

The John Wood Parent Newsletter



September 2020

Inside this Issue

1	Principal Petralia's Page by Mrs. Petralia Dean of Students Early Dismissal
2	A Message from our Superintendent
3	New Staff Members Attendance Policy Attendance Book Rental Time Changes Skyward Family Access
4	Nurse Julie's Office Free and Reduced Program Latest Scoop from the Kitchen
5	PTO Update Pop Top Collection PTO Facebook
6	Coats for Kids (and families) Attendance Rewards Hoffman Scholarship Winner Successful Virtual Learning
7	The Art Loft Notes from the Music Room The Fitness Forecast
8	The Book Nook Upcoming Events The Coaches' Corner Pirate Pride Days A Word from the Social Worker Twitter
9	Be Smart, Do Your Part You Count! John Wood Pledge Student Council Helpful Virtual Academy Links
10	MCSC Virtual Learning Expectations

John Wood Elementary School
6100 E. 73rd Ave.
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5305
<https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/>

Principal Petralia's Page

by Mrs. Petralia

Dear John Wood Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! This school year has started like no other. While we miss seeing our students daily, it is necessary for us to start this school year virtually. I have been lucky enough to join their live meetings to read to them and see their smiling faces. Gosh, I miss them! Thank you for your participation, flexibility, patience, and hard work at home to help us educate your child(ren). Partnership and building positive relationships, even through these tough, strange times, has never been more important.

Please make sure to touch base with your child's teacher whenever you have questions or concerns. Our teachers create meaningful relationships with our students and it is important for you to have a relationship with the teacher, too. Please communicate with your child's teacher if you have questions, something has changed at home, or you need clarification on something.

We know that there have been a lot of technology issues that have been difficult to control. Please communicate when issues occur IMMEDIATELY so we can determine if the issue is from the device, the network, or the program/app. Your child's teacher is the first person you should communicate with but if you know it is a problem with the device, you can go directly to the Merrillville School Corporation Technology Hotline at 219-650-5376.

Have a great month!

Dean of Students

by Mrs. J. Fairbairn

I'm happy to be back for another year as the Dean at John Wood! I work closely with Mrs. Petralia, Mrs. Robbins, and the office staff to ensure that learning is going as smoothly as possible - whether we're learning in person or online! Thanks for all that you do to support your child's education! Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!

Early Dismissal

Every Thursday throughout the school year students will be dismissed one hour early at 1:15 p.m. so that the teachers can meet for Professional Development.

A Message from our Superintendent

Dear Wood Elementary Parents, Students, and Staff,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. While the start of the school year may look different than in past years, the excitement for a new year is still very high. We are excited and enthusiastic about welcoming back our staff and students even if it is virtually at this time.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your patience and understanding, as this has not been the traditional beginning to a school year. Principals, teachers, and staff are fully aware of the challenges we are all facing this year. Our staff is hard working and dedicated to help students learn and succeed at a high level as well as supporting parents as they support their children. Teachers have been attending professional development to ensure the virtual experience provides students meaningful interactions as well as high quality learning experiences. We look forward to partnering with parents to meet their children's needs.

There are many resources available to parents as we meet the challenges of this school year. Please be sure to reach out to your teacher or principal if you have needs or questions. They can help you with access to available resources.

Here is a quick bulleted list of some parent and family resources:

- Our Food Service Department is providing both hot and cold meals for students to be served at home.
- We have a technology help hotline: email helpdesk@mjsc.k12.in.us or call 219-650-5376.
- Our social workers are available to provide support to students and families.
- Teachers and support staff are working with children daily and can be reached via email or telephone with questions.
- Parents please let your principal know if you are having connectivity issues in your home with the internet.
- Opportunities for supervision assistance during Virtual Academy through Adventure Club and Boys and Girls Club are available. Parents can contact their school for additional details.

As we face this unusual school year, I know that working together we will be successful supporting our students' needs. The entire staff at the Merrillville Community School Corporation misses the students being in the classrooms. It is our goal to monitor the pandemic situation closely and strive to get our students back to school as safely as possible. Stay safe, healthy and Pirate Strong!

