



The Eagles

Soaring to new heights as learners!



Team 7-3 February 2010

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Important Dates to Remember:

Friday, February 26: End of trimester 2 and no school due to teachers' institute

Monday, March 1- Friday, March 5: ISAT Testing

Students will begin testing first period each day, Monday-Friday. Science tests will be taken on Monday and Friday (about one-hour of testing). Two tests, Reading and Math, will be taken each day on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Please be sure all students get a good night's sleep throughout the testing week and have a hearty, healthy breakfast.

Monday, March 15: Parent-Teacher conferences and report card pick up

There will be no school on conference day. Parents may pick up student report cards during conference hours. Parents and students are encouraged to stop in and meet with Team 7-3 teachers. We look forward to seeing you then!

Monday, March 29 - Friday, April 2: Spring Break

Students will enjoy a week's vacation as the month of March draws to a close. School will resume as usual the following week, Monday, April 5.

Congratulations to Samantha Kruzel and Fatima Miriam who earned perfect scores on the Constitution test during the second trimester!



Our Mission

We, the students and teachers of Team 7-3, The Eagles, will have a successful school year by following Character Counts, staying focused and engaged, and working hard to achieve our goals.

What's Going on in... English

Following ISAT week, students will begin a new reading unit on determining importance. This unit will continue through the month of March and explores a variety of text structures, including compare/contrast, question/answer, problem-solution, sequence, description, and cause and effect. Having completed novel units in January and February, students will examine a variety of nonfiction texts as they practice the determining importance strategy.

With 30 minutes daily devoted to independent reading during fourth period bookclub, students are required to read at least 3 books/600 pages per trimester. Students are encouraged to select books at their independent reading levels that provide high interest for them. Looking for a good book? Current 7th grade favorites include:

■ *The Lightning Thief* (series) by Rick Riordan;

■ *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (series) by Jeff Kinney;

■ *Catching Fire* by Susanne Collins (Sequel to *The Hunger Games*);

■ *Storm Breaker* (series) by Anthony Horowitz; and

■ *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers.

This month we will implement a new writing assessment to help evaluate current writing skills and plan for future instruction. During the week of March 8-12, all Marquardt Middle School students will develop a narrative essay in response to a prompt. In addition, students will continue to write about reading during the third trimester and will explore poetry as well as other genres through the end of the school year.



Math

During the third trimester students will practice concepts learned in prior months as they continue to explore new ones, including:

● Using proportions and rates to solve problems;

● Finding surface areas and volumes for a variety of three-dimensional figures such as prisms, cylinders, cones and spheres;

● Comparing, ordering, estimating, adding, and subtracting using integers;

● Relating absolute value to distance on a number line; and

● Identifying corresponding parts of similar figures.

Students will continue to take periodic short-cycle assessments throughout the trimester to measure their progress toward achieving learning targets.

Social Studies

All students currently taking social studies are in social studies B this trimester. Students who completed social studies B last trimester, do not have social studies at this time.

Students in Social Studies B will pick up where they left off after taking the Constitution test in social studies A. They will begin by exploring how the newly formed U.S. government worked through the many challenges faced by a new nation. Next, students will shift their focus to the Louisiana purchase, Lewis and Clark, the War of 1812, westward expansion and the Industrial Revolution.

By the end of the trimester, students will become experts on the Civil War as they refine their research skills. With regular visits to the LMC, Ms. Cirese, Mrs. Vandenack, and LMC Director Mrs. Stoiber combine to guide student research efforts as they explore the war between the states and develop PowerPoint presentations to share their findings.

Science

In 7th grade science classes, Mrs. Gabrenya, Mrs. Heabel, and Mrs. Slater are beginning the last trimester all teaching biology. In biology, students will be exploring topics such as the cell, genetics, and the human body. They will receive a new list of science essentials, which will be the core of the curriculum.

Students will still have short cycle assessments, problems in thinking activities, projects and homework assignments to complete throughout the trimester. We would like them to continue using their science binders from chemistry with the same tabs. We look forward to working with you and your child to make the end of 7th grade as successful as possible. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

