

Fatima Monthly Newsletter

January 24, 2019

Welcome to the New Year! (And the first month is almost over. Wow!)

We have started the 2nd semester and mid-quarter is Feb 4. If your child is earning a “D” or “F” in any class, you will be receiving a mid-term report soon thereafter.

Remember that all students started 2019 with a clean slate, since grades are not carried over from the first term. Remind your student that no matter what they did the first term, they can redeem themselves now. Also remind them of the importance of their Grade Point Average when they are applying to schools and trying to get scholarships. Every little point counts!

FAFSA: If your **senior** is planning to go to any tech school or college, he or she needs to complete the FAFSA form. If the student is going to use A+ money, he or she **MUST** complete the FAFSA. Mueller has put an informational packet on senior lockers to explain the process. If your child didn't bring one home, ask for it.

THE STATE PRIORITY DEADLINE TO COMPLETE THIS IS FEBUARY 1!!!!

All parents and students need to go to studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid to get an ID number. Your child and one parent much each have their own ID, and you must use a different email address to get each one. If you have any questions about this, feel free to call Donna Mueller at (573) 455-2375 ext 118 or email muellerd@fatimacomets.org.

Dual Credit: PLEASE DO NOT PAY FOR LINCOLN DUAL CREDIT until the middle of February. They have to have time to get all the kids into the systems before you can pay. Checks can be mailed to Lincoln University; Attn: Office of the CFO; PO Box 29; Jefferson City, MO 65102-0029. You can pay with credit card by contacting the Cashier's Office at 573-681-5085. You can also pay through your webadvisor account. The amount you owe is on the pink sheet we put in your child's locker.

JH Dance: The Fatima STUCO is hosting a 6-8th grade dance for St. Patrick's Day on March 15 from 7-10 in the multipurpose room. A flyer is attached.

Homecoming: Fatima's homecoming game will be on Feb 8 with the dance on Feb 9. The attire is dress casual – no jeans. It is open to all students in grades 9-12. If a student wants to bring a guest, he or she must sign the guest up in the office and have the school of the guest fill out a form available in the office.

The theme for Homecoming is “Once upon a Homecoming.” Dress-up days that week are as follows: Monday: Sleeping Beauty – wear pajamas. Tuesday: Moana – wear

Hawaiian clothing. Wednesday: Incredibles – dress like a superhero. Thurs: Lion King – dress like an animal or wear animal print. Friday: Beauty and the Beast – wear blue and gold.

Suicide Prevention: In an effort to inform our students and alleviate problems, we presented a suicide awareness/prevention program on Jan 8 to all junior high and high school students. We used the SOS program. I have included with this bulletin an SOS Parent Newsletter with helpful hints and information.

Suicide Prevention: Youth suicide is the second leading cause of death for our youth ages 10-24. We want to make sure that all of our students here at Fatima are safe and know what to do if they are feeling suicidal or know somebody who is. Two years ago we completed the Jason Foundation program with all the kids. If you want more information about youth suicide, go to www.jasonfoundation.com. There is a great series of videos for parents on this sight.

Drug Prevention/Making Good Choices: To help our students learn about the effects of drugs and the ways to make good decisions, we are sending our 7-9th grade students to some trainings. On March 14 all 7th graders will go through COPE training, and on March 7 the 8th graders will go through TEAM training. Our freshmen will go through Baseline training on March 12. We encourage you to talk to your children about their choices and ways to say no to bad decisions. These programs are hosted by the Center for Drug Free Youth, and on their website there is a parent portal with a toolkit of ideas and suggestions for helping your child. Check out their website at <https://www.jccdfy.org/parent-portals>.

Spring athletes: be aware of the grade policy and take care of possible tutoring before the season starts. First practice for high school spring sports is coming soon. Make sure you have your physical!

If your student is participating in a spring sport and they have not yet turned in a sports physical, it must be in prior to the start of practices. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in practices without a physical on file, and they have to have a certain number of practices in prior to the first event in order to be allowed to participate in that event. Athletes must also pay a \$20 activity fee. The only time the fee will be waived is when the family has already met the \$100 family cap.

Sophomores and Juniors and ACT's: A student must have an 18 on the English part of the ACT by August to take College English for dual credit. So we have the April 13 and June 8 ACT dates to get those scores up. The deadline to sign up for the April 13 date is March 8. Students can sign up online at www.actstudent.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER that Fatima will be giving an ACT test to all juniors this spring. This will be a “true” ACT that can be used for scholarships and college admissions and to be able to take College English.

