

EIGHTH GRADE NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Language Arts

Mr. Strecker & Ms Rolston

In Language Arts classes, students have been reading independent reading books of their choosing. For this kick-off to the year, we have worked on building momentum in the students' reading habits. As well, the students have gathered information about their own reading habits in order to set thoughtful reading goals. Finally, the students have practiced close reading skills and responding to text.

In the coming months, the students will engage in a reading unit focused on historical fiction. Students will be able to pick books based on their own interests as long as the books come from the genre. As well, students will be meeting regularly with a book club in order to discuss their thoughts about the book.

Pre-Algebra Plus

Mr. Gostkiewicz

Our classes have been learning about exponent rules and how to use them to simplify expressions. We're now working with very large & small values in scientific notation. In October, we'll be starting our second unit we'll be learning how to perform the transformations of reflections, rotations, and translations and observing the properties of each.

Algebra

Mr. Mesite

Algebra students have started the year by laying the foundation of algebraic equations. We have solved real world problems through algebra, including situations involving distributive property, as well as equations with no solution or

infinite solutions. Looking ahead, we will continue our studies by manipulating literal equations and writing/solving inequalities in context. We will also continue our use of graphing calculators to help represent problems and problem solve.

Global Studies

Mrs. Ingmundson & Mr. Aguiar

We spent the first month of school reviewing some terms from 7th grade and introducing students to the skills needed to thoroughly analyze a source. Students will continue using these skills throughout the year as we add in U.S. History content.

As we move into October, students will begin to dive into content. We will start by simulating what it was like to make decisions in our country under the Articles of Confederation. Then students will simulate the process of negotiation and compromise, which is the same process our founding fathers had to go through when revising our government to create the Constitution. Students will have a chance to examine what compromises our founding fathers made and review our Constitution and how it applies to them.

Science

Ms ODP & Ms Bonalli

The young scientists at JW have collided with the new school year by investigating collisions of various objects. To prepare for this investigation students have developed questions around different phenomena of car collisions. Next, we will

explore forces and the way forces affect an object's motion.

CCPS

Students are in the process of choosing topics for their research. They brainstormed topics of interest and passion and looked for link between the two. They will do a "Shark Tank" pitch for their classmates and receive feedback on their topics.

ACT GOAL:

What is ACT?

ACT stands for Advisory Connection Team and is based on the advisor-advisee model that is used in many middle schools. In this program, the students are broken up into small groups of approximately twelve students who are connected with one teacher who will remain their ACT teacher for the school year. This teacher will also be one of the child's homeroom teachers, so each student will get a chance to see his or her ACT teacher on a daily basis.

ACT meets each Wednesday morning for approximately forty minutes. During ACT, lessons are presented based on monthly goals such as honesty, responsibility, and tolerance. These lessons are designed with the middle school child in mind. These concepts are taught in thought-provoking, informational, and fun sessions. We hope the ACT time will be a positive experience for all students.

This program is an extension of work that has begun in the elementary schools. With our work in this area, we will be able to meet the needs of the whole child. In general, the goals of this program are to increase the social and emotional awareness of all students and to create a caring community within our school.

Please visit the ACT Goal of the Month on our website and work with your child at home to reinforce the concepts that are taught through the program.

REMINDERS:

The 8th grade homework calendar can be found on the following webpage:
<https://sites.google.com/reg4.k12.ct.us/8shomework/home>

Student Success Plans (SSP): goals are ready for viewing in Naviance

All JW students will be creating academic and social goals to focus on their own personal needs and areas for improvement. These goals are a part of our school-wide [Student Success Plan](#), a program encompassing academics, social growth, and early career exploration. Students will revisit and revise these goals throughout the year. Parents and guardians are able to view these goals in [Naviance](#), our online SSP program. Instructions and access codes will be mailed home to all households. We encourage families to discuss these goals at home. If you need assistance viewing these goals or resetting your password, please contact the office.

Title IX Non-Discrimination Notice
The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region #4, and Supervision District Boards of Education are committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region #4, and Supervision District Boards of Education do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region #4, and Supervision District Boards of Education do not unlawfully discriminate in employment against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction.

Questions or complaints related to Title IX should be directed to Dr. Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, 1 Winthrop Road, Deep River, CT 06417 or by phone at 860-526-2417 or e-mail kmaritneau@reg4.k12.ct.us; questions or complaints related to disabilities, should be directed to Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services, 1 Winthrop Road, Deep River, CT 06417 or by phone at 860-526-2417 or e-mail ssmalley@reg4.k12.ct.us.