



Osan Middle School Thunderbirds

*Providing a Setting of
High Expectations That
Engage and Motivate all
Students in a Successful
Learning Environment*

Volume 3, Issue 5

Friday, 7 OCT 2011



Finalist for DoDEA Presidential Award for Excellence

Mrs. Sharon Manuel, one of our mathematics teachers, has been officially recognized as one of three World-wide Dpt. Of Defense Education Activity finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Each year, one educator from each state receives this prestigious award at a White House ceremony. Good luck Mrs. Manuel! Our community is fortunate to count you as a member of Team Osan.

PTSO Board Elected

Please congratulate the 2011-2012 Osan Middle School PTSO officers:

Gene Dollarhide, President
Frank Mailki, Vice President
Kyra Mailki, Secretary
Brooke Stewart, Treasurer

All Hands on Deck for Student Activities Fundraisers

In order to raise money to cover KAIAC competition costs for our various student organizations we need your food/beverage donations and/or help selling concessions at Osan MS Cafeteria during athletic competitions. Contact James Edwards at DSN phone 784-7256/7301 or e-mail him at james.edwards@pac.dodea.edu. Your help is greatly appreciated.

WED	12 OCT	3:00—7:00 PM
FRI	14 OCT	3:00—7:00 PM
SAT	15 OCT	9:00 AM—1:00 PM
MON	17 OCT	3:00 - 7:00 PM
WED	19 OCT	3:00—7:00 PM



Osan Middle School
Parent Connection

Help your child by regularly visiting
our website:
www.osan-ms.pac.dodea.edu/



Calendar of Events

- 07 OCT: Early Release 10:25 AM
- 10 OCT: Columbus Day, no school
- 14 OCT: Picture Day
- 01 NOV: PTSO meeting in library
- 03 NOV: End of first quarter grading period
- 04 NOV: No school for students



Osan Middle School Thunderbirds

*Providing a Setting of
High Expectations That
Engage and Motivate all
Students in a Successful
Learning Environment*

Volume 3, Issue 5

Friday, 7 OCT 2011



Student Essay Competitions

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is sponsoring two essay competitions:

Patriot's Pen Youth Essay

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade type a 300-400 word essay with this year's theme, "Are You Proud of Your Country?" Prizes for the top 46 essays, with first prize winner receiving \$10,000 U.S. savings bond and the 46th place winner receiving a \$1,000 U. S. savings bond.

National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Students nominate and write an essay about a teacher who regularly teaches and promotes American history, traditions, institutions, citizenship, patriotism, and civic responsibility. The winning teacher and school in which the teacher works both receive \$1,000.

Students may pick up both essay competition forms from the OMS library. **Deadline to turn in essays is November 1, 2011.**

Osan Middle School

Parent Connection



*Osan Middle School is the bomb, ya' !!
Thanks parents for supporting us!*



Osan Middle School Thunderbirds

*Providing a Setting of
High Expectations That
Engage and Motivate all
Students in a Successful
Learning Environment*

Volume 3, Issue 5

Friday, 7 OCT 2011



Geography Bee & Social Studies Textbook on DVD

Students interested in participating in the Osan Middle School Geography Bee, need to sign up with their social studies teacher (Mr. Edwards, Ms. Kimble, or Mrs. Perry) no later than next Thursday, October 6.

Parents, if you would like a DVD copy of your students Social Studies textbook, please bring in .25 cents and Ms. Laird, our Educational Technologist, will make you an electronic textbook which includes audio of the text.

PSAT Opportunity for 8th Graders

The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) is typically a test taken by high school sophomores. However, OMS has the opportunity to offer it to a limited number of 8th graders for \$14. The test will be Wednesday, October 12th during school hours. Seats will be reserved on a first come basis. Checks may be made out to "Student Activity Fund" with PSAT and the student name written in the memo line. Exact amount cash will also be accepted. Scores are for the benefit of the student only and do not determine class placement or promotion. Please contact Ms. Votipka with any questions. AVID students in 8th grade will be taking the test, funded by AVID, so they do not need to sign up again.

