

# CARTER BUZZ



CARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2019

## OWEN'S ORACLE~

### Hello Carter Family

I have had the opportunity to meet many of you over the course of the last few weeks, but for those of you who do not know me, my name is Jack Owen. I was blessed to be named the principal of Carter Middle School three weeks ago. In my short time as principal, I have quickly come to fall in love with this school and the community. I have served as an assistant principal for the past twelve years at various schools in Knox County. This experience has given me enough perspective to understand that Carter is an especially unique school with a close-knit family feel. I am excited to serve the students and families of Carter!

### Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic Absenteeism is when a student is absent more than 10 percent of the school year. This includes excused and unexcused absences. Last year 23 percent of our students were Chronically Absent, which means they missed more than 18 days of school. That is unacceptable. Unfortunately, talking to our feeder school Principals, Chronic Absenteeism is an issue at all our schools, which means it is a community issue. Students need to be in school to receive necessary instruction and to learn. Research shows that students who are Chronically Absent are more likely to drop out of school. We are putting some interventions in place to address the situation, but the best and most effective intervention is the parent. Encourage your child to come to school and give their best.

### Cell Phones

While cell phones are a necessary part of modern life, in a middle school setting they can cause severe distractions to the educational environment. Many of the problems that we deal with are students posting videos and comments on apps such as Snap-Chat, and Tic-Toc. While I struggle to keep up with the always evolving apps and social media platforms, the children are very adept at using these apps for both positive and negative purposes. Much of what we deal with on a daily basis, involves students being mean to one another on social media platforms. You can help us by being aware of what your child is doing on social media platforms. This is a playground for students to stir up problems at school with their peers. Middle school children often lack the judgement of knowing how fast videos and comments travel on various platforms. We are doing our part by providing information about how to be safe on the internet and how to be responsible digital citizens. I thank you in advance for helping us to help them make good decisions.

Owen's Oracle cont' p. 2



"Consider that even the simplest actions you take for your lives matter beyond measure and they matter forever."

~ Andy Andrews, Author

Mr. Joey Ramsey, Mr. Jack Owen, Ms. Jennifer Stanley



Owen's Oracle cont' ....

## Reading

One of the most basic skills needed to be successful in school is reading. Many of today's students come to us reading below grade level. While we work to get these students to grade level competency, parents are the best reading teachers! We generally think of reading to our elementary school age children, it doesn't need to stop there. Reading to your child and having them read to you can be some of the best quality time you will ever have with your child. Just taking twenty minutes per night sharing the reading experience with your child is not just rewarding in that it provides that quality time, it shows your child that reading is valued and gives them much needed practice. So, read with your child! They may act as though they hate it, but I guarantee they will thank you for it when they are older.

I've provided a link with some ideas:

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/developing-reading-skills/17-ways-to-keep-your-middle-schooler-turning-pages.html>

Thank you,

Mr. Owen

## STANLEY'S SECTION~

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are having a great year thus far. They are getting accustomed to grades, homework, testing, after school extra-curricular activities, community events, etc. There has already been a Back to School Dance. As our middle schoolers interact with each other, we want to instill in them "Hornet PRIDE". That is our school's motto. The acronym PRIDE stands for Positive, Respectful, Involved, Dependable, and Excellence. These "Hornet PRIDE" expectations were taught and practiced the first two weeks of school. We ask our students to show your "Hornet PRIDE" throughout the day. There are banners and posters throughout the building that relay this motto. It can also be found in the student handbook. Teachers have begun giving out Hornet PRIDE tickets for behaviors that are at and above the norm. The Hornet PRIDE tickets will be cashed in at the PRIDE Store. Throughout the year, we will continue to address our Hornet PRIDE motto and encourage students to show it every day.

The 9 weeks grading period ends on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. I would like to encourage all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to complete any classwork, homework, or makeup work before the 9 weeks grading period ends. Parents, please encourage your student to ask their teacher questions if they do not understand an assignment in class. If you would like to schedule a parent/teacher conference, please contact the school office.

Thanks parents for making our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students' first 9 weeks a successful one.

Jennifer Stanley  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

*"Change your thoughts and you change your world."*

*~ Norman Vincent Peale, Author*

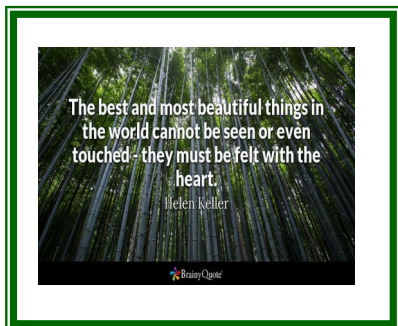
## RAMSEY'S REVIEW~

Hello Hornet Family,

We are off to a great start. It's hard to believe the 9 week grading period ends on October 4<sup>th</sup> and then fall break starts. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be going on their fall field trip to Ripley's Aquarium/Believe it or not on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will also be having our Halloween dance on October 25<sup>th</sup>. As always I want to thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

GO HORNETS!!!!

