

MIDDLE OF THE KNIGHTS

Northeastern Middle School: Where Every Student Is Inspired to Learn and Empowered to Excel

Digging Into Soil Judging

By: Hannah Kiracofe

Five NMS students went to Alexandria in Madison County, on October 7th to compete in a soil judging contest. Soil judging is an evaluation of the soil and its properties to determine if it is suitable to be a homesite or used for agricultural purposes. Students also judge different types of soil. Students use regulations or rules to judge the soil to see whether it's good for farming or good for a building.

The five students who went to the contest are Kennedy Seals, Ella Coddington, Noah Berry, Wade Atkinson, and Claire Coddington. They scored 4th at the competition as a whole. Wade Atkinson got 5th, Kennedy Seals got 12th, Claire Coddington got 21st, Noah Berry got 22nd, and Ella Coddington got 23rd. Wade Atkinson placed in the top five, so he will be competing in the state finals. The state finals are where the top kids from all over the state compete.

Mr. Roll is the FFA coach and the middle school and high school agriculture teacher. He taught the students what soil judging is and how to judge it properly.

Kennedy Seals, an 8th grade student, said, "The hardest part was the right side regulations because you have to do certain things every time and you have to memorize all the regulations." She also said, "I chose to do soil judging because it's really hard and prepares me for other things in life."

Ella Coddington, a 6th grade student, said, "My favorite part was the competition, even though it rained. It was pretty fun."

Noah Berry, an 8th grade student, said, "The hardest part was the weather conditions being so terrible." He also said, "My favorite part was hanging out and learning with friends and getting to be a part of the team."

Wade Atkinson, an 8th grade student, said, "I chose to do soil judging because I like being involved in FFA."

The students who went to the competition had fun while learning many new things. Even though it rained, it sounded like their trip was really fun and hopefully they will compete next year.

New Technology

By: Ian Wilson

Technology is everywhere and it is becoming a big part of education, from turning in an assignment to doing a school-wide survey. A lot of things can be easier using technology, but there are many downsides to using technology. Technology can present problems because things can fail while trying to turn things in and they can be distracting while the teacher is trying to teach a lesson.

There are many new apps to help with monitoring classwork. Apps like Google Classroom can monitor what students do on their iPad through bluetooth and WiFi.

Another app called Notability helps with organization and can help with being able to edit PDFs. The app Canvas can help put all the files a student needs for class in one spot. In addition to having all of the files in one spot, students can also turn things in digitally instead of having a cluster of paper.



There are many ways to include technology in students' daily lessons, like using Nearpod to help the students learn a new concept. Also, another app to help students learn independently, Mathspace can teach math and help remember different math topics. Flipgrid is an app that allows students to answer questions with a short video instead of typing, which makes it more interactive.

Technology can make things a lot easier, however, it can have its downsides. Doing everything on the iPad can make assignments hard to turn in because it can fail. Also using so much technology can make students not use their head as much. Mrs. Mitchell says, "Sometimes we want an answer ASAP. I ask a question and they just Google it instead of taking the time to use their brain." Technology can help students in many ways and help teachers keep track of students and assignments, despite its pitfalls.

After School Tutoring

By: Owen Dumford

Everyday except for Friday, students have an opportunity to get their work done after school. After school tutoring is from 3:15 to 4:00 and on Wednesday it's from 2:40 to 3:30. There is adult supervision to help students if they have a problem. The teachers even take a good look at the student's grades and missing work.

They make sure students have their grades up or they will meet with the students one on one. It helps bring students grades up. Students will get an after school detention if they have three or more missing assignments. After school tutoring invites students to get their work done so they don't have to go to after school detention.

The teacher there pays close attention to missing work and grades. Also, they focus on the student's weaknesses. It's also a chance to help their grades. If there are some days students have practice, or don't have anything to work on, students can go home.

This is an amazing program if teachers feel students are struggling or just need to get some work done. If students really want to sign up, they have to get a form from Mrs. Beman. In order to sign up for after school tutoring, students also need permission from their parents. A permission slip is available in the front office. Mrs. Beman says, "It's a good chance to get a good resource outside of the classroom." Go see Mrs. Beman for more information.

Lights, Camera, Action

By: McKaelyn Cummins and Maggie Dayton

The student publications class isn't the only class focusing on current events at NMS. Digital productions class makes two announcements every week. The first announcement tells what's going on, and the second one is a recap of weekly events. Digital productions is a semester class for students who enjoy working with a camera, being on camera, and collaborating with others.

