



## Middle School School November News

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

ELA - Ms. Sicora (307), Dr. Ferrer (308), Ms. Suen (309)

Science - Dr. Ferrer

Social Studies - Ms. Sicora

Math/Algebra - Ms. Suen

Special Education - Ms. Berman

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

### Free 60/MTSS

- Students will focus on skills and targets identified through the spring administration of NWEA and class assessments through online applications, small group and independent practice, and teacher led groups.
- Our first problem based learning project will focus on homelessness in and around Chicago. Students will be identifying a problem, researching, and designing within small groups.

### Advisory

This month's character trait focus is caring. Caring is displaying kindness and concern for others..

### Stars of the Week

Room 307 - Stanley Kong, Erica Yang, Nathan Kwan, Timothy Xu

Room 308 - Junhao Yu, Jacky Zheng, Natalie Huang, Vincent Zheng, Zihao Zhao

Room 309 - Amanda Yu, WeiHao Tan, Leila Robinson, JiaJun Shi

### English Language Arts

- **309 8th graders** - The students will continue the short story unit in which students will focus on the elements of short stories. As they work in groups to read and discuss to develop stronger reading comprehension skills. In addition, students will be working on vocabulary that utilizes the root/affix of the week as well as grammar skills using No Red Ink. Finally in terms of nonfiction, students will be working on leveled texts in NEWSELA and ThinkCERCA, which also develops their argumentative writing skills. The students will continue focusing on the Six Traits of Writing.
- **307 8th graders** - The students will be starting the play "A Raisin in the Sun" by playwright Lorraine Hansberry. The focus will be on elements of a play. Students will work in groups to make connections to historical moments in history and enhance their reading comprehension skills. In addition, students will be working on vocabulary that utilizes the root/affix of the week as well as grammar skills using No Red Ink. Finally in terms of nonfiction, students will be working on leveled texts in NEWSELA and ThinkCERCA, which also develops their argumentative writing skills. The writing trait we will continue to build on in October is Ideas. Students will be learning the writing trait of Word Choice this month.
- **308 7th graders** - Students will continue building their reading and writing stamina through their short story unit and self-selected or texts and/or genre that best support their individualized literacy goals. They also continue to close read and annotate adaptive local/global news articles through NEWSELA. While learning

grammar, usage, mechanics and style, students use NoRedInk's differentiated paths as they go through the diagnostic, practice, and quiz cycle for specific skills. Through ThinkCERCA's framework, students will learn to develop evidence-based argument in response to a claim or debatable question.

### **Math**

- **307 8th graders** - The 8th graders have been focusing on looking for patterns in tables and graphs which will lead to writing equations based on the mathematical models. Students will focus on linear and inverse variation equations. They will learn to write equations and use them to solve for the missing variable. Students will also be working with one variable inequalities and work on understanding situations that require the use of inequalities.
- **308 7th graders** - 7th grade math is focusing similar figures, both reduced and enlarged. Students will look at the properties of similar figures and how to scale up or down. They will also look for patterns in sides, angles, perimeter and area when figures are enlarged or reduced. This will lead into using proportions to solve for missing sides.
- **309 Algebra** - The students in algebra will begin a unit that is focused on linear equations. Students will learn more about how to model linear relationships through tables, graphs and equations. By looking at linear relationships, they can look for patterns to create and solve real world problems.

### **Science**

- **Students** continue to work individually or in teams on their Genius hour projects on either a scientific inquiry, design solution, or document research. These projects will be presented during Haines' Science and Engineering Design fair on December 7, 2017.
- **7th grade** - Students will start their first unit "From molecules to organisms." In this unit students will learn about the relationship among structures, functions, and processes involved in growth and development; organization for matter and energy flow; as well as information processing.
- **8th grade** - Students started their first unit "Structure and properties of matter" by exploring different types of models. They also explored initial thinking about matter and its major characteristics. Students seek to answer the big questions "What is matter? Why study matter? How do we know that matter is made up of particles (some too small to be seen by our eyes), its structure and properties? They will investigate how matter's structure determines its properties which in turn dictates how they interact, like during chemical reactions and nuclear processes.

### **Social Studies**

- **7th grade** - Students will begin the unit on the The Thirteen English Colonies. As they learn about the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies they will also be using primary sources to write an essay.
- **8th grade** - Students will begin their C-Span Student Cam projects this month. The theme is "The Constitution and You." Students will identify a provision of the U.S. Constitution and explain why it is important to them in the form of a documentary. The skill focus will be on source reliability and corroboration.

### **Room 205**

Math: Working on all operations with whole numbers and decimals. Using these skills and apply to real world problems. Reading: Grammar work using a variety of verb tenses correctly in writing. Continue novel study of Shiloh, focusing on comprehension with text evidence, inference and summarization skills. Social Science: read about continued expansion of the United States, impact on land and native cultures. Science. Continue to study process of clinical trials, and moving on to a detailed study of how the body works. Please continue to work on IXL to practice basic skills, and READ, READ, READ!

