

CARTER BUZZ



CARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

December 2018/January 2019

WATSON'S WORLD~

A Busy Time

The next couple of months will be a busy time with ballgames, concerts, field trips, and the normal school work. On top of that, a lot of students will be doing programs or family activities outside of school. It can be a stressful time of year for parents and students. At the school level we will do our best to get dates and times for all events to you ahead of time to help your planning. Most activities for the coming month are in this newsletter and I will also go over the schedule of events on my weekly messages.

Attendance

We have two school goals revolving around student attendance. The first goal is for our overall attendance rate to be at 95% or higher. Last year we had an overall attendance rate of 93.7%. The second goal focuses around reducing the number of students that are Chronically Absent. A student is Chronically Absent if they miss seventeen days or more of the school year for any reason excused or unexcused. Last year our school had 22% of our students that were considered Chronically Absent. Our goal this year is to get that down to 17% or less. Please assist in our efforts to meet our attendance goals by getting your student to school.

Carter Auction and Store

Each year at the end of the first semester the school holds a Carter Auction and Store. Students earn Carter Cash during the second nine weeks for grades, attendance, and PRIDE tickets. Then the week before Christmas break they get to attend the auction and store to purchase items for themselves and families. This event is donation based. If you would like to donate items or make a monetary gift to help support this event, then contact the main office.

Happy Holidays!

I wish each of you a wonderful Holiday Season and Happy New Year! As we move into a new year I want to share a passage from the book called **The Carpenter** by Jon Gordon.

I vow to stay positive in the face of negativity.

When I am surrounded by pessimism, I will choose optimism.

When I feel fear, I will choose faith.

When I want to hate, I will choose love.

When I want to be bitter, I will choose to get better.

When I experience a challenge I will look for an opportunity to learn and grow.

When faced with adversity, I will find strength.

When I experience a setback, I will be resilient.

When I meet failure, I will fail forward, toward future success.

With vision, hope, and faith, I will never give up and will always move forward toward my destiny.

I believe my best days are ahead of me, not behind me.

I believe I'm here for a reason and my purpose is greater than my challenges.

I believe that being positive not only makes me better, it makes everyone around me better.

So today and every day I will be positive and strive to make a positive impact on the world.



Happy Holidays and Go Hornets!

Mr. Watson



STANLEY'S SECTION~

To the 7th Grade Parents/Guardians

The holidays are quickly approaching and our students are right in the thick of things. Here are a few things to remember. On Tuesday, December 11th, the 7th grade will have their Winter Chorus and Band Concert at 7:30 P.M. On Tuesday, December 20th, the Christmas store and auction will take place. The semester grading period will end on December 21st. All students are encouraged to make up any work they may have missed and attend tutoring if needed. Then winter break begins. On Monday, January 21st we will celebrate Martin Luther King Day. As we celebrate this holiday, let's remember what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood for, combating racial inequality through nonviolence. We, at Carter Middle School, believe in teaching tolerance. The Carter Middle School students focus on their social side of the middle years and getting along with each other. In order for our students to grow socially, it is important to understand how to have positive relationships and be able to coexist with each other. Students must know when it is okay to tell an adult when he or she may need help. Students must develop self-confidence within themselves take ownership of their actions, and accept the consequences. Parents, please help us to help our students mature into responsible citizens.

Happy Holidays

Jennifer Stanley

7th Grade Assistant Principal



RAMSEY'S REVIEW~

Hello Hornet Fans,

The end of the semester is quickly approaching and we want to finish strong.

- December 4th – Basketball game at Farragut
- December 6th – Basketball game against Bearden (Home)
- December 7th – Winter Dance
- December 10th – Basketball game at South Doyle
- December 11th – Chorus/band concerts
 - 6th grade @ 6:00
 - 7th, 8th grade @ 7:30
- December 13th – Basketball game against Hardin Valley (Home)
- December 14th – Basketball game against Gibbs (Home)
- December 17th – Basketball game against Cedar Bluff (Home)
- December 20th – Basketball game at West Valley
- December 21st – Half day
- December 24th – January 7th Winter Break

Once again I would like to thank you for continuing to support and encourage your students to be the best they can be. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

GO HORNETS!!!

PTSA NEWS~

You are always welcome to attend PTSA meetings. Our general meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the library. We would love to have you join us!

cartermiddleschoolptsa@knoxschools.org

"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin"
~Tony Robbins

Goforth's Gab~

Carter Family,

As we enter the Holiday Season, my hope is that everyone takes time this season to be with family and make some good memories. When Break is over we will be hitting the ground running in a new semester. For some students returning from a long break is difficult due to the break in the routine. Let's continue to remind our students how valuable education is and the devastating consequences of not getting a High School Diploma. Let's continue to strive for excellent school attendance by returning to school after break rested and ready to learn. Our goal is still to **GO 175** by not missing more than 5 days of school this year. Remember that being frequently absent from school leads to gaps in learning for most students and this can endanger their chances of graduating from high school. According to several studies, not graduating from high school often leads to issues with the Justice System, reduced income, and lack of job choices. I hope that we all continue to take school attendance seriously so that we can give our kids the tools to be successful.