NHS Applications: The National Honor Society eligibility lists are posted throughout school. If your child is eligible for membership, please have him or her stop by Mrs. Mueller's office and pick up an application form. Fill it out and return it by February 15, 2019. To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25. Potential members will be evaluated on high standards of leadership, service and character. Leadership is based on the student's leadership roles in community, school or church activities or election to an office. To meet the service requirement, the student must have been active in service projects through the school, church or community. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics and cooperation both in school and in the community. Potential members are evaluated by five members of a faculty council. A student will need to receive a minimum of three out of five votes to be asked to join. Once inducted into the organization, students are expected to maintain their 3.25 GPA as well as complete 50 school and community/church service hours each year.

The Academic Awards Night is under construction! We will have a Senior Recognition Night on Wednesday, April 24. All seniors will be recognized this evening for their accomplishments the last few years and their goals for the future. On this night we will only recognize seniors! If you have a senior and they receive scholarships from a college/university, and if they want to be recognized for it that night, please forward the information to Mrs. Mueller. Schools do not send us that information, so if the student doesn't tell us about it, we can't recognize it.

The regular Academic Awards will then be presented to all non-seniors during a school day in May. The exact day will be determined by the number of snow days we have. On this day we will give out class awards to students who have excelled in the many classes here at Fatima. Seniors will not be at this event because their awards will have been given out on the April 24th evening.

Sophomore Parents: The Jostens rep will be at Fatima on February 7 to show kids class rings! They will be back on Feb 13 to take orders during lunch shift. Parents can talk to the rep and order rings that evening from 3:10-6:00. You can go to their website to look at their offerings now and go to other websites/businesses to compare costs and options. Start looking now if you are interested!

Junior Parents: If you are interested in your child attending Boys' State or Girls' State this summer, have the junior talk to Ms. Mueller. These two programs are leadership training activities sponsored by The American Legion. Both are a week long in the summer and are held at UCM in Warrensburg.

Parents of kids looking for a job this summer: If your child is 16 or older, he or she could be a camp counselor at Wonderland Camp outside of Eldon, Mo. This is a camp for handicapped people. Counselors work Sunday afternoon until Friday afternoon and stay at the camp. Food and lodging is provided, along with a salary. If your child wants more information, go to www.wonderlandcamp.org

Snow Make-up Day: If we miss any more snow days before Feb 18, Fatima will be in session on that day.

Fatima will NOT be in session Feb 15. This is a teacher in-service date. Nichols WILL attend that day.

Calendar of Events

Feb 4 - Mid Quarter – reports will be sent if your child has a “D” or “F”
Feb 7 – Class ring rep meets with sophomores
Feb 8 – Homecoming game
Feb 9 – Homecoming dance – ACT test
Feb 12 - Nichols out at 9:50
Feb 13 – Parent Night for class rings 3-6.
Feb 15 – No school – Nichols WILL attend
Feb 18 – Fatima is our unless we have a snow day between now and then
Feb 20– Board of Education Meeting
March 6 – Spring Sports pictures
March 8 – ACT registration deadline for the April 13 test
End of Quarter 3

The Counselor’s Corner

Senior Parents: The FAFSA state deadline is February 1! This form must be completed for any student to get any federal grants or loans and is also required for many scholarships!! It is required for any student who is planning to use the A+ grant. If you have any questions about this, please call Ms. Mueller at (573) 455-2375 ext. 118.

For all parents, please realize that the Missouri Connections program is one that you can share with your students if you have access to the computer. The program has four assessments that students can take to help them make career choices. It also tells the students about the different careers and about the colleges or tech schools that offer training in a particular field. Everything is linked from the single web site.

Students can also keep track of all of their volunteer hours and extracurricular activities, since we know how hard it is to remember all of this the senior year when scholarships and applications are asking for the information. Once the information is in the program, a resume can be made at the click of a button.

Go to the website with your child. Then spend some time going over the results of inventories and finding lots of information. Realize that anything in blue is a link to more information

Master Schedule Soon Released: Soon the 19-20 schedule will be finalized, and students will have the opportunity to sign up for classes. I am trying to encourage the

students to think about their future plans so they can make positive choices for their classes next year. Each student will receive a packet that explains their options. I will then have the student make a schedule. Then I will check each proposed schedule to make sure the student is taking all the classes needed to meet their post-secondary plans. If I disagree with the student's proposed schedule, I will talk to them so we can come to a consensus.