Sincerely,

Nicholas G. Brown, Ed.S.
Superintendent

New Staff Members

We have a few new staff members in our building this year as well as some who have changed positions, or returned to our building! Welcome to those who are new!

ED teacher (3rd and 4th grade) – Mrs. Spoolstra (replacing Ms. Villarreal)

ED para – Mrs. Hoke is now with Ms. Hannigan (formerly LRE aide in Mrs. Pace's 1st grade class)

K-4 Speech – Mrs. Kramer

PE Sub – Mrs. Oertel (subbing for Mr. Battista until Nov)

Attendance Policy

The Town of Merrillville has an ordinance affirming parental responsibility for school attendance of minor children. Parents may be held criminally responsible for their child not attending school. The Merrillville Town Court will attempt to provide an opportunity to address problems before criminal charges are filed. The school corporation has outlined a process for addressing students that have excessive absences and will now include interactions with Merrillville Town Court. The parent MUST make an appearance in court. The judge will advise of the process for answering the charge and correcting the problem. This may include a fine, court cost, community service, parenting classes or some other provision. If a second referral is made, criminal charges will be filed.

Attendance is essential to the success of our students. When a student misses class time, they miss important instruction time that cannot be made up.

Attendance

It is important to your child's education that he/she attends Virtual Academy every day. Please make sure your child is logged in and ready to work on time every day. Also, please make sure your child attends all Specials (Art, Library, Music, PE) at the scheduled time. Attendance to these classes is not optional.

Book Rental

All book rental was due on the first day of school. Credit/Debit card payments can be made online through Skyward. Check/Money order payments can be made in our school office. Checks/ Money orders must be made out to "John Wood School" and must include your driver's license number on the check. We do not have a formal payment plan, but partial payments are acceptable until the obligation is met.

Any balance remaining after the end of the first trimester (November 8th) will be turned over for collection.

ECD Fees - \$75
Kindergarten - \$80.78
1 st Grade - \$73.63
2 nd Grade - \$73.94
3 rd Grade - \$75.24
4 th Grade - \$83.02

Thank you to all of the parents who have already paid their child's book rental.

Time Changes

By now you are aware that there have been changes to the start and end time of the school day in all MCSC schools. These changes are being made to better coordinate the bus schedules when we return to in-school learning. Especially in the upper grades, students were arriving before staff in the morning and waiting long times for the bus after school dismissed.

The only change to the elementary level will be 2:15 p.m. dismissal instead of 2:25 p.m.

Skyward Family Access

Skyward is a student information system that Merrillville uses to store and share information. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this beneficial tool of communication. By logging onto your child's account, you will have access to a wealth of information. Grades, attendance, discipline, and test scores are among some of the information available. You can also use this system to add money to your child's lunch account and pay book rental.

Please do not change your phone number in the Skyward system to "unlisted" or "confidential". When you do, you will not receive important automated calls including emergency closings. It may also cause a delay in reaching you in case of an emergency.

IMPORTANT MEAL DISTRIBUTION REVISION - EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Merrillville Community School Corporation has received a waiver from the USDA. All meals are now free until further notice. Meals are available for all children age 18 and under.

Nurse Julie's Office

Mrs. Brack, RN
John Wood School Nurse

Welcome to a new school year at John Wood Elementary.

I know this school year is going to be a year of changes and challenges but I want you to know that my role as your school nurse is to keep your children healthy and safe. Once we return to in-person learning, please keep your child home if he/she has a fever a 100 degrees or above. Your child should remain home until the temperature is below 100 degrees for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. There is a new Merrillville School Nurse webpage on the MCSC website that you will find helpful information on COVID-19, immunizations, policies and links to our health forms. It can be found on the District website under Administration.

According to Indiana State law (I.C. 20-34-4-2) all students need to be current on their immunizations or they will be excluded from school. If your child still needs immunizations, now is the time to call your physician, North Shore Health Center or the Lake County Health Department to get these required immunizations before we return to in-person school. Also it is very important to call me if your child has any ongoing health concerns or needs so that we can keep the communication open for the benefit of your child's health and educational needs.

