



Team 7/8 News

March 6, 2010

Math 7

Volume 5, Issue 1

For the next few weeks we will be working on solving equations. Some of the equations will get very challenging by the end of March, so I encourage students to stay and ask questions when they don't get something. We will also review graphing on the coordinate system and even start graphing some basic lines. The next Summative Assessment will be March 30th. After April break we will have a short review of problem solving techniques to help with the NYS Assessment.

On March 19th we will be participating in the St. Jude's Math-A-Thon. I know with the economy it is hard to find a few extra dollars to give, but it goes to a wonderful cause, one that is very close to my heart. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with the day. Let me know if you are interested.

Please continue to look for the weekly progress report on Fridays. The report will contain current grades and any missing work. If they are signed and re-

turned on the following Monday then the student can get extra credit on the quiz the week before.

Don't forget to get updates on my website. There you and the students can find weekly packets, important team information, the team newsletter and more. You can find the site by going to www.teacherweb.com and clicking on the Find your Teacher. From there follow the prompts to find my site.

Thank you.

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Important Upcoming Dates

Emergency Bus Drill—
March 9th

March 17th—Science
Fair

Money for St. Jude's due
March 26th.

7th grade Career Day—
March 11th

March 19th—St. Jude's
Math-A-Thon

No school—April 1st

March 17th—What's
Happening at CMS

Grade 8 Transition Eve-
ning—March 24 @ HS

Spring Recess—April 2—
April 11.



Science 7

The students are well on their way into the human body systems unit. We are currently wrapping up the digestive system unit. From here, we will talk in depth about the circulatory system before briefly covering some of the other major body systems. Human anatomy can be a year-long course in and of itself so we can only touch upon most of

the body systems. I do hope that the dissections at the end of the body systems unit will bring everything together for the students and serve as an appropriate way to culminate the unit.



ELA 7

In 7th grade Language Arts, we are currently working on an interdisciplinary project with Social Studies. Students have been researching decades in the 18th and 19th centuries to find out what life was like for people. The final product of the research will be a mu-

ral created by the group reflecting the time period. Come check out the murals on Open House night! There is also an individual component of the research project that will be completely homework and due in a few weeks. In the next few weeks, we will be spend-

ing time getting ready for the State Assessment, which occurs at the end of April. Students should be reading each night for one half hour from a book of choice.

Social Studies 7

Students are currently working on a joint ELA/social studies project on decades from 1770 to 1870. The culmination of their research will be a mural depicting events of their specific decade. Murals, hopefully, will be

completed by March 17 for "What's Happening at CMS?" night.

Math 8

For the next few weeks we will be working on Percents. This will include Tax, Percent Change, Commission, Gratuities, Discount and Sale Price, and finally simple interest. The next Summative Assessment will be March 25th. After April Break we will have a week of problem solving to help prepare for the NYS Assessment and then review.

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Science 8

We are at currently at the tail end of the geology unit and are about to begin talking about tectonic plates and how they affect geologic events such as earthquakes. This portion of the unit is meant to shed light on current and tragic events--giving the students greater in-

sight into the science behind some of the most important natural disasters that have happened in the past few years. One of the major projects for this unit will be the design of a tsunami resistant building. Students will design and build a structure which will then be tested in a

"tsunami-tank." This will then allow us to enter into the physics unit and a discussion of forces.



ELA 8

In 8th grade Language Arts we have just finished a unit on The Thief of Always and completed a major writing project on the novel. We will be starting a thematic unit that centers on the journey characters and people experience in life. This will

involve an independent reading book that will be chosen in the next week. We will spend a quick two weeks on this unit before moving into our next novel, The Outsiders. In the next few weeks, we will be spending time getting ready for

the State Assessment, which occurs at the end of April. Students should be reading each night for one half hour from a book of choice.



CMS

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Social Studies 8

Students have been examining the changes in America's culture in the decade of the 1920's. Topics have been Prohibition, Women's suffrage and the impact of the automobile. Classes are being taught by Mr. David Elson, Bard MAT student.

CMS History Club:

Students have been completing a project on the earthquake in Haiti. Students brought in magazine and newspaper articles to show what happened to that nation.