

Rock Stars: Team 8-2 News

Marquardt Middle School

630.858.3850 Team Meeting: **1:00-1:30 T-F**. Call Dr. Knapp's room to get all four teachers at one time.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Phone extension</i>	<i>email</i>
Mrs. Fitzgerald	LA/Literature; team leader	6507	mfitzgerald@d15.us
Mrs. Atkinson	LA/Literature	6508	jatkinson@d15.us
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Dr. Knapp	Science	6402	mknapp@d15.us

January 2010

Hello!

Mrs. Fitzgeralds' English class has spent a great deal of time working on the extended response format for writing. This technique is utilized on the Illinois Standardized Achievement Test (ISAT) in March, as well as in high school. Please encourage your son/daughter to avidly practice this method and work to constantly improve. Further, we have spent some time focusing on the strategy of questioning while reading. We have also worked on developing different types of questions, as well as pushing ourselves to ask pertinent and meaningful questions, to aid in our overall reading comprehension. As always, please encourage your son/daughter to be reading independently and frequently. The only way to become a proficient reader is to read often. This probably means you have to create a "no TV, no computer, no video game" time in the house. It works best when the parent models the behavior, if possible.

Mrs. Atkinson's Social Studies classes have just completed a unit on World War Two. Students studied the war in its entirety with the theme of tolerance at the very core of our unit. We studied and discussed The Holocaust, Japanese Relocation Camps, and other atrocities of that war. We were lucky enough to have Mrs. Stoiber, our librarian, come in to our classroom and discuss all of the World War Two novels that we have in our school library. Students completed a unit project on the war, as well as a radio broadcast done in groups and created by the students who took the roles of radio broadcasters during WW2. We will begin studying The Cold War next.

Mrs. Atkinson's English classes have just completed "Grammar Boot Camp" in which students studied parts of speech and grammar rules in depth. New concepts were presented each day with an emphasis on practice and grammar usage.

We are now in the midst of our unit on the reading strategy "questioning". In thinking deeply while reading, students are encouraged to form their own "I wonder statements", questioning as they read in order to form a deeper understanding and greater comprehension, which is our ultimate goal this year. We will soon be writing the 2nd of our formal papers, which will be an opinion statement/persuasive paper. This paper will be completed on the topic of the student's choice. Students will learn and focus on facts, statistics, and opinions in terms of how to use them to support their views in this written piece.

We also continue to practice and fine -tune our extended response writing in preparation for ISAT testing, which is coming up in March. We are very busy indeed!

Regular Math: We have finished with “Thinking With Math Models” which dealt with linear equations, slopes, y-intercepts and scatter plots. It reinforced the students thinking from the unit “Moving Straight Ahead”. The central goal of the unit was to develop student understanding and skill in the modeling process and to write and solve questions about the relationships in the variables.

The next book in math is “What Do You Expect?” This unit is about the concepts of probability and will help students understand common ideas that they read or hear about every day. They will explore long -range expectations in probability situations and learn how to make better predictions.

Algebra: We are finishing up Chapter 6 and moving on to Chapter 7, which deals with solving systems of linear equations. We will solve these systems by one of the following methods: substitution, graphing and by linear combinations.

In science course A, students are moving from the universe, galaxy and solar system into Earth’s atmosphere as we move towards an understanding of Earth’s climate. We are going to learn about the role of pressure in weather systems and how to read weather maps. We’ll also learn about climate and climate change. Remember to check online for grades and daily summaries of science (see notes below).

As always, feel free to call or email any of us with any questions!

Peace,
Rock Stars 8-2

Yes, I’ve seen the January newsletter!

Student Name: _____ Class for E.C. _____

Parent’s Signature: _____

Check student grades at www.d15.us. Click on the PowerSchool Parents link near the bottom of the Parent Links on the left of the page. Log in with your ID and password (call our office if you’ve misplaced them). Grades are updated every 1-2 weeks.

See www.yourhomework.com (ID# 18913) for daily science information/assignments.

Questions/Comments/Information we need to know: