

**Charlevoix Middle School
Breakfast Club Meeting**

February 28, 2007
7:45 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.

The mission of Charlevoix Middle School is to help all students attain a positive self-image while growing intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

NCA Goals: Improve reading, writing, and math problem-solving & computation.

Present: Pam Barnes, Chris Way, Barb Murray, Steven & Julie Voci, Kyle & Shannon Smith, Jeff Wilhelm, Bev Mays, Allison Joseph, Marlene Golovich, Keith Haske, Karrie Gaffney, Susan Klooster

Character Education – Funded by Manthei, started last year, taught mainly in social studies classes. Keith gave parents a quick lesson as an example of what kids do. Parents read a poem on tolerance entitled *The Cold Within* and then answered verbally the related questions. Parents then flipped through the Character Ed. book to see what else was included. Hall passes and daily planners are also included in this book.

7th/8th grade assembly today – A Colonel who has been in Afghanistan was here to show a slide presentation and asked kids, who are able, to bring in old pairs of shoes for kids in Afghanistan who don't have any. He is also collecting old towels and old blankets.

Safety – We recently did an external lockdown due to an incident in town that potentially could have affected us. All doors are locked and no students go outside for recesses during a lockdown. Keith started meeting last week with other principals, police and other safety personnel. We have two evacuation sites for the middle school – our first site is St. Mary's Church and our second site is the bus garage on May Street. All schools will have two evacuation sites lined up. Right now, the elementary school's first site is Community Reformed Church and the high school's is having students bussed out.

We have had one internal lockdown drill where we barricaded doors and had students protected behind desks and tables until a uniformed officer released them.

Keith asked for feedback on how information should be processed in a crisis situation. Suggestions were radio, television, kids using cell phones, and having a common place for the community to gather such as the public library to have information filtered into from school personnel.

Other safety issues –

The school district has completed background checks on all personnel.

Anyone driving students in vehicles on field trip, etc. must fill out a volunteer driver information sheet that is check out by Gordie Russell, Transportation Supervisor.

Counseling presentation – Karrie Gaffney handed out a list of services offered through the counseling center including counseling groups, social groups, guidance curriculum, and more. Karrie is always open to suggestions and encourages parents to be in contact with her with any concerns.

NWEA & MEAP results will be mailed home along with third quarter report cards. Eighth grade parents said they loved seeing the Explore Test at their child's high school scheduling meeting. They wished students were more aware that this test can be a good indicator of the ACT.

Some parents voiced dislike of student-led conferences and only having one conference time which is in the fall. Keith encouraged parents to talk to every teacher if they would like to during conference time. All teachers are there to talk with individual parents. The middle school does not do second conferences because staffings are available for meeting with all or individual teachers. Parents were reminded that emailing teachers is also a good way to communicate. Arena-style conferences were discussed, as well as conferences by 15-minute appointments. Keith said we would keep this communication open and will talk about it with the staff.

The next Breakfast Club meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2007. All parents are invited.