

SEPTEMBER

2009

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #404

- September
- 1 Varsity HS Boys Golf, Cambridge, There, 4:00 p.m.
 - 2 JV/Varsity HS Girls Golf, Alleman, Here, 4:00 p.m.
F/JV/V HS Volleyball, Monmouth-Roseville, at Monmouth, 5:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Monmouth-Roseville, Here, 4:30 p.m.
 - 3 JV/V HS Boys Golf, United, Here, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Rockridge, Here, 4:30 p.m.
Market Day pickup at Apollo, 5:45-6:30 p.m.
 - 4 JV/Varsity HS Football, Annawan-Wethersfield, Here, 7:00 p.m.
 - 5 9th Grade Volleyball, United, at Monmouth, 9:15 a.m.
8th Grade Volleyball, Costa Tournament, at Galesburg, TBA
 - 7 Fresh/Soph Football, Annawan-Wethersfield, There, 6:00 p.m.
NO SCHOOL – Labor Day Holiday
 - 8 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Illini West, Here, 6:00 p.m.
 - 9 F/JV/HS Girls Volleyball, Orion, Here, 5:00 p.m.
Varsity Girls Golf, Dunlap, Here, 4:00 p.m.
JV/V Boys Golf, Macomb, There, 4:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, TBA, Here, 5:30 p.m.
 - 10 F/JV/HS Girls Volleyball, West Central, Here, 5:00 p.m.
JV/V Boys Golf, Sherrard, Here, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Monmouth/Roseville, There, TBA
JH Football, West Central, Here, 5:30 p.m.
New Boston Elementary School Open House, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
 - 11 9th/Varsity HS Football, Alwood/ROWVA, Here, 5:15 p.m.
 - 12 Varsity HS Girls Volleyball, Kewanee Wethersfield, There, 8:00 a.m.
Varsity Boys Golf, Kewanee, There, TBA
Varsity HS Cross Country, Princeton, There, 9:00 a.m.
 - 14 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Galva, There, 5:00 p.m.
Fresh/Soph HS Football, Alwood/ROWVA, There, 6:00 p.m.
JV/V Boys Golf, UTHS, Galva, Here, 4:00 p.m.
JV HS Cross Country, Monmouth/Roseville, There, TBA
JH Girls Volleyball, Rockridge, Here, 5:30 p.m.
 - 15 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Knoxville, Here, 5:00 p.m.
JH Football, Rockridge, Here, 5:30 p.m.
PTO Meeting in Apollo LRC, 6:30 p.m.
 - 16 JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Alleman, There, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity Girls Golf, Macomb, There, 4:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Monmouth/Roseville, at Roseville, 5:30 p.m.
 - 17 HS Fresh/Soph/Jr Pictures Taken
School pictures taken at the junior high beginning at 8:30 a.m. with retakes on October 30
 - 18 9th/Varsity HS Football, Illini West, Here, 5:15 p.m.
Apollo school pictures taken.
 - 19 JV HS Girls Volleyball, Sherrard, There, 8:00 a.m.
Varsity HS Girls Volleyball, Judy Richmond Classic, Here, 8:00 a.m.
Varsity Girls Golf, Macomb, There, 8:00 a.m.
Varsity Boys Golf, Riverdale Invitational, There, 8:00 a.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Bureau Valley, There, 9:30 a.m.
 - 21 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Kewanee Wethersfield, Here, 5:00 p.m.
Fresh/Soph HS Football, Illini West, There, 6:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Sherrard, Here, 5:30 p.m.
 - 22 JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Rockridge, Here, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity Girls Golf, Farmington, Here, 4:00 p.m.
JV/V Boys Golf, Rockridge, There, 9:00 a.m.
Varsity Boys Golf, Orion, There, 4:00 p.m.
JH Football, Monmouth/Roseville, There, 5:30 p.m.
Driver's Education meeting for parents of 2nd quarter driver's ed. students, 6:30 p.m. in HS Library
 - 23 Varsity Boys Golf, UTHS, There, 4:30 p.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Kewanee, There, 4:00 p.m.