I have met with all of the students to discuss career choices and make a proposed schedule of classes. This meeting was simply to make the kids start thinking about what they want to do. I will send this paper with the child when I ask them to make their final schedule. If you see the paper and have any questions, feel free to call me. I have the papers in my office, because I know if I talk to the kid about the schedule now and ask them to remember what they decided or keep the paper for a month, we will be back at square one. Sorry – I am a mom and know how kids are.

Many kids sign up for teacher's aid or other classes that have no credit attached to them. Students must understand the implications for GPA when they take these programs. If you are dividing your total class points by fewer credits, you will get an ever-so-slightly lower GPA. For example a student was a TA, and it decreased her GPA by 1/1000 of a point. If you are tied with a person for class rank, this can be enough to drop you. For the majority, it will not make enough of a difference to even notice. Please note that this also applies to pass/fail classes such as study skills.

My goal this year is that every student leaves in May with a schedule in hand. Then we will not have to have students come back the week before school starts to pick up a schedule. But time will tell if this is really possible.

Juniors received a present: Earlier this school year all juniors received a set of papers that explain the process of choosing a college. **All juniors should have their college choices narrowed to the top five by the beginning of their senior year, which is only 7 months away!** It is definitely time to start touring and choosing. The papers include questions to ask when you set up a visit and things to look for in a college. It also has a college comparison worksheet to help you compare side-by-side the different options.

Juniors: all juniors will be taking the ASVAB test at Fatima on March 13. This is a military entrance exam that also has a career interest inventory and individual scores for specific areas such as science, math, reading, and mechanical reasoning.

Seniors: Keep a close tab on the bulletin. February is a busy month for scholarships. Be ready! Watch Deadlines Carefully!!! Many are quickly approaching.

Realize that some deadlines are for the scholarship to be postmarked and some are for the day the scholarship must be at the place giving it!

The Deadline To Sign Up For The April 13 ACT is March 8

Lots of great summer programs available: Please note in the bulletin programs available for students in the summer – and some for this school year. The Cadet Patrol Academy has been a great hit for students who have attended. The information for this one should be coming soon. It is usually scheduled for Thursday nights. UMR has many summer camps for engineering. My daughter attended an amazing leadership program at Springfield. The list goes on and on. Many of these are free, too!

These programs and academies look great on resumes and applications. Watch the bulletin and sign up if interested. You can always call me with questions.

Help My Child Figure Out What They Want To Do When They Grow Up: This is a common request from parents. My advice is to ask the child to complete the Interest Profiler on Missouri Connections. The results from this inventory will help your child find the perfect job according to what they are interested in doing. There is also a sort component, so you can put in that you want a job that makes over 50,000 a year but requires less than two years training, for example, and it will tell you what that job is according to your interests. Pretty cool! Lots of fun to play with!

How Much Money Do I Need To Be Happy? This is a common question from kids. Parents and kids LOVE the Reality Check on Missouri Connections. With this inventory, kids answer questions such as how often they want to eat out, how much they will spend on phone, internet, activities, what type of house they want to live in and where, and other pertinent questions. They then get a rough estimate of how much they must make to live their chosen lifestyle. It will then give them jobs in this area or wherever they choose that will let them make that amount of money. Another neat Missouri Connections feature.

Parents: you can do lots of things on Missouri Connections! There is a tab dedicated to you to give you ideas of ways to help your child. Go to www.missouriconnections.org and see what you can find!

The Joke's On You

Short Snow Jokes

Q: What do you get from sitting on the snow too long?

A: Polaroids!

Q: What's an ig?

A: A snow house without a loo!

Q: Why did Frosty the snowman want a divorce?

A: Because he thought his wife was a flake

Q: Why does it take longer to build a blonde snowman than a regular one?

A: You have to hollow out the head.

Q: What do snowmen eat for lunch ?

A: Icebergers !

Q: What time is it when little white flakes fall past the classroom window?

A: Snow and Tell.

Q: If you live in an igloo made of snow, what's the worst thing about global warming?

A: No privacy!

Q: What do you call ten Arctic hares hopping backwards through the snow together?

A: A receding hare line

Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?

A: In a snow bank.

Q: What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum?

A: A meltdown!

Q: What is a snowman's favorite game?

A: Ice Spy with my little eye...

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes.

Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water!

Q: What do you call a snowman party?

A: A snowball

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A: Frostbite.