

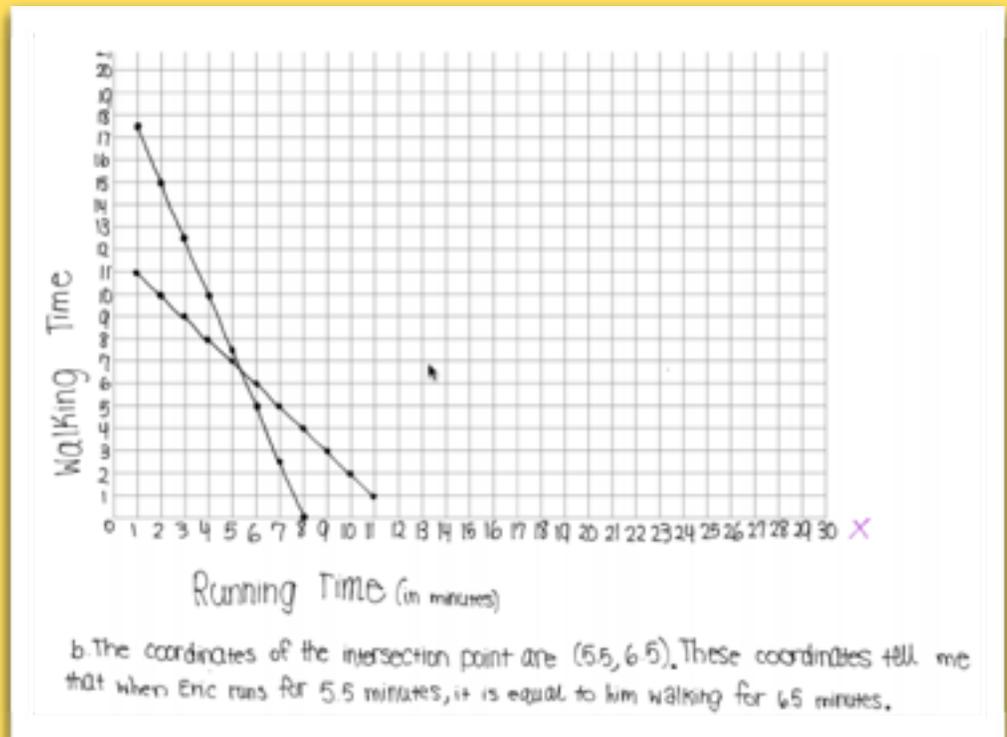
8 BLUE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

Math jcarlin@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

We have started working on our unit involving systems of linear equations. In order to solve systems, students will extend their prior knowledge of solving equations in one variable to solving equations with two variables. There are three standard methods for solving a system. The first method that will be introduced is solving by graphing where students will create graphs for each equation and then read the coordinates of intersection points.

Students will then use the algebraic methods of substitution, which involves writing equivalent forms of an equation and elimination, which involves combining equations to eliminate one variable. Throughout the unit, students will develop an understanding of the ways in which systems can be used to model real-world situations.



Learning Skills dmccarthy@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Recently, I completed a short writing unit with the students on how to improve their sentence structure and sentence variety. They now know how to write both compound and complex sentences and what the components of each sentence are. The students have notes in their ELA folder in Notability along with worksheets that they have done in class that they can refer to when they are writing both at home and at school.

As we are now into our last trimester of 8th grade, I will slowly begin to allow students to make more decisions regarding how they want to use their time in Learning Skills. At Shrewsbury High School, the students will be expected to come to class with plans on how they will use their time. It will be good for the students to practice prioritizing their work and then follow through to be sure that the work is completed. For many students this decision making may be seen as part of a Self Advocacy Goal in their IEP. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.



Social Studies namaral@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Out of winter and into the rebirth of spring...and the Renaissance! In class, we have used our knowledge of the decline of feudalism to pinpoint why the Renaissance began in Italy. We have also been spending a lot of time looking at and discussing Renaissance art. Students have been analyzing how the ideas of humanism are reflected in Renaissance creations such as



David, Mona Lisa, and Creation of Adam, Brunelleschi's Duomo, and Machiavelli's The Prince. I have been very impressed with their ability to make connections between the art, literature, and

architecture and how it reflects the changes that society was going through during the Renaissance. We especially have enjoyed the parodies of these masterpieces that frequently appear in pop culture. Class favorites included 'Mona Lisa Squidward' and 'Creation of Simba.'

ELA kmlewis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Reading Update: Students finished reading *The Giver* or *Fahrenheit 451* this month. They spent a significant amount of time analyzing the theme of the novels, and I was very impressed with their critical thinking skills and with the connections they were able to make during class discussions. Students decided that the theme of the novels is that in order to be fully human, people need human interaction, true feelings and emotions, and knowledge. Students will now start reading a choice science fiction novel.

Writing Update: With this unit, students will be writing an argument piece that answers the question “is technology good for society?” They will incorporate information from the novels, as well as from non-fiction texts. Argument writing is slightly different than persuasive writing, in that they are not trying to change the reader’s opinion. Instead, they are choosing a side and supporting their argument with evidence. This is a type of writing they will encounter on the the PARCC tests in May. Here is a [link for additional practice](#).

Students were challenged to use common meme images to teach people about *The Giver* or *Fahrenheit 451*. Their memes were creative and very funny! Check out the examples below.



Science smilitello@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Welcome to Trimester 3! We are well into our Physics Standards. We completed motion and graphing motion, and almost through energy and energy transformations. We have observed several everyday objects and discussed how energy is transformed from one type to another. The last content standard we will address before MCAS in May is heat transfer. Ask your student why balls bounce, how Albert Einstein changed our understanding of energy conservation and why no machine is 100% efficient. Enjoy our spring weather.

