

8TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

January - March

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.

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

Pre-Algebra - For the third nine weeks, Pre-Algebra students worked on slope, slope-intercept, and data analysis. Algebra 1 students completed chapter 6 and 7. We also will review previous learned skills in preparation for the first portion of ISTEP. 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 NWSA for the second time, and will take it one final time in the spring. Students have been given their winter NWEA score. Students used these scores to fill out a data sheet and have written individual improvement goals. Next nine weeks, Pre-Algebra students' will be finish covering our standards for ISTEP, primarily the geometry standards.

Algebra - Algebra 1 students will complete chapter 8 and 9. Please check out the class website to see daily notes and assignments.

English Classroom Updates

English - This past 9 weeks, we tackled narrative writing and students wrote a personal, non-fiction narrative. After that, we read the book *Nothing But The Truth*, a multi-genre novel about how point of view, culture, and perspective can shape and alter truth. Students have enjoyed having deep conversations about bias, truth, and point of view.

Sign Up on Canvas!

In English class, Health / PE, and Science, and history, 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

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. We have also been working on the Yearbook, which cost \$18. If student wish to order a Yearbook, please have them return the money and order form to Mrs. Bales.

Science Classroom Updates

Science 8 - We completed the third nine weeks studying man's impacts on the land, water, and air environments with concentration on different forms of pollution and why is so important to take care of Earth's limited resources. I believe our students showed good interest and focus on these topics knowing how important it is to their future.

In the second nine week's our focus will shift from Earth science to biology-based subjects such as sexual and asexual reproduction, genetics, life's adaptations to environmental changes, and animal diversity. Additionally we will participate in an interdisciplinary unit on the Civil War including weapon innovations and the science of historical site preservation.

Go Ballistics! We recently completed catapults that fire a tennis ball as far as possible and saw many earlier records fall as the current group perfected their designs. We are wrapping up this third nine weeks with the students designing and building water-powered rockets from 2 liter soda bottles. I look forward to the next class in the fourth nine weeks to see what innovative designs they might develop.

Heath / PE Classroom Updates

Health - In Health classes, we just finished up the Personal Care and Consumer Choices unit and ended with watching the film SuperSize Me. Ask your child what they remember most from the film! We are beginning the Growth and Development unit where we will learn about pregnancy, the stages of life, and puberty. This will take us up until Spring Break! After Spring Break Girls Inc. will be coming in for a week, so be on the lookout for information being mailed home. Let's finish the year strong Knights!

PE - The past nine weeks have flown by so quickly! In PE classes, students just finished the Ultimate Football sports unit. We are just beginning our Pickleball unit and are off to a great start so far. Ask your child how they are liking Pickleball!

Social Studies Classroom Updates

U.S. History - During the 3rd nine weeks in U.S. History we have

Upcoming Events

- 3/17 Report Cards sent home
- 3/23 Report Card Signatures due
(if student has D or F only)
- 3/24 No School (Snow Make up Day)
- 3/27-3/31 Spring Break
- 4/21 Progress Reports Sent Home
- 4/17-5/1 ISTEP+ Multiple Choice Testing Window
- 5/10-5/14 Washington DC Trip

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

taken a look at the foundations of the United States. We started out talking about the presidency of George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. We are currently analyzing the presidency of Andrew Jackson and debating on whether he was a good or bad President. During the upcoming 4th nine weeks we will dig deep into the history behind the Civil War and the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. If you have any questions about my class feel free to contact me anytime.

D.C. Trip Update - We are now just 61 days away from our amazing trek to Washington D.C.! We are wrapping up our last fundraiser of selling the Square Donut punch cards. Those cards and money are due by 3/14 at the latest. If you do not feel comfortable with sending that money in with your student, you can bring the money in yourself to me that day immediately after school. We will also be holding a parent meeting for all students attending the trip about two weeks before the trip date. If you have any information about the impending trip please feel to contact me at anytime.