

Middle School Newsletter

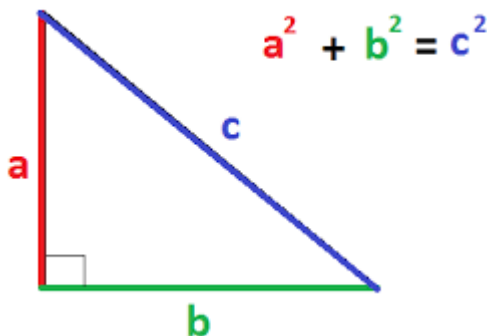
May - June 2019

www.rivertonmiddleschool.com

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

The New York State Common Core Math Assessment has come and gone!!! All scholars must be completing their homework and should be reviewing their notes and making flash cards using important vocabulary and key terms. It is imperative that the scholars continue their journey to success. Remember scholars, "Never give up and always try your best, because your best is all I am asking for!" In addition, learning is not over after the state exam. We will be covering many of the seventh-grade standards until the last day of school. Please ensure that your scholar is completing his or her homework each night. We are going back to paper homework for the remainder of the school year.

In the seventh grade, now that the NYS Math Exam is over, will now be learning about expressions and equations in the 8th grade curriculum. This will help prepare each scholar for next year's math content. We will be discussing expressions, solving problems with variables on both sides, finding one solution, many solutions, or no solutions type problems. The emphasis is on reading each word in the word problem carefully, locating the key words that tell the scholar which numbers and variables are important, setting up the equation, and finding a solution. It is important for scholars to use the strategies taught such as the associative property, commutative property, and marking up the text, and working backward when solving these problems to help ensure consistent correct answers. The scholars will be working on their project for the month involving a real-world scenario. The standards covered will be 8.EE.1, 8.EE.2, and 8.EE.4.



Hello Riverton Middle School! We will begin preparing scholars for the high school curriculum by going through the 8th grade post-curriculum standards. The first standards we will be covering are 8.G.6, 8.G.7, and 8.G.8. These standards cover the topic of Pythagorean Theorem. Students will use Pythagorean Theorem to find the missing side lengths of right triangles and use it to determine if a triangle could be a right triangle based on its side length.

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

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

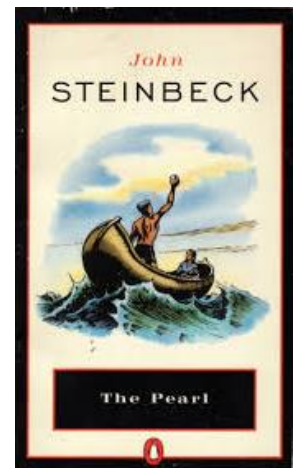
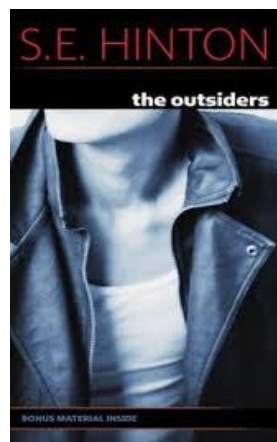


KEEP
CALM
BECAUSE
WE ARE THE
CHAMPIONS

Now that the ELA exams are behind us, we greatly embark into the last few months as we draw close to the end of the school year. During the next few months, sixth grade scholars will deeply analyze the structure of myths, legends and tall tales. Eventually they will have an opportunity to develop their own writing piece. In addition to our unit of study, students are currently immersed in reading various novels, such as Inside Out and Back Again, Of Mice and Men also, A Fish in a Tree. These novels explore and expose scholars to a variety of themes and real-world experiences. Lastly, our end of year focus also includes preparing scholars for the NWEA exams as well as introducing scholars to post standards through the units of study. Stay connected on Class Dojo for updates!

