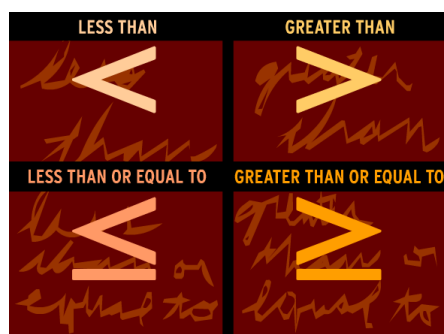


# Middle School Newsletter

February 2019

[www.rivertonmiddleschool.com](http://www.rivertonmiddleschool.com)

## Math by Ms. Napolitano, Mr. Williams and Ms. Streffacio



The New York State Common Core Math Assessment is approaching quicker than we think! This month, we will be learning Equations, Independent and Dependent Variables, as well as Inequalities. The standards include 6.EE.B.5, 6.EE.B.6, 6.EE.B.7, 6.EE.B.8, and 6.EE.C.9. Remember homework and extra practice is extremely crucial in order for the scholars to be successful and understand each concept. All scholars must be completing their homework every night to reinforce and review the lesson that I have taught that day. Scholars should be reviewing their notes and making flash cards using important vocabulary and key terms. During the winter break, I will be assigning homework online. It is due the Monday February 25<sup>th</sup>.

In the seventh grade, the scholars will next be learning about Percent and Proportion problems. We will be discussing and recognizing Percent and Proportion statements, the symbols and equations used, and the procedures that must be followed in-order to consistently find the correct solution. The scholars will focus on problem solving, completing charts and tables to get their solutions, and checking their work. We will also emphasis reading word problems carefully, locating the key words that tell the scholar which numbers and variables are important, and setting up the Percent and Proportion equations. It is important for scholars to use the strategies taught such as the distributive, associative and commutative properties, simplifying, cross multiplication, converting percent to decimals, and marking up the text when solving these problems. The scholars will be completing their project, to be determined, at the end of the month involving a real-world scenario. The standards covered will be 7.EE.3 and 7.RP.3.

Currently the 8th graders are working on our exponents unit. We are covering standards 8.EE.A.1, 8.EE.A.3, 8.EE.A.4 which covers; applying properties of integer exponents to generate equivalent numerical expressions, use numbers expressed in scientific notation to estimate different size numbers and perform operations. They will use the properties they learn about exponents to perform operations with numbers in scientific notation with real world problems, such as talking about populations of states and countries, the mass and area of different planets. They will learn to rewrite numbers in scientific notation with different powers of 10. Next week will be the 2nd interim in math.



**IXL, Khan Academy, and Learnzillion are all great resources for practice where you can practice by standard.**

## ELA by Ms. Jackson, Ms. Giordano, Ms. Edouard, and Mr. Antoine



What is Author's Style? Stylistic elements and the way we express ourselves are relevant throughout our everyday lives. We are all unique beings and so is an author specific way of writing. An author develops their unique style of writing based on their cultural background and experiences. Throughout this month, scholars are analyzing the elements of style that includes images, imagery, sensory language and figurative language. These elements work together not only to develop an author's style, but also the mood and tone of the text. In addition, scholars will analyze specific word choice and phrases within their context and how is used to develop the overall message or meaning of the text. As we are counting down towards the 2019 NYS ELA test, ensure that your scholar is sharpening their reading comprehension skills at home.

Welcome to the month of February! With this month being Black History Month, we continue to study and appreciate the prolific African American writers who are so imperative to our English Language Arts studies. This month we have just wrapped up our Theme unit and are moving into studying Mood, Tone and Writing Style. As we continue moving through these units, the scholars have continuously been working hard to practice using multiple choice strategies to help them better understand what the question is asking of them and they have also learned to become more mindful of watching out for choosing any distractor answers! I am so incredibly impressed by how much the scholars have grown over the course of the year so far and the progress they have made.



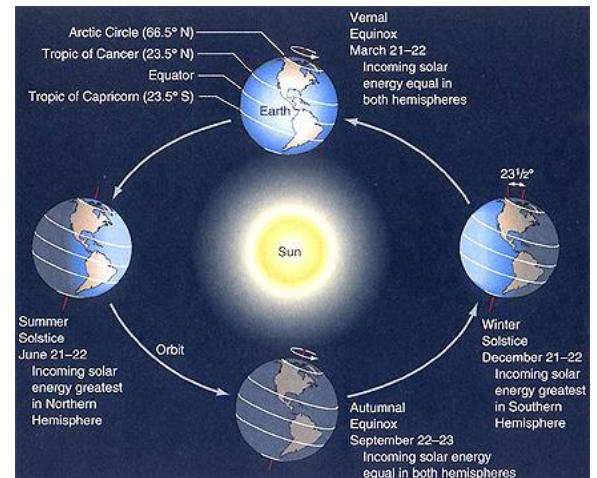
What's Theme Got To Do With It? In eight grade our scholars are working on the unit of Theme. This literary device is one of the key elements of fiction. Themes within stories allows readers to deeper understand the overall message and lesson that the writer wants to communicate. Themes are universal and are relatable to all. Scholars will be reading several genres from science fiction, myths, folktales, to works by Anton Chekhov, O. Henry, and others. We are preparing for the upcoming NYS ELA exam by increasing our reading stamina.

