

8TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

August - October

The Giver Reading

In English class, students are reading *The Giver*. It is expected that students keep up with their reading at home so they can be successful in class. Please encourage your student to read.

Remind

Team 8 is now on Remind! Remind is a program that allows us to quickly and safely send reminders to students and parents about homework, tests, field trips, etc. Your student should have brought home a form about Remind with instructions to set it up. If you are not currently signed up for Remind, please ask your student or email bmckinley@nws.k12.in.us and we'll get you set up.

iPads

It is an expectation that students bring their iPads to school every day charged and ready to go. If students do not have their iPads in class they are not prepared for class. Please ensure that your student is charging their iPad every evening.

Welcome & Classroom Updates

Thank you so much for taking time to read the 8th grade team update.

Students have been working hard in all of their classes and we are incredibly excited to continue working with such an amazing group of kids.

Math Classroom Updates

Pre-Algebra 8 - In Pre-Algebra, students started the year by studying Exponents and Monomial laws. We just started our unit on Square Roots, Radicals, and Real Numbers. We should wrap up that unit by Fall Break.

Algebra I - Students reviewed Pre-Algebra skills, including Order of Operations, Distributive Property, Variables, and Functions. We have now moved on to Solving Equations. During the next unit we will be focusing on graphing equations and functions.

Students have been utilizing Math Facts and MathSpace to stay on track in math. Please encourage your student to continue using those resources while at home. Students will also have homework every night. Students who consistently complete homework perform at higher levels on tests and quizzes. Please make sure your student is up to date on his/her work.

English Classroom Updates

English - Students have been reading *The Giver* in English class and loving it. Our main focus for reading *The Giver* is to practice analyzing theme and character development throughout the course of the novel. Though students are working through difficult analytical and synthesis skills in their writing, I see tremendous growth in their academic

Sign Up on Canvas!

In English class, Health / PE, and Science, students are using Canvas for the majority of their reading and assignments.

Canvas is a learning management system that allows teachers, students, and parents the opportunity to keep track of assignments and readings for their classes.

You can sign up for a Canvas account for free as an "Observer." This will allow you to see assignment due dates, announcements, and other course content.

You must know the user name and password of your student to sign up as an "Observer" to their Canvas accounts.

User Name: Student Email

Password: Email Password

1. Go to canvas.instructure.com
2. Click to Register
3. Sign Up as a Parent
4. Enter Sign-up Details
5. Use Canvas
6. Complete Observation Process
7. If you need more help, Google "Sign up for Canvas as a parent" and click on the first link.

writing already. I can't wait to see how far these students can go if they continue to work hard and keep up with their reading. Additionally, students are reading independent novels and completing book talks about those novels by the end of the quarter.

Student Publications - 7th and 8th graders in this elective have been working tirelessly to plan, write, research, interview, edit, and publish the NMS newspaper *Middle of the Knights*. Make sure to check the school website for our newest issue!

Science Classroom Updates

Science 8 - We began the first nine weeks with the nature of science - how scientists use scientific methods and advances in technology to understand the natural world. This was review but really gets them to think scientifically after the summer break. We learned about the structure of atoms as well as the nature of matter. Our students have enjoyed the many labs we have done including modeling molecules with balloons and our crush-the-can demonstration lab using only the power of water vapor changing state to a liquid. Everyone is looking forward to next week's dry ice lab. We will end the month of September studying the periodic table including a project called "Elemental Me" where students create an element based on them - what they react with, combine with, and even their own boiling point.

In the second nine weeks we will conclude our chemistry studies learning about types of chemical bonds and chemical reactions. I will have several more labs that will be incorporated in this chemistry unit.

To finish the first semester we will shift to learning about the Earth's atmosphere and about the weather just in time for the beginning of winter.

Static Structures - We have had fun building a variety of projects starting with simple towers that just had to be stable to towers built of drinking straws and paperclips that had to suspend a golf ball. We also built straw-and-pin bridges - some that had to span a specific length and the grade depended on maximizing the weight it could support and others that had a specified load but had to be as long as they could make it with limited materials. Our last project uses 125 popsicle sticks and

Upcoming Events

October 10-14 - Early Release
Week & Spirit Week

October 14th - Report Cards
Come Home

October 14th - Middle School
Homecoming Dance

October 17-21 - Fall Break

Contact Us

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white glue to build a bridge spanning 60 centimeters that can support the maximum weight. I look forward to seeing these final projects!

Heath / PE Classroom Updates

Health - This nine weeks have been busy learning about physical activity and nutrition. Students have just finished creating their own Cookbook. I am so proud of how these turned out! Our upcoming units include: communicable diseases, noncommunicable diseases, growth and development, and environmental health. Health classes are off to a great start. Keep up the great work!

PE - This nine weeks have been completing their pretesting for the Fitnessgram, along with our Tennis unit. We have recently started our soccer unit. Students are excited about beginning soccer! Our upcoming sports units include: ultimate football, badminton, pickleball, skating, and end of semester Fitnessgram testing. PE classes are off to a great start. Keep up the great work!

Social Studies Classroom Updates

U.S. History - We have begun the year talking about the history of North America before the United States was a country. We have talked about many explorers such as Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan as well as conquerors like Hernan Cortez and Francisco Pizarro. In the next couple of weeks we will be discussing the foundation of colonies in North America by the English, the reasoning behind Thanksgiving, and what life in those colonies was like. If you ever have a question about something in my classroom please feel free to contact me anytime. I want to make this year as successful as I can for your student in my class.

D.C. Trip Update - As well as teaching history, I am also the leader of the 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip. If you ever need information about the trip, fundraisers, or any issue with WorldStrides please let me know. The deadline is quickly approaching to sign up for the trip and we are encouraging students and parents to sign up.