

FROM the
MIDDLE



MAY

6 – 10 Spirit Week (\$1 each day OR pay \$4 Monday for the week)

Monday – Pajama day

Tuesday – Twin Day

Wednesday – Tourist Day

Thursday – Sports Day

Friday – Blue/Gold Day

7 LS/MS Spring Concert - 6:30 PM First Presbyterian Church

8 Student Council Elections – Flex

8 8th Grade Class Registration – Flex - KUA

13-17 Library Book Fair

14-15 Fifth Grade Zoo and Aquarium Overnight

16 Fifth Grade *Midsummer Night's Dream*, 8:15, Commons

21 MS 8th grade (and Algebra) Math exams, 8:30 - 10:30 AM - KUA

21 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony Rehearsal 12:30 – 2:30 PM

22 MS 8th grade French/Spanish Exams, 8:30 - 10:30 AM, KUA and Dr. Froehlich's room

23 MS Field Day/8th grade to Kings Island

24 END OF QUARTER

24 MS 8th Grade Awards and Recognition Ceremony, 10:15 AM - Gym

24 MS Dismissal 11:30 AM



•Humane Society Extravaganza

An annual event to benefit the wellbeing and care of animals in our region, the Humane Society Extravaganza was planned and organized by Middle School students as part of their Community Service. Ms. Cook and Ms. Mesquita were faculty sponsors of the activity. During a Wednesday Flex period, students grades 6-8 gathered in the gym for over an hour of games and team play and food and fun, all for the benefit of our furry friends at the Woodford County Humane Society! The HSE raised \$800 this year.

• Fifth Grade Overnight

On Tuesday, May 14, fifth graders will hop into two Sprinters to travel to Cincinnati for a fun and educational overnight event. We will begin with a stop at Dewey's Pizza in Newport, followed by a visit to the Newport Aquarium. At the Aquarium we have a special penguin encounter in addition to the regular fun of the Aquarium. We then travel to the Zoo for the Twiga tented evening near the giraffe enclosure. We are looking forward to a wonderful visit! Fifth graders will return by dismissal on Wednesday, May 15.

• **Eighth Grade and Algebra Exams**: All eighth grade students take semester exams in their math and modern language classes; seventh graders enrolled in Algebra and eighth graders in Honors Algebra II will also take the semester exam for their math class.

Tuesday, May 21

MS Math 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Algebra and Geometry in KUA and the Library

Wed., May 22

MS Language 8:30 – 10:30 AM

French in Dr. Froehlich's room; Spanish in KUA and Library

Spring Exams are Dress Down

• **Eighth Grade to Kings Island**: On Thursday, May 23, the eighth grade will celebrate their three years of Middle School with a pre-Recognition Ceremony hurrah! The trip to Kings Island is one of the beloved traditions of our eighth graders...by then they will have finished their exams and cleaned their lockers. Their minds will be on dressing up for their Recognition Ceremony and on becoming Upper School freshmen. But for the day at Kings Island, they will celebrate their status as Sayre Middle School eighth graders with rides and terribly unhealthy food! Please return your permission form!

• **Middle School Awards and Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony**: On Friday, May 24 at 10:15 a.m. we will recognize our eighth graders for successful completion of Middle School and their move up to Upper School. The event also serves as our Middle School Awards Ceremony for all four grades. How time flies! Please note that for this special event Special Program Dress is required. For this time only, we allow eighth grade girls to wear dresses with one sleeve or spaghetti straps. Sixth or seventh grade girls who choose to wear a dress must have straps the width of three fingers; dressier pants and tops are also allowed for all four grades. Also, heels must not exceed two inches. Boys wear Special Dress, including a jacket and tie, dress shoes, dress pants, and a belt.

After the ceremony, eighth grade parents, students, siblings, and their families are invited to a reception in the Buttery hosted by the Middle School.

• **Fifth Grade News:**

Midsummer Night's Dream

Fifth graders have been working tirelessly to prepare their performance of a slightly abridged version of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. It promises to be a truly magical play. Fifth grade parents and special guests should plan to join us on May 16 at 8:15 a.m. for this very special show.

Outdoor Classroom and Pollinator Garden

Ms. Bebensee's vision of expanding and increasing the native plants on campus is becoming a reality! After writing multiple grants with that goal in mind, we have received over \$6,000 worth of grant money to fund these projects.

The "Grow More Good" grant (\$1,000) will provide funding to bring six flower and vegetable beds to the Lower School to be used however and wherever they want. The fifth grade students have eagerly offered to help them get started.

