



Middle School May News

Haines School -- 247 W. 23rd Place -- 773-534-9200

7th/8th ELA - Ms. Khawam, Ms. Sicora, Ms. Suen

Social Science - Ms. Sicora (304) Science - Ms. Khawam (307), Math - Ms. Suen (309)

"Families are a valuable asset to a child's education."

Advisory

This month's character trait focus is responsibility.

April Stars of the Week

Room 304 - TBD based on exemplary practice of this month's character trait focus.

Room 307 - An-An Chiang, Allen Peters, Petty Patricia, Joshua Toy

Room 309 - Lina Mei, Jonathan Nie, Andy Liu, Sydney Huang

Free60

- Students will continue to focus on skills and targets identified through the winter administration of NWEA
- Our next problem based learning project will focus on creating presentations for school and community stakeholders about improvements to Haines facilities.

English Language Arts

- Seventh graders from room 307 will continue to analyze and write poetry. The unit will end with classroom poetry SLAM. After students will finish poetry unit, we will read a novel called "A Lesson before Dying". Students will learn about the inequality of different races in the southern United States before people started desegregation. Students will explore how people were prosecuted based on their physical appearance.
- 8th graders in 304 will finish reading the allegory *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Students will learn about the historical events and people of the Russian Revolution and rise of Communism as it relates to the text. The skills students will focus on will be: determining meaning of words as used in a text, locate metaphors in a text and determine their meaning, quote analysis, and writing narratives
- In room 309, the 8th graders will begin a novel study on *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. They will be working through understanding life during the Great Depression and life as migrant farmers, then the themes and symbolism throughout the book. Students will continue to with their literature circles (book clubs), in which they will be working on group activities to deepen comprehension and discussion skills. In terms of writing students will be focusing on argumentative writing via ThinkCERCA and narrative writing in Writer's Workshop.

Math

- The 7th graders will have finished their unit on linear equations and moving onto surface area and volume of prisms and cylinders. Students will use drawings (nets) as well as 3D models in order to find the basic components of finding surface area and volume. The goal is for students not to be memorizing the formulas of surface area and volume, but to understand its basic requirements and thus be able to derive the formula at any time.
- 8th graders will wrap up their unit on using combining and simplifying expressions to solve word problems. Then move onto a unit that works with linear systems and systems of inequality. Students will leverage the power of knowing how to solve for one variable and use it towards solving problems with two variables, given that there are at least two equations known. The strategies have been previously introduced, however, they will get more practice and a deeper understanding of the mathematical reasonings behind the strategies. Students will also learn how to solve and graph solutions of inequalities.

Math (con't)

- The 8th grade students will be preparing for the Algebra Exit Exam after finishing up the unit on quadratics. The unit will focus on quadratic equations of which students will look for patterns to write equations, learn about identifying characteristics such as vertex, opens up/down, roots/solutions, opens wide or narrow. In addition, they will be applying what they learned in the previous chapter in order to find the solutions. In addition to using factoring, completing the square, students will be learning about how to use the quadratic formula as a new method to find solutions to quadratics. Students will also be applying and connecting quadratic equations to basic physics problems, which they may encounter in high school physics.

Science

- 7th grade students are done with "All about you" unit. They began to explore "DNA, Heredity, and Evolution" unit, to learn how differences in our DNA makes us different. They will learn how heredity predetermines who we are and how we look like. Evolution is a process in which an organisms had adapted to the environment in which they lived, and passed the genetic information to their offspring with the DNA. Animals, plants, and we humans, have adapted to the environments that we live in, thus we have different physical features if our ancestors came from different places. Students will learn that our physical differences are strictly the environmental factor that shaped us humans and other living organisms.
- 8th grade students started " Energy, Force, and Motion" unit. Students explore transformation of energy and different forces acting. Different types of energy and forces acting upon, have to do with the laws of motion that Sir Isaac Newton discovered and described. Knowledge of this will help students to be ready for Physics class in high school, as well as it will contribute to the observation of physics in everyday life. Currently, students are studying the heat/thermal energy, they will design and built an insulator.
- I am trying to replenish classroom supplies in forms of tissues, paper towels and printing paper. Not every student brought their supplies in the beginning of the school year. We use lots of paper towel rolls due to the fact that we carry many experiments that can be messy and we have to deal with spills. Please send with your child a roll of paper towel and printing paper. Thank you

Social Studies

- 7th and 8th grade students have worked hard on their skills of reading and writing like historians. This month they will apply those skills when having class discussion/debates about historical content.
 - 7th grade content in May is The Age of Jefferson with a focus on the Louisiana Purchase, New Threats from Overseas, and The War of 1812. Students will use multiple sources to answer the question: What Path Offered the Best Chance of Survival for the Cherokee in the Early 1800s: Staying in Their Original Territory or Removal to the West?
 - 8th grade content area focus will continue to be about WWI. Students will learn about the cause and effect of the first world war, life in the trenches and in America during the war, and rewrite the Treaty of Versailles in small groups.

Reminders

- Parents, do you want to know how to check your child's grades and attendance? You can pick up your PIN from Mr. Shar in the office.
- Each week a student will be chosen as the Star of the Week. Your student has their date and expectations.
- Provide teachers with an email to correspond about your student's progress throughout the year.
- Check your student's agenda nightly.
- Expectations are that each student arrive at 7:45 each morning.
- A good night of sleep and a nutritious breakfast will help with success.

Important May Dates

May 19 - 4th Quarter Progress Reports will be sent home

May 24 - Family Night

May 29 - Memorial Day - No School

May 31 - Health Fair