Go Hornets!!

Scott Goforth



Congratulations Officer Cupp!
Carter Middle School Loves you!!!



Carter Middle School Tutoring Schedule 2018-2019

Morning Tutoring Monday through Friday

7:30-8:00	Room 812	Mrs. Kinchen
7:30-8:00	Room 606	Mrs. Morris
7:30-8:00	Room 808	Mrs. Simpson

Afternoon Tutoring Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3:30 pm -5:00 pm

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Room 803 Mrs. Reinthaler	Room 810 Dr. Robinson	Room 810 Dr. Robinson
Room 607 Mrs. Nicely	Room 607 Mrs. Nicely	Room 607 Mrs. Nicely
Room 604 Ms. Brannom	Room 604 Ms. Brannom	Room 803 Ms. Reinthaler

Counselor's Corner~

We are working hard this year to fit our counseling services to the needs of our students and families. If you haven't done so already, please complete our online needs assessment using this link: Open new browser window and copy and past into URL address bar.

<https://goo.gl/forms/Pq32LnqZOolv4Kof2>

We will use the results to continue to shape our Counseling program. Thank you for your help!

Happy Holidays!
Mr. Meade and Ms. Kyburz



DECEMBER 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		BB@ Farragut		6th Grade to CHS/Willy Wonka BB@home w/Beardon	Pearl Harbor Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	BB@ South Doyle	Chorus /Band Concerts 6th Grade 6 pm 7th/8th Grades 7:30 pm		PTSA "Dineout" @ Retro Taco 3821 E. Governor John Sevier Hwy ~ 4:00-9:00 BB@home w/Hardin Valley	BB@home w/Gibbs (Make-up Game)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	6th Grade Field Trip BB@home w/Cedar Bluff			Carter Auction and Christmas Store BB@ West Valley	1/2 Day of school for students! First Day of Winter	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Merry Christmas!	Winter Break Dec. 24 - Jan. 4			
30	31					
	Happy New Year!		Winter Break Dec. 24 - Jan. 4			

Why does Scrooge love all the reindeer?
Because every buck is deer to him!

Why do reindeer have fur coats?
Because they look silly wearing snowsuits!

What do you call a reindeer wearing earmuffs?
Anything you want to because he can't hear you!



Which of Santa's reindeers has bad manners?
"Rude"-olph!


Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeers also works as a maid?
Yup! Comet cleans sinks!!

What do reindeer always say before telling you a joke?
This one will "sleigh" you!



JANUARY 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	3	4	5	
			Winter Break Dec. 24 - Jan. 4				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	In-service Day for Staff and Teachers	First Day for students					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School						
27	28	29	30	31			

2018/2019 ProjectU Leadership



Team:

Makayla Cram
Lillian Phipps
Ariana Washington
Matthew Bandy
Drake Mayes
Jarvin Valdivieso
Izzy Wright
Katie Dockins
Izabella Hill
Danielle Cohen

Bryce Thomas
Justin Chittum
Ashlyn Thurmer
Layla Smith
Fiona Merritt



Leaders of the Future!

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Getting the message

Let your tween know you're counting on her to keep you in the loop about school news. During morning announcements, she might jot down reminders ("Ask for a ride to basketball tryouts, Saturday 9 a.m."). Or have her post flyers on the refrigerator where you'll see them.

Mealtime manners

Encourage your child to be polite when he's offered food. If he doesn't like something, he could take a small portion to try—maybe he'll enjoy it after all! If he has a food allergy or eats a vegetarian diet, he can mention it and say, "Thank you anyway."

Turning in assignments

Your middle grader's homework isn't finished until she hands it in. Suggest that she take it out of her backpack as soon as she sits down in each class so it's ready to be collected. Or perhaps she'll keep homework in one folder to carry to every class so she doesn't leave any assignments in her locker.

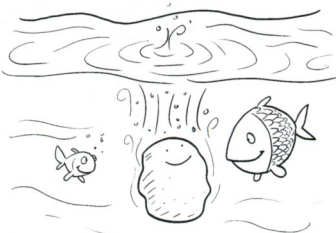
Worth quoting

"Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open."
John Barrymore

Just for fun

Q: If you throw a blue rock into the Red Sea, what will it become?

A: Wet!



Growing responsibility

Picture your middle grader as a responsible young adult. How do you help him get there? Consider these ideas for planting the seeds of responsibility now so he'll grow into the dependable person you're trying to raise.

