



7th GRADE NEWS



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♦♦ TEACHER LATE DAYS & EXTRA HELP ♦♦
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
(PLEASE CHECK WITH THE INDIVIDUAL TEACHER)

Progress Reports Issued

- 1st Marking Period: October 6, 2009
- 2nd Marking Period: December 17, 2009
- 3rd Marking Period: March 9, 2010
- 4th Marking Period: May 20, 2010

Report Cards Issued

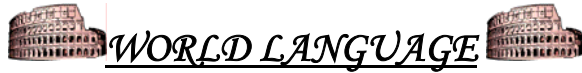
- 1st Marking Period: November 18, 2009
- 2nd Marking Period: February 4, 2010
- 3rd Marking Period: April 26, 2010
- 4th Marking Period: June 23, 2010



SOCIAL STUDIES



The 7th grade history course has spanned millions of years since September. Students have learned about the hominids and many civilizations of the ancient world including Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China. Students have learned the history and culture of these civilizations by examining the engineering techniques of these empires. Some engineering feats include, but are not limited to, the construction of irrigation canals, dams, pyramids, fortresses, obelisks, and the Great Wall of China. Future civilizations of study will include India, Greece, Rome, as well as the Incas, Aztecs, and Mayans. Such studies, as well as current events, allow for a greater understanding of our nation's institutions, engineering, culture, and philosophies as well as other countries throughout the world while increasing student comprehension and achievement. I have enjoyed teaching and getting to know your children and am looking forward to the rest of the year.



WORLD LANGUAGE

The Coliseum at Rome/the Aqueduct of Seville

The World Language Department is stressing the importance of teaching foreign language as a tool. This is useful for students because it enables them to have a more global view of the world. The main goal in the classroom is to provide the students with the skills they need to communicate in the target languages, which are Spanish and Italian. The foreign language teachers are advocating the importance of learning a second language to our students and to our colleagues as well. Students will also improve their knowledge of their own culture by understanding, appreciating, and studying other cultures. Students will achieve a better appreciation of the Spanish / Italian culture by being exposed to music, art, literature, and movies. This year will be very productive and filled with exciting learning experiences.



LANGUAGE ARTS

In the upcoming months, the students will continue to practice for the NJASK Test (New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge). This involves reading passages and answering multiple choice and open-ended questions. They will also be writing a variety of essays which include: narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and speculative pieces. The students are currently involved in the reading of the novel, *The Cage the Animals at Night*, which is an autobiographical account of one child's journey through the foster care system. Two more novels will be read in the seventh grade. The students are also working very hard to fulfill their independent reading requirements. Poetry and Greek Mythology will also be covered in the upcoming months. We are looking forward to the successful completion of 7th grade.



SCIENCE

During the second half of the year, the seventh grade life science class will undertake an examination of the diversity of living organisms. This will involve a discussion of how living things are classified as well as an in-depth review of each of the major kingdoms (Bacteria, Protists, Fungi, Plants, and Animals). Once this is completed, students will be introduced to the field of ecology. In this unit, students will be introduced to the many interactions of living things, the cycles of nature, the earth's ecosystems, and finally, environmental problems and solutions. We will then conclude the year by reviewing the major human body systems and discuss how human health can impact them.



MATH

Is it possible that we have nearly reached the midpoint of the school year already? It seems like it is a good time to provide a quick update on what your children are doing in their math classes. Pre-Algebra students are working hard on evaluating algebraic expressions and solving equations and inequalities involving integers, fractions, and decimals. In addition, we are working on memorizing divisibility rules (then applying them in writing prime factorization), as well as the various properties of addition, multiplication and reducing fractions using prime factorization. Tests and quizzes are being diversified to help students prepare for the NJ ASK 7 test. We are also focusing on word problems, problem solving, and the use of the writing process in mathematics. As always, contact your child's teacher with any specific questions or concerns you may have.