

# MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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October 6, 2009

Dear MCCSC School Board,

We have outstanding news! The National Middle School Conference is in Indianapolis this year and we have received a grant from the MCCSC Foundation which will allow all middle school teachers to attend. The High Impact Grant supplements the School Improvement Professional Development funds of each middle school to support this sensational opportunity.

The prospect to attend a national conference is rare, but the opportunity for all staff members to attend is almost non-existent. We are excited to take advantage of this opportunity that is not scheduled to occur for another twelve years. This will give our staff members a chance to hear nationally known presenters and to collaborate about solutions and interventions supporting our current improvement plans and strategies. Having the entire staff focus on specific topics creates a common baseline of understanding and will focus them more precisely on the identified School Improvement Plans. While our students will not attend school on that day, they will benefit from the efforts of more knowledgeable and better prepared teachers.

On February 11, 2008, the Indiana General Assembly passed House Resolution 28. The purpose of the resolution was to recognize the rare and significant opportunity for middle school educators in Indiana to obtain in-depth professional development related to the academic and developmental needs of young adolescent learners. The resolution requested school corporations to include a staff development day on November 6, 2009 to allow attendance at this Conference held in Indianapolis. The Indiana Department of Education will allow a school district to request a waiver of the 180 day school year requirement for the middle schools if the entire staff attends. The Middle School Association has also responded by lowering the registration so schools may more easily afford to send all faculty members.

Prior to the conference, specific sessions will be selected which are of explicit interest and correspond closely with the School Improvement Plans. Teachers will be matched to these sessions and will make additional selections of other sessions to attend. Teachers will be expected to attend a minimum of three sessions, view the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom and visit the exhibit hall. Teachers will be bused directly to the conference site avoiding delays in parking and reaching the conference site in a timely fashion. Following the conference, each teacher will submit a summary of each session attended and answer questions concerning possible implementation. They will also make presentations to their fellow staff members throughout the remainder of the school year. In-house professional development will focus on the topics identified for study during the Conference. To encourage collaboration across MCCSC, all three middle schools will join together for a shared faculty meeting on December 7, 2009. The topic will be one common to the School Improvement Plans of all three schools and the Conference.

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We are thrilled to be able to arrange for our middle school faculty members to attend the National Middle School Conference.

Sincerely,

On behalf of : Gale Hill, Tri-North Middle School Principal, Donna Noble, Jackson Creek Middle School Principal and Eric Gilpen, Batchelor Middle School Principal

Janice L. Bergeson  
Director of Secondary Education