

8 Red Newsletter

October Issue



Important Dates

14 Cycle 1 ends,
SHS presentation

20 Assabet
presentation

8 November:
Conference
Day

Contact:

8Red@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Email the above to reach all of the Team Teachers at once.

Team Announcements

Schoology Reminders:

8 Red uses this tool to post announcements as well as HW assignments and reminders. Not all student work will be submitted in Schoology and not all classes will be posting grades in Schoology because it is not always aligned to a standards based grading system.

To join Schoology follow these step-by-step instructions: <http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/it/Schoology-Parent-Instructions.cfm>

Assabet:

On Thursday, **October 20th**, Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School will be visiting OMS to deliver a 45-minute informational session to all interested 8th grade students. The presentation will provide an overview of the many programs available at AVRTHS as well as admissions information.

If you would like your student to attend this presentation to learn more about AVRTHS, please give permission to attend in the Powerschool Parent Portal: SIGN IN, click on "Sports, Activities, Permission Slips" in the left navigation bar, check the Assabet Presentation Permission box, then click submit.

[Powerschool Parent Portal](#)

Class Updates



"There is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms... who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

-Teddy Roosevelt

Social Studies: Mr. Kewriga

We are wrapping up our unit on the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. The students have been working to create a Roman Rollercoaster. This project will show how they visualize the rise, fall, and legacies of the Roman Empire and display their knowledge from the unit. For our next unit, we will be heading east to study the Byzantine Empire. We will answer and debate the question: Is the Byzantine Empire its own unique empire or is it a continuation of the Roman Empire? Overall, we have had a great start to the school year. Looking forward to seeing many of you at conference day.

Science: Ms. Dillon

Students have been working hard to investigate properties of matter. They have investigated how bowling ball can float, why liquids layer in a density column, and what properties of matter are intensive or characteristic to the substance. Explanations of this science phenomena is in the form of a Claim, Evidence and Reasoning report. There will be a test on the standard "Understands the properties of matter" on **Friday, October 21st**. To help your student review for the test, please visit our science course on Schoology and select the green "Family Resource Folder." This folder includes the study guide, key vocab and definitions, and calculations with answers.

Essential Math: Mr. Shaw

We are taking a very systematic approach to math and introducing one step at a time, with the goal at the end being that students will need to take all the steps they have learned and combine them. At the beginning of the unit we used IXL.com as it allowed us to concentrate on one skill at a time. As we continue through the unit and look at the big picture, we will be using more real-world activities rather than isolated algorithm problems. We are also working on mathematical self-confidence and vocabulary.

Essential ELA: Ms. Wallach

In Essential English we are working on our first piece of writing. We are analyzing the effect of the propaganda of the Taliban on Malala and her family. There is a movie coming out soon that dramatizes Malala's experience in Pakistan as well as in the world it would be a great film for them to see.

Math: Ms. Mulcahy

ASSISTments are in full swing and your child should be working on these basic skills each day. We are wrapping up our first unit on the distributive property and solving equations this week. Be on the lookout for a unit test coming home to review. Then we will continue to work on equation solving while calculating the volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres - just in time to see which container will hold the most candy while trick-or-treating! As a reminder, the math extra help schedule is posted on schoology each Friday for the following week.

ELA: Ms. LaValley

We have been reading and analyzing *Under the Persimmon Tree* by Suzanne Fisher Staples. Students received preliminary grades for reading comprehension and analysis of literary elements last week. They also wrote poems with figurative language about the characters, conflict and symbols in the story. This week, we began a small research project: students are using an online database to find one article that relates to the real world conflicts mentioned in our book. Moving forward, students will create informative websites or documentaries about their research.

Teamworks Fieldtrip



8 Red had a blast with safe risk taking (like the high ropes course), working together to problem solve (ask your students about 'Acid River' or 'Kaizen') and step out of our comfort zone (Smurfs tag).

During Team Time in school we have been working on a poster project that asks the students how these activities and lessons from Teamworks will cross over into the classroom and apply to academics.

Conference Day:

November 8th

Our schedule for the day is individual parent meetings through the morning and an open house at the end of the school day. Families with individual meetings will be contacted separately by October 24th.

For the open house, students will put together a portfolio with examples of their work. We are asking that you review it together. You may choose to do this at home, or you may come to the open house anytime between **1:00 and 2:30 pm** to review the portfolio with your student here at school. At that time, we will be circulating and available to answer specific questions that you may have about your student's work.

An email will be sent with this information toward the end of October as well. If you want to review your student's work at home, a form will be sent home with your student that we will ask you to sign after reviewing their portfolio. Our goal is to ensure that the triangle of communication between teachers, students and families is complete!

Applying to High Schools:

We are happy to write recommendations for our students! Be sure to send in a stamped and addressed envelope along with any forms for us to fill out. Contact Jenni Lencioni, the grade 8 adjustment counselor, for her to send transcripts: jlencioni@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us