

News from the 8th Grade

Science:

During 8th grade science students have been reviewing the Scientific Method, discussing scientific law versus scientific theory and learning how to use the new curriculum. We have new science text books this year to use in class as well as an electronic version of the text via Power School (formerly Haiku). Next they will begin examining the *International System of Units (SI)* and practice making accurate measurements using metric units of measure

Math:

This month in math class we will be reviewing adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, reducing and converting fractions. We will begin the foundations unit which includes exponents, order of operations, integers, evaluating expressions, and the distributive property. Notes and assignments can be found on the calendar in Power School Learning (formerly Haiku).



Seventh and eighth grade **Algebra** students are currently working on the Foundations Unit in which students learn the fundamental skills necessary for all algebraic concepts. They will learn to use the order of operations, exponents, the distributive property, collecting like terms, and integer operations to simplify and evaluate expressions. After the foundations unit, students will begin a unit on Proportions and how they are used in real life. Attendance is crucial as new concepts are learned daily!



Geometry students have been studying the building blocks of geometry, including the abstract terms of point, line, and plane. The first unit is rich in vocabulary and provides the basic skills needed for the rest of the year. Students are learning to create angles, estimate angles, determine shortest paths based on reflections and congruent angles of approach and angles of leaving, and establish transformation rules based on movements of polygons. The next unit will take these students into deductive reasoning and using mathematical models to solve problems.

In **Language Arts**, students are reviewing grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. As part of the focus on non-fiction reading, students will practice interpreting and analyzing images, maps, charts and graphs, and political cartoons. Upfront Magazine, a product of *The New York Times*, will be the source for this work, which focuses on current U.S. and world events. These articles will have direct cross-curricular tie-ins with our studies in history.

In **Social Studies**, students are completing the unit the Civil Rights Movement in America, which provides a deeper understanding of human rights issues that occur throughout our studies in history. Immigration will be the next unit of study. Students will read about America's history of immigration and compare that with our modern immigration issues. Students will also research and write about his/her family's story of immigration to America and migration to Washington state.