This year I'm also asking for patience from parents/caretakers when we do return to school. COVID-19 symptoms are similar to many symptoms young children tend to have when they don't feel well. This will be a challenge for all school nurses. Be familiar with our COVID-19 policy. I will probably be making more phone calls to parents and sending more students home this year. Please have a plan in place on how your child will be picked up from school quickly in case of illness.

Remember I am here for you and support your child's health and

educational needs. Let's work together as a community to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and continue safe health practices of wearing masks, hand washing, social distancing and to keep your child at home when ill.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions or concerns please call me at: 219-756-5745 or email me at:

jbrack@mvschools.k12.in.us

Free and Reduced Program

If you were on the free and reduced program in 2019-2020, please be aware that you need to reapply every year. The 2019-2020 applications will expire on September 29th. This program assists with both textbook rental and meals from our cafeteria.

If you are still in need of this service, make sure to reapply at <https://www.merrillvillecmtyschcorp.in.schools.bz/News/lunches#sthash.dV8pg2.MUjkRH8H.dpbs>

The Latest Scoop from the Kitchen

During the planned 12 weeks of e-learning, meals are available for purchase and pickup. This meal program is different than the summer meal pickups. This is for Merrillville School students only. Meals can be picked up at all Merrillville Schools except for MHS. Pick up days are Mondays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. There are also evening pickups from 5 – 6 p.m. ONLY at Salk, MIS and Pierce.

To pick up meals, you will need:

- * funds in your child's meal account
- * your child's name.
- * home school.
- * student ID number.

See the last-minute update on page 3 of this newsletter.

You can get your child's student ID number from your Skyward Family Access:

- * Log into Skyward Family Access
- * On the left side, click on Food Service
- * On the left side again, click Student Info

Please print this page and have it with you when you pick up meals or have your child's student ID card.

On Mondays, you will pick up breakfast and lunch for three days. On Thursdays, you will pick up meals for two days. These meals will need to be heated at home. **There must be funds in your child's meal account to pick up meals. We will not accept cash.** Please put funds on your child's meal account online through Skyward Family Access.

To deposit funds online:

- * Log into Skyward Family Access
- * On the left side, click on Food Service
- * Click on Make a Payment
- * You will be directed to the web store to make a deposit.

There is a fee of \$1.50 for depositing funds no matter how big or small or for one child or as many as you have. The meals will cost \$21.50 per week. You will not have to pay for meals if you have been approved for the free and reduced meal program.

If you have any questions, please call the Food Service Department at 219-650-5300.

PTO Update

The role of our PTO is to enhance the educational experiences of our children through the commitment of teachers and parents like you! With your continued help and support, we can continue to provide programs and activities for our children, as well as the materials and equipment to enhance our educational settings. All of the money we collect during the school year benefits our school and our children!

In the past, our PTO has used money from fundraisers to sponsor activities such as assemblies, field trips, 4th Grade Symphony, and classroom parties. The PTO also pays for Scholastic News for students and purchases books for the library and classrooms.

While some of these are on hold and, therefore, money is not being spent on these things, there are still things that money **IS** being spent on such as Scholastic News, Hoosier Books for the library, and the information-filled "Purple Folders" that the students will receive when they return to in-school learning. With this in mind, we may in the near future look into a spirit wear sale and/or a cookie dough sale. If we do this, we will look into having one where you can place the order online and have it delivered to your home or we will have a pickup that will look similar to the device pickup we had before school started.

The PTO also usually sponsors several family events throughout the school year. Some of the activities we've done in the past include BINGO night, Book Fair, VIP Event (Grandparents' Day), Valentine Dance, and Fun Fair. All these activities and events enrich our children's school experience, provide family entertainment, and promote friendship and a sense of community! However, we have temporarily suspended all social activities and meetings during this unusual start for the school year.

Box Tops/Coke Rewards

Remember that Box Tops is in the process of changing the way we "clip" box tops. More and more products now have a "No More Clipping" logo. Those products need to have the receipt scanned using the Box Tops for Education app (free at Google Play or the Apple App Store). Receipts need to be scanned within 14 days of the date of purchase.

