



Middle School School December 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 self-control. Self-control is managing your emotions and choosing acceptable behavior.

Stars of the Week

Room 307 - Edward Li, Yanxue Wu, Yan Li

Room 308 - George Shang, Anthony Zhao, Xiao Chen Wu

Room 309 - Leila Robinson, Weihao Tan, Angela Ng, Jia Jun Shi and Zibin Chen

English Language Arts

- **309 8th graders** - have begun a new novel study of Animal Farm. This allegorical novel will focus on the themes of power (and the struggle to power), the power of education/literacy, class stratifications, as well as the historical significance of the novel. 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 NEWSOLA 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 continuing 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 NEWSOLA and ThinkCERCA, which also develops their argumentative writing skills. The writing trait we will continue to build on in December is voice. Students will be learning focused on the skill of drawing conclusions about characters and setting from dialogue and stage direction.
- **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. For writing, they will finish lessons on: a) maintaining focus and b) writing from experience before moving on to

Organization. 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 students in eighth grade are working through the unit, Growing, Growing, Growing, of which students explore the exponential growth and decay relationships. Students will be focusing on the table, graph, and equation representations of exponential patterns.
- **308 7th graders** - The students in 7th grade have begun a unit focusing on ratios and proportions through a unit called Comparing and Scaling. Students will use their prior knowledge from the previous unit of enlarging and reducing (Stretching and Shrinking) and build upon the ideas of equivalence. They will look at situations that require the use of setting up proportions to look for a missing variable.
- **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** will practice presentation their projects in class in preparation for judging during Haines' Science and Engineering Design fair on December 8, 2017.
- **7th grade** - Students will continue their first unit "From molecules to organisms." Students will explore 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 will continue their first unit "Structure and properties of matter." 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 continue their unit on The Road to the American Revolution. They are learning the skills of research, source reliability and will be writing the an argumentative paper about the first shot at Lexington and Concord.
- **8th grade** - Students will begin producing their C-Span Student Cam projects this month. The theme is "The Constitution and You." Students have identified a provision of the U.S. Constitution and did research and will interview experts in their field. The skill focus will be on source reliability and corroboration. Students will also be scripting, filming, and editing their documentary.

Room 205

Math: Working on divisions skills using whole numbers and decimals. Using these skills and apply to real world problems, especially in choosing the right operation to use and deciding if an answer makes sense.

Reading: Grammar work using a variety of verb tenses correctly in writing. Also using and understanding a variety of figurative language forms. Novel study of Shiloh is just about finished, we will be comparing the book to the movie and doing a final book report project., focusing on summarization skills.

Social Science: read about continued expansion of the United States, impact on land and native cultures. We are studying various historical figures and their continued impact on the United States.

Science. Continue to study 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 on December 22, 2017.
 - *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 December Dates

December 5 - Field trip to Curie High School to see the musical, *Frozen*

December 19 - Chinatown Librarian visits Room 308

December 20 - Winter Arts Festival - 8:30 a.m. in Multipurpose Room

December 21 - Room 307 and 309 field trip to MSI (Colorful Chemistry Lab and Crime Lab)

December 22 - 8th grade applications for high school are DUE in GoCPS (<http://go.cps.edu/>)

December 22 - Rooms 308 and 310 field trip to MSI, Colorful Chemistry Learning Lab

December 23 - January 7 - Winter Break