

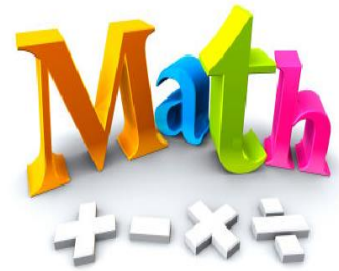
Middle School Newsletter

October 2018

www.rivertonmiddleschool.com

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

In September, sixth grade had focused on evaluating numerical and algebraic expressions. We have also focused on order of operations and creating expressions from real world scenarios. In October, we will be focusing on creating algebraic expressions from real world scenarios. We will be applying the associative, commutative, and distributive property to evaluate real world scenarios. The work is more rigorous in middle school and will continue to be. Remember, in order to get better at something, we all need to practice, especially in mathematics. In addition, homework is given each night, so please check that your child is completing it. Many of the scholars are coming to my class with the homework incomplete and there is no reason for it. It is only the beginning of the year and I need the scholars to remain driven and focused. Additionally, if your child is struggling with any of the material I am available before school on Wednesday and during lunch on Thursday. Please email me if you have any concerns. Also, every Friday the scholars will be assessed on the standard or standards taught throughout the week. Please ensure that they are studying daily.



In the seventh grade, the scholars are learning about the number system. We have talked about the four basic math operations and strategies to solve word problems containing integers. The emphasis is on reading each word in the word problem carefully, locating the key words that tell the scholar which numbers are important, and what is the question asking the scholar to solve for. It is important for scholars to use the strategies taught such as the number line, counting chips, and marking up the text when solving these problems to help ensure consistent correct answers. The scholars have completed their project for the month involving a real-world scenario about shopping in a store. Scholars will next focus their attention on word problems containing rational numbers. The standards covered are 7.NS.1, 7.NS.2, and 7.NS.3.

In eighth grade we have just finished the Solving Multi-step equations unit. The standard that was covered was 8.EE.C.7. We are currently in the Geometry unit. Scholars are learning about the four transformations (translation, rotation, reflection, and dilation) and how these relate to congruence and similarity. Scholars will be learning about angles in triangles and angle relationships when parallel lines are cut by transversals. The standards that are being covered include 8.G.A.1, 8.G.A.2, 8.G.A.3, 8.G.A.4, 8.G.A.5.



Weekly quizzes are given every Friday to assess student's understanding of the standards covered, and exit tickets are given every day to check students mastery of the topics taught. The eighth graders just completed their first project where they created a calendar of equations for their choice of months where they had to create different types of equations.

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

During the month of September, scholars have been studying literature and narrative elements within various short stories. In addition, they are utilizing their creative muscles to develop their own memoirs during the writer's workshop. With the conclusion of the first unit, scholars will be embarking on analyzing the elements and structure of argumentative texts. After being equipped with the core understanding, scholars will present their own argument on a selected social topic. At the conclusion of both units scholars will be assessed on their knowledge of literature and informational standards with their first Interim of the school year.

This year we are excited to launch DEAR Time (Drop Every Thing and Read) during our ELA lab periods. Within the sixth grade ELA labs, scholars are building stamina while practicing reading comprehension skills. Presently, scholars are immersed in reading *Tuck Everlasting* as their first novel. At home scholars should continue to foster their love reading through their own independent reading novel. Look out for updates on Class Dojo!!!!




As we began the school year in seventh grade English Language Arts, the scholars analyzed plot structure and development as well as types of conflict in literature. The scholars have also learned how to closely annotate a text which assists with reading comprehension and overall understanding of a story. In terms of writing, the scholars are working to complete their personal narrative essays based on a "memorable moment" which incorporate many writing components and key elements of a narrative such as dialogue, sensory detail, descriptive language and transitional phrases. While the scholars continuously build upon their writing skills, they are also working to improve grammar skills as far as word choice and spelling.