We earn 10¢ for each Box Top. But did you know that sometimes products offer MORE than 10¢? Did you know that there are frequently sweepstakes you can enter to earn Box Tops for our school? You can find all this information and more at www.boxtops4education.com. Click on "FIND OFFERS" at the top of the page to see the participating products list and the bonus offers.

We are also still collecting Coke codes this year. These codes can be found inside Coke product caps and inside the tear-off flap on cardboard cases. We receive 5¢ for every cap, and more for 12-, 24-, and 36-count cases. You can also find codes on the plastic wrapper of Dasani Water cases. Look on the bottom of the shrink wrap for the black box next to the UPC. The code can be found on the reverse side of the black box. Participating Coke products can be found online at <https://us.coca-cola.com/participating-brands/>.

While we are not doing any contests at this time, if you have any physical box top clips or Coke codes, feel free to drop them off at the school office.

Pop Tab Collection

To many, a pop tab is just a piece of aluminum with one purpose – to open a can. But to the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, the pop tab is a valuable resource. Why? Collected pop tabs are recycled, generating much-needed funds to support the Ronald McDonald House and the nearly 1,500 families they serve each year.

In the years since the program began over one billion pop tabs have been donated generating about \$500,000 in pop tab revenue for the House.

Funds received from the recycling of tabs usually adds up to between \$30,000 and \$50,000 annually. All this money goes to the operating expenses of the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana and can cover the cost of operating three rooms in the House for an entire year.

How can you help? John Wood School is now collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Simply remove the pop tab from the aluminum can and put them in your favorite collection container. When you are ready to send them to school, just put them in a Ziploc-type bag and drop them off at the school office. There's no competition, no goal, no prizes...just the reward of doing a good deed. Each year we are able to donate about 8-10 pounds of pop tabs to Ronald McDonald House of Indiana!

Our PTO has a Facebook page!
Friend us at

www.facebook.com/johnwood.pto

We try to use this page to pass along important reminders from the school and also to inform you of upcoming PTO activities.

Coats for Kids (and families)

Each year the Merrillville schools participate in a community-wide effort to provide coats for people facing economic hardship.

As you begin to put away summer clothing and bring out cool-weather clothing, keep this project in mind. If you find out-grown winter coats that are still in good condition, consider saving them for our collection in October. You don't even need to wash them. They have a team of volunteers who are willing to clean all the coats before the give-away in November.

Information will be sent home soon with more information about this community service project.

Attendance "Beary" Award

Each month we have a fun monthly reward for the class with the best attendance. The class with the highest percentage of attendance for the month receives the "Beary" Attendance Trophy at our monthly Pirate Power meeting.

Remember, attendance is critical to learning, now more than ever. Make sure to be logged in and ready to work at the scheduled time for ALL classes!

Curt Hoffman Scholarship Winner

With our shortened 2019-2020 school year, we did not have the opportunity to announce the winner of the 2019-20 Curt Hoffman Scholarship or have her meet with our 4th graders.

Congratulations to Maria Guardiola! Good luck in your future endeavors. We are so proud of you!

Tips for Successful Virtual Learning

Find a quiet spot to work

- No cell phones
- No television
- No radio/music
- No social media
- No video games
- No "extra-curricular" reading
- Keep distractions to a minimum

Be on time

Be logged in and ready to work at the assigned time.

Bring all needed materials

Make sure your device is fully charged and you have sharpened pencils, assignments, work/text books, schedule, and anything else your teacher has asked you to bring.

Wear school-appropriate clothing

- No pajamas
- Boys must wear a shirt

Eat only during break times

Most teachers won't mind a water bottle, but save all food for your scheduled lunch break or for non-screen time.

Mute your microphone if you are not speaking

If your mic isn't muted, sometimes even small background noises can interfere with the Google Meeting.

Keep your camera on at appropriate times

Display name should be your real name

Pay attention to the speaker

Ask and answer questions

Raise your hand if you want to speak

If you don't understand something, ASK FOR HELP!

