

# 8TH GRADE LETTER

## August - September

### Field Trip

On Thursday, October 11th, 8th Grade students will be attending a field trip called "College for a Day." On this trip, students will be attending multiple local universities, experiencing college campus life, and touring Wayne Country Colleges. Permission slips are due back Monday, October 8th.

### 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](mailto:bmckinley@nws.k12.in.us) and we'll get you set up.

### Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are October 25th. To schedule a conference, call Rachel Bales in the office.

## Classroom Updates

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

### *Math Classroom Updates*

For the first nine weeks in Pre-Algebra, students worked on monomial properties, scientific notation, rational/irrationals, and Pythagorean theorem. Next nine weeks, students will be working on solving equations and graphing linear functions.

For the first nine weeks in Algebra I, students have worked on expressions, functions, and linear equations. Next nine weeks, students will continue with linear equations, inequalities, and solving systems of equations.

All students have taken their fall math NWEA. Students have filled out their data folders with their SRT teachers. 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.

### *English Classroom Updates*

This 9 weeks we read and analyzed the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. The dystopian nature of the novel engaged students and many students enjoyed the text. Using the novel as a catalyst for learning we focused on the following literary elements: theme, central idea, supporting details, vocabulary in context,

## 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](https://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](mailto:bmckinley@nws.k12.in.us)

symbolism, parts of an argument, sensory details, elements of plot, point of view, author's intention, and different perspective.

My main goal with writing this 9 weeks was to teach students how to narrow down their ideas and write with clarity and organization. We've written in all 4 modes of writing: narrative, informative, analysis, and argumentative. As we continue into the rest of the year, we will work on writing longer works as well as adding stronger and deeper explanations and analysis.

Students also participated in some independent reading this 9 weeks. Students had to choose a book, article, graphic novel, or magazine that they were interested in, read it, and create a book talk on FlipGrid about their reading. I love watching students talk about books they've enjoyed and it's one of my favorite projects to grade. Students will complete another book talk next quarter.

In 7th period English lab students have been utilizing IXL and Achieve3000 to fill gaps in learning and further develop 8th grade English skills.

## Science Classroom Updates

Science 8 - We began the first nine weeks with the nature of science - how scientists use scientific methods and advances in technology to understand the natural world. This was review but really gets them to think scientifically after the summer break. We learned about the structure of atoms as well as the nature of matter. Our students have enjoyed the many labs we have done including modeling molecules with balloons and our ion lab where we extracted copper ions from pennies and used them to bond to polished steel nails. We also completed a project called "Elemental Me" where students create an element based on them - what they react with, combine with, and even their own boiling point. We concluded our chemistry studies learning about chemical reactions and balancing chemical equations. Our last lab was a conservation of mass lab.

To finish the first semester we will shift to learning about Earth Science with a concentration on human environmental impacts and the global water cycle.

Project Lead the Way: Design and Modeling - We have had fun

## Upcoming Events

10/11 - College for a Day Field Trip

10/12 - Report Cards\* Sent Home

\*any student with a D or an F must return a signed report card to their SRT teacher by 10/26

10/15-19 Fall Break

10/25 Parent Teacher Conferences

11/14- Career Day

11/21-23 Thanksgiving Break

## Report Card Behavior Indicators

You may notice behavior indicators on your student's report card. There is a number that will correspond with a behavior printed at the bottom of your student's report card. This is our way of communicating behaviors separate from student grades.

If you have any questions about your student's report card or school progress, feel free to email, call, or send a note with your student with your question. We'd be happy to talk to you.

learning about the design process with our initial challenge project of designing a foot/ankle orthosis for a child with cerebral palsy. We watched an informative video that presented some of the design considerations that were incorporated. The student became very skilled at sketching – thumbnail, isometric, and multi-view sketches with dimensioning - as methods of communicating design ideas. We are concluding the nine weeks by designing, prototyping, and assembling our wood puzzle cubes.

## Health / PE Classroom Updates

Health (3rd & 4th periods)-

The past nine weeks have been jam packed with learning for Health classes! We have covered the following units: Understanding My Teen Brain, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Girls Inc. Students also designed their own Cookbooks, Fitness Plans, and had some hands-on experience changing a diaper! I am looking forward to finishing the semester strong with Growth and Development, and Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases.

PE (2nd period)-

The past nine weeks students have learned about and played the following sports units: tennis, soccer, and fitness games/stations. I am looking forward to finishing the semester strong with indoor sports units including: ultimate football, badminton, pickleball, and skating!

Wellness (1st period)-

The past nine weeks 1st period students have learned about tennis and gained some weight room experience on their PE days. Students have informed me that "swoll is the goal"! On our Health days, we have covered Understanding My Teen Brain and Nutrition. We will be diving into Physical Activity and Growth and Development the second nine weeks. Looking forward to finishing the semester strong!

## Social Studies Classroom Updates

In U.S. History these nine weeks the students have learned information about the progression of people coming to North

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forward to leading a fun and

America all the way up to the beginning of the Revolutionary War. In the second nine weeks we will cover the American Revolution as well as how our government is set up. We will also be talking about government and how students' current beliefs may align to the political parties we have today. I personally do not push my political agenda on students and feel that it is important for them to decide what they are and what to believe without my personal influence. If you have any questions, please let me know.

## DC Trip

The lead up to the Washington D.C. trip is going wonderfully. We currently have 72 students/chaperones signed up for the trip.

Below you will also find a link to a website called Padlet. This is a great site that will allow you to ask questions anonymously and I can respond for everyone to see. Please save this link so that you can refer back to it for answers and to answer questions.

There are three easy ways to register: online at <https://worldstrides.com/register/> using the Trip ID # 158024, by calling the WorldStrides Customer Service Team at 1-800-468-5899, or by mail, using the envelope you received in the student invitation. We won't officially be cutting off sign ups for students to go on the trip until March 1st, 2019.

There are many options for individual travel funding, including the Gift of Education program, which includes Gift of Education E-Cards and Facebook links. Additionally, nearly \$2 million is given each year in financial assistance through the FLAG program! You can find detailed information about fundraising ideas and scholarship options at [www.worldstridesfundraising.com](http://www.worldstridesfundraising.com).

Please let me know if you have any questions about the trip. I look forward to leading a fun and educational program for our students!