## **Reminder**

- Please read each night to build reading stamina.
- 8th graders should be working on their high school applications that are due in December.
  - *In an effort to keep our students, teachers, and staff safe and secure at Haines we are implementing new rules in addition to our existing safety and security rules.*
    1. *Parents must have an appointment to speak to any teacher.*
    2. *If a parent does not have a scheduled appointment, they are welcome to leave a note for the teacher in the office.*
    3. *The office will not be calling up to the classroom if there is no meeting set.*

## **Important November Dates**

November 3 - School Improvement Day - NO SCHOOL

November 15 - 1st Quarter Report Card Pick Up

November 21 - Room 308, Chinatown Library Walking Trip

November 22 - 24 Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

November 30 - Retake Fall Pictures



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### **Free 60/MTSS**

- Students will focus on skills and targets identified through the spring administration of NWEA and class assessments through online applications, small group and independent practice, and teacher led groups.
- Our first problem based learning project will focus on creating an anti-bullying campaign that will be painted on the "Be Buddies, Not Bullies" hallway murals.

### **Advisory**

This month's character trait focus is kindness. Kindness is being compassionate and generous.

### **Stars of the Week**

Room 307 - TBD

Room 308 - Ephraim Liang, Andrew Jiang, Asata Hodari, Junhui Lin, Nani Cai

Room 309 - Edward Ruan, Tina Ma, An An Chiang, William Wu

### **English Language Arts**

- **307 & 309 8th graders** - The students will continue the short story unit in which students will focus on the elements of short stories. As they work in groups to read and discuss to develop stronger reading comprehension skills. In addition, students will be working on vocabulary that utilizes the root/affix of the week as well as grammar skills using No Red Ink. Finally in terms of nonfiction, students will be working on leveled texts in NEWSELA and ThinkCERCA, which also develops their argumentative writing skills. The writing trait we will continue to build on in October is Ideas. Students will be learning the writing trait of Organization this month.
- **308 7th graders** - Students' unit on short stories, explores the Big Question, "Does every conflict have a winner? As students build reading stamina, they focus on areas suggested by their NWEA reading performance using self-selected or texts and/or genre that best support their individualized literacy goals. Students get exposed to engaging adaptive local/global news articles through NEWSELA. Results of their NoRedInk diagnostic test set them on differentiated path while learning grammar, usage, mechanics and style. Through ThinkCERCA's framework, students will learn to develop evidence-based argument in response to a claim or debatable question.

## Math

- **307 8th graders** - 8th graders will finish a unit on deriving and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Moving on to the next unit, the students will focus on looking for patterns in tables and graphs which will lead to writing equations based on the mathematical models. Students will focus on linear and inverse variation equations.
- **308 7th graders** - 7th grade math will be working on a geometry unit, Shapes and Designs. In this unit, they will be looking at patterns of polygons such as interior and exterior angles. This will build background knowledge for the following unit where we will study similar figures, both reduced and enlarged.
- **309 Algebra** - The students in algebra will begin to explore patterns to create expressions and equations. Through understanding the basic rules of arithmetic, students will apply rules in order to solve equations.

## Science

- **Students** continue to work individually or in teams on their Genius hour projects on either a scientific inquiry, design solution, or document research. These projects will be presented during Haines' Science and Engineering Design fair on December 7, 2017.
- **308 7th grade** - Students will start their first unit "From molecules to organisms." In this unit students will learn about the relationship among structures, functions, and processes involved in growth and development; organization for matter and energy flow; as well as information processing.
- **307 & 309 8th grade** - Students started their first unit "Structure and properties of matter" by exploring the different types of models that they can use for the unit. They also explored initial thinking about matter and its major characteristics. Students seek to answer the big questions "That is matter? Why study matter? How do we know that matter is made up of particles (some too small to be seen by our eyes), its structure and properties? They will investigate how matter's structure determines its properties which in turn dictates how they interact, like during chemical reactions and nuclear processes.

## Social Studies

- **7th grade** - Students will begin by learning about sourcing of documents, corroborating evidence, and contextualizing evidence using multiple historical sources. The investigative focus for this month is on the colony of Jamestown. Students will continue to organize, draft, and write an essay in response to a DBQ (Document Based Question) on the topic of Early Jamestown: Why did so many colonists die?
- **8th grade** - Students will begin with a review of sourcing documents, corroborating evidence, and contextualizing evidence using multiple historical sources. The investigative focus for this month is on North or South: Who Killed Reconstruction? Students will begin examining primary sources to answer the DBQ (Document Based Question) argumentative paper on the topic: North or South: Who Killed Reconstruction?. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills by preparing for small group negotiations in which they look through various historical lenses. The negotiations will conclude when each group determines the best ways to heal the U.S. socially, politically and economically after the American Civil War.

## Room 205

**Math: Focus on performing all operations on whole numbers and decimals. Apply these concepts to real world problems. English: Work on grammar related to verb usage. Continue to read Shiloh with emphasis on comprehension using text evidence, prediction and summarization skills. Social Science: Read about the expansion of the United St**

## Reminder

- Please read each night to build reading stamina

## Important October Dates

- October 6 - Quarter 1 Progress Reports are distributed
- October 20 - School-wide Fall Pictures
- October 24 - Room 308 Chinatown Library walking tour
- October 30 - High School Fair
- Week of October 30 - School Spirit Week

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- Our first problem based learning project will focus on creating an anti-bullying campaign that will be painted on the "Be Buddies, Not Bullies" hallway murals.