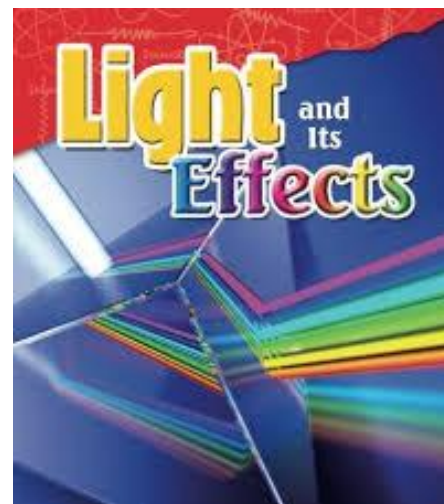
In seventh grade English Language Arts, the scholars analyzed plot structure and development as well as types of conflict in S.E. Hinton's debut novel, The Outsiders an eighth-grade text. The scholars also compared this text to its film adaptation. This week scholars will begin analyzing poetry to enhance their analytical reading skills through figurative language.

8th grade scholars are now moving to our unit on writers and their use of voice and style. Just as we have our own sense of style and how we choose to express ourselves, writers do the same in their writing. We will further explore various texts that demonstrate these concepts. In addition, we will begin a novel study of The Pearl by John Steinbeck, in which many themes such as greed and corruption- which are relevant today- are discussed.



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

The sixth-grade physical scientists will continue learning about Light in the upcoming unit. This unit will enable students to see that light gives objects their color; can be reflected by mirrors and refracted by lenses to create images; is perceived by the eye and is used in instruments such as telescope, microscopes and lasers. The subheadings under this unit include Light and Color, Reflection and Mirrors, Refraction and Lenses, Seeing Light and Using Light. This is going to be an exciting unit because students will apply what they learn about light to design an optical instrument.



Scholars will continue to investigate and conduct experiments in science. However, this semester scholars will be integrating Earth Science with the history of vertebrates and the history of Rocks. In animal vertebrate history fossils are preserved body parts or structures, such as bones, claws, teeth, and eggs. Animals and plants are turned into fossils by several ways by very different processes. Most bone and wood fossils are petrified which means that the original tissues were slowly replaced with rocklike minerals. Aristotle realized that fossils were evidence of past life, but he thought the organisms had grown into rocks; which was not the case. We will be looking at this relationship of rocks from medieval times up to present day. In addition, scholars will be embarking on a major assignment in which they will be competing in the Riverton school and district science fair.

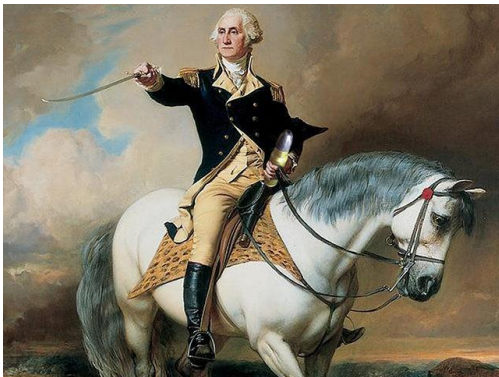
During these months, our 8th grade scientists will finish their review of physical science concepts they have learned during 6th grade year in preparation for the state science assessment in June. The scholars will then review the life science concepts they learned during their 7th grade school year in preparation for the upcoming assessment.



Our eighth-grade living environment scientists finished up the unit on ecology and has started learning about how humans impact the environment. This month, they will finish their unit on human impact on the environment and complete an assessment to evaluate understanding of this topic. For the remainder of the month, the scholars will review the past units and major laboratory concepts learned throughout the school year in preparation for their Regents Living Environment Examination in June.

