



Seventh Grade Newsletter



News from the Core Classrooms

English Language Arts: Ms. Forsythe

This quarter the students will be finishing up the intriguing short story, "Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allen Poe. Then we will be conducting our long-awaited Tell-Tale Heart Mock Trial featuring student appearances from the prosecution, defense teams, and strict judges who will lead the classes. Next, we will continue our Edgar Allen Poe Unit as we dive into "The Cask of Amontillado" and "The Raven". Finally, we will be preparing for the Ohio State Test that will take place on April 2-3.

Math: Mr. Burke

The 3rd quarter students in 7th grade math will be working on expressions, equations and inequalities. All students will take the IAAT test to help determine Algebra readiness. If time allows they will be squeezing in some geometry before the state test in April. Topics will include cross sections of solids, angle measures, surface area and volume of prisms and cylinders.

The compacted 7th/8th math class will be finishing up slope and continuing to use proportional relationships with percents and similar figures. They will also dive into some geometry, surface area and volume before the state test.

Reading: Mr. Stemen

In Reading we will be starting our third unit from our new Amplify curriculum titled, "The Gold Rush Collection." In this Collection, students explore primary documents and conduct independent research to better understand the complex story of the California gold rush. Students build information literacy skills and learn how to construct their own research questions and explore the Internet for answers. Students are also doing daily word study to practice using tools to figure out the meaning of unknown words. They are given study guides to go along with this in class work which is tested every three weeks, or so.

Science: Mr. Markwood

Science class has finished up with all of the Earth Science topics for the year. For the third quarter we will be working on Physical Science. We will be looking at the different properties of matter and diving into the Periodic Table of Elements. We will also be exploring electricity and building some simple circuits.

Social Studies: Mr. Smith

As the focus on ancient civilizations such as Greece and Rome come to a close our students will see the rise of monotheistic religions such as Christianity and Islam. We will also learn about how societies defended themselves when a strong emperor was absent under a new way of life; feudalism. Welcome to the Middle Ages!

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Advanced Word Study: Mrs. Khan

Second quarter we worked with new suffixes, R-controlled vowels, and multi-syllable words that have different syllable types. This quarter we will be introducing accented syllables and vowel teams. If you are looking for ways to help your child at home improve their reading, the newsletters I email for each unit would be a great resource.

Math Lab: Mrs. Miller

Over the last quarter we spent a lot of time learning about probabilities, percentages, decimals, and fractions. During the next quarter we will be changing our focus to statistics. We will be discussing central tendency, measures of variation, box and whiskers plots, and mean absolute deviations. This will be challenging, but I know they are up for the task. I have seen great improvement and more confidence over the first semester of the year and hope to see more during the second half of the year. Keep up the great work.

Resource Room Math: Mrs. Murdock

This quarter, we will focus on functional math concepts, starting with learning fractions using an analog clock. Understanding analog clocks helps children build key math skills such as recognizing fractions, counting by fives, and enhancing spatial reasoning.

Next, we will review integers and decimals through activities involving money. These lessons develop essential life skills, enabling middle schoolers to understand the value of money, manage finances, make informed purchasing decisions, and confidently handle everyday transactions, including calculating change. To reinforce these skills, we will continue our classroom economy, where students earn "paychecks" based on their grades and write checks to pay for purchases and classroom utility bills.

We will conclude the quarter by working on spatial awareness through map-reading skills. Students will learn to read maps of our building, local towns and cities, and larger maps of states and the country.

Resource Room Reading: Mrs. Grubb

Welcome to the 3rd quarter. Students will analyze in detail the techniques, examples, and anecdotes that the author uses to introduce and illustrate the topic of yellow fever in *The Secret of the Yellow Death: A True Story of Medical Sleuthing*. The skills we will be practicing are analyzing in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text and writing arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Wilson Reading: Mrs. Khan

This quarter we focused on reading and writing multisyllabic words with different syllable types. This quarter we will continue practicing that skill while also introducing using 'Y' as a vowel, and new sounds for 'A' and 'I'. Each of them work so hard to continue improving their reading skills and I am so proud of how much work they have put in since 5th grade!

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News from the Encore Classrooms

Art: Ms. Henderly

I enjoyed the first semester with all my students and I am looking forward to meeting my second semester classes! I am excited to explore the world of art with you during this semester! I teach 6th, 7th and 8th grade art at Rushville Middle School. The intent of this course is to provide you with the following: 1.) Ability to comfortably communicate through your own unique art style. 2.) The opportunity to apply critical and creative thinking. 3.) Many opportunities to create artwork both individually and collaboratively in a studio environment. In this course we will use a variety of mediums as we explore "creativity" within the world of art. I am excited to work with RMS students and showcase your artistic talents! Please remember that all students should be bringing their sketchbooks to class every day.

