

March - Before 4 PM of February 27

Middle School March News



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

ELA - Ms. Grober (301)

Mathematics - Mrs. Sumita (303)

Science - Dr. Ferrer (302)

Social Science - Ms. Twillie (308)

Special Education - Ms. Berman (205)

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

Character Trait of the Month - March Honesty **green**

English Language Arts

6th graders will read and analyze *TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR* by Ben Mikaelson. They will apply the Elements of Literature from the Short Story Unit and *Esperanza Rises* Novel Unit in addition to the Figurative Language terms from their Poetry Unit. This novel is about a 15-year old juvenile delinquent, Cole, with anger issues from Minnesota. He severely injures one of his classmates and to avoid going to prison, agrees to participate in an "alternative sentence" based upon Native American Circle Justice. He is sent to a remote island in Alaska where he encounters a huge SPIRIT BEAR who changes his life. The unit will include an Expository Essay.

7th graders will read, analyze, and critique **A LESSON BEFORE DYING** by Ernest J. Gaines. They will apply their knowledge of the Elements of Literature from their Short Story Unit and *THE GIVER* Novel Unit and Figurative Language terms from their Poetry Unit to enhance the comprehension of the novel. The novel takes place in a small Cajun community in Louisiana in the late 1940's. A young black man, Jefferson, is wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, a teacher, is persuaded by his aunt and Jefferson's godmother to impart his learning and teach Jefferson pride before he is electrocuted. The two men form a bond and the unexpected irony is that Jefferson becomes the teacher. The students will write a Persuasive Essay as a culminating activity.

Math

All math students have access to Khan Academy ([khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org)) and should be spending 1-3 hours weekly on those concepts they feel they need additional practice.

6th graders have begun the second volume of our textbook! Our current unit of study is rates, ratios and proportions. Students are learning to solve problems using rates and learning the importance of unit rates. Please check your students' work to see if they are labeling their ratios, an important visual skill and cue to answering problems. Additionally, students will review the difference between customary units of measure (which we use here in the United States) and the metric system (which is used in most of the rest of the world!). As with all our math units, students are encouraged to look at different methods for solving problems, including proportions, bar diagrams and double line graphs. We will build on our knowledge of ratios and proportions in our next unit, which focuses on

percents.

As always, 6th graders should continue working to organize themselves for success in the mathematics class! This includes maintaining their binder to include all of their materials (so that nothing is inadvertently left in their locker, in their desks or at home!). They also will continue to update their vocabulary, take notes daily and talk to each other with respect so that we can learn from each other.

7th graders recently took their unit test for our unit on Comparing and Scaling and have begun a more in-depth look at linear relationships in our new unit, Moving Straight Ahead. During this unit, we'll revisit the three representations (tables, graphs and equations) and work with all three to answer problems. Importantly, we'll look at simple ways to solve problems using a system of equations and see how all three representations can be used to solve the system. Once this important unit is complete, we'll start a review of 3-dimensional shapes and study probability.

Science

6th graders have started their Plate Tectonics unit. In this unit they will investigate volcanoes and earthquakes and find out how mountains are formed. They will also learn about changes to the earth's surface that take place over very long periods of time.

7th graders investigated traits for 6 human characteristics to begin their Genetics unit's discussion of human variation and heredity. They also predicted and then quantified the colors of the offspring plants of tobacco seeds to obtain genetic data for analysis. Students will be introduced to the issue of genetic testing through a story about a student who suspects he may have inherited a genetic syndrome. Then they will consider the impact of this syndrome on a person's life and make a recommendation after they learn more about genetics.

Social Studies

6th graders completed their study of the Mediterranean Empire of Greece. The class will travel west along the Mediterranean coast to Rome. The class will continue analyzing primary and secondary documents, spotlight on interpreting quotes. The class will be researching selected individuals for this year's History Fair: "Taking a Stand in History".

7th graders successfully completed the Federal Constitution Test. The class continues to source and contextualize primary and secondary sources. Students continue researching their History Fair topic and are developing thesis statements. The class will complete research both during class and as homework assignments.

Room 205: We will be starting our new novel, "The Lemonade War" and working on comprehension, inference and building vocabulary. In math we are learning our various graphs and their uses. In science we are continuing to study the Earth, its composition and different processes that affect the planet. In social science we are beginning our study of the 13 colonies, why they were settled and their impact on native cultures. We are also learning about important figures during Black History Month. We will soon be focusing on important women in history as Women's History Month begins in March. Students should continue to read independently nightly and spend some time on IXL at least 5 days a week.

Reminder

Encourage your child to read daily.

Important March Dates

March 17 - Room 302 and 303 to Chicago Botanic Garden

March Stars of the Week

March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Jia Jun Shi - 303 Vincent Zheng - 301 Allen Lau - 308	Bao Xu Liang - 302 Carson Zheng - 303 XiangCheng Cai - 301 Phillip Cao - 308	JunHui Lin - 302 Nina Lin - 303 Catherine Moy - 301 Anthony Zhao - 308	YuJi Mei - 302 Edwin Rong - 303 Lyndell Luster - 301	Angela Ng - 303 Bailey Siu - 308

<p><u>Character Trait of the Month</u></p> <p>October- Kindness orange November- Caring brown December- Self control red January- Self motivation pink February- Cooperation white March Honesty green April Citizenship blue May Responsibility yellow June Tolerance turquoise</p>	<p><u>Area for Recess</u></p> <p>November/December - Field January/February March/April - Lot 2, wall May/June - Field</p>
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