The scholars are also encouraged to use Google Classroom. Google classroom acts as an excellent form of communication between myself and the scholars and is a wonderful way to obtain extra copies of handouts, ask questions, and get any work a scholar may have missed if absent. Google classroom also allows the scholars to view homework assignments which are assigned every night.

"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss

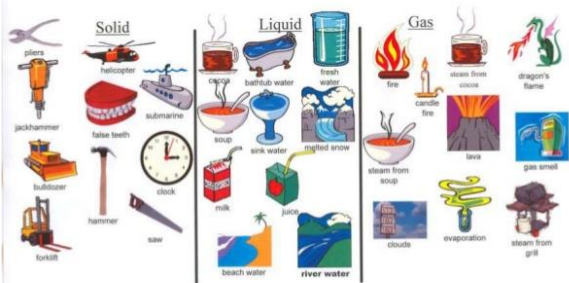
"Extraordinary challenges lead to an extraordinary destiny". Welcome eight grade scholars, you have certainly endured the ups and downs of middle school. You are on the final path of middle school. With the onset of the new school year, scholars are enhancing their knowledge of story elements by analyzing more rigorous and complex narrative texts throughout the unit. As we embark into the month of October, scholars will continue with their study of the elements of informational texts within the context of real life topics. At the onset of the unit, scholars will be assessed in both narrative and informational texts. Continue to shape your destiny!!!!



MATTER

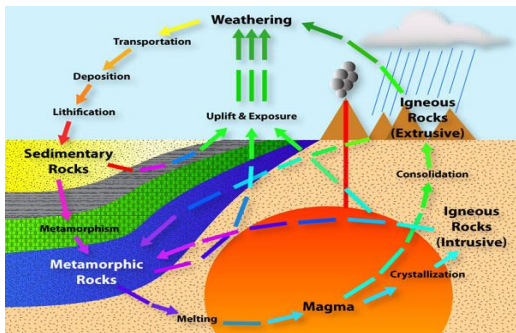
What is Matter?

matter - anything that takes up space and has mass.



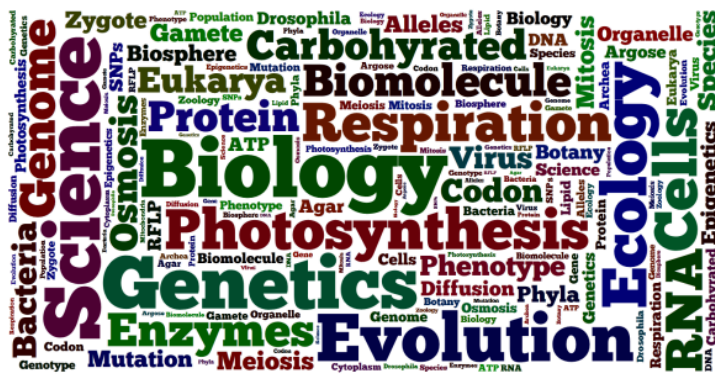
Our six grade physical scientists have learned about the importance of the scientific method and how scientists use scientific inquiry to make discoveries. They also have been introduced to the properties of matter which they will learn in greater detail throughout the school year. This month scholars will learn how to measure mass using a triple beam balance and how to measure volume of regular and irregular solids as well as liquids. Our physical scientists will then learn about the four states of matter, solids, liquids, gases and plasma. Students will be able to describe the different states of matter and what happens during phase changes. The class will complete student movement activities as well as lab activities to help aid in the understanding of the states of matter.

7th grade Life Science will begin the Pattern of Inheritance. This topic includes how a parent passes a complete copy of parental chromosomes to them. Scholars will begin to understand that a parent can only provide them with chromosomes, and their chromosomes are identical to those of the parent. Scholars will also begin to learn that there is an exception which is spontaneous mutations which can lead to slight variations between the parent and each of the offspring. We will also begin to look at plants and how they reproduce. This will be studied and carried out with text readings, and various activities and experiments. Be on the lookout for science articles which will be sent home with the students for further projects.