Band: Mr. Kitchen

We are going to continue expanding on all aspects of playing that we have been working on (intonation, tone quality, breath support, etc), while also preparing new repertoire for our spring concert. We begin having our bi-weekly playing checks to monitor your progress as we move through the rest of the year. The progress you all have made on your instruments has been incredible and I am so excited to continue that trend!

Career: Mrs. Phillips

In 7th grade career class, students spent nine weeks diving deeper into career exploration and self-discovery. They learned how to identify their interests, strengths, and values and how these relate to potential career paths. The class focused on developing practical skills like creating resumes, understanding job applications, and practicing professional communication. Students also explored different industries, learning about various roles, education requirements, and the importance of adaptability in a changing workforce. A key part of the course involved studying *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, which taught students valuable principles like prioritizing, goal-setting, and proactive decision-making. By applying these habits, they began to understand how to take charge of their futures and create a balanced approach to personal and academic growth. Through activities and projects, they set long-term goals and recognized the connection between their current efforts in school and future success.

Choir: Mr. Gregory

Our first semester of Choir has come to an end! We had a very successful Winter Concert and will now be starting to prepare for the end of the year concert. A few of the 7th/8th graders are also in this year's Spring Musical *Shrek* which will be performed at the High School in March. The students will continue to build on their singing abilities, music literacy abilities, and learn more challenging music.

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Finance: Mrs. Miller

Welcome to the world of Finance! We will learn a lot about the life skills of money. Over our first quarter together we will begin by talking a little about the history of the money we use today and then get into some basic consumer skills. I am looking forward to working with you through the semester and I hope everyone finds this course to be a valuable experience.

Gym: Mr. Boucher

Welcome to Physical Education. Our focus this year will be learning and developing skills to improve and enhance our overall level of fitness. We will be participating in a variety of sports and activities for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and social interaction.

Health: Mrs. Leitnaker

Welcome to Health Class! I am excited to welcome your child to our Health class this semester! In this course, we will explore three key areas of health, with the ultimate goal of equipping students to make informed decisions that enhance their overall well-being. Throughout the semester, we'll cover a variety of important topics, including Personal Hygiene, Stress Management, Safety, Nutrition, Physical Fitness, and Alcohol and Drug Prevention. I'm looking forward to a wonderful and enriching semester with your child!

Human Geography: Mr. Sullivan

Hello from Human Geography! This week I welcomed a new class. We will start off the new semester with discussing the basics of geography and then work our way into cultures. I am excited to welcome in the new faces and hopefully continue to guide them through the world of Human Geography. The goal of this course is to help students have a better understanding of how humans have such a great impact on geography.

STEAM: Mrs. McCoy

During the second nine weeks in STEAM we explored the history and influences of technology, analyzing its impact on daily life and quality of life improvements. We researched and created videos/digital museum exhibits, highlighting technological advancements, with a focus on Lego Simple Machines. We used web-based movie-making software to develop design skills for flyers, videos, and presentations. We worked with coding Ozobots and Scratch as well.

Wellness: Mrs. Miller

Hello, I'm Marcia Miller and I'd like to welcome you to Spring Semester in Wellness. During this elective semester class, we will look at our own character strengths and focus on the positive aspects of each trait in our top 5 strength traits. We will look at character strengths, learning styles, personalities in others and explore ways to deal with differences in opinions and perspectives. We will practice personal wellness by discussing topics that make each of us a better version of ourselves.

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Other News

Art Club: Ms. Henderly

Students in the Art Club have met several times with Ms. Henderly during the first semester. They have explored a variety of mediums and will be focusing on the world of clay and wheel throwing over the next few months. Please see Ms. Henderly for more details if you are still interested in joining the Art Club and coming to the workshops. The details are below for the upcoming workshops.

UPCOMING ART CLUB WORKSHOPS

When: 1/29/25, 2/26/25, 3/26/25 and 4/23/25

Time: After school until 4:00 PM

Where: Room 203 with Ms. Henderly

Leo Club: Mrs. Phillips

Over the next few months, our Leo Club members will be busy spreading kindness and making a positive impact in our school community. To kick things off, we'll be organizing a Valentine Grams fundraiser, where students can purchase special messages and treats to send to friends, teachers, or loved ones. All proceeds will support our community service projects. Additionally, we'll be working on a heartfelt project: making fleece tie blankets for our very own kindergartners. These cozy creations will provide warmth and joy to our youngest students, showing them how much they're cared for. We're excited to combine teamwork, creativity, and generosity to make this season meaningful for everyone!

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