



### Middle School March News

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

ELA - Ms. Grober (301)

Mathematics - Mrs. Sumita (303)

Science - Ms. Khawam (304)

Social Science - Ms. Twillie (302)

#### English Language Arts

**6th graders** will read and analyze *TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR* by Ben Mikaelson. They will apply the Elements of Literature terms from the Short Story and Esperanza Rising units in addition to the Figurative Language terms from their Poetry unit. This novel is about a 15-yr old juvenile delinquent, Cole, with anger issues. He severely injures one of his classmates and to avoid going to prison, he 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 *SPIRIT BEAR* who changes his life. Students will create a plot line and write an Expository Essay.

**7th graders** will read, analyze, and critique *A LESSON BEFORE DYING* by Ernest J. Gaines. They will use their background knowledge of the Elements of Literature and Figurative Language 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 pride to Jefferson before he is electrocuted. The two men form a bond and the unexpected irony is that Jefferson becomes the teacher. Students will create a plot line and write a Persuasive Essay.

#### Science

The sixth graders are still working on the Weather and Climate unit. During the first week of March, students will create weather forecasting and news station. Once they complete everything, we will record them and recordings will be available on google classroom. Please support your child during this project, as all of the students are very excited to do it. After this project, students will research the human factor behind the global warming. Students will research both sides. Once the research is over, they will formulate arguments and engage into scholarly debate among each other. After this unit is finished, students will start *Earth's Place in the Universe*, followed by *Astronomy*. In two weeks or so, sixth graders will start new unit; *Astronomy*. In this unit they will learn all about our place in the universe.

The seventh graders are continuing learning about human body. Students just created human body travel brochure. The final project of this unit is to research genetically inherited diseases. Students will compose presentations based on their research on what they have learned in science.. After the project is finished, students will go onto the new unit. They will study **DNA and Inheritance**

## Math

All math students are encouraged to discuss the mathematics in the classroom by asking questions and building on each others' ideas. Being able to communicate is extremely important in building knowledge and practicing the use of good vocabulary!

**6th grade students** are working on understanding and using ratio and rates. Once they make the connection between equivalent rates and equivalent fractions, the topic makes more sense to them! They also will see the connection between this unit and our previous study of equations, tables and graphs. Student are learning what ratios represent and use unit rates to solve everyday problems. Additionally, students will work on converting both customary and metric units of measure, a very challenging topic!

Upon completion of this unit, 6th graders will begin working with percents. This topic is extremely useful for all students as it has clear, everyday connections and use. Students will understand how to determine percents using several different methods and be able to apply this knowledge when they are shopping, giving tips at restaurants or (when they're older), understand how interest rates impact purchase prices.

All 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** are Moving Straight Ahead! They are applying previous knowledge of linear representations and determining how they relate to each other structurally. They also will determine when a linear relationship is proportional, which is a key 7th-grade standard. Upon completion of this unit, 7th graders will revisit three-dimensional geometric shapes and understand how to find volume and surface area,

## Social Studies

**6th graders:** We have completed our Black History Month Expo/Museum. We have completed our study of ancient Greek civilizations and have sent sail for the country of Italy. Students will be learning about the largest empire, Rome. We will continue to enhance our comprehension skills in the areas of Central Ideas and Details and Compare/Contrast.

**7th graders:** We have completed our Black History Month Expo/Museum. We have also completed our study of the American Revolution and we are preparing to begin our United States Constitution journey. The students are researching various topics for the Haines History Fair, March 15, 2019. The National History Day theme is: Triumph and Tragedy in History.

## Room 205

**Math:** Working on doing operations of fractions. 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 adverbs and adjectives to make writing more creative. Also using and understanding a variety of figurative language forms. In grammar we are also working on simple and compound sentences, and using adjectives and adverbs to make sentences more interesting. We are also working on using context clues to learn new vocabulary. Novel study of "From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler," about a brother and sister who run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. We will be working on comprehension and

writing extended responses.

**Social Science:** read about causes of the Reconstruction and how it impacted the country and it's economy. 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!

**Stars of the Week**

March 4-8	March 11-15	March 19-22	March 26-29
Rashaad Armstrong -- 303	Kanoa Lee-Kline -- 303	Vincent Cheung -- 303	Michelle Yu -- 303

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**March Dates**

March 8 -- 25-week Progress Reports distributed

March 14 -- Pi Day/Family Math Night

March 15 -- History Fair

March 18-22 -- School Spirit Week

March 22 -- Career Day

March 29 -- Spring Pictures