## Science by Ms. Grant, Ms. Shakes, and Ms. Scott

Our six- grade physical scientists will be introduced to periodic motion and events in everyday life. They will learn about Characteristics of Waves in this chapter. This includes properties of waves, interaction of waves and seismic waves. They will learn how they are produced and how to measure and describe their properties. This chapter will enable students to better understand waves and allow them to apply the terms to periodic events in their lives. The scholars will also investigate the properties of sound waves and how they are produced by different objects. As they work through this chapter, they will gather enough knowledge to create a musical instrument on their own.

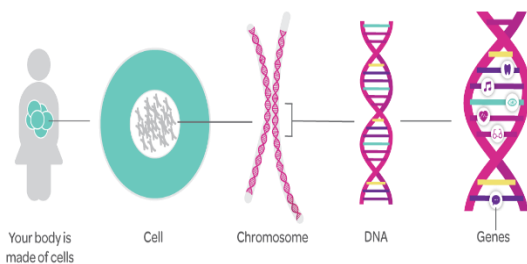
Our seventh grade scholars will be covering the body defense system. Topics included will be prevention of infectious disease, relationships between pathogens, and different kinds of pathogens that cause infectious disease in humans. Also identifying the sources of different pathogens. Student will make discoveries of antibiotics that are used to target specific structures in bacteria, such as the cell walls and membranes. Students are going to investigate antiviral drugs that inhibit the activity of viruses in different ways. For example, drugs used against HIV and HSV which targets enzymes need for virus to reproduce. As well preventing infectious disease acquired through passive and active immunity. Also non-infectious disease will be touched upon good bacteria found in humans which aid in their survival. Student will continue to produce a varied amount of science projects, so please be on the lookout.

Our eight grade scientists finished up their unit on weather & climate. This month, our scholars will learn about the Earth, Moon & Sun systems. In this unit, students will explore simulators, 3-D models, and data in order to develop an understanding of celestial phenomena. Students will then use their understanding to explain concepts such as the apparent path of constellations and the Sun, seasons, and the phases of the Moon.



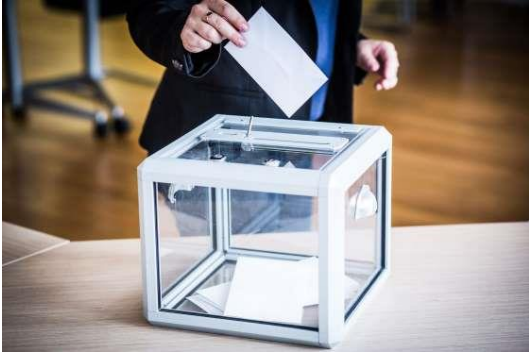
## Eighth Grade Living Environment

Our eighth-grade living environment scientists finished up the unit on the human body ending with sexual reproduction. The scholars then learned about asexual reproduction and the different ways some organisms reproduce asexually. This month, the scholars will learn about genes and heredity to understand how genes are passed down from parents to offspring. The students will learn about the role of DNA, chromosomes & genes in genetics. The scholars will also learn about genetic engineering this month.





## Social Studies by Mrs. Victor, Mr. Bruning, and Mr. Dayan



This month scholars will focus on the ancient Greeks. The Greek civilization began almost 4,000 years ago, but their ideas about democratic government, science, and the arts are still important today. To grasp an understanding of who the ancient Greeks were and their far-reaching contributions to the world, scholars would explore the rise of the Greek civilization as they moved from glory, to war, to decline – conquered by the kingdom of Macedonia. To answer the big question – how do governments change – scholars will analyze maps, time lines, flow-charts, and text images to gain a deeper understanding, as well as to visualize details as they read, to make connections to their own experiences.

February will be an exciting month in 7th Grade Social Studies. Focus will be on the early stages of the American Revolution with emphasis on major battles – Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill – and crafting of the Declaration of Independence. Students will concentrate on the hardships faced by colonists in their struggle against mighty British forces. Revolutionary heroes like Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and John Adams will be discussed at length. The unit will conclude with the victory of revolutionary forces at Yorktown and signing of the Treaty of Paris.



Eighth grade moves right along into industrialization and the progressive era. We will abide by our customary approach of peering through the lens of both the positive and negative effects of industrialization. Topics scholars should expect to cover include but are not limited to are social Darwinism, the advent of Labor Unions, the relationship between big business (corporations) and government, the Populist movement, nativism, the Chinese Exclusion Act and women's suffrage. We plan on culminating the unit with a field to the Tenement Museum.

## February's Moral Focus: Courage

Courage is not the  
absence of fear, it's when  
you're scared but  
you jump anyway.

### Reminders:

- ECA Presentation, February 15, 2019
- No school for scholars:
  - ❖ February 18-22, 2019, Midwinter Break
- Please make sure scholars are dressed in uniform each day. Scholars consistently not in uniform will receive an infraction letter.
- All parents are invited to participate in our Moral Focus presentations. Please come out if you are available.

### February Effort Creates Ability Recipients

<u>Sixth Grade</u>	<u>Seventh Grade</u>	<u>Eighth Grade</u>
Darian Heslop, MIT Daliyah McFarlane, UVA Maddison Haye, UCLA Titilolaoluwa Oseni, MIT	Kennedy Ross, Emory Oke Okrokoto, Cambridge Gatrude Kaitibie, Emory Ricardo Coke, Emory Andre Spurgeon, Binghamton Raleigh Kingsberry, Cambridge	Shahanna Thompson, Caltech Jordan Edwards, Caltech Jordan Sewell, Brandeis Darius Daughtry, Brandeis Anisah Mitchell, Brandeis Gabriela Mendoza, Brandeis