Do your own work

Just like when in the classroom, older siblings and parents should NOT be doing the work for the child.

Complete all assignments on time

Attend all classes.

Art, Library, Music, and PE are NOT optional.
Attendance IS taken in each of these classes.

Power down your device every night so you will receive all updates

If you are having a problem with your device, contact technology at:
email – helpdesk@mvsc.k12.in.us
phone – 219-650-5376.

Updates from the Staff

You already get regular updates in the form of notes and newsletters from your child's classroom teacher, but what about other staff members your child may see? In this section, you will get updates each trimester from various staff members in an effort to keep you informed about what is happening throughout the school.

The Art Loft

Mrs. J. Fairbairn

Thank you for your support during e-learning! We will be learning about the principles and elements of art. For example, we learned about line in 1st and 2nd grade and perspective in 3rd and 4th grade.

The structure of online art classes is as follows: We will have a Google Meet or a Zoom meeting for part (about 15-20 minutes) of our Art period. Then, I will have the students work on their assignment. I am asking the students to record a flipgrid showing their art work. If you cannot get the flipgrid to work, you can always email me at jfairbair@mvsc.k12.in.us

You can also email me if you have any questions. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Notes from the Music Room

Mrs. Timmerman

The 2020-21 School Year has begun, and nothing is normal in the music room! A year ago, I could never have imagined how school would be a few months later.

Teaching music virtually has its challenges! It is extremely difficult to share music in an online meeting. We cannot sing together because of the timing differences over the internet, so you will hear me reminding students to turn off their microphones when we all try to sing at the same time. I so want to hear all those beautiful children's voices together! Even though there are many things we cannot do in an online music class, we have to focus on what we can do to put music in kids' lives. The goal remains to develop age appropriate skills that help students become musical people. Musical people are able to sing in tune with expression, to think tunes, to move to the beat of music, and to respond to the artistic qualities in music.

Music class is scheduled for one hour a week. During virtual school,

grades K and 1 meet live on their first class day of the week and work on an independent assignment on the second class day of the week. For grades 2, 3, and 4, we start our music time with a short live meeting and then students work on their assignments. For students that are in daycare or Boys & Girls Club situations, it is okay to do the independent assignment at another time if they are unable to sing and do the activities where they are during music time. Please check to make sure your child turns in their weekly music assignment by the due date.

Kindergarten and first grade students will follow the First Steps in Music Curriculum. I have taken specialized training on this program, and I am a certified First Steps teacher. Students do a musical workout each week that helps them become "tuneful, beatful, and artful." We focus intensely on matching singing pitch, moving to the beat, and responding to the artful part of music. Second, third, and fourth graders work from a series called Conversational Solfege, which covers rhythm and pitch reading. They learn songs, rhythmic pieces and games that lead them through rhythms and pitch patterns of increasing difficulty. All grades have access to MusicPlay, an online music curriculum.

Notice to Parents/Guardians: Our Indiana music standards include singing and playing music for special occasions and holidays. If your child is not permitted to sing a song for a specific holiday or for all holidays due to religious or other reasons, you must notify me in writing. Please be specific about what is not allowed.

Specials Grading: I am occasionally asked about grading for music. Special area classes (art, music, and P.E.) use the grades: "E" for Excellent, "S" for Satisfactory, and "N" for Needs Improvement. These grades are rubric grades that describe the achievement level. Students who are performing as expected for the grade level earn an "S". Because we use the Skyward online grade book, the grades are entered as 3, 2, or 1. Sometimes when parents view this online, it appears as

a percentage. (For example, if a child has an "S" it appears as 66% because it is 2 out of 3. Your child is NOT failing!) Disregard the percentage and consider the letter only.

The Fitness Forecast

Mr. Battista/
Mrs. Oertel

Healthy kids make better students.
Better students make healthy communities.

Physical Education is where we get to teach your child how to be active for a lifetime. I am so honored to be part of this journey with your children.

This month we will be focusing on cardio moves, strength exercises, locomotor skills, and yoga. We will also be taking time to learn the importance of proper nutrition.