Promote consistency

Sticking to routines makes handling responsibilities a natural part of your tween's day. For instance, if he needs a tablet for school, he might charge it on the kitchen counter every night. Or suggest that he bring his PE uniform home on Fridays so he can wash it.

Pass the "baton"

Imagine you're in a relay race and you're passing the "responsibility baton" to your child. Make the handoff by switching from giving instructions to asking questions. Say he's getting ready for a chorus concert. Instead of telling



him to put on his dress shoes and find his sheet music, try saying, "What do you need to do to get ready?"

Discuss accountability

Experience is an excellent teacher—and it can make your middle grader more responsible. Share an example from your own life ("I forgot about my doctor's appointment, so now I have to pay a no-show fee"). Then, explain what you learned ("I need to put appointments on my calendar right away").

Brainstorm for project success

Your tween may have heard the expression "Two heads are better than one." That's especially true when it comes to brainstorming! Share these tips she can use the next time she works on a group project.

■ **Get organized.** Decide what the group will accomplish (say, picking a topic for a class presentation). Review the assignment guidelines, and appoint one person to record ideas.

■ **Consider all possibilities.** Encourage your middle grader to call out any idea that comes to mind, even if she's not sure it'll work. An off-topic or half-formed suggestion may lead others to think of ideas that *will* work.

■ **Read and evaluate.** At the end of the brainstorming session, look over all the contributions. Think of ways to combine or tweak everyone's favorites.



Writing is fun!

Motivate your tween to write more often with these activities. She'll practice using parts of speech and descriptive language.

Make up Mad Libs. Your middle grader could create a silly story by leaving blanks for you to fill in. Encourage her to think carefully about where to put blanks and label each with the part of speech needed (noun, verb, adjective). For example, will



she leave out a noun so you can choose the character? ("I looked up to see a giant _____ walking down the street.") Or will she pick the character and let you supply an adjective to describe it? ("There was a _____ wildebeest on the loose.")

Write shape poetry. Can your child write a poem in the shape of her topic? With *concrete poetry*, she'll do just that. First, have her select an object to write about, such as an apple, and think about what it brings

to mind (baking apple pies with Grandma, visiting an apple orchard). She should draw an outline of an apple in pencil, write lines of poetry in pen to fit the shape, and erase the outline. 🍏

Parent to Parent

Peaceful co-parenting

After our divorce, my ex-wife and I used a co-parenting app to communicate because talking in person was awkward.



When I mentioned the app to my counselor, he suggested that it would be good for our son, Aiden, to see his parents getting along—in person.

I realized he was right, so lately I've started going to my ex-wife's door to pick up Aiden rather than waiting in the car. I caught my son smiling when he saw me talking to his mother about how he's doing in school and about our plans for the weekend.

We still use the app, but it's getting easier to set aside our emotions for Aiden's sake. He's realizing that we can work together even though we have our differences. 🍏

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Q & A

Avoid the gossip scene

Q I recently heard my daughter talking with her friends about a rumor that's going around at school. How can I encourage her not to gossip?

A First, talk to your daughter when her friends aren't around. You could suggest that she always assume rumors are false. Point out that people who start or share them often don't even know if they're true. They may gossip because they want attention or to get revenge, for example.

Then, have your tween think about how the person being talked about would feel if he overheard the gossip. Instead of staying silent, your middle grader might speak up and say, "That sounds like a rumor." She should also avoid spreading the rumor.

Finally, explain that sharing rumors can cause friends not to trust her. After all, if they know she's willing to gossip, they may wonder if she'll gossip about them one day, too. 🍏



Creative tweens

Ever wonder what happened to your singing, doodling, spontaneous child? He's still there! Since middle graders are usually more self-conscious, they might need a little coaxing to express their creativity. Try these strategies.

1. Put an inexpensive art easel and supplies (drawing paper, paints, brushes, markers, colored pencils) in a corner of your home. When you're not looking, your tween may

decide to sketch a pet, paint a sunset, or try his hand at abstract art.

2. Put your middle grader in charge of making signs on the computer or on poster board for family members' birthdays. He can download pictures specific to the person (favorite food or movie star) and write a clever greeting. *Example:* "Happy birthday from the whole bunch" with a picture of bananas. 🍌



Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Wait a minute

Tweens are used to getting things quickly, from online information to fast food. Learning patience will help your child cope with stress and frustration when things *don't* happen fast. For example, if his computer crashes and won't reboot, he could take a deep breath or drink a glass of water before tackling the problem.

Eyes up front

How and where your middle grader sits in class may affect how well she pays attention. Suggest that she sit up straight and look at the teacher when he speaks. Also, encourage her to ask for a seat near the front if she finds herself distracted by other students.

YOU KNOW?

