



7-2 TEAM NEWS

Science

The Champion Science students will be working on the Chemistry unit during the month of December. The focus of the unit will be on structures and properties of matter and interactions. The students will learn about atoms and bonding properties that will lead to building models of simple molecules. Furthermore, students will learn how temperature affects the state of matters, how synthetic materials affect society, and how chemical reactions happen.

In January, we will learn about Astronomy. The students will learn basic facts about our relative position within the solar system. Students will learn about the moon surface, the phases, eclipses, and how the tides affect planet earth. The students will learn about the sun and how the tilt of the earth affect the seasons.

The Challenge Science students will have three checkpoints (Check #6, #7 and #8) during December and January. The checkpoints involve conducting experiments, making observations, taking pictures, recording data, graphing summary, conclusion, reflection, and further study for the experiment. The checkpoints involve prototype creation, improvement, modifications, photos of the prototype progress, and data collection. The final project will be due on January 29, 2019.

Math

Math 7

In the month of December, students will be working hard as we finish Expressions and Equations. They will be using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions and solve problems using numerical and algebraic expression, equations and inequalities. In January we will begin our Geometry Units by drawing and describing geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.

Compacted Math 7/8

Students will continue to work diligently getting through all of the rigorous 7th and 8th grade curriculum. In the month of December, students will be focusing on Rates and Proportional Relationships through various models as well as in real-world situations. In January we will begin our Geometry Units by drawing and describing geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.

Math 8

In the month of December, students will be working through their final part of the expressions and equations unit as they analyze and solve linear equations and inequalities with rational number coefficients. In the month of January, students will solve problems involving volume of cones, pyramids and spheres.

Social Studies

In Social Studies during the month of December, we will study ancient China. We will look at the geography of this region and its impact on their development. Students will also be studying ancient Chinese philosophies, dynasties, and achievements.

In January we will return from break to participate in the Geography Bee. Then we will begin to learn about ancient Greece. In this unit we will learn how geography impacted Greece. We also will focus heavily on the development of government in this ancient society as it is so different from the other civilizations we've studied and yet the most similar to our own way of life in the US. We also will explore, briefly, mythology and its role in their culture. Finally we will look at the conflicts between different city-states and the achievements of the ancient Greeks.

ELA

In December, each seventh grade writer will be coached to create an argument paper on a topic of his/her choice. Throughout this unit, students will be discovering the art of argument. As a final writing piece to this unit, students will be completing a final, independent argument paper on a class topic.

While researching for these papers, we will also highlight nonfiction reading skills that consider the author's viewpoint and bias. Students will be able to determine whether or not a source is accurate, find the main idea of a text with supporting details, and identify the central idea of a nonfiction text.

In January, our readers will explore the world of historical fiction. Short text read alouds and book clubs will immerse students into a wide variety of historical time periods. Readers will read closely for setting and conflict, examine the interaction and intersection of characters, events, and history, and interpret personal and historical themes. Readers will also consider the literary choices an author has made in relation to the theme they develop. Within this unit, students will have the opportunity to sharpen both fiction and nonfiction reading skills.

Our historical fiction text will spark interest in our informational writing pieces. Each reader will respond to not only the fiction elements within his/her historical fiction book club book, but will also research the historical time period. The final product will consist of a cross-genre companion book.