I have four rules in my class:

1. Smile!
2. Show up and have fun!
3. Listen, focus and be safe!
4. Do your best!

Seeing that distance learning is a new concept for us all, I know we are doing our best to navigate this for our children. My main goal for your children is to get them inspired and motivated to move/play for 20-30 minutes every day.

With your help, I know this is a possible goal!

Work out at home reminder

Every hour-long TV show has about six commercial breaks that last 3 minutes each, so you can get a decent total body workout while you watch—no gym necessary. Just perform 10-15 repetitions of the following or add some of your own favorite exercises: jumping jacks, push-ups and sit-ups. For a more advanced workout, pick one movement per commercial and see how many repetitions you can do. Each time you do it, try to beat your last score.

The Book Nook

Mrs. Echols

Hello and welcome to John Wood's Library

Unfortunately, we are at a moment in time where we are experiencing lots of changes in the arena of education and learning how to cope with the changes.

But guess what? You and I get to soak in and learn new techniques throughout our Merrillville School journey. For example, we are learning how to work with various types of computer devices, how to navigate on our technology devices to perform virtual meetings, view homework, and learning the importance of computer safety.

Although this change came as a surprise, this change is helping everyone to gain computer knowledge and preparation as to how the real world works.

Library activities this trimester:

- Stories about how the library works
- How to care for books and materials
- Cyber Safety
- Internet Behavior (positive vs negative)
- Digital Citizenship (pledging to be kind and do what is right)
- The Dewey Decimal System setup (fiction and nonfiction)

Upcoming Events

Every Monday and Thursday
Virtual Learning Meal Distribution
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

See the article on page 3 for more information.

Every Thursday
Early Dismissal
1:15 p.m.

Students will be dismissed early on this day so teachers can attend Professional Development.

September 25

End of the 1st grading period

Please check your child's grades online at any time through our Skyward system.

The Coaches' Corner

Ms. Copeland, Ms. Fish,
Mrs. Rassbach, Miss Zorich

READING:

Hello and welcome back to school! Beginning next week your child will be learning about the MAIN IDEA of a reading. Please work on this at home by asking questions about the story and asking what the MAIN IDEA of the story is. REMEMBER: have your child read, read, and read again.

MATH:

Please practice with your child the math concept that is being taught and practiced on their iPad and other work. Also, practice math facts with your child. In doing so, this will aide them tremendously as math lessons continue.

Let's have a terrific start to school!

Pirate Pride Days

In an effort to promote pride in our school community, we encourage students to wear purple on Fridays. While we will not be having a drawing for prizes during our virtual learning when students wear purple, we still want the students to have pride in their school.

Students are encouraged to wear ANYTHING "John Wood" (old Spirit Wear, Math Fact Shirts, etc) or "Merrillville" (Athletic Department Spirit Wear, Pop Warner shirts, etc) or even just purple.

A Word from the Social Worker

Mrs. Robbins LCWS

Welcome back families

I miss the good mornings and goodbyes in the afternoon from the students and the interactions all day, in between. Unfortunately we had to start school remotely this year, but we are going to work our very best to make the most of it.

What does remain the same is my commitment to you and your family to provide the best service I can to all of the John Wood families.

Some of you know me from previous years and some of our families are brand new this year. I want to remind our returning families and inform our new ones that I am here for all students and families. I have resources available to me that I would like to share with anyone who needs it. I have resources for food, clothing, connections for looking for housing and employment as well as medical, dental, vision and mental health information. While I may not have exactly what you need at my fingertips, I will always strive to find a way to fit the needs of your family and your unique situation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for anything your child and family may need.

**Follow our MCSC
superintendent and
our John Wood
principal on Twitter!**

Both Mr. Brown, our MCSC
superintendent, and Mrs.
Petralia, our John Wood
principal are on Twitter!

Follow Mr. Brown at
@MerrillvilleSu3.

Follow Mrs. Petralia at
@PrinPetralia.

Be Smart, Do Your Part

There are several little things that YOU can do to help us get back to school!

