



Arbutus Middle School: Showing Eagle P.R.I.D.E.



2019-2020 Quarter 1 Newsletter

6th Grade

Language Arts

Ms. Wilson, Ms. Gast, Ms. Fultz, Ms. Jones, & Ms. Richards



Students will read a variety of narrative texts in order to identify the literary elements used in each and to examine how these elements work together to create the narrative. They will also be reading the novel "Ghost" by Jason Reynolds in class as a supplemental novel that will help them prepare for the upcoming unit assessment.

GT Language Arts students will be working in small groups defining, identifying, and supporting tone in various media in order to create a written product that depicts a chosen tone. What group will be the most creative? There will be a winner!

Math

Ms. Panackal, Ms. Ruszkowski, Ms. Kraus, Ms. Evans, & Mr. Holauchock



Students will be using their knowledge of addition, subtraction, and multiplication in real life situations.

Students are wrapping up Unit 2. They will be reviewing patterns, algebraic expressions, formulas, The Pythagorean Theorem, spreadsheets, open sentences and inequalities in preparation for their unit test.

Science

Ms. Aaron, Ms. Ary, Ms. Flynn, & Ms. Vandenberg

The chemistry unit focusing on the structure and properties of matter. For the summative assessment, students will engage in a culminating event that will 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.



PRIDE Time



Sixth grade PRIDE Time allows for independent reading, activities that help students explore their devices, learn more about content area topics, and expand their knowledge of student skills required to be successful in the secondary setting. We also have included a portion of time for independent and/or small group enrichment.

Reading



Ms. Webster, Ms. Kelley, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Elliott, Ms. Yorke, & Ms. Prenger

Students in Reading Foundation classes will be evaluating text in order to build upon comprehension skills. They will complete an independent reading novel and student application practice for the Read 180 program.

Students in Reading classes will be evaluating text in order to build upon fluency and comprehension skills. They will continue to work with the Read 180 and System 44 software.

Students in Reading Research classes have either finished a legend essay or are finishing it. They will then move on to delving into the research process through a cultural lens and practicing the sociological approach. They will study artifacts from a certain culture and create a "museum" showing off and explaining the artifacts.

World Cultures

Mr. Melrath, Ms. Bentley, Mr. Allen, & Mr. Mangiafico

The sixth grade World Cultures students have just completed Unit 1 and are starting Unit 2 topics this week. We will be examining the creation and structure of the ancient river civilizations, Mesopotamia and Egypt. For each of these civilizations, we will be examining religion, social structure, advancements and achievements, political structure, and economic systems. The students will be comparing and contrasting the two civilizations towards the end of the quarter to determine which was more advanced and more likely to succeed.



World Language

Ms. Rigby & Ms. McCusker
你好!

Spanish

6th graders will be working with food and beverage vocabulary as it pertains to (un)healthy eating habits. They will classify foods by the meals that they belong to, the food groups they belong to, and by how much of each type of food they should be eating on a regular basis.

Chinese

Students will be starting Unit 2 which focuses on celebrating birthdays! Students will start learning about numbers in order to tell the date in Chinese. Students will be using authentic resources and World Language best practices in order to learn Chinese in context.

Art

Ms. Rosensteel, Ms. Slentz, Ms. Sheffield, & Ms. Schmitt

We are excited to share with parents how we are encouraging students to engage in creative problem solving in various manners. Art students this year are encouraged to not only explore an assortment of art media and techniques, but also to fluently and thoroughly discuss their ideas and creations.



Physical Education & Health

Ms. Happel, Ms. Meyers, Ms. Randlett-Tydings, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Esbrandt, & Mr. Northcraft

Mr. W and Ms. RT's classes are in their health rotation, while the PE classes are engaged in Basketball and Individual fitness performance.



Music

Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Blough, and Mr. Miskimon

The Music Department is busy getting ready for their Winter concerts! There is much preparation needed to make all of our endeavors successful and you will see evidence of that in our classes. We have had several activities out of the building: AWE, Honors Orchestra and 8th grade Choir performed with Lansdowne High and Lansdowne Middle in a side by side concert. AWE, Jazz Band, Honors Orchestra and Festival Choir performed for area elementary schools Oct. 30th.

The AMS Music Department is seeking an accompanist for the Arbutus Chorus Ensembles (6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade and/or Festival Choir). Adult Accompanists can be compensated for their time. If an AMS Parent is interested in accompanying, please contact Ms. Blough at cblough@bcps.org.

Concerts: All concerts start at 6:30pm; students report at 6:00.

Dec. 10th: Arbutus Wind Ensemble, 8th grade chorus, and Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra

Dec. 11th: 7th grade chorus, Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band

Dec. 12th: 6th grade Chorus, Band and Orchestra along with Festival Choir

Dec. 17th: Concert at Charlestown performed by AWE, Jazz Band, Concert Orchestra and Festival Choir - 10:30 am

Concert letter coming home soon. Everyone needs to have their uniform for the concert!!



