



Lightning Team Spring Newsletter

Science **Mrs. Melega**

After wrapping up Astronomy at the beginning of the third marking period, we began learning classical “Earth Science” beginning with minerals all the way through Plate Tectonics. We took advantage of last year’s news coverage of earthquake and volcano activity to see how science can impact human life. I’m hoping that students became aware that even though it seems as if there has been an unusual amount of geologic action lately, the past few years have actually not shown an increase. Your child should be able to explain that the media only covers this normal level of action when it occurs in areas that impact human lives, and since most of the planet is covered with water, this usually doesn’t occur.

For the 4th marking period, we look forward to completing our investigation of Earth’s structure, composition, and history, as well as a unit that focuses on Earth’s weather, climate, and atmosphere.

English **Mrs. Cosentino**

Students will continue to work hard this quarter. They will be working on figures of speech and dialogue and reading the book *SPEAK*. Another book that will be read is the play *Lost in Yonkers*. Students will answer open-ended and multiple choice questions. Students will also continue to practice persuasive, narrative and explanatory essays. Students will peer-edit each other’s papers using the New Jersey Holistic Scoring Rubric. Students have a busy quarter ahead of them!

Math **Mr. Keil**

In Honors Algebra, we will be working on Polynomials, Quadratics, and Non-Linear Graphing. In Pre-Algebra we are currently working with Polynomials. The rest of the year we will be concentrating on skills needed for the start of 9th grade math.

Social Studies

Mrs. Lapsley

During the 3rd marking period students completed a unit on Westward Expansion and the Industrial Revolution.

During the last marking period students will continue studying the causes of The Civil War and the effects the war had on American society.

Students will be finishing out the year with a unit on financial literacy. Students will learn about budgets, debt and financial responsibility. Students will also be taking time to start (or complete) their financial literacy course required by the high school.

Physical Education

Mr. Denman

During the quarter the student activities for physical education were volleyball, floor hockey and circuit training. The initial phase of the volleyball and floor hockey units was dedicated to skills and drills followed by intra-class play and culminating with an inter-class tournament. One to two days a week was dedicated to fitness development through the incorporation of circuit training, use of the weight room and the Fun Run. There is a final exam in PE that includes both written and performance components;

students must come dressed to participate (students may change after, but not before the test); if a student is not dressed to participate, he/she will receive a zero for the physical performance portion of the test.

Guidance

Ms. Bleam

As your child's 8th grade year begins to draw to an end, please make sure that the 4th marking period theme is "perseverance." With only one marking period left, sometimes students will begin to spend less time on academics. Please be vigilant that your child continues to complete homework and study for tests.

If you are planning a vacation that may interfere with the end of the school year, please contact me at 597-9481 ext. 4226 to create an alternate finals schedule.