



Comets Team Newsletter

Southern's Shooting Stars



Mrs. Skeie—Guidance

Greetings from Guidance!!! Spring is upon us, and so is the fourth and final quarter of our academic year. This marking period can mean many different things to many different students. It can mean "just another marking period, like all of the others." It can mark the "end of your academic careers here at our middle school." It means baseball/softball/track season. It means Final Assessments. It means "make it or break it" for some, as far as staying out of summer school, or worse, repeating 8th grade.

Whatever it means to you, I offer one important piece of advice: Finish stronger than you ever have before. Put everything you've got into this one, whether you think you need to or not. The finish line is in sight, don't walk until you collapse at the end, kick it up a

notch and sprint through the tape. You need to. You need excellent momentum to carry you into your new world that will be the 9th grade at Southern Regional High School, where your new life will now officially "begin."

We have so much more to do and so many more memories to make. Give it your all. As Yogi Berra once said, "It ain't over - till it's over!" So until the last day in June, go get 'em!! Good Luck!!

PS Anyone having any questions or concerns should call me any time.

Mr. Hart —Social Studies

For the fourth marking period, we will be studying the Civil War. We will be emphasizing on the causes and the effects of the war. We will also be working on a project on the California Gold Rush.

We will also be reviewing for the final exam that will be given in June. Surprisingly, the school year is almost over, so students will need to review what was learned throughout the school year in order to better prepare themselves for their final test.

Have a very enjoyable summer, and best of luck next year in the high school.

Mrs. Kuchinsky—Math

In Math 8 we will be investigating many mathematical concepts in and out of the classroom. We will be using some of the technology available to us here at the middle school.

During this marking period, we will be studying linear equations and their graphs. We will be graphing lines on the interactive whiteboard and calculating slope. The whiteboard will not only aid in our ability to graph these lines, but also to immediately check our work with the computer generated lines.

The fourth marking period will also have us reviewing and expanding on our knowledge of equation solving.

This marking period promises to be an exciting one for the comets! The end of the school year will be here before we know it! It has been my pleasure to have the Comets in class this year and I wish them the best of luck in High School!

Mrs. Reynolds—English

The third marking period went by rather quickly. Not only did we review some important writing skills for the NJASK, but we also finished up our Independent Reading blog projects and finished reading *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* in levels 1 & 3 and began to read *To Kill a Mockingbird* in level 5.

During the fourth marking period, the students will be reviewing grammar and working on another addition to 6 Trait writing. We be implementing this trait into some poetry writing. We are also finalizing our 3- Words projects.

The students will also end the school year with *Lost in Yonkers*, a great play where they will be acting out certain parts.

I wish you all a very safe and fun summer. Best of luck next year, as you begin the first year of your high school education!





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Reminders:



May 8: Academic Awards 6:00pm

May 18: MS Dance 7:00pm

May 21: 11:50 Dismissal

May 24: Competition Day

May 25: Activity Day Picnic

May 28: School Closed

June 8-13: MS Final Exams

Mrs. Whiteman—Health & PE

During 3rd MP, the Comets participated in several different team sports while in the gym, i.e., Volleyball, Basketball and probably the most popular of all was our Floor Hockey Tournament. Teams had to come up with their own team colors, names and then participated in two regulation games daily. Wins and losses were recorded and winners were recognized at the end of the tournament.

As we move into 4th MP, PE will bring some challenges with the start of the Mile FUN Run 5 competition, the Fitness 500 Challenge and the fitness circuit; our fitness circuit is also part of the final exam during finals week. With that in mind, we encourage you to work with your son or daughter and have them do some extra exercises at home like sit-ups, push-ups, power walking or a jog and make sure to get some stretching in for the sit and reach test. Let's all get active together and improve our over-all fitness and health.

Mr. Astin—Science

Well, this is it, we are into the home stretch! This past marking period, we have been studying geology (all about rocks), the physical history of the earth (geologic time), and the forces responsible for shaping the earth's surface (plate tectonics). Your budding scientists should be able to tell you why New Jersey has no real earthquakes, why California can be an earth-shaking place to live, and what on earth is Pangea!

This brings us to the fourth marking period. We will start the marking period finishing out some geology by talking about earthquakes and volcanoes, always popular topics. We will then be spending some time looking at how life has changed over time in studying evolution and natural selection, including our own family tree! After that, we'll be discussing climate change in class. We will look at the best current science on climate change, and discuss causes and effects.

We will then be focusing our attention on the atmosphere. Our first atmosphere topic will be how to read weather maps, including how different kinds of precipitation form, what a front is, and how high and low pressure systems influence the weather.

After that, we will be looking at extreme weather patterns (hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms and hail!). I am looking at squeezing in a small in class project with the students keeping a weather log.

As you can see, its going to be a busy marking period! By the end, I hope to deliver into your hands your own personal weatherperson, so make sure you have them give you some weather reports over the marking period.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through the school or by email. Let's have a great fourth marking period and end of the year!