### Advisory

This month's character trait focus is respect which means treating yourself and others with courtesy and consideration.

### English Language Arts

- **307 & 309 8th graders** - The students will begin a short story unit in which students will focus on the elements of short stories. As they work in groups to read and discuss to develop stronger reading comprehension skills. In addition, students will be working on vocabulary that utilizes the root/affix of the week as well as grammar skills using No Red Ink. Finally in terms of nonfiction, students will be working on leveled texts in NEWSELA and ThinkCERCA, which also develops their argumentative writing skills.
- **308 7th graders** - In preparation for novel studies, students will learn and follow a literacy structure that teaches independence. This structure will give them the skills needed to create a lifetime love of reading and writing by building their stamina. Students will also be exposed to engaging adaptive local/global news articles through NEWSELA. The adaptive writing app, NoRedInk, will help them learn grammar, usage, mechanics and style. Through ThinkCERCA's framework, students will learn to develop evidence-based argument in response to a claim or debatable question.

### Math

- **307 8th graders** - 8th graders will begin with developing a foundation for the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will learn the derivation of the theorem and also how to apply patterns to solve real world problems.
- **308 7th graders** - 7th grade math will start with the unit *Variables and Patterns*, which focuses on the use of variables as placeholders to represent unknown numbers as well as looking for linear patterns. This will provide background for work with linear equations and graphing.
- **309 Algebra** - The students in algebra will begin with foundational number patterns that will be used to look for linear patterns. In addition, they will be reviewing key skills from 7th grade that the algebra concepts will build upon.

### Science

- **Students** will present their STEM-related summer news articles. Individually or collaboratively, they will also explore which units would provide them with: a) questions about natural phenomena that they might want to investigate through experimentation, or b) problems that they can generate design solutions for, in preparation for their December Middle School Science Fair/Engineering Design project.

- **308 7th grade**

1. From molecules to organisms: Structures, functions, and processes (Growth and development; Organization for Matter and Energy Flow; Information Processing)
2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics (Interdependent Relationships; Cycle of Matter and Energy Transfer; Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience; Biodiversity and Humans)
3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity (Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity; Natural Selection; Adaptation)

- **307 & 309 8th grade**

1. Structure and properties of Matter and Its Interactions (chemical reactions, nuclear processes)
2. Motion and Stability: Forces and interactions
3. Energy (conservation, transfer, relation with forces, in chemical processes, in everyday life)
4. Waves (properties, electromagnetic radiation) and their applications in technologies for information transfer

### **Social Studies**

- **7th grade** - Students will begin by learning about sourcing of documents, corroborating evidence, and contextualizing evidence using multiple historical sources. The investigative focus for this month is on the colony of Jamestown. Students will write an essay in response to a DBQ (Document Based Question) on the topic of Jamestown: Why did so many colonists die?
- **8th grade** - Students will begin with a review of sourcing documents, corroborating evidence, and contextualizing evidence using multiple historical sources. The investigative focus for this month is on North or South: Who Killed Reconstruction? Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills by preparing for small group negotiations in which they look through various historical lenses. The negotiations will conclude when each group determines the best ways to heal the U.S. socially, politically and economically after the American Civil War.

### **Room 205**

**Welcome back!** This will be an exciting year. In reading, we will continue to build comprehension skills through the reading of novels and short stories. In social studies, we are beginning to learn about the expansion of the United States, focusing on the Lewis and Clark exploration. In science we will be studying at ways in which scientists study people scientifically and detailed exploration of how the body works.

### **Reminder**

- Please read each night
- Please bring in all school fees and supplies by the end of the first week of school

### **Important September Dates**

September 5 - First Day of School

September 25 - Open House at 5:00 pm

### **Grading Scale and Percentages for the 2017-18 School Year**



<p><b><u>Haines Grading Scale</u></b></p> <p>A 90-100  B 80-89  C 70-79  D 60-69  F 0-59</p>	<p><b><u>ELA</u></b></p> <p>Assessment/Projects 40%  In Class Assignments 30%  Participation/Discussion 20%  Homework 10%</p>	<p><b><u>Writing</u></b></p> <p>Assessment/Final Draft 40%  Grammar 20%  Content Area Writing 20%  Free 60/Interventions/  Enrichment 20%</p>
<p><b><u>Math</u></b></p> <p>Assessments 35%  Math Reflection 20%  POTW 20%  Notes 15%  Homework/Participation/  Classwork 10%</p>	<p><b><u>Social Studies</u></b></p> <p>Assessments 30%  Class Assignments 20%  Participation/Reflection 20%  Projects 20%  Homework 10%</p>	<p><b><u>Science</u></b></p> <p>Assessment/Projects 40%  Class Assignments 30%  Lab/Class Participation 20%  Homework 10%</p>