

Stars Team Newsletter



February 2009



Important Dates:

March 24-26, -- 7th Grade State Reading Assessment

March 31- April 2, - 7th Grade State Math Assessment

April 21-22, -- 7th Grade State Science Assessment

Please, if at all possible --- do not make appointments for you student on these days during their respective class.

Thank you very much!

Math News

Math II students have finished chapter 5, *Ratios, Rates and Proportions*. We used our knowledge of fractions to write ratios and solve proportion. In chapter 6, students have been building on their knowledge of proportions to solve problems involving percents. To start we developed the students' understanding of the relationship between decimals and fractions and how to express both as percents.



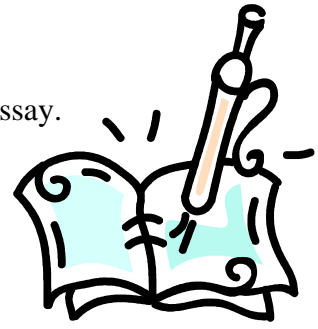
Math III students have completed chapter 6. Most recently they learned to find percents four different ways: mentally, estimating, through proportions, and by writing and solving equations. We covered Geometry earlier this year so we will jump to chapter 9, Patterns, Sequences and Functions. We will use table graphs and formula to solve problems.

Please restock your students with school supplies. Several needed more paper and pencils just before break.

Mrs. White

Language Arts

We ended the month of January by finishing our compare and contrast essay. We are currently working on adjectives with our “Visual Valentine” assignment. Looking ahead, we will be moving into a persuasive writing unit to reinforce what we will be discussing in literature. In grammar, we will be moving on to adverbs. We will continue to study vocabulary and spelling with spelling tests every Friday and vocabulary tests every other Friday.



Mrs. Brinker

Literature

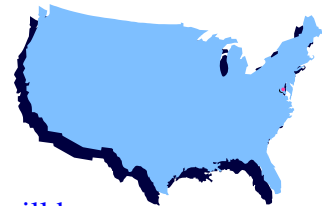
Literature classes are in the process of preparing the State Reading Assessment that will be taken in March. Students are learning about the different structures that expository text can follow, including sequence, cause/effect, problem/solution, comparison/contrast, and description. Also, throughout the next month students will be taking formative assessments in class and in the computer lab. These give students practice taking tests that are similar to the real one and provide practice with the concepts they have learned this year.



Mrs. Brinker, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. White

Social Studies News

We are moving ahead in history through the Jacksonian Era and into Westward Expansion. We are labeling a map with the territories claimed through Manifest Destiny that brought the USA almost up to its current size. The movie Jeremiah Johnson will help to illustrate some of what America looked like during this time, as well as the views that many Americans had regarding Native Americans. Our next focus will be on the continual divisiveness between North and South that eventually led to the Civil War.



Mrs. Andrews

Science News

Students are in the process of studying diseases through a unit on bacteria and viruses. They will learn about when infections can be treated with antibiotics and why they don't always work. They have made and eaten yogurt in class to experience beneficial bacteria firsthand. They will be able to explain why viruses are considered to be nonliving things. After this unit we will be looking more carefully at protists and plants.



Mrs. Jenkins