

8TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

September - December

Book Talks

In English class students are expected to read an independent book each quarter. They then have to create a short video using iMovie talking about the book they read. This assignment is due **Friday, December 16th**.

Remind

Team 8 is 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. 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

For the second nine weeks, students worked on solving equations and graphing linear functions. As a school wide initiative, students are to improve their computational skills. To reach this goal, students practice computation and number sense skills on MathFacts, which can be done any time. Students have another program MathSpace that can be worked on at home to reinforce skills. Students should be encouraged to work on MathFacts and MathSpace during free/study time. Students have taken the NWEA, and will take it again after winter break. Students have been given their fall NWEA score. Students used these scores to fill out a data sheet and have written individual improvement goals. Next nine weeks, students' will be working on data analysis and reviewing skill in preparation for ISTEP. Please check out the class website to see daily notes and assignments.

English Classroom Updates

English - Students have been working hard on furthering their reading and writing skills. I've loved watching the students grow as writers. We recently read the short story "A Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury and the students seemed to enjoy the bizarre nature of the story. We are reading "The Gift of the Magi" next. Starting in January we will begin the multi-genre text "Nothing But the Truth."

We have an upcoming field trip to the Richmond Civic Theater to see

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, email bmckinley@nws.k12.in.us

The Giver, which is the book we read during the first 9 weeks of school. It will be a fun opportunity for students to compare the book version of the text to a live performance of the same text.

Student Publications - Students have been working hard on writing the middle school newspaper "Middle of the Knights." Please check out our latest issue on the school website.

Science Classroom Updates

Science 8 - We will finish the first semester learning about the weather just in time for the beginning of winter. Following our unit on weather we will learn about the oceans and how vital the health of our oceans are to our own existence. We have started addressing our new Indiana middle school computer science standards with an "hour of code" during the week of 5 - 9 December. All of the students enjoyed learning some basics of computer science including use of commands, looping, and conditional statements while using blockly coding language within the context of the game "Minecraft".

Static Structures - We have had fun building a variety of projects starting with towers and have progressed to building straw-and- pin bridges. Bridge #1 had to span a specific length with the grade depended on maximizing the weight it could support. Several team set new records for most weight. Bridge #2 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 white glue to build a bridge 60 centimeters long that can support the most weight. I look forward to seeing these final bridge projects!

Health / PE Classroom Updates

Health - This past nine weeks in Health students have been learning about Growth & Development, Environmental Health, Communicable Diseases, watching the Ryan White Story, and finishing the year with a group project about Noncommunicable Diseases. Students have been engaged and working so hard, let's finish strong!

PE - This past nine week in PE students have been participating in Skating, Pickleball, Badminton, Ultimate Football, and completing their post testing for FitnessGram testing. Students have also been

Upcoming Events

Contact Us

English - Breanna McKinley

bmckinley@nws.k12.in.us

@MsMckinley_nms8

Social Studies - Mark Bevins

mbevins@nws.k12.in.us

Science - Al Avery

aavery@nws.k12.in.us

Heath / PE - Megan Moreland

mmoreland@nws.k12.in.us

Math

Andrea Cole

acole@nws.k12.in.us

participating in many new fitness activities!

Fitness Fun - In the Fitness Fun elective class, students have been learning and participating in a variety of different ways to maintain their fitness levels, including Zumba, fitness stations, and many different fitness games. Partner projects have included planning fitness stations and creating their own games. We have also had a few guest speakers present their fitness backgrounds and include the class in their routine!

Social Studies Classroom Updates

U.S. History - In U.S. History we have recently been talking about the events leading up to the American Revolutionary War. We also went into detail about the events of the Revolutionary War and specific reasons as to why the Continental Army was successful. With the remaining weeks before Christmas break we will be talking about the beginning of the United States under the Articles of Confederation.

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. You can still sign up for the trip and we are encouraging students and parents to sign up.

D.C. Trip Update - The Warm Glow fundraiser this fall was a major success. We had a total of 17 students that participated in the fundraiser. We sold almost \$3,000 worth of candles and a little over \$1,200 of that going towards these students trips. The prospective date for our order to be completed is December 13th. We will have a pickup in school, but if it was a large order you may need to pick up the candles after school. I will email more information about the specific candle pickup when an exact date is known