- 23 JH Girls Volleyball, Orion, Here, 5:00 p.m.
- 24 Varsity Girls Golf, Rock Island, There, 3:15 p.m.
Varsity Boys Golf, West Central, There, 4:00 p.m.
Sophomore Class Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Jostens representative will provide class ring information
- 25 Varsity HS Football, Elmwood/Brimfield, There, 7:00 p.m.
Early Dismissals (11:30 a.m.) for Half-Day Inservice (Times will vary according to school's bus schedules.) Breakfast will be served but no lunch.
- 26 Varsity HS Cross Country, Monmouth, There, 10:00 a.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Alwood, There, TBA
- 28 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, ROWVA, Here, 5:00 p.m.
Fresh/Soph HS Football, Elmwood/Brimfield, Here, 6:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Alwood, Here, 4:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Knoxville, Here, 5:30 p.m.
- 29 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Rockridge, Here, 5:00 p.m.
Varsity Girls Golf, Macomb, Here, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Macomb, There, 4:00 p.m.
JH Football, Sherrard, Here, 5:30 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Alwood, There, 5:30 p.m.
- 30 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, West Central, There, 5:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Railsplitter, Here, Noon
JV/Varsity Boys Golf, Railsplitter, There, Noon
Varsity HS Cross Country, Sherrard, There, 4:30 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Rockridge, There, 5:30 p.m.
- October 1 JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Alleman, Moline, Geneseo, There, 4:00 p.m.
- 2 Varsity HS Football, North Fulton, There, 7:00 p.m.
Sophomore Class ring orders may be placed with Jostens during lunch hours
- 3 9th HS Football, West Central, Here, 10:00 a.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Farmington, There, 10:00 a.m.
- 5 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Stark County, Here, 5:00 p.m.
Fresh/Soph HS Football, North Fulton, Here, 6:00 p.m.
JV/Varsity Girls Golf, Rockridge, Here, 4:00 p.m.
Varsity HS Cross Country, Elmwood, There, 4:30 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Monmouth/Roseville, Here, 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Varsity Boys Golf, IHSA Regional, TBA, 9:00 a.m.
- 7 Varsity Girls Golf, IHSA Regional, Here, 8:00 a.m.
JH Football, Orion, There, 5:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, Sherrard, There, 5:30 p.m.
- 8 F/JV/V HS Girls Volleyball, Princeville, There, 5:00 p.m.
JH Girls Volleyball, United, There, 5:30 p.m.
Homecoming Parade at 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Varsity HS Football, United, Here (Homecoming), 7:00 p.m.
- 10 9th HS Football, Farmington, There, 10:00 a.m.
Homecoming Dance in HS gym, 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.

WEBSITE AND STUDENT/PARENT PORTAL UPDATE

Mercer County School District has implemented a new student management system this year with many new features. Among them are a new lunch program as well as a student and parent portal. The program shows both parents and students secure web-based access to grades and homework assignments as well as the ability to put money on student's lunch account via the web. We will be rolling out these new features mid October. Parents will receive a letter with their login information as well as information and dates on trainings for parents regarding how to access this information and use the website to keep them informed.

MAGAZINE SALES

Mercer County High School will be starting the magazine sale/renewal on September 9th. This is the primary fundraiser for the yearbook, prom, and all classes. All magazine orders/renewals are through QSP. Orders are guaranteed 100% by the company. Please help Mercer County High School students with your orders. You can go to QSP .com and enter the school code #425001297 to place an order year round. If you have any questions, contact Mercer County High School at 582-2223.

MERCER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Honor your favorite student, graduate, teacher, or alumni with a donation to the Mercer County High School library. The high school library now has a wish list of books for the collection requested by staff and students and is viewable at www.amazon.com. Donors can select items from the "Aledo/Mercer County High School" wish list to purchase and the books will be sent directly to the school. Upon arrival, each book will be labeled with a bookplate to indicate the person or event the book is donated in honor of. This is perfect for birthdays, graduations, reunions, or "just because". Support the high school students of Mercer County with the gift of books! Please contact Brooke Fleurette at 309-582-2223 if you have any questions. Donors can also visit the wish list directly at <http://www.amazon.com/wishlist/366OUBMZY8W0GV>

TITLE 1 PROGRAM

The Title 1 program in the Mercer County School District is funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Title 1 of this act provides financial assistance to local school districts to provide services which help at-risk children achieve the high standards expected of all children.

The main goal of the program is to provide a wide range of assistance so that students can achieve the high standards expected of all students. Characteristics of the Mercer County Title 1 programs are:

1. The instruction is supplemental to the regular instruction taking place in the classroom.
2. In class as well as after class assistance is provided.
3. Through diagnosis and teaching, we endeavor to discover and overcome the special and particular needs of each student.
4. The Title 1 program is correlated to the student's classroom program.
5. The Title 1 teachers keep in close touch with the classroom teachers to find out what the Title 1 student's immediate needs are.

All parents and community members are encouraged to offer suggestions for next year's elementary Title 1 programs. If you have any questions or suggestions concerning the Title 1 program, please contact principal Nancy Robinson at 309-587-8141.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW: In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the Mercer County School District is required to notify parents of each student attending a Title 1 school that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s) and paraprofessional staff. NCLB allows parents to ask for the following information about their child's classroom teacher(s): (1) whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; (2) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status, through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; (3) the bachelor's degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of discipline or the certification or degree; and, (4) whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so, their qualification. Please contact the principal's office in writing if you require this information.

