



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - September 1, 2017

### Announcements

- ★ Thank you to all the parents that came to Back to School Night!
- ★ Fall MAP testing (Measures of Academic Progress) will take place from Tuesday, September 5th through Friday, September 15th. Please ensure your child is on time for school and encourage him/her to get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast each day.
- ★ A message from the foundation: “Did you know that Willow Creek Foundation is now funding the Outward Bound program? Their generous donation covers 150 students backpacking! If you are able to, please increase your donation to SMART by \$350 per child you have in these grades.”
- ★ Congratulations to our **ACADEMIC ALL STARS** of the week for their leadership both academically and socially. Your all stars this week are:
  - Lourenco Pereira - 8th Grade
  - Alyssa Barkus - 8th Grade
- ★ Please look for the Outward Bound paper work (Medical Form and Liability Release). We need to have that packet of documents filled out and turned in ASAP for the upcoming 7th grade camping trip October 17-19. 8th graders need to have forms turned in to prepare for the Rock Climbing Trip November 7-9.
- ★ Did you know that WCF is now funding the Outward Bound program? If you are able to, please increase your donation to SMART by \$350 per child you have in these grades.

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

**7th Grade & 8th Grade:** It was wonderful seeing everyone at Back To School Night. This week we have been MAP testing. During this week I do not assign homework. However, there was the optional reading of their independent book.

### Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

**7th Grade:** Welcome to an exciting year! I've been getting to know your kids as we worked on routine building, teamwork, mindset, and expectations this past week. I feel especially lucky to (hopefully) get to teach all of them over the next two years. We begin curriculum in earnest on Tuesday, and you should expect that students are completing homework nightly. At the end of each week your student should bring back a homework sheet for you to sign.

**8th Grade\*:** We are excited to be piloting an eighth grade Algebra course this year for students looking for an additional rigorous and challenging math experience. Participants will complete the Algebra course concurrently with the eighth grade math course. The blended-learning instruction with Mr. St. Denny will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 2:20 - 3:00pm, beginning September 18th and continuing through the end of the school year. Because of the additional challenge this class requires,

we will be evaluating student readiness in a holistic manner that includes standardized test scores, an entrance exam, previous performance, and progress monitoring. **All interested eighth grade families are invited to join us on Back-to-School night from 5:30 - 6:00 in the library for additional information.**



### **Science with Mr. Devol**

\*EACH THURSDAY WE WILL HAVE SCIENCE VOCAB. QUIZZES IN BOTH 7TH AND 8TH GRADES. This week all 7th and 8th classes continued creating their goals and discussing the social-emotional concepts which we all bring to school with us each day. We spend time each day in science discussing and then playing “games” which allow students to learn about what makes us unique individuals.

#### **7th Grade**

Our 7th graders spent this week learning how to use graphs to represent data. We began looking at populations and will continue next week where students will be given a country and asked to graph the population data for their country.

#### **8th Grade**

This week 8th grade reviewed how to find the DISTANCE, RATE and TIME of a moving object given any two of the variables. We then jumped into defining ACCELERATION and finding out how to determine the acceleration of an object when given various variables. It is difficult and we will continue with the topics of force, motion, speed and acceleration next week followed by an acceleration lab.

### **Social Studies with Mr. Baker**

#### **Welcome Back!!!**

It's been so nice to see everyone after a long summer of fun and relaxation! This year is going to be another exciting year! We've been spending time getting to know each other and building our classroom

culture. Next week, we will begin getting into our respective subjects and engaging in the awesome craft of historical study and learning more about our society!

**7th Grade:** We have begun reviewing the Roman Empire. Next week, we begin learning about the height of the Roman Empire and the reasons why it collapsed.

**8th Grade:** We have begun learning about the Renaissance and the important people who helped re-discover Western knowledge.