

8TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

April - May

Classroom Updates

Field Day

On Wednesday, May 23rd students will be participating in a field day all day! They need to dress appropriately to be outside and active (tennis shoes!) and follow school dress code. Bring a water bottle to stay hydrated and a good attitude to finish the year strong.

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

iPad collection day is on Monday, May 21st. Make sure students bring their charging cord and block. They will not have access to any material on their iPads past this date.

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

Math Classroom Updates

For the fourth nine weeks, Pre-Algebra students worked on transformations, three-dimensional figures (geometry), and reviewed skills to prepare for the second round of ISTEP.

For the fourth nine weeks, Algebra 1 students worked on factoring/graphing/solving quadratic equations and reviewed skills to prepare for the second round of ISTEP.

Students completed a third round of NWEA testing. Students reviewed their winter NWEA scores and new spring NWEA scores. Students should be able to communicate their areas of strengths and weaknesses.

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

We've spent the last 9 weeks of our time together in English class reading the play *Diary of Anne Frank*. Students have been working on developing their reading comprehension skills, as well as their analysis skills. We connected our reading of *Diary of Anne Frank* to a research project about The Holocaust. Students who went on the Washington DC trip took their learning to an experiential level when we visited The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Students in my honors class are currently flying through

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

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and learning about subtext, intonation, rhythm, movement, and performance. I believe they are truly enjoying the experience.

Students in my general classes are finishing the year by reflecting on where they are from by writing an imitation poem of George Ella Lyon's famous poem "Where I'm From."

Student Publications class has been working hard on writing our school newspaper Middle of the Knights. Check it out on the middle school website!

I've truly enjoyed teaching these students about language, reading, and the power of words. This class clearly loves to learn and engage with learning and it's been a transformative year for me as their teacher.

Science Classroom Updates

Science 8 – As we get ready for the summer, I am reminded of how much fun we have had learning about science this school year. So much of our world and how nature works continues to be discovered every day. News reports regarding subjects we have learned about this year including: climate change, water and air pollution, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and DNA and gene therapy - are scattered through the media. I would request you find time to discuss any science 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 a source for expanding their interest in science. I hope everyone enjoys a safe and exciting summer break.

Heath / PE Classroom Updates

Health students the 4th nine weeks have been working hard learning the difference between Communicable Diseases and Noncommunicable Diseases through discussions, projects, and quick checks. We will be finishing the year with the 8th grade

Upcoming Events

5/21 - iPad Collection Day

5/21 - Middle School Awards

5/23 - Field Day

5/24 - Last Day of School

Contact Us

Math - Andrea Cole

acole@nws.k12.in.us

@mrscole_nms

English - Breanna McKinley

bmckinley@nws.k12.in.us

@MsMckinley_nms8

Science - Al Avery

aavery@nws.k12.in.us

Heath / PE - Megan Moreland

mmoreland@nws.k12.in.us

@megsmoreland

Social Studies - Mark Bevins

mbevins@nws.k12.in.us

@mbevins8

Interdisciplinary Unit over the Civil War. Health classes will be making hard tack (and eating it!), learning about medicine and doctors during the Civil War, and childhood games. It has been a great year getting to know your child!

PE students the 4th nine weeks have been busy covering the following units: Soccer, Skating, and FitnessGram Post Testing. Data will be shared with your child next week regarding HFZ (Healthy Fitness Zone) for the 5 components of the FitnessGram. We will be finishing the year with the 8th grade Interdisciplinary Unit over the Civil War. PE students will be playing popular childhood games, eating hard tack, and going to war! It has been a great year getting to know your child!

Social Studies Classroom Updates

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 Debates, battle of the war, and the assassination of Lincoln and more. This summer would be a great opportunity 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 to your child's wealth of knowledge.

DC Trip Recap

At the end of the 4th 9 weeks over 60 8th grade students traveled to Washington D.C. to explore and gain first hand experiences about our nation and its history. While traveling we saw different monuments like the WWII Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Korean Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, and Arlington National Cemetery. We visited many more locations and the 8th grade students had an amazing time! If your student went ask them what their most memorable stop was.