



7-1 TEAM NEWS

English Language Arts

During the month of December, students will continue their study of nonfiction research and argument writing skills. Our nonfiction research skills include analysis of the main idea/central idea, text features, accuracy, bias, and author's viewpoint. Students will finish up the revision and editing stages on their personal choice argument essay.

In January, we will begin our unit on historical fiction. During this unit students will be reading historical fiction novels in book clubs. We will learn the elements of historical fiction and work together in these groups to identify and interpret these elements. Students will continue their nonfiction reading skills when researching the time period in which the book is set.

Math

Math 7:

This month, students in Math 7 will begin Unit 3 "Expressions and Equations." Students will learn the distributive property, how to combine like terms and eventually how to solve 1-step and 2-step algebraic equations. We will also focus on learning how to check solutions to improve accuracy. Students should continue to check Schoology on a nightly basis for updates on homework and tests.

Math 7/8:

In December and January, Math 7/8 students will be moving on to Part 2 of the Expressions and Equations Unit, Inequalities. Students will be expected to apply their recently learned equation solving techniques as they learn to solve inequalities using a very similar process. After we finish Inequalities, we will be moving into proportional relationships. Students will be able to prove proportionality, solve problems involving percents, and percent of change, and find the simple interest in problems. Students should continue to check Schoology on a nightly basis for updates on homework and tests.

Math 8:

In Math 8, students will be working with proportions for graphs, tables, and equations to find a final comparison between proportionality and linear. After we finish proportionality, we will get into solving and translating expressions, equations, and inequalities before moving into a geometry unit after winter break. Students should continue to check Schoology on a nightly basis for updates on homework and tests.

Social Studies

During the month of December, our young historians will continue to learn about the great contributions to history, art, science, literature, and architecture made by the early people of India and China. We will also be looking at some of the key dynasties along with philosophical beliefs that shaped these regions. During the month of January, we will study ancient Greece. We will look at the geography of this region and its impact on the development of the civilization. We will also focus on the development of government in this ancient society as it is so different from that of other civilizations we've studied and yet the most similar to our own government in the US. We will also explore, briefly, mythology and its

role in Greek culture. Finally we will look at the conflicts between different city-states and the achievements of the ancient Greeks.

**When we return from break we will participate in the Geography Bee. We will then continue our work in ancient Greece.

Science

The students are looking forward to their upcoming research into the topic of astronomy. Students will work in pairs to design a presentation that explains their understanding as to why the earth has seasons. They will also investigate the different phases of the moon over a 30 day period. Closer to the end of this unit the students will reshape their understanding relative to the size and scale of objects within our universe. The concluding activity for this unit will be a trip to the Challenger Learning Center for a day of fun on a space station simulator. Please ask your child about some of these activities in Science.