



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

Announcements

- ★ There will be no school on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.
- ★ Thank you to all the parents that came to orientation! Please join us for additional information on September 7th at 6pm for Back to School Night.
- ★ That said, [SEPTEMBER 7th, 6 pm IS BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT \(in the library\)](#). Here is the agenda:
 - 5:30 Algebra Informational Session - 8th grade parents (*see the Math write-up below)
 - 6:00 Outward Bound Presentation followed by teacher presentations and Q and A.
- ★ Please mark your calendars for Sept. 7th as a time to meet the staff and see the campus. A representative will also be here to talk about and then answer any questions regarding OUTWARD BOUND.
- ★ 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.
- ★ 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.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

7th Grade: Welcome Back! It has been a pleasure getting acquainted with all the incoming 7th graders. I have really enjoyed getting to know them over these first two weeks. We have already begun our academics this week. The first novel I have chosen is “The Outsiders” by S.E. Hinton. A classic that all the students are thoroughly enjoying. Along with reading this book in class, I will also be assigning them Short Stories to read for homework and reflect on through different activities. Our first essay will be Realistic Fiction. I have found this to be one of the favorite essays of past students. I look forward to meeting you all at Back to School Night.

8th Grade: Welcome back! I hope everyone had a long and relaxing Summer. This week we have jumped into our academics. This first trimester we will be concentrating on writing a Thematic Essay. Each student will be reading two novels simultaneously. Our first novel is “A Long Walk To Water” by Linda Sue Park. This book will be read in class. The students second novel is one that each student chose from our ELA

library, they will be reading this one at home. We will be comparing and contrasting the two novels looking for similar and different themes. I look forward to seeing you all at Back to School Night.

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

Both 7th and 8th - Welcome Back Families! We are back at it with our first full week under us! It is so energizing to see everyone a little bit taller and ready for action.

I am looking forward to a great year and am really excited for a few things in particular which are our Outward Bound trip with 7th and 8th grade (at separate times), a multitude of hands-on projects, field trips and more. Please plan on attending Back to School Night so you can learn more about your teachers and what the year has in store.

Academics: We have just started to get into some academics these last few days in both classes but spent the majority of our time learning how to be students together, our routines and how we operate in science class. With the first few weeks focused on ensuring Social-Emotional safety and comfort in and out of the classroom, we will really start to dive deeper into the academics over the next two weeks starting with finding how to determine the ACCELERATION of an object . Have a Great 3 Day Weekend!

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 collapse.

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