Cohen Railsback, an 8th grade student, said, "We learn how to edit and be comfortable on camera." This can help students who may be shy or uncomfortable really break out of their shell. Also, editing can improve computer skills, which are used in everyday life.

In digital productions, creating the projects every week can be very demanding. Students are split into groups so that it's easier for them to divide up the work. Marissa Cates, a 7th grade student, said, "Everyone is divided into groups, and then in your group you decide who is going to do what." For example, two people may be responsible for the pledge, then another person for sports, and finally someone is responsible for including the quote and value. Though each individual has a job, the whole group comes together to make a great project. Students are exposed to leadership skills that they may not have otherwise developed.

In previous years, the digital production crew only produced the announcements once a week. They've definitely furthered their productivity and now show two announcements per week. When asked about this, 7th grader Treyton Burdsall said, "When we only did one a week, the other groups had time to be less productive." This creates a positive and productive environment.

The productive struggle is very familiar to the kids in Mrs. Gaddis' 6th hour. Their productive struggle is students have to plan, shoot, edit and do any re-shoots, all in four days. Mrs. Gaddis said it's a lot thrown at the students, but they are managing it well and with confidence. We all appreciate what the digital productions crew does. Keep up the good work Knights!



Makerspace and Genius Hour

By: Alexis Caldwell and Tessa West

The new nine weeks has started again and 6th grade makerspace and genius hour have as well. These classes are part of the 6th grade elective choices. All the 6th grade teachers rotate between teaching these electives.

Makerspace is an elective where students learn how to use different tools, learn to use 3D printers, code, and robotic devices. In this class, they do stations and learn how to construct games. Mrs. Detweiler said, "This class is important because it allows students to think outside the box and drive their own learning."

In genius hour, students go to different stations and construct different things. Genius hour is an elective where the students pick to do any project they want. For example, some students made slime, pillows, and even bouncy balls. Students have to make a presentation and take photos and videos of their projects. Also, at the end of the term, students have to present their presentations to the class. Mrs. Detweiler said, "In Genius hour, students are able to design a project that they would like to spend eight weeks working on and creating a website for."

Makerspace is also used recreationally. After lunch, students may have options to go to the makerspace room with Mr. Sams. Being in these classes can help students with designing and also presenting in front of a class. Students have fun learning and using many different tools in these classes.

Fitness Fun and NMS Survivor

By Liz Stubblefield and Angel Dargie

Northeastern Middle School offers two different classes for students to get fit while having fun. NMS Survivor and Fitness Fun are two, fun and energetic classes offered to students.

NMS Survivor is an elective class taught by 7th grade health and PE teacher, Ms. Hendrickson. NMS Survivor is based off of the hit TV show *Survivor*. The winner for the first nine weeks was 8th grade student, Logan Daulton. Logan was named a “Sole Survivor” and given a Survivor T-shirt. Logan stated, being the Sole Survivor “feels pretty cool because there is only one them.” Congratulations Logan!

Additionally, 7th grade students, Noah Ammerman and Chase Cates tied for 2nd. Also, 8th grade students, Blake Hoskins and Trishtian Necessary tied for 3rd. The 2nd and 3rd place winners also received a Survivor T-shirt. Ms. Hendrickson's favorite competition was “snakes dodgeball,” created by 8th grade students Mckaelyn Cummins, Kennedy Seals, and Anna Drake. Snakes dodgeball is like a regular game of dodgeball but students have to run through four hula hoops that are connected to activate a dodgeball.

Fitness Fun is a 7th and 8th grade elective, taught by 8th grade health and PE teacher Mrs. Moreland. 8th grade student, Alix Necessary, says, “I’m looking forward to the activities and games we will be doing in this class.” Mrs. Moreland has found many different and creative ways to stay fit like playing soccer, volleyball, tennis, spikeball, and many other different sports.

A favorite of many students is spikeball. This is a sport where students have a ball and a mini-trampoline. There are four players and two teams. Standing across from your team mate and next to your opponent, to start the game, students spike the ball onto the trampoline. Students can’t catch the ball, they can only hit or spike the ball back onto the trampoline to another player.

These activities benefit students because they’re always being active, and at the same time having fun.

You Just Got Served a Great Season

By: Kamryn McFarland, Alaina Hurd, and Brooklyn Fisher

The Lady Knights volleyball team is digging their way out of the season. Their season has come to an end and these ladies have definitely improved on the basic skills since the beginning of the season.



