

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

# 8 GOLD NEWSLETTER

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## Upcoming Events

- Today: Report Cards come home
- 12/16 - last day for science retake prep work.
- 12/22 - all science retakes must be done
- 12/24 - ½: Vacation!
- 1/4 - ELA paragraph assessment



Check out our mannequin challenge! Just click on one of the pictures...



## Season's Greetings!

We here on 8 Gold wish you a warm winter season, full of family and life. Amid all the distractions of day-to-day concerns and the frantic nature of the holidays, it is important to step back, pause, and take stock of what's really valuable - love and friendship, compassion and community. We hope that each of you finds these in your midst both during the winter season and beyond. We thank you for making us a part of your child's development and look forward to a prosperous, successful 2017.

# SCIENCE - MR. MULARELLA

Students received their Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures test back yesterday. The overall grade on this test will be reflected on the Trimester 1 report card.

Our next unit focuses on physical and chemical changes of matter. Topics include the kinetic molecular theory of matter (phases of matter and phase changes), differentiating between physical and chemical changes, and investigating the Law of Conservation of Matter.

## **RETAKE INFORMATION:**

All retake requirements, including test corrections and extra practice work, must be completed by this Friday. The retake assessment(s) must be completed by next Thursday.

Since report cards are coming home today, the retake grade will not be shown, but it will be updated on the Trimester 2 report card.

## **PBL UPDATE:**

If you attended the Curriculum Night in September, you may remember a few of the Project-based learning (PBL) experiences I had planned for this year. In one project (Candle Entrepreneurs), students were going to learn chemistry concepts while also developing entrepreneurship skills as they make and sell candles. Unfortunately, we did not receive the grant to fund this project.

I went back to the drawing board, and I'm developing a new project for this unit. Students will work alone or in pairs to explore the physical and chemical changes involved in cooking. They will be expected to cook/bake an appetizer, entree, or dessert at home and demonstrate their learning of the science concepts involved. Students will either produce a "cooking show" style video or write a cookbook entry that includes this information. If you know of any good resources (print or online) related to the science of cooking that you think students would be beneficial to students, please let me know!



# ENGLISH WITH MR. PIZZUTO

## Science Fiction Unit Begins!

We have begun our next major unit, which will run from now through the end of January. A full schedule can be found in the unit overview, linked below.

I have redesigned one of the major facets of the unit to focus on a timely issue in modern America -- an examination of truth, and evaluating fake news / logical fallacies. We began with a week-long look at how to spot bias in news and news sites, methods of persuasion, and - building on the 7th grade work - tactics to persuade / divert from the truth. Students are currently evaluating a range of memes to recognize distortions, and will be designing and analyzing their own.

How does this fit into the novels? Both *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Giver* deal with societies that distort and limit the truth. We will explore this theme throughout, along with a couple other major topics:

\*Voices of Dissent - what can cause someone to speak and act out against their society?

\*Voices being heard - humans cannot exist in isolation; what factors can cause people to lose connections with one another?

Please use the schedule and my Schoology page to help your child keep pace with the work, and encourage them to ask questions and come for help as needed.

## A Note on Grading

As report cards come home today, and discussions begin around the dinner table regarding successes and areas to improve, I hope you will find the guide I created helpful -- in it, I give an overview of what I was looking for in each area (both in the habits of mind and the standards), along with a description of what items led to the score. All major grades are in Schoology, and all major assessments can be viewed in Google Docs. I hope this helps make your discussion a fruitful one!

## Resources

- [Sci Fi Unit Plan](#) -- this document has the overview, schedule, and links to all support items for the unit.
- [TI Grading Guide](#) - This chart explains the skills / standards and the factors that led to the grades.
- [ELA Planbook](#) - if your child misses a day, this is the go-to place for full summaries and explanations of daily work / assignments.

# SOCIAL STUDIES WITH MR. AHLIN

Throughout the past month we have learned about the process of electing a president. It was very timely with such dynamic election results. Additionally we have learned about the history and legacy of the Byzantine Empire. As a culminating project students created commercials or posters to display their knowledge and prepare of unit assessment.

The unit recently concluded with a unit assessment on 12/5. Students who did not meet the standards on this unit and are eligible can take a retake until Monday 12/19.

We are currently studying the history and contemporary influences of the religion of Islam. In this unit students will be simultaneously learning about the history while developing a project based solution regarding a contemporary, national or international problem this religion is currently facing.

Upon our return from holiday break we will begin our Middle Ages unit. In this unit our team is planning a collaborative PBL assignment.

# MATH WITH MS. YOUNG

Students recently received back their unit tests for our second unit, *Thinking with Mathematical Models Part 1*. Throughout that unit, students focused on using linear functions to represent different scenarios and used linear functions to solve problems through the use of graphs, tables, and equations. Many students impressed me with their presentation of a solution to the 100 x 100 Burger Problem.

We are now into our third unit, *Thinking with Mathematical Models Part 2*. The learning goals for this unit include:

- Students will be able to identify and use patterns in data to make predictions; and
- Students will be able to analyze data using scatter plots and frequency tables.

So far students have been analyzing scatter plots and using a line of best fit to represent trends in data and make predictions. Next week, students will begin to analyze frequency tables.

## **Important Items That Are Coming Up:**

The *Thinking with Mathematical Models Part 2* Unit Test is currently scheduled for the week after December vacation.

# SUPPORT WITH MS. BARRELL

**Improving study habits continues to be a frequent discussion in Learning Skills class.**

**Tips include:**

- Organize notes and materials nightly (at minimum- weekly). Don't let your binders and Ipads become "black holes." Have a section and/or folder for each of your classes.
- When you don't have homework for a class, review your notes or try to complete similar problems with different numbers/ equations
- Write down your homework! Using an app, notes or paper planner, write it down so you don't forget!
- Take a risk. If you're unsure of how to complete an assignment, try it! Email a teacher and ask for help. Mr. C or I or one of the Team teachers will help to clarify the assignment or question in class.
- Work in an area that has limited distractions (TV, siblings, video games, ect.)
- Isolate and Hi-light key words on assessments (this is modeled regularly). This will help determine what the question is asking and what procedures are needed to answer the question/ prompt.

**It is important to note that Learning Skills takes place 1st period. During delays, Learning Skill class will most likely be missed. Students have been reminded to complete assignments to the best of their ability as they will be expected to complete classwork as scheduled despite having missed their academic support period. Mr. C and I will be in the classroom to support during instructional period.**

**During Learning Skills class:**

Students continue to review and preview curriculum concepts. Presently, students have been reviewing and learning about linear relationships and previewing the current Sci-Fi unit and novel. Students are reading "The Giver" and "Fahrenheit 451"

Preparation and assistance (including review of study guides) to complete the Science "Elements" and Social Studies "Byzantine Empire" tests were provided.