



# Gator Update

Delta Woods Middle School

## Administration

- Steve Cook, Principal
- Damon Weatherspoon, Assistant Principal/AD
- Jill Sherman, Assistant Principal
- Kathy Asbury, Counselor
- Tom Jones, Counselor
- Tim Marshall, Counselor

## Mission Statement

The mission of Delta Woods Middle School is to provide students with the skills, resources and environment to acquire knowledge, explore a variety of life opportunities, and become productive, responsible citizens.

## Monthly Attendance:

- August 96.2
- September 94.5
- October 95.59
- November 95.35
- December 95.46
- January 95.84
- February 94.23

District Website:  
[www.bssd.net](http://www.bssd.net)

Lunch Account Website:  
<http://bluesprings.revtrak.net>

## Mr. Cook 's Update

One week ago we were crossing our fingers that Monday was not going to be another snow day. Unfortunately the potentially icy conditions kept us home for another day. There are so many considerations that must be thought through when school is cancelled. Most important is the safety of our students! As of today, the last day of school now for our students will be Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hopefully we have seen the last of the bad weather!

The month of February is always a very exciting time of year for all of us as we recognize students that have achieved academic success in the classroom. This year approximately 455 students were honored at our evening Academic Recognition Nights for achieving a cumulative 3.5 or above grade point average. Of course, we are very proud of our students and extend a special thanks to our parents for your support and encouragement.

Thanks to our wonderful PTA for organizing our Friday Fun Night. The students were very well behaved and it was a blast learning some new dance moves from them. I heard a funny comment from one student who declared the night the best of his life since he had just played dodge ball for 2 straight hours!

Our Spring MAP testing window is March 30 - April 24. Specific information regarding testing times will be coming home with your students in the near future. Please plan dentist and doctor appointments around these very important dates or avoid them altogether until testing is complete. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Have a wonderful spring break! If you are traveling please take your time and be safe.

## Dates to Remember

**Spring Break**  
March 8-12

**MAP Window:**  
March 29, 2010 -  
April 23, 2010

## Activities

Spring is nearly here, and as always that signals the beginning of track and field season. The first practice was March 1, please come out and support them this season.

Scholar Bowl had a tremendous season, they went undefeated and were dominant in their performances; congratulations to them.

Forensics will wrap up their season on 3/26 at 3:00, with their event being held at Delta Woods. They have been outstanding all year long, don't miss a chance to see them in action.

## Teacher of the Year

Matt Hackett—6th Grade Science Teacher

One of Matt's colleagues wrote "*Matt is one of the most motivated and effective instructors in our building. He has mastered all of the ingredients of successful teaching, especially the ability to inspire his students. Matt is a well respected, highly professional team player who creates a positive environment for students and staff alike. Matt has always been found helpful and supportive of his students.*"

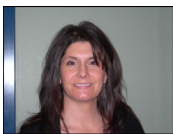
Congratulations Mr. Hackett!



## Staff Highlights

Every month DWMS staff vote for a staff member who shines.

**December  
Great Gator**



Jennifer Redman  
7th Grade Para



Congratulations!  
DWMS donated 100 complete packets to help Haiti

## Counselors ' Update

### **Freshman Center Enrollment and Curriculum Night - March 18** **2 Sessions 5:00 pm or 6:30 pm**

Eight grade parents and students are encouraged to attend the enrollment and curriculum night hosted by the Freshman Center administrators, counselors and staff. A letter was given to eighth grade students to take home on February 23, by Meredith Malloy, from FC Principal Dan Anderson.

## Citizen of the Month

Every month students are recognized by their teachers as being exemplary both in and out of the classroom.

**November Students:** Charley Yong, Zach Kahle, Rachel Keeling, Sabrina Iles, Matt Barchak, Nick Swanson, Emily Cook, Julia Swank, Derrick Thomas, Drew Davenport, Michelle Llamas, Ahmaree Williams, Maya Hall, Zach Tawney

**December Students:** Zach Bax, Blake Miller, Ashley Welch, Brooke Griffle, Jackson Schroeder, Preston Horsch, Alex Carpenter, Maggie Tobin, Leah Bell, Gabe Henks, Tessa Kraemer, Jared Martin, Bailey Keller, Isaac Torres

**January Students:** David Barbosa, Justin Borkowski, Sophia Vietze, Annalee Roustio, James Cermak, Brett Wilhelm, Vicki Sandring, Emma Menard, Whitney Lockwood, Sydney Moore, Connor Gregston, Daniel Gilbert, Miranda Cooper, Bailey McCulloch

## MAP Update

This year's official state MAP testing window will be March 31 - April 28. Within this window of time our teachers have narrowed down our DWMS testing dates to March 31 - April 5. All of our students will be tested in both Math and Communication Arts. In addition, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will also be taking the science test.

It is imperative that student attendance be as close to 100% as possible on and around these testing dates. This includes scheduled doctor appointments, vacations, extra-curricular activities and all other reasons for which your student may have missed school in the past. Being absent from school during this time is strongly discouraged.

Each day is an important day for our students at Delta Woods; however, it is easier to be flexible when standardized testing is not taking place. When tests are occurring, it is very challenging for the students to try to make up not only the testing itself, but also the strenuous preparation that precedes it. We want our students to be at the top of their game, so to speak, when this assessment is being administered.

You will be receiving more specific information regarding MAP testing from your student's team of teachers as the dates approach. I simply wanted to make you aware of our testing dates so that you could keep them in mind as you plan for the upcoming months.

Thank you ahead of time for your assistance.



## School Security

The Blue Springs School District has a history of being proactive regarding student safety and building security. As a further demonstration of this commitment, new procedures will be implemented in order for school visitors to access student instructional areas starting March 15, 2010. From that day forward, the following will be required of visitors in order to exit from the office into the school interior:

- A driver's license must be presented for initial identification purposes; Information from the visitor's driver's license, including the individual's complete name and address, will be entered into the school's database system (i.e., Personal information such as SS#, DOB, driver's license #, etc., will not be stored in the database.);
- The visitor's photograph will be taken in order to print an ID badge that includes the individual's complete name, date of the visit, and name of the school being visited (i.e., The photo ID badge must be worn in a clearly visible manner at all times while in the interior of the school.);
- The visitor must checkout through the office prior to leaving so that the exit time can be entered into the school's database.

Presentation of the driver's license and taking a photograph will be a one-time procedure that should take approximately 3-4 minutes not counting interruptions. The school's database stores the information for future visits, so the process does not have to be repeated.

It is recommended that advance arrival time be planned if the visit resulting in the initial database entry and photograph precedes a scheduled appointment. In this way, the visitor won't be frustrated if more time than is anticipated is needed for everything to be completed. From the second visit on, office personnel will simply log in the visitor and print an ID badge. Check-in and out through the office will be necessary for each school visit.

Your patience and understanding regarding the time necessary for initial implementation are greatly appreciated. With everyone's assistance and support, the district's schools can be made as safe and secure as possible. Please contact your school principal or the Blue Springs School District Emergency Services/Public Safety Department (224-1383) if further information is required pertaining to the new school access procedures.