Joey Ramsey  
8th Grade Assistant Principal



# GOFORTH'S GAB~

Hello Parents,

October is a wonderful time to be a CMS Hornet as we head into fall with the beauty of East Tennessee and hopefully cooler temperatures!

Good school attendance is the foundation to obtain the skills needed to plan a successful future. My hope is that your child will try to miss less 5 (<5). <5 means that your student attends 175 days of school this year (only misses 5 days or less). Imagine what your child could do academically if you and your student make that kind of commitment. I know that sometimes the school year can be crazy, so I wanted to include some helpful info. Here are some "what can I do to make good school attendance easier" ideas you can try:

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
  - Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
  - Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
  - If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
  - Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
  - Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- I hope you all have an amazing year!

Go Hornets!

Scott Goforth, MSSW  
Social Worker  
Knox County Schools



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER~

Project U is a program made up of 7th and 8th grade students that focuses on improving the climate of our school. We work to reduce bullying, and encourage kindness and acceptance.

We are pleased to announce our Project U Leadership Team for this school year:

Makayla Cram  
Molly Pressley  
Ariana Washington  
Ella Kennedy  
Drake Mayes  
Ethan Lewis  
Bryson Jones  
Katie Dockins  
Izabella Hill  
Danielle Cohen  
Bryce Thomas  
Justin Chittum  
Alexis Pate  
Kylee Lamb  
Angelia Archer



Adam Meade 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade last names A-L  
[adam.meade@knoxschools.org](mailto:adam.meade@knoxschools.org) 865-932-8149  
Beth Kyburz 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade last names M-Z  
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October 2019

Carter Middle School  
Thomas Watson, Principal

# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Making an entrance

Teach your child to enter a room confidently. Have him practice walking into the kitchen or living room with his back straight and head high, then greeting you while looking you in the eye. He'll make a good impression on others and feel more self-confident.

### Count on counselors

Remind your middle grader that her school counselor is there to help her in all kinds of ways. She might ask the counselor about opportunities that match her interests, such as an engineering competition or a writing workshop. Her counselor can also listen if your tween needs help with issues like stress or relationships.

### Proofing around town

Here's an easy way to show your child why proofreading is important. Together, look for signs on highways or buildings that contain punctuation or spelling errors or confusing wording. *Examples:* "Sport's Store." "Tables for eating customers only." Who can find the funniest example—and then tell how to fix it?

### Worth quoting

"We will be known by the tracks we leave behind." *Dakotan proverb*

### Just for fun

**Q:** I have a neck but no head, and I wear a cap. What am I?

**A:** A bottle.



## Brain-friendly studying

Active study strategies like drawing, moving around, and teaching information to others help to cement material in your tween's brain. They also make studying more fun! Share these techniques.

### Make a meme

Encourage your middle grader to create memes inspired by topics she's studying. For Newton's laws of motion, she could draw herself as a soccer goalie blocking a shot. This shows that an object in motion (the ball) stops when a force (the goalie) acts upon it. Her caption? "Thanks for the win, Newton!"



### Record a podcast

If your child can teach a concept to someone else, that means she really understands it. Suggest that she record a podcast explaining an algebraic formula and share it with a classmate, for example. *Idea:* She and her friends might make a group podcast interviewing each other about a historical event or science lab. 👍

### Get moving

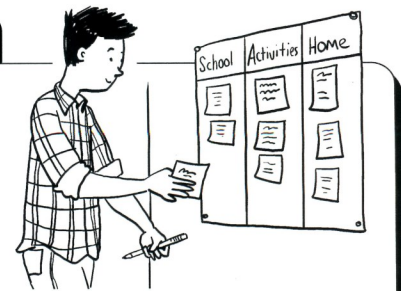
Combine fitness with studying. Have your tween list six movements, such as lunges, burpees, and toe touches, and number them 1–6. As she finishes studying each page or section, she can roll a die and review out loud while doing the matching exercises (describe the three branches of government as she does three lunges).

## A successful juggling act

Middle graders juggle classes, responsibilities at home, and activities. Help your tween keep all those balls in the air with this system.

**Sort tasks.** Each week, have your child create a three-column chart for School, Activities, and Home. Then, he could list obligations: "French essay due Thursday" under School, "Get supplies for cross-country car wash Saturday" under Activities, and "Do laundry" under Home.

**Use time wisely.** Your tween can choose tasks to match his pockets of time. For instance, if you say you'll take him to buy car-wash supplies in 10 minutes, he might sort his laundry in that small time slot. Then, maybe he'll start on his essay when he gets home and has an hour before dinner. 👍

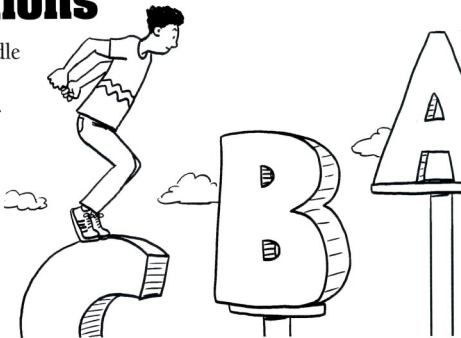


## Effective expectations

Setting a high achievement bar for your middle schooler will inspire him to leap high. Follow these steps to put realistic expectations in place.

