

8TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

April - May

Classroom Updates

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

It's been a wonderful end of the year. We've enjoyed having these students this year and wish them all the best in their high school adventure.

Math Classroom Updates

For the 4th nine weeks, Pre-Algebra students worked on transformations and three-dimensional figure (geometry). Algebra 1 students completed chapter 8 and 9. We also will review previous learned skills in preparation for the second portion of ISTEP. As a school wide initiative, students were to improve their computational skills. Students have another program MathSpace that can be worked on at home to reinforce skills. A few students were also given IXL accounts to practice math skills. Over the summer, students should be encouraged to work on MathFacts, MathSpace, or IXL during free time to keep up their math skills. Students have taken the NWEA for the third time, and students have been given their spring NWEA score. It has been a pleasure working with all the students this year and I hope they will find success in their high school math courses next year.

English Classroom Updates

English - Wow! It's hard to believe that it's the end of the year. These students have grown so much as readers and writers in English class and I am incredibly proud of them. This last 9 weeks we read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the honors class and *The Most Dangerous Game* in general English. We've taken some academic leaps of faith and tackled some poetry in these past few weeks and students tried their hand at writing some poetry themselves. If you're interested in learning more about your student's introspective side, ask to read their "Where I'm From" poems! We're ending our year with a bang by having a poetry slam on Wednesday next week.

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

Field Day

On Wednesday, May 24th, students will be having a field day. We hope that they enjoy the fun, outdoor activities. Please tell your student to dress appropriately for some active games outdoors!

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

iPads are due Friday, May 19th. If your student has a lost or broken iPad or charger, a notice has been sent home with the charges. Please make sure that your student has returned a completely fictional iPad and charger. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lawson in the library.

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 dues 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

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

Science Classroom Updates

Science 8 – As we get ready for the summer, I am reminded of how much fun we had learning science this school year. So much of our world and how nature works continues to be discovered every day. News reports of studies regarding subjects we have learned about this year including - weather and climate changes, ocean and air pollution and toxic superfund sites clean up, and medical advancements using gene therapy - are scattered through the media. I would request you find time to discuss these topics as you see them come up over the summer to encourage our students to stay engaged with thinking about science.

There are many opportunities to develop our young people's interest in exploring science over the summer. Some of the most popular are zoos, museums, wildlife and recreation areas and even amusement park rides can be source for expanding their interest in science. I hope everyone enjoys a safe and exciting summer break.

Health / PE Classroom Updates

Health - Health students have been finishing the year learning about Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, Girls Inc. guest speakers, and The Ryan White film. Both Health and PE classes will be finishing the year with the 8th grade Interdisciplinary Unit about the Civil War. Ask your Health student their thoughts about eating hardtack!

PE - PE students have finished the year off strong! Students have been busy learning about and playing Tennis, Soccer, Skating, and completing FitnessGram Post Testing. Please be on the lookout for your students' PE uniform. It should be coming home with them on the last day of school.

Social Studies Classroom Updates

U.S. History - We wrapped up the fourth nine weeks in history talking about the lead up to the Civil War and the Civil War and Reconstruction. Throughout the semester we looked at some of the different events that occurred before the Civil War and reactions to those events. We looked at topics like the Missouri Compromise, Compromise of 1850, Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln-Douglas

Upcoming Events

5/19 - iPad Collection Day

5/22 - Middle School Award Ceremony at 1pm in the gym

5/24 - Middle School Field Day

5/24 - Poetry Slam in English Class

5/25 - Last Day of School for Students

Reports Cards and NWEA Reports will be sent home over the summer. Be on the look out!

Contact Us

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Debates, battle of the war, the assigation of Lincoln an more. This summer would be a great oppotunity to see some of these areas we have discussed this year or other areas of historical importance. When planning your summer vacations keep in mind historical locations and events that can add your child's wealth of knowledge.

D.C. Trip Recap - In mid May our 8th grade students travelled to Washington D.C. to take in all the splendor and history. We spent the previous year fundraising for the trip and it all turned out terrific. We experienced a bit of rain through the entire first day and some of the second, but that didn't keep the kids down. They were amazing and never complained about the rain. When traveling around D.C. with the kids I am continually impressed with the decorum of the students compared to others. On our last day in D.C., students enjoyed traveling to museums of their choice while hanging out with their friends. Next years trip will include even more students and I can't wait to get going with our fundraising effort.

