

8TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

October - December

Incentive Day

On Friday, December 15th, students who have earned over 100 Knights Ka\$h dollars are able to "buy-in" to an afternoon movie day during SRT, 6th, and 7th period. Students will be served popcorn and drinks, and have a choice of watching either Back to the Future or Remember the Titans.

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 as 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.

Classroom Updates

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

Math Classroom Updates

For the second nine weeks, Pre-Algebra students worked on solving equations and graphing linear functions. Next nine weeks, students will study scatter plots, probability, transformation, and review skills to prepare for the first round of ISTEP.

For the second nine weeks, Algebra 1 students worked on multi-step inequalities, compound inequalities, inequalities in two variables, and solving systems of equations/inequalities. Next nine weeks, students will work on polynomials, introduction to quadratic equations, and review skills to prepare for the first round of ISTEP.

Students will have a second round of NWEA testing when we come back from winter break. Students will review their fall NWEA scores and use the new test data to plan goals. 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 area 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 a collection of short stories. So far, they've read Tell-Tale Heart, A Sound of Thunder, Fish Cheeks, and The Gift of the Magi, along with a variety of nonfiction texts. With this, students have been improving their literature skills like symbolism, vocabulary in context, dialogue, making inferences, and theme.

Currently, students are writing personal, nonfiction narratives. They are using sensory details, dialogue, conflict, and reflection to construct a short narrative. It's a great opportunity for students to complete the writing process from beginning to end, and for them to reflect on a meaningful moment in their lives.

We are also tackling verbals at the end of this 9 weeks! Ask your students about participles, gerunds, and infinitives.

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 – During these second nine weeks we concluded our chemistry studies learning about chemical reactions and balancing chemical equations. This knowledge was reinforced with a conservation of mass lab that the students enjoyed.

Several weeks ago we began studying human environmental impacts and the global water cycle. The students completed a diagram of the water cycle and learned about the current human population explosion and Earth's limited resources. We learned about land and water (including ocean) pollution. We will finish this first semester learning about air pollution.

We will begin the next semester learning about life sciences.

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. An informative video presented design considerations that were incorporated. The students became very skilled at sketching – thumbnail, isometric, and multi-view sketches with

Upcoming Events

12/15 - Incentive Day

12/16 - Square Donut Fundraiser

12/18 - NJHS Induction Ceremony

12/20 - Holiday Club Day

12/21 - 1/3 - Holiday Break

1/10 - Report Cards sent home

1/15 - Snow Make Up Day

Contact Us

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dimensioning - as method of communicating design ideas. We are concluding the nine weeks using computer design software (GeoGebra and SketchUp Pro) to model our wood puzzle cubes.

Heath / PE Classroom Updates

Health students the 2nd nine weeks have covered the following units: Growth and Development, Communicable Diseases, and Noncommunicable Diseases. Students have been really engaged and are constantly asking questions to further our classroom discussions! Students have also had guest speakers from Breathe IN Wayne County Coalition. Students will switch to PE class beginning January 4th for the second semester!

PE students the 2nd nine weeks have covered the following units: Badminton, Skating, FitnessGram Post Testing, Pickleball, and Ultimate Football. Students have been so enjoyable this semester and I am excited to get them in the Health classroom in January!

Social Studies Classroom Updates

During the second nine weeks we have covered information from the beginning of the American Revolution to the founding principles of our government. Students have completed several projects in my room, such as completing and presenting a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We have discussed how our government works and how we can be active citizens in our country. You should also be able to speak with your student about which way they are leaning on the political spectrum and their views on how the government should operate.

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 World Strides please let me know. The final deadline to sign up for the trip will be mid February and we are encouraging students and parents to sign up. This will also be the time that you will want to have the trip paid for in full.