- **Wear your mask in public.**
Your mask should completely hide your nose, mouth, and chin.
- **Wash your hands frequently.**
Use soap and water and wash thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.
- If you can't wash your hands, **use hand sanitizer.** You should use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- When in public, try to **stay at least 6 feet away** from people who don't live with you. That's about two arm lengths.
- **When you cough or sneeze, make sure you cover your mouth** with a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Immediately follow with washing your hands or using sanitizer.
- **Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
Avoid touching your mask once it is on.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched areas in your home.
- **Wash your non-disposable mask frequently.**
- **If you are not feeling well, STAY HOME.**

You Count!

The deadline to respond to the United States' decennial census is September 30, 2020. If you have not responded to the census, please visit <https://my2020census.gov/> and take 10 minutes to enter your information. Along with distributing power at every level of government, the 2020 Census will also be used to allocate more than \$675 billion annually to communities across our nation.

In Indiana, an accurate census count means up to \$30,000 per person in federal funding that our state will receive over the course of the next decade. This federal funding will go towards programs that support education, healthcare, housing, transportation, emergency services, and more within our community, and everyone counts – regardless of immigration status.

John Wood School **BEST** Pledge

John Wood is the **BEST** of schools,
Spell out **BEST** you'll know the rules,
First is **B**, that's the way.
Be responsible every day.
Next is **E**, that's correct.
Everyone deserves respect.
Third is **S**. This is cool.
Safety counts when you're at school.
Finally, it's letter **I**.
We will **I**talk appropriately.

Student Council

Miss Jongsma, Miss Vlassopoulos

A new student council has been selected for the 2020-2021 school year. The student council has many responsibilities throughout the school year. Normally, students are involved in a variety of service activities such as serving as greeters at the VIP Event (Grandparents' Day), organizing collections for Riley Hospital and other causes, sponsoring Food Drives, assisting with Red Ribbon Week and Spirit Days, and helping decorate the school for festivities and events. This year, during virtual learning, some of these may look different and some may be eliminated.

This year's student council members are:

Miss Jongsma

Antonio Byers, Landon Conners,
Jimmy Holmes, Adam Koszyk,
Imani Royal, Sophia Scalzitti,
Nevaeh Thomas, Gabriel Tucker,
Abigail Velasco, Jian Peng Zheng

Miss Vlassopoulos

Isabella Balbosa, Mea Blancarte,
Miranda Cabrera, Aliyah Lagunas,
Dreamm Mable, Lucas Mahy,
Caleb Pickett, Anthony Salinas,
Dani Tape, Jordyn Triplett

Helpful Virtual Academy Links

Virtual Academy Guidelines:

<https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/userfiles/1041/my%20files/mcsc%20virtual%20academy%20guidelines%202.pdf?id=3348>

Virtual Academy

Attendance Guidelines:

[https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/userfiles/1041/my%20files/mcsc%20attendance%20guidelines%20for%20virtual%20school%20\(parent-guardian\).pdf?id=3389](https://www.mvsc.k12.in.us/userfiles/1041/my%20files/mcsc%20attendance%20guidelines%20for%20virtual%20school%20(parent-guardian).pdf?id=3389)

MCSC PBIS Behavioral Matrix Virtual Learning Expectations

Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Safe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are to follow the school dress code while attending your virtual classes. • Make sure cameras and microphones are on or off when necessary. • Keep all comments respectful. (Be kind and considerate). • Contact your teachers during school hours. • Find a quiet place to keep distractions to a minimum. (e.g. social media, television, video games, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow your schedules and log-in to your classes on time. • Turn in all assignments by the deadlines. • Regularly check your school email, message boards, inboxes, etc. • Contact your teachers right away if you have any questions or concerns. • Contact your teachers and the school office if you know you are going to be absent from classes. • Make sure that your device (computer, lap top) is fully charged. • Notify your teacher and technology if something is not functioning properly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use websites and apps recommended by your teachers. • Keep your usernames and passwords private/confidential. • Use the cameras and microphones only to participate in school-related activities. • Use class chat rooms only for school-related conversations. • Tell your teacher/parent if anyone uses technology in an inappropriate, hurtful, and/or negative manner.