



# Panther Parent Newsletter



*Mission: Our mission at MMS is to provide a vigorous academic-based education in a safe environment, to motivate students to become life-long learners in a global and technologically advanced modern democracy. In partnership with parents and community, students are encouraged to achieve high academic standards, make positive choices and meet behavioral expectations.*



Dear Parents and Students,  
Seasons Greetings!

We wish you and your family peace, joy, warmth and love this fall and winter! Now is a good time to relax and enjoy the family over the holidays. Take your much needed rest and family trips in order to be refreshed and ready for the New Year of studies. This is also a time to reflect on the first semester and make changes or improvements for the next. Parents don't forget to check daily for important information that should come home with the students. Restock needed school supplies. And most of all don't forget to be safe throughout the holidays.

## As always, every school day counts...

### Military Block Leave

Military Block Leave must have prior approval by the principal or a designee. Any leave that extends beyond the five days granted is considered unexcused. Please remember that unexcused absences warrant a social worker referral.

### Attendance Concerns

When school attendance is a concern, teachers are required to refer children to the school social worker for further intervention. **The school social worker will be contacted if a student accumulates an excessive number of tardiness and early dismissals. The social worker will be contacted for excessive (5 or more) guardian notes. If the absences are excessive they must be medically excused. Remember it is important that children are in school and attend school for the entire day.**

**Excuses for absences** should be dated and submitted in writing the day of return, and must state the reason for absence. **Keep in mind that the student has three days to make up missed assignments.** All excuses will be evaluated by the principal or designee to determine if absence is excused.

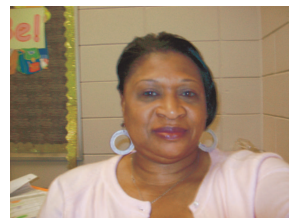


## Spotlight: Parent Resource Center

***PARENTS CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***

Whether their kids are just starting kindergarten or entering the final year of high school, there are many good reasons for parents to volunteer at school and stay involved. It's a great way to show your kids that you take an interest in their education, and it sends a positive message that you consider school a worthwhile cause. Please call or visit the Parent Resource

Center here at Midway Middle School. Teresa Bacon is the Parent Coordinator on site. She is here to serve as a resource person and advocate in conferences and other school meetings. She can also provide suggestions, strategies, workshops, materials, and ideas to assist individual students.



If you have any questions please contact Ms. Bacon at 884-6677 or email

tbacon@liberty.k12.ga.us

We look forward to working with you.

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## December 2011

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### Communication Tools

- ⇒ Teacher Website
- ⇒ Parent Portal
- ⇒ Flyers/Newsletters
- ⇒ Email/Notes
- ⇒ Visit/Conference
- ⇒ Coastal Courier
- ⇒ Phone/School Messenger/PTO

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### Dates to Remember

"I Care" Forms	12
"I Care" Feedback	16
Second Grading Pd.	16
Winter Break	12/19-1/5/12
Students report	1/5
Report Card Day	1/10

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### Saturday School Dates

January	7
January	21
February	4
February	25
March	10
March	24
April	14

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## "I Care" Positive Parenting Character Curriculum

I care is a Positive Parenting Character Development Curriculum. It was adopted by the district and implemented in the Liberty County Schools this school year to help develop character, increase student achievement, and measure parental involvement. Parents are invited to participate by viewing a video (available at your child's school). Afterward they are asked to read and sign a participation agreement form about positive activities that they will do at home with their children. Each month a green sheet with the monthly positive character trait will be sent home

with five suggested activities to reinforce the monthly character trait. Parents should talk about the message and discuss its meaning while modeling the monthly traits at home. The teachers at school and community members will also work on reinforcing the same character traits. At the end of the month students will bring home a yellow form that the parents are asked to fill out and return to school. There is a space on the yellow feedback form for any additional activities that the parents do with their children. There are also books that go along with the monthly

traits. Remember to:

Call the school and schedule viewing of the video if you missed it.

Look for and asked student for the Green monthly character form.

Spend time doing the activities with students, some you are already doing.

Expect, ask for, complete and return the yellow feedback form by 12/16/11.

IKE says "I care."



### December Character Trait: Self-knowing



As you are already aware, each grade has their own focus surrounding the character trait.

6th Grade:

Set Personal Standards

7th Grade: Calm

8th Grade: Thoughtful



### December Focus: Homework and Homework Tips

**Make homework your child's responsibility.** According to the Middle School Guide book, Middle school students must be responsible for keeping track of their assignments, completing them accurately and turning them in on time.

As stated when students routinely do not do their homework, parents sometimes become frustrated and upset. Then the students are likely to view any parental concern or questioning as nagging.

While parents dislike arguing about homework, most parents don't feel they can just stand by and do nothing in these situations. It's possible for parents to unintentionally turn the completion of homework into their problem according to Middle School Parent Guidebook.

There are suggestions for if the middle-schooler is not doing homework, first talk to your child to make sure that the homework isn't too difficult or that there isn't some problem with the class. Then, it's suggested to come up with a plan in which the completion of homework becomes your child's responsibility and, if it's not completed, the child suffers and accepts the consequence.

"There are lots of suggestions in adult books and in the Parent Resource Center here at MMS on Homework .

[www.hmhomeworks.com](http://www.hmhomeworks.com)

## Welcome and Congratulations

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Jermaine Tyler who is our new Social Studies teacher on team 6-1, he has been with us since November 1, 2011.

Mr. Tyler has several years of experience in the education field. He is a graduate of the Tift College of Education at Mercer University where he earned his Master of Arts in Teaching.

Last but not least, please join us in congratulating Mr. Alzie Walker. He has been named teacher of the year for 2011-2012.

Mr. Walker is our Band teacher and has taught at Midway Middle School since August 2006. We are privileged and honored to have with us both Mr. Tyler and Mr. Walker.



**Mr. Jermaine Tyler**  
Social Studies (Team 6-1)

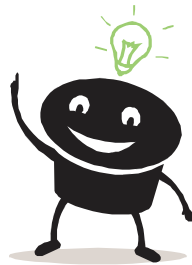
**Mr. Alzie Walker**  
Band Teacher

## Something to Ponder

Courage doesn't always roar.

Sometimes courage is the quite voice at the end of the day saying I'll try again tomorrow.

- Mary Anne Radmacher



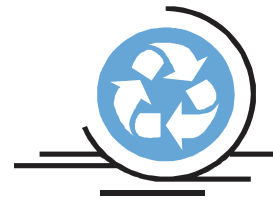
I hadn't thought about that!

**Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC) are now dedicated to all Middle and high schools in Liberty County in addition to all elementary schools on Ft. Stewart.** The MFLCs are available to meet with students individually or in groups however, parental consent is required. Parental consent forms are available at participating schools: Brittin, Diamond, and Kessler Elementary, Bradwell, and Liberty High, and Snelson-Golden, Lewis Frasier, and Midway Middle School.

For more information or to speak with a MFCL, please contact your child's participating school or contact the Ft.

Stewart school Liaison Office at 912-767-6533

## We Recycle at MMS



**Students with perfect attendance will have a chance to earn rewards. So come to school every day ready to work!**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR CHILD'S CLASS?

Check out the school website: <http://www.liberty.k12.ga.us/mms/> to access all of our teachers' web pages and find out about upcoming class events, tutoring schedules and homework! The school's newsletter can also be accessed at this link.