Our eight grade scientists have reviewed their understanding of the scientific method and how scientists use scientific inquiries to make discoveries. They have been introduced to the Earth's interior where they learned about the properties of the Earth's layers. This month, the scholars will learn about rocks and minerals. They will learn how rocks form and the rock cycle. The scholars will also learn about Plate Tectonics.

Congratulations to Brandeis University! They will be partaking in the Regents Living Environment course this school year where they will have the opportunity to earn high school credit for the class. The students will be learning about the following topics throughout the school year: Scientific Method, Scientific Measurement & the Microscope, Characteristics of Living Organisms, The Cell (Structure and Function), Biochemistry & the Enzyme, Evolution, Mitosis & Meiosis, Reproduction, Genetics, Human Body Systems, Homeostasis, Ecology and Human Impact on the Environment. It's an honor to be a part of this new chapter of educational opportunities Riverton Street Charter School has to offer.



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

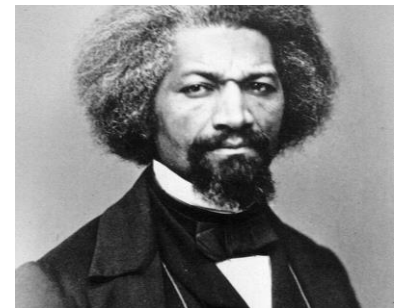
This month of October scholars will continue to explore the Geography of the Eastern Hemisphere. The Eastern Hemisphere, the so-called Old World, was inhabited by humans at a much earlier date than the Western Hemisphere, the New World. The people of Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East had a head start, compared to the rest of the world, in altering their environment. Patterns of human development began here.

Some topics scholars will be learning include: The Five Themes of geography; map skills-identifying types of maps; interpreting maps; using latitude and longitude to find absolute and relative location; defining geographic features; and building travel writing skills.



In October, 7th grade scholars will be focusing on the rise of Native American groups in the different regions of North America. Scholars will examine how factors like climate and local geographical features affected the way distinct cultures developed for these Native American civilizations. Special emphasis will be placed on analyzing the many advancements of the Iroquois Confederacy of what is now New York state. Scholars will predict how the arrival of European explorers will impact the Native American groups of North America.

Our eighth graders are immersed in the causes, complexities, and aftermath of the bloodiest war in American history, The Civil War. Scholars witness slavery through first-hand accounts, images, famous speeches, multimedia clips, and acts of resistance. Scholars can expect to hear and learn about prominent historical figures such as Nat Turner, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, Robert E. Lee and John Brown amongst others. We will dissect the causes of battle and search for the true motives of emancipation. The Civil War was the turning point in American history. Despite government legislation, and African Americans in the South organizing for the greater good, it is imperative that the scholars understand that emancipation did not solve the perils of the African American in society. The legacy of Reconstruction was mixed. During this decade, the institution of slavery was eradicated, and the Union preserved. In the years after the Civil War, America began its rise as an industrial giant. Yet for African Americans and for women's rights advocates, the struggle for equality would continue well into the next century.





October's Moral Focus: Respect



Reminders:

- ECA Presentation, October 3rd
- No school for scholars:
 - ❖ October 8th, Columbus Day
- 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.

September Effort Creates Ability Recipients

Sixth Grade

Savannah Harriot, Chicago
Melody Raphael, UCLA
Morgan Reams-Mowhatt, Chicago
Nevaeh Lee, MIT
Keria Reid, Chicago

Seventh Grade

Nicholas Lubin, Cambridge
Kayla Thompson, Emory
Elliana Infante, Duke
Olivia Genyard, Binghamton
Shania Tummings, Cambridge
Gatrude Kaitibie, Emory

Eighth Grade

Ian Martinez, Johns Hopkins
Kimberly Davis, CalTech
Debare Ologun, Brandeis
Anisah Mitchell, Brandeis
Jared Wallace, Johns Hopkins
Khyra Mowhatt, CalTech
Leilani Reid, Brandeis