7th Grade

Language Arts

Standard

Students will continue to learn about diversity and its importance in our society through their reading of the drama, *A Raisin in the Sun* or *The Miracle Worker*. These particular genres of drama will give students a rich experience with society's challenges during the 1950's in Chicago or set in the 1880's in Tusculumbia, Alabama. Students will compare the diversity of the 1950's or 1880's to the diversity of our current culture.

GT/AA

Students will learn about segregation in history based on the book, *Hidden Figures*. This unit's PBA will focus on a scene from the film version of *Hidden Figures*. Students will 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 to suggest any additional decisions a director could make to reflect the tensions Margot Lee Shetterly created in the text.

Spanish Grade 7

In Ms. Milstead's Spanish class students will be asking and answering questions about their food preferences.

Spanish Gr 7 Pd 2 McCusker (both A and B)

Students will be exploring the foods of various Spanish-speaking countries and comparing them to what they eat for their own meals. They will create menus for the typical dishes of their chosen country of study and will even include the prices in that country's currency.

Spanish Gr 7: McCusker Period 1, Lint, and Ziemba
Students will be using their new foods vocabulary to talk about their preferences for where, when, with whom and why they like to eat certain foods. We will begin to talk about why certain foods are healthy and how to create balanced meals.

Beginner Chinese A

Students will be starting Unit 2 which focuses on celebrating birthdays! Students will start learning about numbers in order to tell the date in Chinese. Students will be using authentic resources and World Language best practices in order to learn Chinese in context.

Beginner Chinese B

Students will be starting Unit 2 which focuses on vacations. Students will be learning about different places and activities to go to and do during vacation. Students will be using authentic resources and World Language best practices in order to learn Chinese in context.

Science

In this unit students will determine the characteristics that make up living things and examine the hierarchy of life from cell organelles to human body systems. How do scientists determine if something is living, non-living or dead? What are our bodies made of and how do all of these tiny pieces work together? The culminating event involves constructing a working model of 2 organ systems interacting to carry out daily activities.

World Cultures

Social Studies classes have just completed unit one examining religious and trade empires in Asia and the Middle East. We are now moving into unit two focusing on the social, political, and economic structures that provided stability in Medieval Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. During American Education Week, we are specifically defining feudalism and how it supported social structures in the Middle Ages. We are very excited to see parents and family members visit our classrooms and support their children in the learning process.

Reading

Students in Reading classes will be evaluating text in order to build upon fluency and comprehension skills. They will continue to work with the Read 180 and System 44 software.

Pre-Algebra

7th grade Pre-Algebra students are wrapping up Unit 2-Ratios and Proportionality. Throughout this week, students will use the concept of unit rate to solve problems and compare prices, use constant rates of change to represent proportional relationships, and use percents to describe change as they review and test for this unit.

Algebra

In GT Algebra 1, the students have been working with Linear Equations. They have learned how to create equations in Slope-Intercept Form, create tables, and draw graphs all from a word problem. This week we will be learning how to use Linear Equations to model Inequalities and then graph solutions on a coordinate plane.

Specials

Art

We are excited to share with parents how we are encouraging students to engage in creative problem solving in various manners. Art students this year are encouraged to not only explore an assortment of art media and techniques, but also to fluently and thoroughly discuss their ideas and creations.

Physical Education

Physical Education will be participating in the basketball and flexibility unit.

Mr. W and Ms. RT's classes are in their health rotation, while the PE classes are engaged in Basketball and Individual fitness performance.

Health

During AE week we will be in our first unit - taking charge of my health. During that week, we will be learning about values and decision making.

Music -Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Blough, and Mr. Miskimon

The music department is preparing mightily for the Winter Concert season. You will be able to see your child in action rehearsing for this important event/assessment. The Concerts all start at 6:30 and students need to arrive for warm-up at 6:00pm.

The 8th grade Chorus, Concert Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra will present on Dec 10th

7th grade Band, Chorus and Orchestra, FALS and Jazz Band will present on Dec 11th

6th grade Chorus, Band, Orchestra and Festival Choir will present on Dec. 12th.

Everyone needs to have their Band Uniform for the concert!! Look for a specific concert letter coming home soon.

Grade 8

Language Arts

Students in grade eight Language Arts are beginning the unit, "The Challenge of Writing an Engaging Story". Lessons will provide students with multiple opportunities to read various, engaging stories and to analyze them for techniques used by authors, such as dramatic irony and point of view, to create texts that captivate a reader's interest through humor and suspense. During this unit, students will engage in a "Whole Novels" study of a book related to a study of how an author creates an engaging story. GT Language Arts students will be starting the unit "Viewpoint and Community" allows students to explore how differing perspectives and points of view shape the viewpoints of a community. During this unit students will read and analyze a variety of texts including poetry, short stories, and informational articles. The texts analyzed in this unit challenge students to determine how an author's use of the point of view affects the reader's experience with special attention to suspense and humor. Students will also engage in a "Whole Novels" study of a book that creates humor or suspense.

Reading

Students are continuing working with the Read 180 program. Every day they are completing three rotations that consist of small group instruction, student application online, and independent reading.