TITLE 9 NOTICE

Title 9 of the Education Amendments of 1972, commonly called Title 9 is designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Mercer County School District #404 is required to conduct all activities in such a manner as to prevent discrimination based on sex in educational and related activities including all extra-curricular activities. Questions concerning Title 9 may be directed to the school district.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OF SCHOOLS

We do not expect to let out early on any day other than previously announced. It may be necessary to have early dismissals due to emergency conditions such as excessive heat, bad weather, road conditions, or boiler breakdown, etc. Parents are expected to be alert to these possibilities and make arrangements for the care of children arriving home early. Arrangements could be made with a friend, neighbor, or relative. Emergency dismissals will be announced on local and quad-city radio and TV stations.

MERCER COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH NEWS

The junior high office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The school phone number is 584-4174. To reach the transportation office please dial 584-4173. School pictures are scheduled for Thursday, September 17th beginning at 8:30 a.m. Retakes will be on October 30th at 8:45 a.m. Please try to make it for pictures as they will be used for ID badges.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

Mercer County School District #404 is a member of the Black Hawk Area Special Education District which is a cooperative of school districts in Mercer, Henderson, and Rock Island counties. The purpose of the cooperative is to assist districts in providing service to students with special educational needs. Special education services are available to all students of the district from ages three to twenty-one or until graduation from a secondary program.

Each district is required to offer services ranging from individual tutoring to placement in residential schools. However, most students with special needs are served by specially trained teachers in resource rooms in each school. These pupils spend part of the day in their regular classes and part of the day in the resource room. In some cases, a child may require special education services in his/her home or in a hospital because of a temporary physical or health problem. This service is part of the total special education program.

When a student appears to be having consistent educational or emotional problems, he/she may be referred by teachers, parents, or the child himself for the case study. A case study includes a psychological evaluation and health history and is done with parental permission. Parents also have the right to participate in planning educational programs for children eligible for special education. A comprehensive set of rules and regulations govern procedures for services to special education students.

The district also conducts various screening programs to identify students in need of special services. An annual screening in the spring is held for children ages three to five. Speech, hearing, and vision clinics are held at regular intervals to assess children to handicapping conditions.

If you have any questions regarding special services in your school, please feel free to contact your principal.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Mercer County School District is an equal opportunity establishment offering programs and employment without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or handicapping conditions. Any grievances or complaints shall be placed with the principals in any of the school offices.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Notice is hereby given to staff, parents, students, and community members that Mercer County School District will be using the least amount of air-borne pesticide to maintain its buildings. AAA Pest Control of Aledo will be spraying the building sites the **SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH** starting at 5:00 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY RULES

1. Please let the bus garage or driver know if you are not riding. Be ready when your bus arrives and stand clear of the bus while waiting for it to stop.
2. Board the bus and promptly take your seat. Standing or walking while the bus is in motion is not permitted.
3. Consumption of food and/or beverages on the buses is not permitted.
4. Students are expected to sit in their seat and conduct themselves in a manner that will enhance the safety and comfort of fellow passengers aboard the school bus.

INTERNET AWARENESS

As a school district we would like to take the opportunity to let you know that the school provides internet filters that prohibit access to web journaling as well as adult content and other inappropriate sites. The filter blocks many sites automatically while others get blocked as soon as we learn of their existence.

While we can prohibit their access at school, we cannot control their access from a home computer. We encourage you to take time to talk to your child and remind them that information they post on a website is available to the world - - - anyone can see it.

PROJECT STEP AHEAD

Mercer County Junior High School has a before and after school program titled "Project Step Ahead". The before school program is Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00-8:00 a.m. The after school program is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 3:15-5:00 p.m. Both programs are to be held in room 310. The activities involved are homework help, tutoring, mentoring, clubs, speakers, arts, crafts, recreations, cooking, games, and fun. Contact Mr. Dennison or the junior high office for a registration form. The program is open to all junior high students. Join us for as many nights as you wish and earn while you learn.

Why bus driving is a great job opportunity...

Being a bus driver has many benefits.

- Flexibility - If you are a substitute driver, you can pick and choose the days/times you work. There aren't very many jobs out there that allow so much flexibility. The flexibility of the work schedule is well-suited for retired people who want an extra income, but don't want to be tied down to a rigid work commitment.
- You always have opportunities for extra pay by driving for field trips and evening activities (e.g., sports).
- You won't have to drive far to work. Think about how much time and fuel you will save by not having to drive to the Quad Cities, Muscatine or Burlington to go to work!
- Most regular routes allow you to go home during the middle of the day to allow for errands and activities.
- The beginning pay rate is \$12.90 per hour.
- The sub rate is also \$12.90 per hour.

Process for becoming a bus driver

- Successful completion of an interview with transportation director
- Obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) from a local drivers license facility
- Successful completion of a State-mandated fingerprinting process (district pays cost)
- Successful completion of a physical examination (district pays a portion of the cost)
- Successful completion of an 8-hour classroom training course
- Practice driving with a district-paid trainer using a district-owned school bus
- Successful completion of a driving skills test using school bus
- Successful completion of a brief passenger endorsement written test

Call Transportation Director Rob Reed (309/584-4174) to discuss your interest in becoming a bus driver for the Mercer County School District. It could be one of best decisions you make!