8TH GRADE

NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome to a New School Year!**
- **Curriculum Night is September 23rd, we look forward to seeing everyone there!**

ELA

English 1

Happy 3rd week of school! Students have been busy these last three weeks. The first week, students set learning routines and procedures with Growth Mindset, CHAMPS, and accountable talk. The second week of school were full of beginning of the year assessments; I-Ready Reading and Math and CommonLit. We have also reviewed the parts of speech, ACES writing formula and Notice and Note annotations for fiction. We are also working on a poem titled "Where I'm From." The third week of school we began Unit 1 in Common Lit. This unit is titled Following the Crowd. Students are answering the essential question; How does being in a group affect how we act? We are analyzing a short story, Cheboygan Day, to determine how an author uses character interactions to develop a theme. Next week, we will continue in the unit with vocabulary, a nonfiction article, Conformity, and two more short stories, "All Summer in a Day" and "The Lottery." We will also visit the media center to introduce different genres and our 40 book challenge. The super scholars are engaged and excited with this unit. Please let me know if you have any questions at Melissa_merritt@pender.k12.nc.us

8th Grade ELA

Students are in Unit 1: The Art of Suspense. They are learning how authors build suspense in their stories. Students are analyzing how authors develop characters and plot, how text structure and techniques create suspense, and how perspective of the characters can create suspense. Students will also practice their writing skills by writing strong claims and using ACES strategy in their writing.

MATH

Math 1

Students are beginning the Math I unit, Relations and Functions. Students will work, constantly, on a coordinate plane understanding and defining what a function is. This will include tracing the domain and range, applying the vertical line test, understanding and applying mathematical vocabulary, understating and utilizing proper quadrants, understanding function notation, and learning and applying the arithmetic sequence formula. The arithmetic sequence formula is the first of a number of formulas the students will be required to know and apply. This will lead into the Linear Equations/Functions Unit that will also contain several formulas that will be required to know and apply. After the entire unit is finished, your student will take a unit test including all of the taught concepts to ensure they fully understand how to identify and describe both relations and functions.

8th Grade Math

This week your student is learning about working with transformations in the coordinate plane. Previously, they learned about transformations that slide, reflect, or rotate a figure without changing its size or shape. Now, they will identify the coordinates of the vertices of the image of a figure that has been transformed in the coordinate plane. After, your student is learning about sequences of transformations. When one or more transformations are performed on a figure, it is called a sequence of transformations

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SCIENCE

8h Grade Science

This week students in 8th grade science have been learning about elements on the periodic table. Students have been able to work hands-on with identifying/ classifying some of these elements in the classroom during their week lab. Our students have been able to identify the different groups of elements that are on the periodic table and are able to use physical properties to help them identify the differences in elements. Students will be able to take this knowledge and apply it to their next topic where we talk about mixture.

SOCIAL STUDIES

American History

Students have been building a strong foundation for the year by exploring geography. We began with the 5 Themes of Geography (Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement, and Region), which help students understand how geography shapes cultures, decisions, and events. Alongside this, students reviewed basic U.S. geography, including states, regions, and important physical features, to strengthen their map skills and sense of place. From there, we have transitioned into the 13 British American Colonies, where students are beginning to examine how geography influenced settlement, economy, and daily life in each colony. This work sets the stage for understanding the development of colonial society and, later, the path toward American independence.

8th Grade NC History

Students delve into the fascinating world of early American history, exploring the journeys of brave explorers and settlers who shaped the nation's beginnings. Through the lens of the five themes of geography—location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region—they analyze how these groups navigated and transformed the North American landscape. They also learn to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, using artifacts, diaries, and historical accounts to construct their own understanding of the past. This approach helps them build critical thinking skills while gaining a deeper appreciation for the complex story of America's as well as North Carolina's founding.

CFM