

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-Floyd Valley

April 2026

## News From The Principal

Dear Families,

As we move into April, we encourage students to use this time of year to reflect on their growth and take pride in their responsibilities. Spring is a great opportunity for middle school students to strengthen organization, time management, and accountability as the school year begins to wind down. Finishing the year strong sets students up for success both academically and socially.

Student safety remains a top priority. As a reminder, all students are expected to follow bus rules, remain seated while the bus is in motion, and treat others with respect. These expectations help ensure a safe and positive ride for everyone, including our younger students. We appreciate your support in reviewing these expectations with your child.

Middle school students continue to grow in their use of technology, and with that comes the responsibility to use devices in appropriate and respectful ways. We encourage families to discuss digital citizenship at home, including respectful communication, responsible social media use, and balancing screen time with other activities. Reinforcing these habits helps students develop skills they will carry into high school and beyond.

As spring activities increase, we encourage parents to regularly check the Bound calendar on the school website. This is the most up-to-date source for activity dates, times, locations, and any cancellations or changes due to weather. Checking the calendar often helps ensure you have accurate information and reduces last-minute confusion.

We value the partnership we share with our families and appreciate your ongoing support. Please know that we welcome communication and encourage you to reach out with questions or concerns. Working together helps create a positive and supportive environment for all students.

GO DUTCH!

Mr. Carlson  
MOC-FV Middle School Principal



Happy Easter ~ April 5

Spring Break ~ April 3-6

Classes resume ~ April 7



## Exciting Happenings in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

1 Minute Update

**Science:** In science, we're diving into life science by exploring cells and learning where our DNA comes from and how it shapes who we are. Next, we'll be studying the major systems of the human body and discovering how they all work together!

**Social Studies:** In Social Studies, we have started discussing the time period of Ancient China! This will be a fun unit for us. Along with our daily lessons, the kids will be in charge of creating their own presentation about eight different topics. Some of these topics include the Emperor's Clay Army, the Great Wall of China, and the holidays of China. My morning classes have the absolute joy of having Tegegn Smit in our class with us. He comes from the high school and is filling his Foundations of Education class hours with us this quarter! Thank you for continuing to support your child in their learning!

**Math:** We are starting a unit on basic algebra. Topics will include variables, balance, solving basic equations, distributive property, graphs, and exponents. Students will have two assessments with this unit. Students will have homework and a short quiz after each lesson.

**Literature:** In April, we will finish a unit on figurative language in poetry, and then we will begin our LAST formal unit on the book *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. Students will enjoy this heart-warming book about two very different middle school boys who become the best of friends. Additionally, the expectation will continue for students to read 30 minutes daily. Please encourage your child to read daily as we continue to work on critical reading skills throughout the 4th quarter.

**English:** We are finishing up the Choose Your Own Adventure stories. If you haven't seen your child's work, ask to see their slideshow. These stories are impressive! This is where the turn the corner in their understanding of written language. Our final unit of the year is persuasive writing and speaking. The kids will search the internet for quality, valuable sources on social and world topics, collect information, and the create a lengthy persuasive paper. Following that, we will look at good presentation skills and revise this writing into a speech. Thank you for all of the support you've given your young writers so this year.



## Look 🙄🙄 What is Happening in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

1 Minute Update

**Literature:** We just finished reading our dystopian novel, *The City of Ember*. In April, we will watch the movie, compare and contrast the two, study cinematic features, and complete presentations over these findings.

**Math:** We are finishing Unit 6 on equations and inequalities.

**Science:** Seventh graders are investigating the various structures and behaviors that plants and animals use to grow, reproduce, and survive.

**English:** Seventh grade students have been tackling a unit about commas in seventh grade English. Sometimes the hardest part of teaching commas is to help kids change their negative mindsets about them and realize commas do not need to be as intimidating and difficult as they think. It just takes looking for certain things in a sentence to decide if a comma is needed. If they can examine a sentence for these things, they will be able to find where commas are needed in over 80% of sentences.

