



Middle School October News

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

ELA - Ms. Grober (301)

Mathematics - Mrs. Sumita (303)

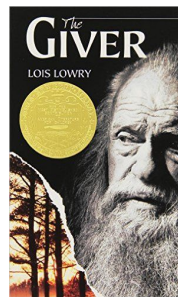
Science - Dr. Ferrer (302)

Social Science - Ms. Twillie (308)

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

Character Trait of the Month: Kindness (Orange)

English Language Arts



7th graders in Room 301 are reading their first novel: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. *The Giver*, a utopian and dystopian novel, follows the story of 11-year-old Jonas who is chosen to become the new Receiver of an egalitarian society. In this futuristic society, there is no pain, fear, war, and hatred. Students will create their own utopian society, design a collage explaining the theme of novel, and write a literary analysis paper.

6th graders in Rooms 301, 303 and 308, in honor of the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, will be reading their first novel, *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan (historical fiction). Esperanza is living the good life on her family's ranch in Mexico, when she and her mother must escape from Mexico and settle in a camp of migrant farm workers during the Great Depression, she finds poverty, hard work and discrimination. Esperanza becomes involved in California migrant workers' rights, and saves her mother in the process. As with many immigrants, Esperanza must transition from a comfortable life back home to a life of poverty in the US—a land that many immigrants see as wealthy and prosperous. Students will interview someone and write their history.

ELA READING SKILLS AND STRATEGIES:

- Critical analysis
- Critical thinking
- Cultural connections
- Internet skills
- Literary analysis
- Making inferences and drawing conclusions based on text evidence
- Map Skills

- Online research
- Visualization of Text
- Using a Climax Chart
- Using Literary Language in both speaking and writing
- Writing summaries of narrative text
- Working in collaborative groups
- Analyzing Character Development
- Identifying and explaining literary symbolism

Math

6th grade students are finishing up their initial unit on fraction operations and understanding why the procedures behind the algorithm actually work. We'll quickly review the importance of converting from fractions to decimals and percents -- again gaining a basic knowledge of why the procedures work. After we finish this, we'll move on to working with all rational numbers and being able to identify a rational from an irrational number. Importantly, we'll also use the number line to compare the value of both rational and irrational numbers.

Sixth 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 take notes daily and talk to each other with respect so that we can learn from each other.

7th graders are finishing up their unit on Variables and Patterns, understanding the representations of linear relationships and being able to "read" a graph. We then will begin our geometry unit, Shapes and Designs, in which they will understand the properties (attributes) of certain shapes and their use in designs.

Room 303 also is beginning its study of Financial Literacy (thank you parents for answering your students questions!). This is such an important topic for their future success.

Science

6th graders started their unit on Weather and Atmosphere by practicing how to conduct scientific observations to collect qualitative and quantitative information. They will continue to analyze weather, climate, and factors that affect them through the eyes of scientists who study the earth's weather and atmosphere. For each lesson, students will reflect and provide evidence on which of the eight (8) NGSS practices they think they used.

7th graders will review the scientific and engineering design process while designing and conducting investigations or solving a problem in preparation for Haines' middle school Science/STEM Fair in December, 2016. In pairs or individually, students thought of a problem that they want to solve or a question they want answered. They submitted a proposal with their purpose and hypothesis. Students will conduct their literature review to formulate their hypothesis and identify their methodology (experimental or engineering design) before they do their experiments or build/test their prototypes.

Social Studies

6th graders: Have settled into the day to day operations of middle school. We completed our first unit: Geography of the World. Sixth graders have demonstrated mastery of finding accurate locations using latitude and longitude. Sixth graders will be introduced to the first civilizations of Mesopotamia in the Fertile Crescent region. Students will end this unit with a writing assignment where they become the hero or heroine of their very own epic poem or story. As we complete our Mesopotamian unit we will head for Africa: Everything out of Africa.

7th graders: Room 303 continues learning about the sequencing of primary source documents and secondary source. We are finishing our brief review of early American civilizations and explorers. Later this month we will learn about the Colonization of North America. Students will begin the Jamestown unit using the Document Based Question (DBQ): Early Jamestown: Why Did So Many Colonist Die? Upon completion of the DBQ analysis students will complete an essay in which they answer the question using primary source documents to support their thesis.

Room 205: We are continuing to read *The Bridge to Terabithia*, focusing on story comprehension and finding text evidence to answer comprehension questions. We are also focusing on summarization skills and figurative language. In Math we are working on understanding large numbers and doing all operations on whole numbers and decimals. In Science we are studying weather, natural disasters and the effects on humans and the environment. In Social Science we have been studying Native American tribes with a understanding of the rich cultures that already existed in this country before European exploration. Students will create a poster focusing on one tribe.

Reminder

Encourage your child to read daily.

Important October Dates

October 7 - Quarter 1 Student Progress Reports sent home

October 10 - Columbus Day No School

October Stars of the Week

3rd-7th	10th-13th	16th-20th	23rd-27th
Benny-302 Mandy-303 Wei Jun-301 Jasmine Wu 308	Jiamin-302 Edward Ruan-303 Samantha-301 Mandy Ma 308	Xiao Chen-302 Amy-303 Jenny-301 Brenda Vazquez 308	Zijian -302 Nathen-303 Chyna-301

Shout-out to our September Stars of the Week in 303: Ivy Huang and Jason Wu!!!- 302: Khylie Carter

<p><u>Character Trait of the Month</u></p> <p>Oct Kindness orange</p> <p>Nov Caring brown</p> <p>Dec Self control red</p> <p>Jan Self motivation pink</p> <p>Feb Cooperation white</p> <p>March Honesty green</p> <p>April Citizenship blue</p> <p>May Responsibility yellow</p> <p>June Tolerance turquoise</p>	<p><u>Area for Recess</u></p> <p>September/October - Lot 1, door</p> <p>November/December - Field</p> <p>January/February</p> <p>March/April - Lot 2, wall</p> <p>May/June - Field</p>
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