Math

Math 8:

Math 8 students will be starting an exciting new unit on analyzing linear equations. Students will learn about various topics including slope and writing linear equations for a set of data. This information will then be applied to real world problems involving rate of change and initial values.

Algebra I:

After exploring all of the function families, 8th grade Algebra I is starting a new unit focusing only on linear functions and their equations. Students will be focusing on slope and writing linear equations for a set of data. This information will then be applied to solving real world problems. Students will also learn to calculate the line of best fit in order to make predictions about a set of data.

Geometry :

In GT Geometry, students are applying their problem solving and reasoning skills to develop proofs. They will begin with basic concepts then move into applying them to more complex proofs. This is a great time for students to review the theorems and definitions they have learned this year.



Science

Students are beginning to work through "Mastodons and Megalodons" where students will be examining geologic time and how organisms change over that time period. Students will be examining how scientists gather data on past events and how geologic events have shaped the earth and life through time. In this unit students are examining: geologic time, fossils, anatomic features, and cladograms.



America's Past

In 8th grade U.S. History, students will examine the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation as evidenced by Shay's Rebellion and the Constitutional Convention's role to improve these weaknesses. In addition, students will analyze the 7 principles of the U.S. Constitution and determine how the Founding Fathers' background contributed to the creation of the Constitution.



World Languages

8th grade Spanish:

We will be discussing our daily routines and habits for a healthier, happier, more ideal life. Our essential questions are "¿Cómo es mi vida actual?" and "¿Cómo es mi vida ideal?" Students will be interpreting and learning from text made for native Spanish speakers, by native Spanish speakers.



Chinese:

In Chinese class, students have started working on Unit 2. In Intermediate Chinese, Unit 2 involves Illness and how to be healthy. Students will be working with parts of the body and how to express how they are feeling. As always, students will be practicing their reading, speaking, writing and listening skills.



Music: Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. Blough, and Mr. Miskimon

The Music Department is busy getting ready for their Winter concerts! There is much preparation needed to make all of our endeavors successful and you will see evidence of that in our classes. We have had several activities out of the building: AWE, Honors Orchestra and 8th grade Choir performed with Lansdowne High and Lansdowne Middle in a side by side concert. AWE, Jazz Band, Honors Orchestra and Festival Choir performed for area elementary schools Oct. 30th. The AMS Music Department is seeking an accompanist for the Arbutus Chorus Ensembles (6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade and/or Festival Choir). Adult Accompanists can be compensated for their time. If an AMS Parent is interested in accompanying, please contact Ms. Blough at

cbrough@bcps.org.

Concerts: All concerts start at 6:30pm; students report at 6:00.

Dec. 10th: Arbutus Wind Ensemble, 8th grade chorus, and Concert Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra

Dec. 11th: 7th grade chorus, Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band

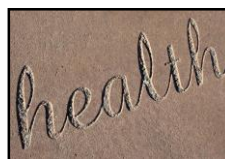
Dec. 12th: 6th grade Chorus, Band and Orchestra along with Festival Choir

Dec. 17th: Concert at Charlestown performed by AWE, Jazz Band, Concert Orchestra and Festival Choir - 10:30 am
Concert letter coming home soon. Everyone needs to have their uniform for the concert!!



Physical Education and Health

Grade 8 PE classes will be participating in the basketball and flexibility units. Students in Ms. Meyer's health classes will be working through Unit 1. The students will be learning about the Benes Alperin Skill Cues which are the skills needed that help guide our entire curriculum. We also will begin learning about stress, anxiety, depression, and suicide.



Art: Ms. Rosensteel, Ms. Sheffield, Ms. Slentz & Ms. Schmitt

We are excited to share with parents how we are encouraging students to engage in creative problem solving in various manners. Art students this year are encouraged to not only explore an assortment of art media and techniques, but also to fluently and thoroughly discuss their ideas and creations. Recently, 8th grade students have been learning about artist and filmmaker Tim Burton. Taking inspiration from his unique character designs, 8th grade students have been challenged to create a parody of an existing character in Tim Burton's style.



Don't delay, Order your yearbook today!!

Visit the AMS website for the link to the Jostens Website. The yearbook is \$30 with personalization options available for additional cost. Credit/debit card and PayPal accepted. Don't miss out on preserving the memory of your middle school years.



Notes from Nurse Woody

It's that time of year when the students are starting to get sick. Please see the guidelines below to help you decide when you should keep your child home from school.

WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL?

- For a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Student must be fever-free WITHOUT fever-reducing medication (such as Tylenol or Motrin) for at least 24 hours before returning to school
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea (student may return to school 24 hours after last episode)
- Uncontrollable, infectious cough
- Suspected communicable disease (i.e. chicken pox, lice, ringworm)
- Suspected infection of the eyes (conjunctivitis), nose, throat (strep throat), or skin (scabies)
- A rash of unknown origin-must be seen by a physician
- Students must stay home for the first 24 hours of antibiotic therapy

It is important to remember the above guidelines if your child isn't feeling well. By following these guidelines we will prevent other students from becoming ill. Also, remember that hand washing is the best defense against the spread of germs.