



## 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 winter administration of NWEA and class assessments through online applications, small group and independent practice, and teacher led groups.

### Advisory

- 8th graders will be setting S.M.A.R.T goals for the new year and reflecting on their progress.
- 7th graders will continue to work on and reflect on their S.M.A.R.T. goals for the new year and refine them as needed.

### English Language Arts

- **309 8th graders** - Students will continue their 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 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 begin reading the allegory, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. As they read they will analyze characters and the plot to identify the theme. Students will also be reading informational text that relates to the history of the novel in order to make text to world connections. 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 build their literacy stamina and continue on their Word Work project to expand their vocabulary. They will also be exposed to engaging adaptive local/global news and SEL 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 self-selected high interest literary and nonfiction texts.

## **Math**

- **307 8th graders** - 8th graders will wrap up their exploration of transformations and different types of symmetries. They will look for patterns that will reflect, rotate and slide coordinates and shapes.
- **308 7th graders** - The students in 7th grade have begun a unit focusing on integers and operations with integers. Students will build upon prior knowledge of integers so that they can model the algorithms. By being able to do operations with integers will prepare students to work with simplifying expressions which is the following unit.
- **309 Algebra** - The students in algebra will conclude a unit that is focused on linear equations and begin focusing on the idea of functions. Students will be exploring what functions entail and how functions are applied in tables, graphs, and equations.

## **Science**

- **7th grade** - Students will conclude their From molecules to organisms: Structures, functions, and processes (Growth and development; Organization for Matter and Energy Flow; Information Processing) unit and start the unit on Genetics, as they answer the question, "How can knowing genetics/heredity including DNA and genes help us understand inheritance and variation of traits?"
- **8th grade** - Students will conclude the unit on the Structure and properties of Matter and Its Interactions (chemical reactions, nuclear processes) and start the unit on Force and Motion as they try to answer the following questions: \*How can understanding forces between a pair of interacting objects (Newton's 3rd law) help design a solution to a problem involving the motion of 2 colliding objects? \*How does the change in an object's motion depend on the sum of the forces on the object & the mass of the object?

## **Social Studies**

- **7th grade** - The students in room 308 will begin studying for the United States Constitution test using a study guide, hands-on activities, discussion, and writing. They will also be working on their own history fair project in which they craft the inquiry question and do the research to answer it.
- **8th grade** - The students in rooms 307 and 309 will begin gathering and analyzing research for their Chicago History Fair Project. The theme is Triumph and Tragedy in Chicago or Illinois. Students will also continue working through a unit on the Progressive Era with a focus on laborers and the Shirtwaist Factory Fire. Students will participate in a mock trial based on the events of the fire.

## **Room 205**

**Math:** Working on a measurement unit using the metric system, converting units and solving real world problems. We will then move to a unit on fractions, doing all operations.

**Reading:** Beginning a new novel, "Summer of the Swans" focusing on story elements and responding to literature with well crafted responses. This novel is about a family dealing with a sibling with a disability. We are continuing building basic grammar skills and constructing paragraphs with a main idea and details. Additionally we will be learning the various genres of literature.

**Social Science:** Study ancient civilizations. We are studying the Middle Ages and learning about how the feudal system was set up, the various roles people played and the contribution to society.

**Science:** Studying a unit on energy. Learning about potential and kinetic energy as well as how to conserve energy and how our use of energy impacts the environment.

**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 February Dates**

February 1 - NO SCHOOL - End of Quarter 2

February 8 - Quarter 2 report cards distributed

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 18 - NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day

February 26 - Room 308 @ Chinatown Library, 11:45 am to 1:15 pm

February 28 - Black History Month Expo