



Middle School 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.

Advisory

- 8th graders will be wrapping up high school applications.
- 7th graders will focus on developing and practicing their participation, collaboration, and communication skills using tools i.e. Discussion Sentence Starters, Discussion Partners (Compass, Microscope, Clock, Cell phone), and Small group/Whole class Participation/Collaboration Rubric.

English Language Arts

- **309 8th graders** - Students will begin the novel study of the allegory, *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell. As they work in groups to read and discuss to develop stronger reading comprehension skills as well as literary elements. In addition, students will be working on vocabulary that utilizes power words 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. This year's vocabulary focus will be on power words that are helpful to know for standardized testing.
- **307 8th graders** - Students will continue reading the drama *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. As they read, they will use mentor text to write a poem using figurative language in the style of Langston Hughes and write a speech using metaphors and allusion in the style of Dr. King's *I Have a Dream* speech. Through the unit students will learn about the history of the Civil Rights movement in the United States and the impact it had on the people of Chicago. Students will continue to utilize POWER words as well as grammar skills using No Red Ink and daily oral language skills.
- **308 7th graders** - Students will continue to building their literacy stamina. They will also be exposed to engaging adaptive local/global news articles through NEWSELA. Through ThinkCERCA's framework, students will learn to develop evidence-based argument in response to a claim or debatable question. Students will also use various writing strategies from mentor texts and practice accuracy and fluency through reader's theatre.

Math

- **307 8th graders** - 8th graders will continue to explore exponential relationships. Students will look at real world applications of exponential growth and connecting the modeling of the relationships through the equations, tables, and graphs of both growth and decay. In addition, students will be looking at patterns with exponents and apply the patterns in order to draw mathematical conclusions.
- **308 7th graders** - 7th grade math will continue to look at ideas of enlarging and reducing shapes through looking at ideas of proportions. Students will then focus on proportional relationships with their foundation from the previous unit.
- **309 Algebra** - The students in algebra will be working on transformations of graphs and connecting them to the equations and rules. Students will analyze and connect ideas of transformations in order to quickly sketch basic graphs, which will help them look for points of intersections and solutions.

Science

7th and 8th students individually, or in groups of no more than three, will finalize their STEM project written report and start practicing and presenting their project with peers and hopefully with the judges by December 7th during Haines' Annual STEM Fair.

- **7th grade** - Students will continue their From molecules to organisms: Structures, functions, and processes (Growth and development; Organization for Matter and Energy Flow; Information Processing) unit. They will conduct investigations to provide evidence that living things are made of cells; either one cell or many different numbers and types of cells. Students will continue refining their microscopy skills as they observe, draw and analyze their observations of microscopic organisms in general and plant and animal cells in particular.
- **8th grade** - Students will continue their unit on the Structure and properties of Matter and Its Interactions (chemical reactions, nuclear processes). After the annual STEM fair, they will resume their adaptive online curriculum which will be supplemented by other collaborative activities and investigations where they could be developing models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.

Social Studies

- **7th grade** - The students in room 308 will continue investigating the Great Awakening and its connection to the American Revolution. The historical thinking skills of sourcing, contextualizing, and forming a hypothesis based evidence will be taught in this unit.
- **8th grade** - The students in rooms 307 and 309 will begin the inquiry based unit *Is Greed Good? The Study of Industrialization During the Gilded Age*. In this unit students will address the compelling question as they work through activities to analyze primary and secondary sources. The historical thinking skills of interpretation and contextualization will be taught in this unit.

Room 205

Math: Working on division skills for 7th and 8th grade. Fifth grade is working on interpreting and creating a variety of graphs. Sixth grade is using Touch Math to do addition and subtraction problems.

Reading: Beginning a new novel, "One Crazy Summer" focusing on story elements and responding to literature with well crafted responses. This novel incorporates real events that occurred in our country in the late 1960's. We are continuing building basic grammar skills and constructing paragraphs with a main idea and details.

Social Science: Study ancient civilizations. We are studying ancient Greece and learning about the culture and some famous Greek myths.

Science: Understand the building blocks of all things, atoms. Reading about elements and the periodic table and how different elements interact. We are also learning about water and how we can conserve our use.

IXL: Students must work on IXL math and reading skills at least 90 minutes a week. This is a homework requirement.

Reminders

- Please read each night to build reading stamina.
- Please fill out the volunteer application at <http://cps.edu/FACE/Pages/VolunteerPrograms.aspx>

Important December Dates

December 14 - Last day to apply for high school for 8th graders - go.cps.edu

December 18 - Room 308 @Chinatown Library

December 20 - Winter Arts Festival

December 24 - Winter Break Begins

January 7 - Classes Resume