

News from the 8th Grade

Science:

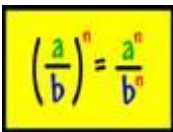
The exploration of our Earth-Sun-Moon system continues. Our young astronomers have just completed learning about the phases of the Moon and eclipses. Next they will study how scale models are used to compare sizes and distances of celestial objects, how gravity affects the orbital paths of these objects and how we use technology to gather information about our solar system, galaxy and beyond.

Math:

In Math, students finished a statistics unit where they learned about line of best fit and a five number summary for data sets. We will be starting a new unit on radicals. Students will learn how to simplify, multiply, and add and subtract radicals. Notes, assignments and upcoming test dates can be found on the calendar in Power School Learning (formerly Haiku).



Geometry students will spend a great deal of the last quarter working on two related units: Area (Chapter 8) and Volume (Chapter 10). They are just finishing the unit on area... finding areas and missing measurements for triangles, trapezoids, parallelograms, kites, rectangles, regular polygons, circles and sectors. Then students will use their knowledge of area to find volumes of prisms, pyramids, cylinders, and cones. Students are finding that strong algebra skills are needed for both units. Geometry students will be spending time in May preparing for the 8th grade math SBA. Attendance is crucial!


$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}$$

Algebra students are just beginning the unit on “Radicals and the Pythagorean Theorem.” Students will learn to simplify, multiply, add, and subtract radicals. Although they will work mainly with square roots, they are introduced to cubed roots as well. Students will then apply their knowledge of radicals to solve right triangles using the Pythagorean Theorem. Students were briefly introduced to parabolas in a previous unit in preparation for the last unit of the year: QUADRATIC FUNCTIONS! Algebra students will be spend time in May preparing for the 7th grade math SBA and 8th grade math SBA. As always, students must be consistently completing their homework and attending class to achieve success during this most challenging time of Algebra. Attendance is crucial for SBA preparation.

LA-SS:

In 8th grade Social Studies, students have begun our extensive unit on World War One. The focus is on causes of this world conflict, and how the outcome of this war leads to World War Two. Students will be doing further research on one specific cause of the war or on blaming one European empire, besides Germany, for starting, causing, or spreading the way. This research will be used as evidence for an essay on the causes of this conflict.

In 8th grade Language Arts, students will be writing their CBA Essay on the cause of World War One. Our studies and research in Social Studies will support the writing of this paper. Students will receive instruction on research using a variety of sources, note taking, the writing process, and the MLA format expectations including bibliography. This paper is a challenge, as it is both a research paper and a persuasive, or argumentative, paper.