DoDEA Community Strategic Plan

Dpt. Of Defense Education Activity is in the process of developing a new Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2012-2016, which will be critical in refining the mission, vision, guiding principles, goals, and initiatives that DoDEA will undertake to deliver high quality, student-centered education. DoDEA is interested in the thoughts and opinions of parents, teachers, military leadership, and individuals directly impacted by DoDEA schools as well as those that attend non-DoDEA schools and serve military families and their children. Topics of interest to DoDEA are the consistency of communication from schools and to identify possible strategies to improve support for students and families through transitions and how to support these students, as well as feedback on the curriculum, instruction and assessment in DoDEA schools. The site to provide feedback is:

<http://cspfeedback.dodea.edu/>



Osan Middle School Thunderbirds

*Providing a Setting of
High Expectations That
Engage and Motivate all
Students in a Successful
Learning Environment*

Volume 3, Issue 5

Friday, 7 OCT 2011



Sharepoint Information

SharePoint website: <http://extranet.oams.pac.dodea.edu/default.aspx>

Dear Parents and Students,

Our SharePoint intranet site is now open for SY 11-12. It may be accessed from the OMS homepage or the above website. SharePoint is password protected. The user name for both parents and students is the student name ie: joe.smith and password is the first 4 numbers of the student ID number. The password may not be changed by students or parents; however if you would like it changed or have comments and suggestions; please email the SharePoint administrator: stephanie.laird@pac.dodea.edu

Chess Club Volunteers Still Needed

The Chess Club needs skilled chess players to tutor and train our students for a middle school chess tournament. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Dunham DSN 784-7375 or christin.dunham@pac.dodea.edu.



Representatives Needed for School Advisory Committee

Per DOD Regulation 1342.15, OMS is seeking representatives interested in serving on our School Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is an elected advisory committee composed of an equal number of parents and teachers. The SAC advises the principal on matters within the jurisdiction of the school and DoDDS and meets at least four times per year.



If you are interested in becoming a SAC representative, please contact Stephanie Wolf at wolfski5@gmail.com

Osan Middle School

Parent Connection



Osan Middle School Thunderbirds

*Providing a Setting of
High Expectations That
Engage and Motivate all
Students in a Successful
Learning Environment*

Volume 3, Issue 5

Friday, 7 OCT 2011



DODEA Launches new “Be Here!” Attendance Policy

Student success—both inside and outside the classroom—depends on thorough preparation. To ensure all students are prepared for maximizing learning opportunities, DoDEA has implemented a new system-wide attendance policy known as “Be Here!”

To ensure a fair and consistent approach, DoDEA reviewed and analyzed the attendance policies adopted by most U.S. school districts—particularly those serving military children—with the unique needs of military families in mind. The new DoDEA attendance policy offers a balanced approach by clearly defining expectations and the specific interventions if a student misses school.

Although DoDEA educators have long worked with families to grant legitimate, excused absences or resolve attendance concerns, the process for addressing those concerns varied by school. In other words, the new policy is not really new, but students and their families need to be aware of these important highlights:

- All students must attend school at least 180 days per school year
- Academic penalties will NOT be imposed for excused absences such as:
 - Medical, dental or mental health appointment
 - Personal illness
 - Death of a family member

Please review the full policy for more examples:

- Students who accumulate 5 absences in a semester:
 - May be referred to the Student Support Team
 - May be assigned an intervention plan consistent with regularly planned school work during absences
- Students who accumulate 7 absences in a semester:
 - May be referred to the local Commander for appropriate intervention and support
 - High school students may lose course credit

Communication, before excessive absences occur, is the key. We encourage families to review the full attendance policy together and discuss any concerns with the school principal: [http://www.dodea.edu/back to school/2011_12.cfm?cid=attendance](http://www.dodea.edu/back_to_school/2011_12.cfm?cid=attendance)