

Arbutus Middle News

End of 2nd Quarter, January 2019

6th Grade

Just a reminder that the parent handbook states that students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic/wireless communication devices while inside the building, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher. Cell phones should be turned OFF and not be visible at all times when in the school building. Text messaging is not permitted! Students not following to this policy will have their phones confiscated and secured in the office safe. Students who have their phones taken for any reason must have a parent or legal guardian pick up the phone. We remind students of this policy, but hope that you too will discuss cell phone use with your child.

The criteria for participating in the 6th grade 3rd quarter incentive are as follows:

- *Less than 3 SIRs
- *No office referrals/suspensions/ALC
- *Less than 3 unexcused absences
- *Less than 3 unexcused lateness'
- *No failing grades

Reading

In Reading Foundations students have completed their mid-year diagnostic for i-Ready. Students continue to practice their reading comprehension and vocabulary.

Sixth grade Reading students will be starting Unit 3. This is a science fiction unit that focuses on Ray Bradbury's craft.

Language Arts

GT Language Arts students recently completed the unit "Withstanding Change – Exploring Universal Archetypes" where they focused on Greek mythology, especially in regard to the universality of the human condition and storytelling in general. Students explored character archetypes, the archetypal Hero's Journey, and universal themes as they read various well-known Greek myths. The primary text was Mythology by Edith Hamilton. Standard students have completed their PBA where they extended a myth by writing a new episode in the style of the author Rick Riordan.

Math

Sixth graders have completed a unit on ratios, unit rates, and proportional reasoning. We will soon be studying numeric expressions and algebraic expressions, translating between them and words, and identifying and writing equivalent expressions. While doing all this, we want to keep up with prior learning so we spiral back to fractions and decimals periodically. Sixth grade math can be very challenging as we look to apply these skills in real world situations. See if your student can identify an expression that has to with something in your everyday life!

Science

The Chemistry unit focuses on the structure and properties of matter. For the summative assessment, students will engage in a culminating event that assess their understanding of matter and its properties and how matter can be changed to meet society's needs. Students will create a synthetic material from existing resources. Students will then generate an advertisement that communicates how the new material was formed and why this new material benefits society.

World Cultures

As we begin the third quarter, we will be winding down the India section of Unit 3. We will close out India with an introduction to the Zoroaster religion. Upon completion of our quiz on India, we will move full speed into Greece and Persia. We will investigate the famous conflicts between the Greeks and the Persians. We debate the which city state, Athens or Sparta, was supreme in Ancient Greece. We examine each empire's geography, social structure, government, religion, and economy. Unit III proves to be a student favorite year in and year out! We look forward to have a great third quarter!!



Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra students are wrapping up Unit 3. We began the unit by reviewing distributive property and combining like terms before moving in to writing & solving expressions from word problems, writing & solving equations from word problems, and solving one & two-step equations. We are now applying the skills used to solve equations to solving inequalities and will end the unit with slope. This unit combined many skills that the students have previously learned, including integers & fractions.

Algebra

Algebra students will be finishing up their unit on analyzing linear equations. We will see proportional relationships, regression analysis, systems of equations and even piecewise functions. Students will then embark on a journey through the wild world of quadratic and other functions.

World Cultures

Students will begin unit three next week. In this unit, students will explore various agents of change including war, disease, and invasion. Students will examine key factors in varying degrees of depth and complexity as time, interest and levels of proficiency allow. Some of the specific topics covered are the Crusades, Black Death, Mongol invasion, and the rise of Nation States. Our essential question for this unit is: How did key events lead to political, social, and economic change throughout various regions around the world prior to the Renaissance?

Science

7th graders have been engaged in the unit "Chemistry Within Us" unit. In this unit, students are focusing on the question: "How does my body use sugar?" Students will conduct investigations and use models to discover how cells use matter to obtain energy. Students will apply this knowledge to investigate how living things (plants and animals) obtain and use matter to produce the food and energy they need to live and grow. Students will focus on natural sugars versus artificial sugars and how the body uses these molecules to release energy in order for the organism to live and grow.

Standard Language Arts

In 7th grade Language Arts, students are continuing to read the plays, *A Raisin in the Sun* or *The Miracle Worker*. Students have been analyzing how setting, stage directions, and dialogue portray the mood in order to visualize the scene in a dramatic text. Students have also identified various types of conflicts within the text and determined how these conflicts can affect the plot. In the next several weeks, students will begin interpreting film and analyzing how various cinematic techniques create the mood in a film. As an assessment, students will compose a film critique in which they argue whether or not the mood in a scene from the text version of *A Raisin in the Sun* or *The Miracle Worker* is accurately portrayed in the film version.