An additional \$5,000 grant from the Rumphius Foundation will transform Sayre's front green space. Fifth grade students have planned, measured, researched, and, with Ms. Bebensee, done all of the work behind making this a viable, sustainable, healthy space and a terrific outdoor learning classroom. In addition to this space, the fifth graders will plant ten pollinator gardens across Lexington, from plots in our parks to space at the Living Arts and Science Center. Congratulations to fifth grade who, led by their wonderful STEM teacher Ms. Bebensee, have done so much to enhance the green space at Sayre!

\$1,000 Grassroots Garden Grant Award

\$5,000 Rumphius Foundation Grant

• **KUNA**

Sayre Middle School KUNA has an outstanding experience – perhaps the best ever!

KUNA 2019 Awards:

*Outstanding Ambassador: Sophia Lee

*Outstanding Speaker Awards: Ella Rhea Miller and Anna Palumbo

*Premier Delegation Award

*Outstanding Delegation Award – This award is reserved for the very best delegation of the year among all of the schools represented. Sayre's delegation represented Greece and Scotland, and they were honored with the highest award available.

This year's delegates were: Aleena Ahmad, Isabelle Brogden, Layne Brogden, Max Cairo, Rudy Conley, Henry Deckard, Yasmina El Sabbagh, Connor Evans, Zeia Fanucchi-Brisman, Emily Hardeman-Erbar, Mary Jann, Lawson Kinder, Molly Lambert, Fiona Lee, Sophia Lee, Celie McKay, Ella Rhea Miller, Lauren-Clay Musgrave, Anna Palumbo, John Palumbo, Maddie Papero, Evelyn Patches, Elodie Rodgeron, Charlotte Ruddick, Liza Sautter, Caleb Turner, Henry Turner, James Van Meter, Kai Yamaguchi, Moe Yamaguchi, and Zaid Yasin.

Upper School student Dylan Diguette also accompanied the group as a member of the Security Council. Chaperones Anne Allen and John Klus joined Sponsors Rebecca Ashby and Melissa Barlow on the trip. Congratulations, MS KUNA!

• **Odyssey of the Mind**

Sayre's Odyssey of the Mind team had a spectacular season. They competed in the regional competition, came in second (thus qualifying for State), and then again came in second place and qualified for Worlds!

Our team competed in Division two, Problem three: "The Classics." Odyssey of the Mind "is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from

building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.” This team displayed amazing creativity, on-the-spot problem-solving, and tons of thinking outside the box. They were beautifully led by the adults who devoted so much time to this project.

The team consisted of Cynclair Dicken, Anna Beth Edge, Dominic Jann, Mary Jann, Beau Porter, Charlotte Ruddick, and Preston Trout. Their coach was parent Heather Trout and sponsor was teacher Audrey Bebensee.

• **Professional Development**

The EE Ford Summer Teachers’ Colloquium will take place from July 30 – August 2 in Santa Fe, NM, and Chris McGinley will be a participant. The colloquium “is designed to allow teachers a unique opportunity to fill up the tank before the school year. Our program is intended to provide professional teachers a chance to explore their subject deeply with a diverse group of colleagues at an adult and deep level.” Mr. McGinley has chosen the track in History and Culture. The site describes the goals: “This isn’t a pedagogical professional development opportunity where we are focused primarily on how to teach. This is an opportunity to relearn how to learn and fall in love with teaching all over again.”

Mr. McGinley’s course is entitled *CultureLab – Sustainability Then and Now*. Taking as its premise the definition of sustainability as “the process of maintaining change in a balanced fashion,” the course examines the “cultural practices that have always sought to maintain balance” throughout history, and how those practices are changing. It is an interdisciplinary course with a focus on culture, history, and the environment. McGinley will have the opportunity to visit farms and communities where sustainable practices have been in place for generations, and to observe how they are changing.

• **Transylvania University Practicum Students**

On April 24, three Transy students began their practicum in the Middle School. Maggie Wallace, who is doing Elementary Education, is working with Martha Heil (with help from Audrey Bebensee); Jacob Ingram, who is preparing in Middle School Math and Social Studies, is working with Melissa Barlow (with help from Anna Cook and Martha Heil); and Charlie Jordan, who is preparing in Social Studies and English, will work with Chris McGinley (with help from Heidi Newman).

• **Geography Bee**

The winner of the Middle School Geography Bee, Emily Hardeman-Erbar, competed in the State Geography Bee on March 29, 2019. Congratulations to Emily for her performance!

• **Dominican Republic 2019**

The fourth annual service trip to the Dominican Republic will take place from June 15 – 22. Once again partnering with Wine to Water, a non-profit located in Boone, NC, the Middle School trip is chaperoned by Rebecca Ashby and Chrissy Mesquita, with veteran chaperone Anne Allen also joining. Students will include Mia Bell, Beverly Castillo-Tellez, Zeia Fanucchi-Brisman, Evelyn Patches, Preston Trout, and Henry Turner. These nine intrepid travelers will make ceramic water filters for families who do not have access to clean water.