All the players are sad that the season has ended, but enjoyed playing, learning, improving, and getting closer with their teammates. The 7th grade’s last

game was October 9th at Randolph Southern and the ladies battled it out against the Rebels. They took home the win 15-11 in the third set. The 8th graders also played against the Rebels and took home the win 15-9 in the third set as well.

Kaila Arthur, a 7th grade volleyball player said, “I’m very upset that the season is ending because this season was very fun and enthusiastic. I got to improve while working with my teammates.” She also was glad that her serving, hitting, and passing has improved.

Kennedy Seals, an 8th grade player, said, “This season has definitely helped me work with others as a teammate. We had so many girls, therefore this required me to work with more people.” She thought that the whole team has improved overall, and can’t wait for next year’s season.

During every home game that these ladies competed in, many of their fellow classmates came to support them and watched these ladies play. Two students that attended almost all of their games were students, Alex Beatty and Grant Luebbe. Alex Beatty, an 8th grade student, said, “If we support them then maybe they will accomplish the win.” Grant Luebbe, a 7th grader, said that he enjoyed watching and supporting his friends while they played and competed against other schools.

The 7th and 8th grade practiced hard all season, having practice almost every day in the middle school gym. They ended the season with hard work and putting a lot of bruises, sweat, and tears into this sport. The coaches, Lindsay and Matt Truesdell are very proud of these ladies and hope to see them keep working and getting better.

The volleyball players and coaches are excited to see what next year has in store.

Fall Break

By: Madison Cohee

Northeastern students were on fall break October 16th-20th. Fall break is a good opportunity for students to take a break from the work that comes along with the school year.

Fall break allows students to relax their brain and do something they enjoy. Mrs. Moreland, the 8th grade P.E. and health teacher, said fall break is “a great idea for both students and staff.” She also said, “It is the perfect time to take a breather and come back to school with a positive attitude and mindset to finish the semester strong.” Mrs. Moreland said she spent her fall break doing something she enjoys; reading.

With time off of school, students and staff have a lot of free time to enjoy. For example, Ms. McKinley, the 8th grade English teacher, said, “I am looking forward to taking some time off of school to relax and visit my friends in New York City. We are planning on seeing a few plays and eating delicious food.” Fall break also allows students to take their mind off of the work and stress that school brings. Ms. McKinley says fall break is “important for students because it helps them feel ready to learn when they get back.”

Students had a good time to rest over fall break. With this break students had time to do fun activities and spend quality time with their friends and family. For example, Alex Beatty, an 8th grade student, spent his fall break in Florida.

Students are now back from fall break and we hope everyone had a great time. The students and staff are moving forward into the second nine weeks with a positive attitude and are prepared to broaden their educational abilities.



Incentive Days

By: Treydon York and Grant Luebbe

Students are introduced to drive and perseverance while working towards incentive days each nine weeks. Incentive days are days when students get to be rewarded for their hard work and determination. Mr. Hinkey, the NMS Dean of Students, said, “Incentive days are days during SRT [or in the afternoon] when students can use or earn rewards with their Knights Ka\$h.” Some examples of incentive days include Geocaching, pizza with the principal, candy, and many more.

NMS offers a few ways for students to be rewarded for their efforts and dedication, but incentive days are by far student’s favorite. Caleb

Harmon, an NMS student, said, “I have lots of fun participating in incentive days.”

Mrs. Sonsini said, “Incentive days are days set up at the end of the nine weeks that are set up to reward kids for positive behavior.” Mrs. Sonsini also said, “I think it’s important to recognize students with positive behaviors, because lots of times we are focused in on the academic piece of struggling students.” Mrs. Sonsini also said, “We’re finding ways to enrich our curriculum to make learning fun, but I think it’s also important that we teach students good behavior.”

Mrs. Sonsini provided us with so much information, she also said, “That’s why we do more than words on Tuesdays during SRT because we want to build character in you all and teach you that there are certain exceptions when you’re in this building that we expect you to have. Being able to reward you with Knights Ka\$h or Class Dojo positively incentivizes what we want to see in students behavior.”

Students usually look forward to incentive days and tend to enjoy them. Some rewards consist of gym time, Geocaching, pizza with the principal, and many more. Incentive days motivate and drive students not only to do better in academics, but also to be a better person.