

# Madison Highlights and Happenings

September 3, 2016

## Madison Morning Announcements

We begin each morning at Madison with announcements for the day along with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance together. This year we are making a significant change each Friday morning. Instead of saying the Pledge we are singing the National Anthem together. The music teachers are reinforcing our work with additional instruction during music.

## Feedback Fridays

Last spring Madison staff reviewed results of a parent survey and found parents desired to have frequent information about academics. One way Madison staff is addressing this desire is by setting short, attainable goals with students, sharing the goal with families along with ways the families can work toward meeting the goals and then providing families feedback on how well students are doing in meeting the goals. Teachers will be sending out goals and information on blue paper 12 times this school year both in hard copy and email. In addition, each teacher will be phoning parents several times to share results.

## Newsletters

Teachers in regular education classrooms at Madison will be sending our electronic newsletters every week this school year. If you are not receiving a weekly newsletter on either Friday or Monday, you need to contact your child's teacher to double check on your email address. Everyone should have already received one electronic newsletter thus far.

## News from the Gym

Hello my name is Jake Gotto and I will be student teaching with Mrs. Holland until October. I'm eager to learn and create new, exciting experiences here at Madison while putting my Coe College knowledge to great use! A little information about myself and what my hobbies include are: wrestling, exercising, fishing, hunting (basically anything that requires being outside). My hometown is Epworth, Iowa but I currently reside here in Cedar Rapids. I enjoy teaching others about health, fitness, and fun facts about the human body. Physical fitness is extremely important to me, and I want to be someone who inspires others to change their ways and develop a healthy and active lifestyle. During my time here at Madison I look forward to working with students and parents, building their confidence, and helping them reach their goals.

## Cell Phones, Smart Watches, Etc.

Madison's Student Handbook (Blue School Calendar) includes the policy on cell phones and electronics. This policy applies to smart watches. The policy reads, "Cell phones and electronic devices are to be turned into the office upon arrival. They may be picked up at the end of the day. Students who have cells phones in view, ringing, or using them will need to leave them on the teacher's desk or in the office for the remainder of the day. They may be picked up at the end of the day. Second time offenders will place the phone in the office where a parent may pick it up."

We have this policy for two main reasons:

- 1) Cell phones, smart watches and electronic devices are distracting to the learning environment.
- 2) Madison lockers are not secure.

## Attendance Awareness Month

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

**Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.**

### Upcoming PTA Events ~

**September 9 – Donuts with Dads – 8:00 – 8:45 am – Madison Café (This is also Team Spirit Day – Wear your favorite team’s gear!)**

**September 23 – Muffins with Moms – 8:00 – 8:45 am – Madison Cafe’**

**The Madison PTA needs you!!! Join the PTA and support the work at Madison School!!! We are actively seeking board members, general members and volunteers! Call the office for more information at 558-2473 for more information.**

### September Calendar Reminders~

No school on Monday, **September 5<sup>th</sup>**! Labor Day!

Early dismissal on Friday, **September 9<sup>th</sup>** - Students are dismissed at 2:15.

Early dismissal on Friday, **September 16<sup>th</sup>** - Students are dismissed at 2:15.

Early dismissal on Friday, **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Students are dismissed at 2:15.

Fall Pictures on Wednesday, **September 28!**

Early dismissal on Friday, **September 30<sup>th</sup>**- Students are dismissed at 2:15.

**Every Friday is Early Dismissal at 2:15!**