



JR. HIGH ENGLISH, MATH, RELIGION, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES

From the desk of Mrs. Baine,
Jr. High English Teacher

Genre Studies Program:

All students should have begun their Science Fiction or Fantasy novel for the Genre Studies Program. This portion of their grade is completely in their control, and as long as they turn in quality work that follows the instructions, it is an easy 15% of their grade. Due dates are coming up fast for **7th and 8th grade**. All 3 assignments, the Reading Journal, the Project, and the Self-Test, will be due **Oct. 22**. All 3 assignments will be due on **Nov. 2** for the **6th grade**. I will be giving the students more information about the project and test at the beginning of October.



6th Grade We will finish reading and analyzing *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by the end of the month. While much of our time thus far has been spent discussing Puritans, plot, and character, we will start analyzing the language and our themes of Choice and Identity. We will also be supplementing the novel with the poems “Choices” by Nikki Giovanni and “Identity” by Julio Naboia Polanco. In grammar, the students will continue labeling the parts of speech and begin working on subject, predicate, and clauses.

7th Grade We will be finishing *The Skin I'm In* during the first week of October. Their Final Assessment will be a Socratic Seminar, and their first major writing assignment will be a creative diary much like the character in the novel. We will then read several short stories by Edgar Allan Poe and other authors, focusing on the elements of plot. We will begin our next novel, *The Graveyard Book*, on **Oct. 22**. We will continue exploring the theme of identity and also begin talking about coming of age. In grammar, the students will continue labeling the parts of speech and begin working on subject, predicate, and clauses.

8th Grade We will finish reading *The Book Thief* in mid-October with the hope of starting *Macbeth* by Halloween. The students have been working toward two long-term projects: they will write an essay about the Power of Words using examples from novel; and they will participate in a Socratic Seminar as their final exam. Many of the activities we do will be in preparation for these major assignments. We will also be supplementing the novel with excerpts from Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, and several Nazi speeches. In grammar, the students will begin working on subject, predicate, clauses, punctuation, and sentence diagramming.

From the desk of Mr. Jimenez, Jr. High Math Teacher

Greetings Middle Score Parents:

I hope this update finds you well. We are well into the school year now. I have a greater awareness of where students are at individually, which is allowing me to tailor instruction to the class as a whole and to individual students. Please see below for individual class updates:



6th grade

We have completed Chapter 1 and are in Chapter 2 discussing exponents and will end this shorter Chapter next week discussing scientific notation. We will then quickly dive into Chapter 3 and discuss division with decimals, estimating decimal quotients, and multiplication and division expressions. Little by little, we are introducing the use of variables and algebraic expressions. Students appear to have enthusiasm about this...this is always a good sign.

7th Grade

We have concluded Chapter 1. We are working through Chapter 2 discussing simplifying and evaluating algebraic expressions. Students felt challenged when we discussed combining like terms. The struggle is part of the learning process. Please allow them the opportunity to struggle and help them identify what specifically they struggle with and what they think the next step to the solution would be.

8th Grade

We will be concluding Chapter 1 next week. We are ending the chapter discussing the Law of Exponents. Many students appeared to find this challenging as it was being applied to more complex algebraic problems and asking them to simplify. This is a good sign and means they are learning. As mentioned in my earlier letter, all 8th graders will be taking regular 8th grade math this year. Please be sure to review the letter if you have any questions.

From the desk of Sister Tarbytha Mariam, Jr. High Religion Teacher

Religion

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ" -St. Jerome

During the month of October, all of Junior High will continue to learn more about the Old Testament characters that are so important to our faith. From Noah to Abraham, Isaac to Jacob, through Joseph and Moses, the students will be interacting with these stories in ways they may never have before. Using story arcs, character analysis and Socratic seminars, your children will not only learn about these Biblical characters, but how their stories can impact their lives today.

Towards the end of the month of October, I will spend a good amount of time preparing the students for All Saints Day. They will be assigned a Saint on which they will do a project. These projects will be presented in class and will be hung up throughout our classroom.

It is my hope that as the year continues, your children will come to approach their faith as less of a theory and more like a relationship. However, they cannot do this without interaction. Therefore, I encourage you all to enter into conversation with your children about what they are learning in my class.

