

If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you.

September 10, 2015

Dear 8 Green Students and Families,

Welcome to 8th grade! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are refreshed and ready to start a great year. We are very excited to be working with you. This will be a very exciting year filled with learning and team building. We will all play active roles in each classroom as we study topics such as Elizabethan drama, history of empires and culture, mathematical functions related to the real world and the dynamic changes of the Earth. We will focus on becoming critical thinkers, strong problem solvers and learn how to best communicate our thinking.

Important Dates:

- 9/11/15 - Picture Day
- 9/17/15 - Curriculum Night (6:30-8pm)
- 10/2/15 - Teamworks field trip
- 11/3/15 - Student-led conferences

8 Green Schoology Page

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/it/schoology.cfm>

Main Office (to reach any of us).....(508) 841-1207

Teacher:	Class:	Email:
Annie Beaupre	Social Studies	abeaupre@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
Kevin DeNolf	Science	kdenolf@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
Jennifer Dufault	Math	jdufault@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
Sara Heal	Language Arts	sheal@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
Stephen Winters	Learning Specialist	swinters@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
MaryEllen Beaton	English Language Specialist	mbeaton@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

The above guidelines are meant to be useful and assist each student in realizing his/her full potential. We look forward to working with each student in accomplishing these goals. If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kevin DeNolf
(Science)

Jennifer Dufault
(Math)

Anne Beaupre
(Social Studies)

Sara Heal
(English Language Arts)

Stephen Winters
(Special Education)

MaryEllen Beaton
(ELL Specialist)

Science: Mr. DeNolf, Room 238

Science Curriculum:

Students will be studying the physical sciences of Chemistry and Physics. It is important to grasp these fundamental concepts in order to prepare them for more advanced topics in high school. Students will also be involved in scientific inquiry labs throughout the year to help them learn and reinforce these concepts.

Science Assessments:

Students will be taking frequent assessments in class. These are all mandatory and must be completed in a timely manner if a student is absent. Retakes on assessments will be available to students who put forth the effort and do the following:

1. Complete all homework and class work.
2. Completes additional review assignments.
3. Attends extra help sessions reviewing specific concepts.

Kevin DeNolf

Social Studies- Mrs. Beaupre, Room 239

The curriculum for 8th Grade World History covers a large period of time starting with the Roman Empire and coving up until the Age of Exploration. High expectations for class work, participation, projects, citizenship, cooperation, and homework will allow us to create the environment that is needed for each and everyone of our students to achieve success. The topics and ideas that are studied in 8th grade History are interesting and challenging. You will be required to think outside the box, support your ideas with evidence, and bring the learning to life. Teamwork will be essential to our success and enjoyment this year. We will achieve, learn, and have more fun by working together as a team. Cooperation will help to develop skills necessary for success in the 21st century.

I am looking forward to an exciting year helping your child grow. Please feel free to contact me at any time by e-mail (quickest), phone, or in person.

Thanks,

Anne Beaupre

Grade 8 Math and Honors Grade 8 Math: Ms. Dufault RM 240

Course Overview

I am very excited for a new year with the students on 8 Green. I look forward to helping your children become stronger problem solvers and critical thinkers. In 8th grade, students will be taking an integrated algebra/geometry course this year. Both algebraic and geometric concepts will be studied and students will work towards making connections between these two very important areas of mathematics. Additionally, students will have the opportunities to work with various technology tools that are meant to support and enhance learning.

Students will be using books within the Connected Mathematics Program 3 (CMP3). Students will have access to the books on their iPads through Google Drive. We will use the iPad to enhance learning in the mathematics classroom but will also use paper when appropriate. It will be helpful for your child to have a graph notebook for class.

The units we will be studying this year are:

- Say it with Symbols (Multiple representations of Algebraic Expressions)
- Thinking with Mathematical Models (Linear Modeling and Data Analysis)
- Looking for Pythagoras (Applying the Pythagorean Theorem)
- Butterflies, Pinwheels, and Mirrors (Congruence, Symmetry and Transformations)
- It's in the System (Systems of Equations)
- Growing, Growing, Growing (Exponential Functions)

Our goal this year is to help all students achieve the learning standards and to leave 8th grade with a deeper understanding and appreciation of mathematics. In order to find success this year students should put forth 100% effort on all homework and in class assignments. Extra help sessions will be offered **Monday after school until 3:30** and students may see me any day at lunch.

I look forward to an exciting year in math class!

Jennifer Dufault

English Language Arts: Ms. Heal, Room 241

I am thrilled to be working with the students of 8 Green this school year in English Language Arts class! This year, our theme in English is "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." We will work as individuals and in groups to challenge ourselves to grow as learners. We will examine literature from many perspectives – critically reading and hearing works presented by many voices – including our own. We will also develop our own voices, through daily journaling, writing exercises that range from argumentative to analytic, along with research papers. We will work to improve students' reading and writing skills to help prepare them for their first year in high school!

The books that will be guiding our units and discussions this year are:

1. *Under the Persimmon Tree/The Breadwinner*
2. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*
3. *Fahrenheit 451/The Giver*
4. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Welcome to 8th grade English - I look forward to an exciting year!

Sara Heal

Academic Support: Stephen Winters

I am pleased to be working with the teachers on 8 Green to support your child in academic areas throughout the school year. Rebecca Thomas and Paul Buccini are sharing the instructional assistant position on Team and will be working with the students, the Team teachers and myself in order to support your child in the classroom.

Learning Skills class is designed to review and preview curriculum concepts to aide comprehension, as well as, develop and enhance new and previously learned study strategies including the use of graphic organizers and procedural guides. Assistance and time will be provided for students to work on long-term projects, clarify questions from content area classes and review and prepare for assessments.

Homework assignments will be given from academic teachers on a daily basis. Please do not hesitate to contact me if your child is having difficulty or spending extensive amounts of time on nightly assignments. I will gladly review the concepts and clarify any questions during Learning Skills class.

Given the unique nature of young adolescents, with their natural need to discover their own identity and to 'challenge everything and everybody' it becomes important for us to demonstrate a partnership and mutual understanding of the importance of your child's educational progress. We can accomplish this through an ongoing dialogue and good communication between the school and home. The school system employs the use of a voice mail system, a school website, and the Team homework website, to make the process as easy as possible. The 8 Green academic team has provided you with more detail about their individual classroom goals and expectations.

I am looking forward to meeting you and your child and to a successful school year.

Stephen Winters

English Language Education: Mary Ellen Beaton

I am very happy to be working with the English Language Learners on 8 Green this year. Our goal is to help our students access the curriculum while they are learning social and academic English. Our English learners work with me when their classmates are in foreign language or academic support class. Several students also work with me for English Language Arts. During these classes we focus on moving from mastery of social English to academic English. We work on building skills in grammar, vocabulary, reading and writing. This year we are very lucky to have our Sheltered English Instruction tutor, Rosie Cataldo, work with our students in their content classes, as well. She is a wonderful resource for all students on 8 green.

We are always happy to hear from families. Please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to a wonderful 8th grade year!

Mary Ellen Beaton