**Global Studies:** We are finishing our Food Supply presentations - it's been interesting to learn about the challenges and opportunities related to food, trade, and the interconnected world. Our next unit is Globalization - we will explore trade agreements, conflicts, and other examples of our world becoming "smaller"



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Minds in Motion

1 Minute Update

**Science:** Students are learning about Newton's Laws and forces in motion. This interdisciplinary unit is a great blend between math and science!

**Math:** is learning about inputs and outputs and their role in equations. They will be moving onto functions next.

**Literature:** Students have just finished the Holocaust Unit and are beginning their final unit of the year over Black History. Students will begin by building their background knowledge before they start analyzing a novel in groups.

**American History:** Students are evaluating the legacy of Andrew Jackson. Students will be completing a political advertisement project attempting to persuade viewers to align with their research-supported stance on Jackson's legacy.

**English:** Students are working to finish their compare and contrast essays after viewing a Hollywood film based on a real event and contrasting it with the real facts behind the story.

**Upcoming:** Eighth Graders will begin discussion over high school planning and class registration in April. Be on the lookout for future information coming home about this.

All eighth graders will be attending NCC Career Day on Friday, April 17.

Bump-Up Day is on Thursday, May 14 before early dismissal for Tulip Festival.

The eighth grade Arnold's Park field trip is coming up in May. Details pending.



Earth Day

April 22

APRIL 24



# April 2026

| Sun          | Mon   | Tue   | Wed             | Thu  | Fri   | Sat |
|--------------|---|---|-----------------|--|---|-----|
|              |   |   | 1               | 2  | 3<br><span style="color: red;">No School</span>   | 4   |
|              |   |   | DC/NYC Trip     |  | Spring Break  |     |
| 5<br>Easter  | 6<br><span style="color: red;">No School</span>     | 7   | 8               | 9  | 10<br>1:15pm Early Dismissal<br><br>Qrt, 4 3 Wk Gr. Chk,<br><br>7-9:30pm MS Party Night | 11  |
| Spring Break |   |   |                 |  |   |     |
| 12           | 13<br>End Exploratory Cycle 5                       | 14<br>Start Exploratory Cycle 6<br><br>4:15pm Girls Soccer @ Sheldon<br>5:30pm Boys @ Sheldon   | 15              | 16   | 17<br>1:15pm Early Dismissal  | 18  |
| 19           | 20  | 21<br>NWI 5 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> gr. Honor Choir @ MOC-FV HS<br><br>4:30 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> gr. track @ NW College | 22<br>Earth Day | 23<br>8 <sup>th</sup> gr. Book Bash @ Siouxland Christian<br><br>4:15pm Soccer vs Sioux Center G(A) B(H) | 24<br>Arbor Day<br><br>1:15pm Early Dismissal   | 25  |
| 26           | 27<br>4:15pm Soccer vs Sheldon Girls<br>5:15pm Boys | 28<br>7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> gr. Track @Sheldon HS   | 29              | 30   |   |     |

# May 2026

| Sun | Mon  | Tue                                 | Wed | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|-----|--|---|---|
|     |  |                                     |     |  | 1<br>1:15pm Early Dismissal   | 2   |
| 3   | 4  | 5<br>4:15pm MS Track @ Central Lyon | 6   | 7  | 8<br>1:15pm Early Dismissal<br>4:15pm MS Track<br>Siouxland Conference Meet @ Open Space Athletic Complex | 9<br>8:00am 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> gr. Band @ Pella Tulip Festival |
| 10  | 11<br>4:15pm MS Soccer vs Sioux Center G(H) b(A) | 12                                  | 13  | 14<br>11:15am Early Dismissal                            | 15<br>No School   | 16  |
|     |  |                                     |     | Tulip Festival   |   |   |
| 17  | 18   | 19                                  | 20  | 21<br>7:00pm MS Choir & Orchestra Concert                | 22<br>1:15pm Early Dismissal  | 23  |
| 24  | 25<br>Memorial Day<br>No School                  | 26                                  | 27  | 28<br>End 4 <sup>th</sup> Qrt.<br>1:15pm Early Dismissal | 29<br>Teacher In-Service Day  | 30  |
| 31  |  |                                     |     |  |   |   |