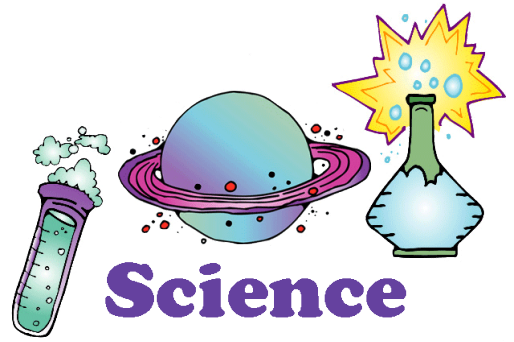


From the desk of Sr. Anahyd, Jr. High Science Teacher

Hi Parents!

September just flew by!

8th Grade: The 8th graders will be diving deeper into understanding the different phases of matter and of how matter can go from one phase to the other. We will also begin our discussion on what atoms are, what subatomic particles are made up of, and how scientists have organized it via the periodic table. We'll be having some really great demonstrations and labs for the kids to really understand the concepts.



Science

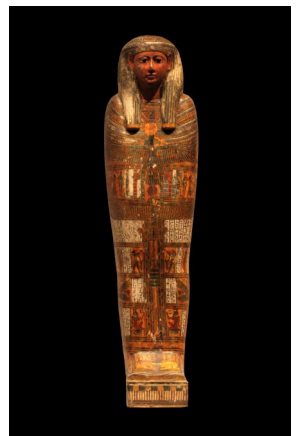
7th Grade: The 7th graders will be beginning to look into the world of cells, their organelles and how they function. We will be learning about cell theory, and will be using our microscopes for different experiments. We will also be looking at the different components the cell, looking at what our bodies need and will be applying it to what we consume in our bodies.

6th Grade: The 6th graders will digging deeper into how soil is formed and conserved, and the geologic cycle, focusing on how it's worn down, built up and overall mass movement. We will be looking at how bodies of water (like rivers) and wind play a role in the entire process. We will end the month going over glaciers, how their formed, how they move and how they shape the land.

From the desk of Mrs. Moss, Sixth Grade Social Studies Teacher

This month we leave Mesopotamia and move on to begin study of the early civilizations in Africa and Asia.

We will learn how the survival of these people often depended on knowledge of nature, climate, landforms, rivers and floods. From these civilizations in Egypt, Nubia, China, India and Persia arose fascinating inventions, new ideas, technology and ways of thinking that are still part of people's lives today.



We will learn to write our names in hieroglyphics and study the mummification process as a fun project for the days approaching Halloween!

Yet another exciting month!

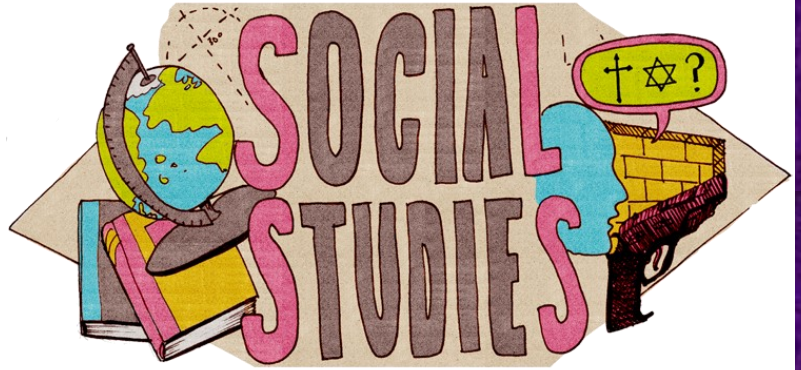
Blessings!



Egyptian hieroglyphs

	A		F		S
	I/A		M		SH
	Y		N		K/Q
	Y		R		K
	A		H		G
	W/U		H		T
	W/U		KH		CH
	B		KH		D
	P		S		J

From the desk of Fr. Ankido,
Seventh & Eighth Grade
Social Studies Teacher



AREAS TO BE COVERED THIS MONTH:

7th Grade Social Studies (Geography)

West African Empires (Empires of Ghana, Mali, Songhai, and the arts).

8th Grade Social Studies (American History)

English Colonies and their conflicts, and the American Revolution.