GT/AA Language Arts

Students will learn about segregation and civil rights in history. Students will view a scene from the film version of *Hidden Figures* in order to compose an analysis explaining how the film version effectively uses cinematic techniques to portray tensions that exist between various characters in the text. Additionally, students will use their knowledge of cinematic techniques, such as close-up, panning, lighting, and camera angles to suggest any additional decisions a director could make to reflect the tensions Margot Lee Shetterly created in the text.



Grade 8 Team

It is officially the halfway mark for this school year! Second quarter is ending, and students are finishing assignments and beginning new units. 8th grade Algebra I students will be finishing up their unit on analyzing linear equations. Students will then embark on a journey through the wild world of quadratic and other functions. In Geometry, students are exploring theorems to prove triangles congruent. Once proven congruent, they will be exploring the properties of these congruent triangles. Math 8 students have just finished reviewing solving multi-step equations using inverse operations. This knowledge will then be used to solve a system of equations, multiple equations with the same variables. They will be using three methods, graphing, substitution, and elimination.

Science students are leaving the Galapagos and finishing up looking at how organisms change over time. We look next at weather and climate. Students will be able to predict weather using weather maps and use that to discuss climate. We will end the unit by looking at how humans affect the climate and how the climate affects the animals and plants of the world.

Students in American History will begin Quarter 3 with the start of Unit 4: Nationalism and Expansion. In this unit, students will study the challenges that the United States confronted during the early 19th century. Students will continue to investigate the domestic and foreign policy issues that early presidents confronted as well as the solutions those leaders proposed in response. In particular, students will examine the Louisiana Purchase and evaluate its impact on the country. Also, they will examine the expedition of Lewis and Clark in the Louisiana Territory and determine if the expedition was a success. Students will then examine perspectives on and battles of the War of 1812, which was a special history at Fort McHenry in Baltimore. They will use their knowledge of the war coupled with the Monroe Doctrine to evaluate whether the U.S. become an international power after the War of 1812. Lastly, students will examine the early life and presidency of Andrew Jackson, including the Indian Removal Act and its impact on Native Americans.

Over the next couple of weeks, Ms. Stevens', Mr. Mulville's, and Mrs. Elliott's ELA 8 classes will begin our third Unit of the year: "The Challenge of Combining Cultures". Students will begin addressing the difficulties and

hardships that accompany different groups of people associating in the same space or time. Our essential question for the unit asks: *"How do people develop a sense of belonging within a new culture?"* In the ever-increasing diffusion of people in our world, it is important to consider how people define their identities when they are no longer with people that look, speak, or believe the same way. We will be reading *Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep, a historical novel that explores the experience of a Chinese-American in the United States shortly after the turn of the twentieth century.

Over the next couple of weeks, Ms. Stevens' and Mr. Mulville's ELA 8 GT classes will begin our third Unit of the year: "Stories and Community". Students will begin to consider how the stories we tell in our families, communities, or as a society as a whole define us and bring us together (or tear us apart, in some cases). Our essential questions for the unit asks: *"How do stories create community"* and *"How do authors make the old new?"* Students will also consider how contemporary authors borrow or (shamelessly) copy stories, ideas, and forms from previous generations. Students will be introduced to the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare.

Continue to monitor your child's progress and assignment completion on Schoology. Third quarter Parent Conference Night will be on Wednesday, March 13 from 4 – 6 PM.



Winter News from the AMS Yearbook

It's almost that time again! Your next chance to preorder your 2019 all-color AMS Yearbook will be coming up soon. Yearbooks will be on sale each day during the week of February 11 – February 15 during all lunch shifts. Cost is \$30, cash or money order. No checks will be accepted. Don't be left out!

Preserve the memories of your school year! Save the dates and preorder your 2019 AMS Yearbook. You may also continue to preorder your yearbook online on our AMS school website.

AMS is Putting on a Variety SHOW!!

Who: anyone can audition to be in the show. Get an act together by yourself or with friends.

How: Fill out the application form for an audition.

Where do I get the form: Music wing, PE teachers or the office.

What kind of act: Singing (appropriate lyrics) Dancing (ballet, hiphop, tap, ballroom, swing, cultural dances) Comedy routine, Monologues, Drama scenes, Guitar, Piano, Rock Band

All costumes/dress and lyrics must be school appropriate

ALL forms require a parent signature.

**WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOUR TALENT!!
BE IN THE FIRST AMS VARIETY SHOWCASE!!**

What is the Timeline for being in the SHOW!

NOW: decide what you want to do, practice and get materials ready, ask a teacher or parent to help if you need it.

Up until March 20th— Applications are due and auditions will be set-up. Your ACT must be performance ready at this point.

March 27/28 and April 2nd— Auditions after school from 3:00 to 4:30. You may ride the bus, walk home or have a parent pick you up with a permission slip.

April 3rd-Audition results will be posted and you have a week to get it ready and polished.

APRIL 11th 6:30pm the SHOW WILL BE PERFORMED!!