**1. Decide what's doable.** Perhaps your child got a C in English last year. Rather than expecting him to earn an A this year, tell him you expect him to bring up his grade.

**2. Focus on what matters.** Keep communication clear by saying exactly what you mean. If your middle grader wants to quit the debate team, you might say, "I expect you to stick to your commitments" rather than "You have to do debate." That means he'll need to finish the competition



then make a plan to raise it. Or he could plan to spend extra time practicing for his next debate. 👍

season, but he can switch activities next semester if he still feels the same way.

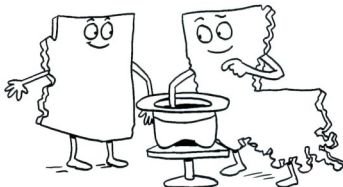
**3. Handle setbacks.**

Part of meeting expectations involves making adjustments. Let your tween know not to be discouraged by one low grade or one challenging debate. Have him ask his teacher how a low score will affect his average,

## Are we there yet?

Arizona, Missouri, Louisiana... does your child know where each state is located? Help her explore geography by playing this game.

**Materials:** large U.S. map, paper, pencil, scissors, hat, game tokens, die



Ask your middle grader to list all the states' names on a sheet of paper (she can refer to the map) and cut them apart to make 50 slips. Put the slips in a hat, and let each family member pick one.

Place the U.S. map on the floor, and have each person put a token on the state you live in. Then, take turns rolling a die and moving that number of states—with the goal of reaching the state she drew. The first player to land on her state wins. 👍

### OUR PURPOSE

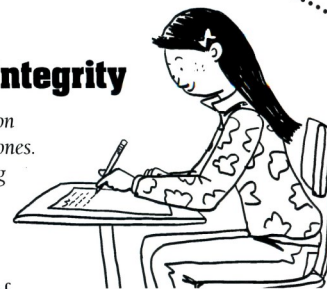
To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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## Q & A The importance of integrity

**Q** I've heard that some students cheat on tests by looking up answers on their phones. How can I keep my daughter from doing something like this?



**A** Tweens may not consider "e-cheating" to be as serious as copying from a classmate's paper. Explain to your daughter that any type of cheating is wrong and that you consider honesty more important than high grades.

Role-play what to say if a classmate asks her to cheat, perhaps by texting answers. For instance, she could say, "I like to do my own thing" or simply "No thanks." She'll feel good about doing what's right.

Also, remind her to obey school rules for technology use like leaving her phone at home or in her locker. This will help her avoid the temptation to cheat and make it easier to resist pressure from others. 👍

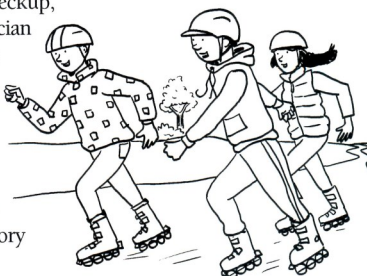
## Parent to Parent On the move

When my son Rory was younger, he'd spend hours playing outside with his friends. Now that he's older, he and his buddies would rather play video games.

At his annual checkup, I asked the pediatrician how much exercise Rory needs. The doctor said children—and adults—should be active at least an hour a day. He suggested that when Rory has a friend over, I

encourage them to do something active. And he recommended that we stay active as a family, maybe by going for walks or bike rides.

Rory must have been paying attention to the doctor, because he recently invited some friends to go rollerblading. And this Sunday after dinner, we're going to ride our bikes around the neighborhood. I'm looking forward to being more active, too! 👍









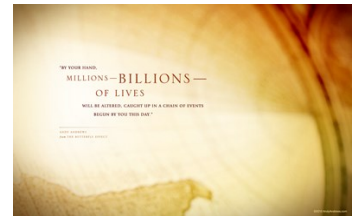
# October 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	9/30 <b>Boys basketball tryouts</b>	1 <b>Boys basketball tryouts</b>	2 <b>Boys basketball tryouts</b>	3 8th Grade Field Trip <b>Girls basketball tryouts</b>	4	5
6	7 	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Make-Up Picture Day	22	23	24	25 Halloween Dance	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween 		

## 2019 Carter Middle Cross Country Team

Collin Abbott  
 Matthew Black  
 Lawson Branch  
 Benjamin Cox  
 Bricen Hickson  
 Blake Jackson  
 Ivey Jones  
 Carson Lewis  
 Sophia McCammon  
 Jayden McCart  
 Alana McNulty  
 Lillie North  
 Kaiden Wilson  
 Annajane Underwood  
 Coach: Makayla Dudley



"Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

~Coach Wooden, UCLA Coach