

8TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

August - October

Incentive Day

On Friday, October 13th, students who have earned 100 Knights Ka\$h dollars are able to "buy-in" to an afternoon field trip to Glen Miller Park. We will have a picnic lunch, and play games all afternoon.

Canvas

Team 8 is using Canvas for our class websites. Canvas is a learning management system that puts all student assignments, feedback, discussions, and quizzes in one convenient place. As a parent, you are able to sign up as an observer on Canvas to see your students' classes and work. If you have any questions, 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 come to school every day with their iPads charged and ready for use. With our increasing use of Canvas, it is vital that all students have their iPads in class and fully charged.

Classroom Updates

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

We have had a wonderful start to our school year and are looking forward to getting to know the students even more in the upcoming 9 weeks.

Math Classroom Updates

For the first nine weeks in Pre-Algebra, students worked on monomial properties, scientific notation, rational/irrationals, and Pythagorean theorem. Next nine weeks, students will be working on solving equations and graphing linear functions.

For the first nine weeks in Algebra I, students have worked on expressions, functions, and linear equations. Next nine weeks, students will continue with linear equations, inequalities, and solving systems of equations.

All students have taken their fall math NWEA. Students have filled out their data folders with their SRT teachers. Students should be able to communicate their areas of strengths and weaknesses.

MathSpace is a resource that can be used at home by students to independently practice skills. Besides the teacher assigned activities, students are encouraged to work on areas of weaknesses identified by their math NWEA scores or can be used to get additional practice on skills currently being used in class.

Please check out Canvas to see weekly agendas, daily notes, and assignments.

Sign Up on Canvas!

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 nws.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, email bmckinley@nws.k12.in.us

English Classroom Updates

In English class, students have been reading *The Giver*. Students really enjoyed studying the themes in the novel as related to authority, control, community, and memories. This group of students are passionate in discussions and love to debate. We've also been developing our craft as writers by studying the four modes of writing: analysis, narrative, informative, and argumentative. We ended our 9 weeks by doing a comparative, analysis presentation about the differences between *The Giver* book and the movie.

In the second 9 weeks students will be reading a variety of short stories. We will be reading *Tell-Tale Heart*, *A Sound of Thunder*, *The Most Dangerous Game*, *Fish Cheeks*, and *The Gift of the Magi*, along with a variety of nonfiction texts.

Student Publications class has been working hard on writing our school newspaper *Middle of the Knights*. Check it out on the middle school website!

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 ion lab where we extracted copper ions from pennies and used them to bond to polished steel nails. We also completed a project called "Elemental Me" where students created 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 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 Earth Science with a concentration on human environmental impacts and the global water cycle.

Upcoming Events

10/9 -13 Early Release Week

10/9 - Little Caesar's Pick Up from 2:40 - 6:00 in Mr. Bevins room. Please advise, these are frozen, and need to be delivered night of, or stored in a freezer. Pizzas must be picked up ON THIS DAY.

10/13 - Report Cards and NWEA data goes home

10/16 - 20 - Fall Break

10/26 - Parent Teacher Conferences

Contact Us

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Project Lead the Way: Design and Modeling – We have had fun learning about the design process with our initial challenge project of designing a foot/ankle orthosis for a child with cerebral palsy. We watched an informative video that presented some of the design considerations that were incorporated. The students became very skilled at sketching – thumbnail, isometric, and multi-view sketches with dimensioning - a method of communicating design ideas. We are concluding with using computer design software to model our wood puzzle cubes.

Heath / PE Classroom Updates

Health - The past nine weeks have been jammed packed with learning for Health classes! We have covered the following units: Nutrition, Physical Activity, Personal Care & Consumer Choices, and Girls Inc. Students also designed their own Fitness Plans and Cookbooks! Ask your student to see theirs. Looking forward to finished the semester strong with Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases and Growth & Development.

PE - The past nine weeks PE students have learned about and played the following: tennis, soccer, FitnessGram Pre-Testing, and fitness games/stations. Ask your student which fitness components they are in the Healthy Fitness Zone (HFZ) and which fitness components they need to improve on from their FitnessGram results. Looking forward to finishing the semester strong with indoor sports units!

Social Studies Classroom Updates

In 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 as well as conquerers like Hernan Cortez and Francisco Pizarro. We have also been 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.

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. There is still time to sign up for the trip and we are encouraging students and parents to sign up.