



Pioneer Blast

Mooresville Schools

Neil Armstrong students started off the year with an amazing kickoff- learn more p. 2

Aug. 8, 2019

Welcome New Teachers!

Mooresville Schools welcomed 22 new teachers at various schools this fall. We're excited as our new teachers start their year! Our new teachers include:

- MHS: Mark Burry, John Butler, Frank Davis, Emily Lepore, Curtis Mitchel, Paige Overstreet, Jennifer Gaston, Christina Presley, and Joel Thompson
- PHMS: Cynthia Addie, Triston Pantone, and Angela Thompson
- Neil Armstrong: Sherry Rizkalla



- Northwood: Allison Barker, Vickie Gilman, and Allison Guffey
- North Madison: Rebecca Bowen and Keri Sankey
- Waverly: Corinne Callan and Benjamin Sanders
- Newby: Cassandra DeWitt, Anne Gothe, and Kristi Hodges



Not Your Typical Summer Break

PHMS math teacher Mary Jackson doesn't have your typical "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" story. Her summer included a teaching experience with incoming 8th graders in China.

Jackson was part of a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) team set up through the Indiana Department of Education Learning Connection.

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Bruce Durell, MD, Family Medicine

WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS

 **Franciscan** PHYSICIAN NETWORK
KENDRICK FAMILY MEDICINE

FranciscanDocs.org
844-376-2778 (FPN-APPT)

MHS Cross Country team members took part in the Steps for Health challenge and helped earn a \$250 prize for Churches in Mission.



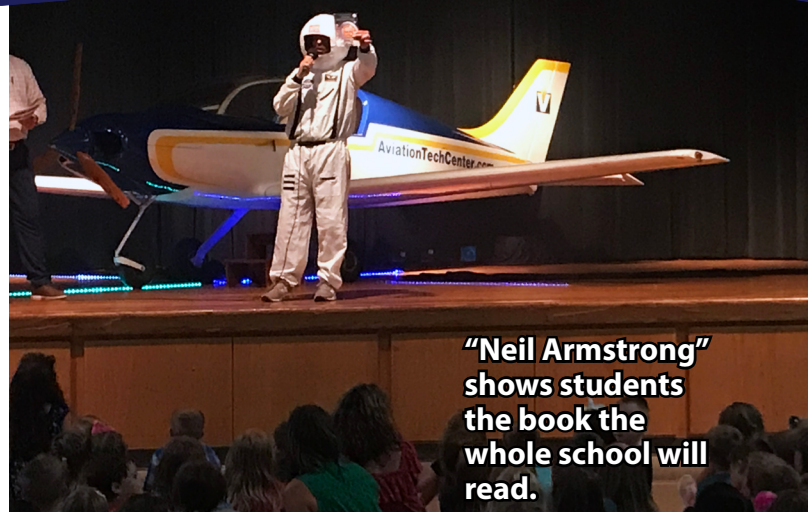
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Celebrating a School Namesake

Students at Neil Armstrong Elementary School had a first day of school that was full of surprises. The staff has been working for months to create a One School, One Book program celebrating Armstrong and the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 flight to the moon.

A convocation on the first afternoon of the year started with students learning about the famous flight and watching Armstrong's famous first steps on the moon. Then with a great deal of fanfare, the stage curtains opened to reveal a real airplane on stage with "Astronaut Armstrong" stepping out and talking about learning to be a pilot before he became an astronaut.

The convocation ended with the announcement that all students would receive the book "Who Was Neil Armstrong?" All students in the school will read a chapter a day of the book, and then lessons in various subject areas will reflect the astronaut theme. Other activities will include a visit from the Link Observatory, a parent night with flight simulators, an "astronaut training" day, a visit from the inflatable digital Starlab,



"Neil Armstrong" shows students the book the whole school will read.

and all students getting the chance to touch a tire which flew into space on a space shuttle mission.

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Principal McGowen talks with 7th graders as a class after they arrive at PHMS on the first day of school.

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China Visit

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Jackson's group spent 10 days teaching an integrated lesson about turning kinetic energy into electricity. Her portion was teaching students linear and quadratic patterns, but her lesson plan changed from day one, when she learned that Chinese students were not normally asked to interact with teachers. "I feed off that interaction and the class will lead me in the direction I need to go based on what they need," said Jackson.

She also quickly learned the Chinese students had already memorized the formulas she planned to teach, so she improvised the lessons after that by creating barriers which required students to interact and work as a team, such as blindfolding one students and making the others communicate how to create a toothpick structure. This type of lesson was new to the students as well as their teachers, who Jackson had to give their own set of toothpicks to work alongside the class.

In a later write-up about the event, Chinese educators said "The first day of the



Jackson's travels included a visit to the Great Wall.

'Collaboration Puzzle' campaign swept away the rigorous and boring Chinese traditional mathematics classroom."

Jackson also had the chance to visit several sites and talk with many students and educators. "I'm grateful because they welcomed me so much," she said.

Jackson added that the joke among the American educators was that she "spoke Chinese" because she could often figure out what students were discussing by the math problems they were writing and their interactions. She summed up the skill by noting, "Math is a universal language."



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News Briefs

Mossbrucker Honored: Congratulations go to MHS Athletic Director Mike Mossbrucker for being selected as a Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service Award recipient by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Mossbrucker was one of only 10 athletic directors in the nation honored with this award.



Celebrating Teachers and Staff: To begin the school year, staff members were treated to the premiere of videos about their contributions to our schools. The [Why I Teach video](#) features teachers throughout the district sharing moments about their profession. Support staff workers are spotlighted in a [Salute to Mooresville Schools' Support Staff video](#) for the many ways they impact students' lives every day.

Community Information: Visit our [community information page](#) for fliers from local nonprofit organizations with activities which benefit students. Recently added fliers include: **Kiersten Woodward Memorial Fund and Strengthening Families Program.**



Building Trades Program Highlighted: WRTV's *Hiring Hoosiers* segment highlightd the MHS Building Trades program for helping students find careers in skilled trades. [See the Channel 6 news story.](#)

- ## Upcoming Events
- Aug. 8 Waverly**
Gr. 3-6 Parent Night
6:00pm
 - Aug. 8 PHMS**
Meet the Teacher Night
6:00pm
 - Aug. 8 Neil Armstrong**
Apollo 11 Night 6:00pm
 - Aug. 9 Newby**
School Picture Day
 - Aug. 9 PHMS**
School Picture Day
 - Aug. 12 MHS**
Fall Sports Picture Day
 - Aug. 13 Neil Armstrong**
Snapology Lego Night
6:00pm
 - Aug. 15 Neil Armstrong**
School Picture Day
 - Aug. 15 Northwood**
PTO Ice Cream Social
6:30pm
 - Aug. 19 Neil Armstrong**
PTO Meeting 3:45pm
 - Aug. 22 Neil Armstrong**
Gr. 3-6 Open House
6:00pm