hot lunch WILL be offered the first week of school.) Wayland Union has informed us that the hot lunch prices for the 2008-2009 school year are as follows: \$1.90 per day for students in K-5 and \$2.00 per day for students in 6-8. This includes milk with their meal. White or chocolate milk is available each day, and students can choose either each day. If a student would like to order just milk for the day, the cost is \$.50 cents per day. When ordering hot lunch or milk, please send the money/check in an envelope with your child's name and have your student give this to their teacher. One envelope per family is sufficient. **Please make sure that you show the dollar amount breakdown on the envelope. All hot lunch checks should be made out to Wayland Union Schools.** Hot lunch must be paid in advance and can be paid for either by the week or more. (While the Wayland hot lunch monitor keeps track of your paid hot lunches available, it is advisable for you to keep track also.)

For those new to the Wayland Hot Lunch Program: Wayland offers five choices each day for grades 4-8 and three choices each day for grades K-3. There are two main choices each day and a chef. In addition to that, grades 4-8 have the choice of two additional items. Each day your child's teacher will ask each student if he/she is taking hot lunch and what choice they would like. They also offer a salad bar each day with salad, fresh fruit, bread, and other assorted items that vary each day.

Some students may qualify for the reduced/free lunch program. Income guidelines are available by calling Wayland Union at 269-792-3150 or the MCS office when they send us an updated form. You will only have to fill out one form per household. Completed forms should be returned to the office.

LOOK FOR MOLINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ON THE WEB at www.molinechrsch.org. Occasionally we include pictures of students on our website. We do not identify them by name. If you do not want your student's picture to be included on the website, please send a note in writing to the MCS office. Thank you!

HALLWAYS CLEAR FOR FIRE EGRESS -

BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF backpacks with rollers, we are requesting that you do NOT purchase one of these. They take up an enormous amount of space on the floor since they are too large to fit on hooks and also do not fit in lockers.

PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN AND KINDERGARTNERS:

Please make sure that your immunization form is turned in if you have not done so already. ALSO, kindergarten students must have a vision test before entering kindergarten. If you choose not to have all immunizations for your child, you cannot just sign a waiver form. You must call the Allegan County Health Department first at 1-269-673-5411 to request this form and discuss this with them.

PRESCHOOL PARENTS: Please make sure that all your forms are turned in before school begins for your child. Students will not be admitted without ALL forms being turned in.

FLASH DRIVES - The students that have been told to purchase flash drives: Please make sure that you purchase one with at least 512K (or larger) with no programs or software included with it. If you do purchase one with programs/software included, it will not be accessible for your student on our computers at school. One suggestion is a Memorex Travel Drive. **Anything that says U3 is NOT a good purchase.**

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS are needed for this school year. Because of the new computer lab, we are going to try to staff the library with volunteers all day, Monday through Friday, but we need several more volunteers before we can offer this. If you could help us out, either for a partial or a full day, please call Julia Miedema at 437-1177.

IF YOU HAVE A SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT for this weekly Home Bulletin, items must be in writing to the office no later than Friday afternoon. Due to limited space, personal announcements/requests cannot be put in. **WE WILL BE HAPPY** to put Prayer Requests/Praise Reports in this Home Bulletin if the immediate family (only) requests us to do so.

SPORTS are offered for middle school students. Students in grades 7 and 8 can be on teams and 6th graders may join if they need more to make up a team. Mr. Boersma will inform the students of any need. Practice for soccer (girls or boys on a mostly boys team) and girls basketball will begin shortly after school starts.

PHYSICALS - All middle school students who plan on playing in sports this year must have a sports physical before they can play or practice. Forms are in the rack by the MCS office.

STUDENTS WHO REMAIN AFTER SCHOOL TO WATCH A BASKETBALL GAME or other sport activity are expected to remain in the gym and may not be in the hallways or classrooms. Students may not stay to watch a game unless they have parental supervision.

THANK YOU for your help and consideration.

ANY GROUP PLANNING A SCHOOL FUNCTION must schedule this school function through the school office to avoid conflicts with other functions. After scheduling through the office, please contact Elaine Dykstra (877-4708) to reserve the school to avoid conflicts with rentals. If you need access to school before the scheduled event (i.e. set-up), this must also be scheduled with the office. The Dykstras are to be called only to add your event to their calendar to avoid rental conflicts. Please do not call the Dykstras for access if it is just a school event and not a rental. They are not paid for this. For rental information for a non-school function, you can call the Dykstras.

T.R.I.P. PARTICIPANTS: The two Uno Chicago Grills in the Grand Rapids area are now Malarky's. If you have any Uno Chicago Grill cards remaining, please call their headquarters at 1-866-600-8667 for instructions.

T.R.I.P.

Regular TRIP orders - August 5 and 25, and September 8

Instant TRIP orders - July 29 and August 19

Orders will not be processed Labor Day week, September 1.

FUNDRAISERS

We have various fundraisers throughout the school year. Most of these are School Circle fundraisers. The first two fundraisers will begin the first week of school:

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS - This is a School Circle fundraiser. The oldest child in each family will be bringing home an Entertainment Book the first day of school. **The cost of these books is ONLY \$20.00.** (In previous years, the cost was \$35.00.) Entertainment Books give you buy-one-meal, get-a-meal-free offers or discounted rates on many entertainment items. If you do not want your child to bring a book home, please call the office **BEFORE** school begins. If you do not sell or purchase the book your child brings home, it must be returned to school. You may sell the book that your child takes home and verbally request more from your teacher. Many grandparents also enjoy these. This sale will begin the first day of school, August 25, and all books or money must be brought back to school no later than Thursday, September 11. **PLEASE NOTE:** Please verbally tell your student's teacher if you need any extra books.

MAGAZINE SALE - Each year our middle school students raise money for their class trip and class gift by selling magazines. Please order or renew your magazines through them. If you have a better offer or renewal rate of your own and this magazine is offered through this sale, you can use this offer if you turn it in with your order form.

SCHOOL CIRCLE MEETING

Our first meeting of the year will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 8, in the library. Please plan on attending this first meeting to get our school year off to a great start. There are many ways you can get involved, and this meeting will give you the opportunity to hear what we are doing and sign up for different fundraisers. The bulletin board by the main entrance to school will also have sign-up sheets for upcoming events.

NEW MOMS COFFEE: An informal get-together will be held for all moms new to our school on Tuesday, September 2, at 7:00 p.m., in the school library. We invite all moms new (and not new) to Moline Christian that evening. We will share refreshments while we let you know what School Circle does and answer any questions you might have. Questions: Call Laura Sytsma at 877-4203. This is a time to get to know some other moms in our school as well, so all moms new to the school or not new are welcome and encouraged to join us.

AUCTION - This year's auction will be held Saturday, October 11. If you are a business owner, we would appreciate donations to our auction. You can also ask your employer to donate. We also need additional people to help with the auction this year. If you can help, please call Terrie Whittedge at 269-792-1657.

ROOM MOMS - We still have a few classes that need Room Moms. Please check the bulletin board by the office if you would like to sign up.

August 17 - September 06, 2008
 Weekly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 17	August 18	August 19	August 20 New Family Picnic	August 21 Teacher Inservice	August 22 Teacher Inservice	August 23
August 24	August 25 First day of school - Full day	August 26	August 27	August 28	August 29 Labor Day weekend - No school	August 30
August 31	September 1 Labor Day weekend - No school	September 2 New Moms Coffee - 7:00 p.m.	September 3	September 4 Parent Back to School Night - 7:00 pm	September 5	September 6