When your tween wears earbuds to listen to music, he should be able to hear what's going on around him. If he can't, or if his ears ring afterward, he may be damaging his hearing. Share the 60/60 rule: Keep the volume at less than 60 percent, and listen for no longer than 60 minutes at a time.

Worth quoting

"It isn't where you came from; it's where you're going that counts."
Ella Fitzgerald

Just for fun

Q: Why did the kid wear one boot?

A: Because there was a 50 percent chance of snow!



Everyday math

What does shopping have in common with achieving fitness goals? Your tween can use math to do both more effectively! Here are situations where math is sure to come in handy.

Find the bargain

Doing math may save your child money on craft supplies, snacks, and clothing. Have her calculate the best deals when you shop together. Say she has a coupon for 20 percent off if she buys more than one pack of colored duct tape. Should she buy one 6-pack for \$15.99 or two 3-packs for \$8.99 each?

Make more space

Interior designers measure carefully and use spatial reasoning. Maybe your middle grader wants to rearrange her bedroom to make space for a desk she found at a thrift shop. She'll need to measure the walls and furniture to make everything fit. Is her bookcase narrow enough to go in



her closet? Will her bed fit against the wall?

Finish the race

Your tween can do math to reach her workout goals, such as completing a 5K race (3.1 miles) in less than 30 minutes. First, she should figure out what her average pace must be ($30 \text{ minutes} \div 3.1 \text{ miles} = 9.67$, or about 9:40 minutes per mile). Now she can consider her current pace and how many weeks she has to train. Finally, she could plan practice runs so she shaves off enough time each week. 👍

Lessons in assertiveness

Assertive people know how to stand up for themselves firmly yet respectfully. Use these ideas to help your middle grader be assertive:

- Explain to your child that he can be nice to others and speak up for himself at the same time. For instance, if someone cuts in front of him in line, he might politely point out where the line starts.

- Have your middle grader practice saying no when necessary. Tell him that it helps to remember the 3 Cs: Show confidence by looking the other person in the eye, speak clearly, and stay calm. ("The party sounds fun, but I have a big project due Monday.") 👍



Protect your privacy online

Even the most tech-savvy child can share sensitive information online without realizing it. Share these ways to help your tween keep personal details safe.

- **Only interact online with people you know in real life.** Your child shouldn't accept chat invitations or friend requests from strangers. He'll need to use privacy settings on websites and apps to control who sees his posts.
- **Guard accounts.** Tell your tween to set a different password for each device and account. When he uses a shared computer



Also have him opt out of location sharing so strangers don't know where he is. 👍

(say, at the library, in school, or at a friend's house), he shouldn't store passwords, and he should log out of websites and apps after he's finished.

- **Avoid posting identifying information.** This includes your middle grader's full name, school, phone number, home address, and email address.



Family meals with tweens

Did you know that eating together can boost your tween's self-esteem and make her less likely to try risky behaviors? Consider these suggestions for making family dinners pleasant on busy days.

Plan ahead

Have meals ready to go so you're able to focus on each other rather than on what to cook. On weekends, you and your child could make double portions of casseroles or soups. Freeze them to pull out and reheat on weeknights.

Keep conversations light

While you eat, share an upbeat news story you heard or mention something funny your cat did that day. Save conversations about your tween's low test grade or missed curfew for another time. She'll look forward to coming to the table and chatting with you.

Tip: Put electronics in another room and silence them so you're not tempted to check messages or answer calls. 👍



Parent to Parent Motivated to learn

My younger daughter, Ava, seemed to care more about her social life than about learning and grades. I mentioned this to my older daughter, Erin. She thought a glimpse of college life might motivate her little sister in school, so on a recent Saturday, I took Ava to visit Erin on campus.

The girls had a great time. And Erin made sure to mention how much time she spends



attending classes and studying so she can land a teaching job after graduation. Ava came home talking about how she wants to study business one day and open her own "doggy day care."

I'm happy Ava is thinking about the future. When she shows me her assignments, we talk about how what she learns will come in handy one day when she's running her own business! 👍

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Q & A Managing ADHD in middle school

Q My son started middle school this year. Now that he has had time to settle in, I want him to take more responsibility for managing his ADHD. What should I do?

A At this age, children start moving into the driver's seat when it comes to learning—and tweens with ADHD are no exception. Suggest that your son make a list of the accommodations included in his IEP (Individualized Education Program) or 504 plan, such as having extra time to complete tests. He could hang the list inside his locker or tape it inside the front cover of his

binder to remind himself to take advantage of them.

Also, discuss strategies he can use at home 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. Have him experiment with ideas and see what works best for him.

Finally, organization is important for all middle graders. Your child should use a daily planner or to-do list, and sort through his backpack and locker on a weekly basis. 👍

