



A note from Mrs. Noel Petrosky

St. Marys Area School District
St. Marys Area Middle School Principal

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Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Welcome back to 2019! I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday and a great start to the new year. We have many things starting up with the new year, so please read this newsletter.

End of the Marking Period: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 is the last day of the second quarter. Grades will be recorded and on January 23rd, report cards will be distributed.

In-service Day: Monday, January 14, the students will not have school. The teachers will be attending an in-service day at this time. School will resume on Tuesday. Enjoy the long weekend.

Field Trip Reminder: Many days of planning and fundraising go into making a successful trip. As with many things at our school, this is a privilege for all students. One way that we can insure that a safe and fun trip is had by all is to anticipate any issues that may arise. In order to help this process, any student that has accrued three or more discipline referrals that are at a level two or three offense will not be permitted to participate in any field trips that the school may offer. Parents are made aware of these offenses through phone calls and a copy of the referral. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to call the school.

Team Renaissance: Team Renaissance is a student group filled with middle schoolers who are creating and implementing ways to show their classmates and staff (faculty and staff) that they are appreciated, seen, and cared for. Our group has started a Donors Choose project to get a Cricut Air 2 please consider contributing to their project: <https://goo.gl/RZZm5k>

Weather Delays: With the winter weather upon us, please be sure to inform the school of any changes in your phone contact information. We will be using the notification system as always to inform you of delays and cancellations, and we want to ensure we can reach everyone.

Reality Tour is an evening experience for parents and their children ages 10 and up to learn about the harmful effects of substance abuse. It is a **MUST** that parents attend with their child. During the tour parents and children are shown the consequences of one youths progressive choices to try drugs, listen to an educational presentation on risk factors and family coping skills, as well as a guided assessment of strengths and gaps in healthy habits. Each family is provided conversation starter tools and activities to implement at home. A law enforcement officer and a member of the recovery community will also be given the opportunity to share their experiences with the group. I hope you take this opportunity on Monday, February 11th, Wednesday, February 13th, or Wednesday, February 20th from 6 pm - 9 pm to come and share an evening with your child to learn more about this very real social issue. There will be no homework assigned on these nights, and each student attending will receive a free t-shirt.

7th Grade Field Trip: Just a reminder that the seventh grade field trip has been scheduled for February 8th. Currently, Tussey Mountain Tubing Park is not opened. We will keep you informed if we have to cancel the trip.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Presentation: Have you ever heard the letters OVR? Come learn about the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and how they may assist with your transition plans from high school to your employment and post-secondary goals. Meet your local Transition Counselor and Early Reach Coordinator. Please see the attached flyer.

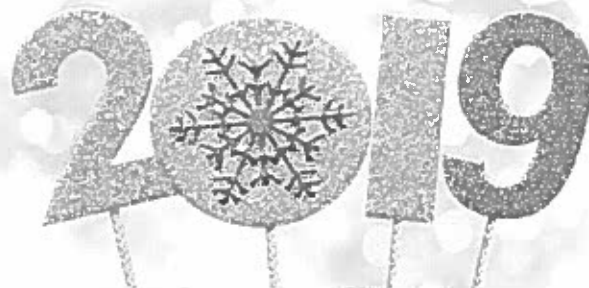
PSSA Testing: As we move into the second semester of school, we start to look ahead to our state assessments. There is some changes this year. The assessments and make-up test will be completed in a two-week time frame.

English Language Arts Assessment: April 15-17 & 24-26

Math, Science and Make-Up Assessments: April 29 & 30 and May 1-3

Please keep these dates in mind as if you are planning a spring getaway.

Attendance: This year, the office has not been very successful at receiving excuses when students are absent from school. Absences that are not excused within three days are considered illegal absences. Please remember to send in excuses for every absence, and stress to your child how important it is that these excuses are turned in to school.



OVR Family Information Night

- Has your student's teacher discussed transitioning out of high school?
- Have you heard the letters "OVR" at your student's IEP/504 meeting, or medical appointments?
- Have you received information about OVR? Are you unsure of what to do next?

WHEN: Tuesday January 29, 2019

WHERE: St. Marys Area Middle School: LGI.
Address 979 S. St. Marys Rd., St. Marys, PA 15857

TIME: 3:30-4:00pm

Come learn about the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and how we may assist with your student's transition plans from high school to their employment and post-secondary goals. Meet your local Transition Counselor and Early Reach Coordinator.

Parents, guardians, professionals, and students in grades 7th – 12th who have an IEP, 504 plans or any medical or physical disability are encouraged to attend.

For questions you may call Missy Franklin, Early Reach Coordinator at 1.800.922.4017 or mfranklin@pa.gov.



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*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
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