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

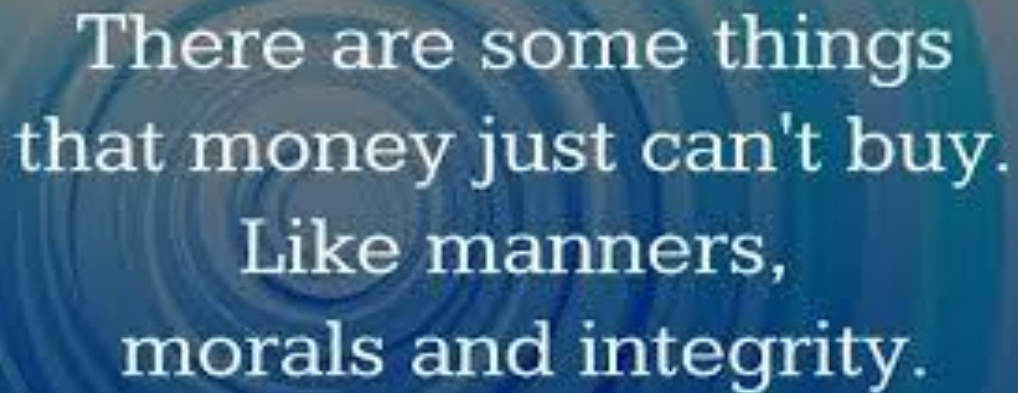
This month scholars will continue to focus on Greek Civilization. Like other civilizations, Greek culture continued to flourish even after Greece itself was no longer a powerful political force. Many Greeks invested their life to the study of science, philosophy, mathematics and the arts. When Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire, he spread Greek culture and ideas throughout southwest Asia and the Mediterranean world. Scholars will also begin to grasp a deeper understanding of the Roman Empire contributions to the world. This classical civilization, because of its location, was able to gain control of the Mediterranean region rapidly and build a huge empire. Rome's legacy positively impacted government - democracy and law, language - Latin, architecture, medicine, science, and the arts. Their love of wisdom led to the study of history, politics, biology, and logic. This experience will help scholars answer the big question – **what makes a culture unique?**



The aftermath of the American Revolution will be our focus. Major areas of study will include the formation and struggles of the new nation. We will discuss the Articles of Confederation as a prelude to the U.S. Constitution. Worth mentioning will be the often-unsettled political atmosphere following the Revolution. Particular attention will be on Shay's Rebellion in Massachusetts and continued tension between British loyalists and the triumphant advocates of independence. Another major area of concentration will be the creation of the United States Constitution, including the importance of the Bill of Rights. The historic presidency of George Washington will be given great attention, especially the precedents he set for all future leaders of the U.S. The unit will conclude with westward expansion, as the nation grew, and regional rivalries and differences developed.

8th Grade - EXPANSION AND IMPERIALISM: Beginning in the second half of the 19th century, economic, political, and cultural factors contributed to a push for westward expansion and more aggressive United States foreign policy. After extensively covering Westward expansion last year, we will explore how the concept of Manifest Destiny began to extend overseas. The unit will culminate with America's entrance into World War I. We will explore the causes of World War I, The United States reaction and the debate over neutrality, the role the nation played in the war, and assessing the effects of new technologies on warfare."

Moral Focus: Integrity



There are some things
that money just can't buy.
Like manners,
morals and integrity.

Reminders:

- ECA Presentation, Wednesday, May 22, 2019
- National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Wednesday, May 29, 2019
- Awards Night, Tuesday, June 4, 2019
- Field Day, Wednesday June 5, 2019
- No School: NHA PD, Thursday, June 6, 2019
- 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.

May Effort Creates Ability Recipients

Sixth Grade

Khadalia Reid, MIT
Arianna Smith, MIT
Teyanna Smith, UVA

Seventh Grade

Leighcia Dacres, Cambridge
Christopher Mitchell, Emory
Kristen Grant, Emory
Eniola Olasehinde, Emory
Alicia Williams, Duke
Jada Stone, Emory

Eighth Grade

Jordan Sewell, Brandeis
Cabela Stennett, Johns Hopkins
Trazaya Dailey, Brandeis
Kayla Kernisant, Johns Hopkins
Nicholas Roberts, Brandeis
Roman Baptiste, Caltech
Jessica Stone, Brandeis