

JUNIOR HIGH DEPARTMENT



DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>10/12</u>	12:15 p.m. dismissal (P/T conferences)
<u>10/13</u>	No School (P/T conferences)
<u>10/16</u>	No School (Fall Break)
<u>10/20-21</u>	Fall Block Party
<u>10/27</u>	Halloween dance
<u>11/1</u>	All Saints Day Mass
<u>11/3</u>	Confirmation Retreat
<u>11/8</u>	12:15 p.m. dismissal (P/T conferences)
<u>11/9</u>	No School (P/T conferences)
<u>11/10</u>	No School – Veteran's Day
<u>11/17</u>	Salpointe HSPT
<u>11/20</u>	Confirmation practice
<u>11/21</u>	Confirmation

RELIGION – MS. CRABLE

8th Grade - We have been busy working on the topic of friendship with Jesus and other people. The students are currently looking up specific Scriptures in the Bible that deal with friendship. They are then writing down a synopsis of what they read in each of the Scriptures and comparing it to their own friendships, either with Jesus or other people. They will draw a picture illustrating their vision of how a friend should appear and then describe what "Jesus like" qualities they should possess. We will also be completing Section 1, on Jesus Christ the Way.

7th Grade - Our unit is over The Mystery of the Church. We have been learning about the Bible and the different books of the Bible. The students have chosen a book from the Bible and are currently reading it. They will then write a few paragraphs voicing what they learned from the book they read. They will also be drawing a picture depicting the items from the book of the Bible they read and then share this with the class. They will have another quiz on 10/10/2017.

DEPARTMENT NOTES

As a reminder the Junior High Halloween dance will be held on Friday evening, October 27, from 7-9 p.m. in Nicholson Hall. Hang on to your broomsticks; it promises to be a hair-raising haunt.

LANGUAGE ARTS – MRS. GOWING

In language arts, we have been working toward an understanding of the power of language. Students are realizing that language is alive and moldable within their abilities. In grammar, nouns and adjectives are at the forefront as we go beyond identifying them in sentences, but rather begin looking more at their role in the sentence. Soon, we will move on to pronouns and verbs. These basics build the foundation for solid writing and speaking. Interlinking with grammar is our daily vocabulary. We primarily focus on Latin roots, currently the most common prefixes. Students are learning to analyze our language, to see the pieces that make up the whole. These prefixes will continue to spiral throughout the year, so please encourage your students to study their "language facts." Finally, we have been exploring narrative writing and the role of ideas and organization in writing. Structuring our ideas into organized components will make us more effective writers and readers. Writing is the chance for students to develop all the language skills they have been diligently studying.

MATH – MRS. LANSEY

Students are incrementally building their mathematical knowledge with the Saxon Math program. Concepts are being distributed and integrated across the school year. We have started off with simpler concepts and will be building gradually to more challenging ones. The continual practice and review is helping students to better retain the learning.

In each lesson in the Saxon textbooks, a new concept is taught and immediately practiced, and then followed by a cumulative practice set which includes problems taught in previous lessons. It is your child's responsibility to complete each day's assignments. Your child's commitment to long-term practice will improve your child's progress and in turn give your child confidence and a positive attitude as the mathematics increases in difficulty and complexity. Praise your child for his or her effort, perseverance, and improvement.

Students need to validate that they are practicing with accuracy. Answer keys are posted for students to check their work. Every practice problem is correlated to a lesson, which allows students to analyze where they need to review or seek help from the teacher. After school help in math is every Tuesday from 3:15-4:00. Students can bring their clarifying questions and correct their understanding of concepts.

Cumulative lesson assessments are given after every 5 lessons, beginning after Lesson 10. All assessment problems come from practice found at the end of each lesson so it is important for students to complete all homework practice problems. Assessments are being analyzed to determine areas of strength or weakness as well as identify concepts for which additional instruction and practice may be needed.

SCIENCE – MRS. COLEMAN

Happy Fall! Students have been working hard in science. They are familiar with the pattern of assignments, notebook requirements, lab etiquette and test preparation. Additionally, students completed their first unit of work in which their written reflection indicated a personal evidence of organization, corrections and completeness. The goal is to develop excellent work habits and critical thinking skills for high school and beyond. Thank you to all parents for supporting the growth mindset of our class. We will be connecting our learning to the theme of energy this year and have begun by listening to an inspirational, true story of a resourceful young man in *The Boy Who Could Harness the Wind* by William Kamkwamba. Please ask your student to share their impressions of this story.

7th graders are currently exploring the various uses of models used by life scientists. They will utilize the Engineering Design Process to create models to demonstrate the benefits and limitations of models in science.

8th graders have a better understanding of physical, mathematical and computer simulation models and the practical use they offer to scientists. They will apply the Engineering Design Process to create blueprints and scale models of physical systems to share their ideas and improvements.

All students are currently reading the novel, *October Sky* by Homer Hickam and preparing to present a chapter from the book on their assigned day. This outstanding novel serves as an example of determination, and will build excitement for science fair projects this year!

Finally, students thoroughly enjoyed the field trip to Flandrau Planetarium in September and were able to apply the useful skills of observation, problem-solving and critical thinking to the experience. It gave students an opportunity to learn about current areas of scientific research, to think analytically about problems and how to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given on our planet.

SOCIAL STUDIES – MR. SCHMIT

It is hard to believe that we are half way through the first trimester already. Time goes by so quickly. Students are beginning to settle in to the routines and expectations of the new year.

Seventh grade has completed their examination of the conditions in the American colonies that precipitated the Revolutionary War. Our current unit looks at the actual events of the Revolutionary War. We then trace the roots of American democracy from its beginnings in the Enlightenment to the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. From this base we will then examine the principles and structure of the U.S. Constitution. In literature, we are just finishing up analyzing the downfall of Kino in John Steinbeck's *The Pearl*. We discussed plot, symbolism and the parable form. Students are writing their essays on a specific topic in *The Pearl* this week.

Eighth grade has completed their unit on Reconstruction. We dissected Abraham Lincoln's three important Civil War speeches, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, and his Second Inaugural Address. We then looked at the building of the Transcontinental Railroad and the taming of the West. As the West moved from the frontier populated by the buffalo and native peoples to one settled by miners, ranchers and homesteaders, the Midwest and East were undertaking hugely rapid industrialization. In the last decades of the 19 century, America emerged as a world economic powerhouse, with all the triumphs and challenges that go with that transformation. In literature, we are just completing our study of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. We focused on character, theme and Steinbeck's writing technique. Students are writing their narratives on the novel this week and next.

