

Algonquin Middle School

January/February 2017

AMS POST



Algonquin Middle School Mission Statement

Algonquin Middle School will provide a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment that engages all students, parents, staff, and community members. We will facilitate self-directed learning and responsible citizenship through the use of a variety of strategies designed to meet the needs of all learners.



Please remember that there is **No Parking** in front of the school in the fire lane. If you are stopping to drop off something to your student or to pick up your student, please park in the visitor parking on the east side of the parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents when you send checks to the school, please remember to include your phone number on the check.



Andrew Reinke, Principal andrew.reinke@d300.org

Erik Jensen, Assistant Principal erik.jensen@d300.org

2016-2017 Late Start Dates

Friday, Feb. 17th
Thursday, March 2nd
Thursday, April 18th
Friday, April 28th
Friday, May 12th

AMS Phone Number:
847-532-7100

AMS Home Page:
<http://ams.d300.org/>



Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (P.B.I.S.)

Students participated in a December, Random Acts of Kindness event to finish 2016. We had positive statements on “Take One” style sheets where students could remove a compliment such as; you are awesome, you are a great friend, and you are a strong person! They would then pass that compliment to a deserving student or staff member. If students wanted to, they could write their name on the back on a compliment they received to be drawn in a raffle for some treats at the final assembly before Winter Break. It was wonderful to see how active students were with the event and have so many people sharing kind words.

Students can continue kindness in 2017 by picking up slips of “You Rock” papers to fill out about a student or staff member in the building. They get the paper from a PBIS board, write the name of the person they are giving it to, and write a little bit about why that person rocks. We hope to have some students who receive the “You Rock” papers share the incredible words being said about them. It is too easy to move along day by day and not let someone know how they impact our lives, or to never personally find out the kind of positive influence you have on the people around you. With this Acts of Kindness event, we hope to give everyone the opportunity to learn just how incredible they are!

There will be two more PBIS lessons this year, one in February and April which may include videos designed by some of our very talented 8th grade students. The topics are ones which students requested and school data shows is needed around that time of year.



ROLE Cards

ROLE cards can be used soon for students to purchase items during lunch time. Items will include a variety of school supplies and other goodies.

Remember, we care about our students and want them to have a safe and enjoyable time at AMS. Parents who wish to volunteer for school incentives and/or celebrations, contribute ideas by joining our Universal Team (meetings in the morning once a month from 8am-8:35am), or assist in any way can feel free to contact the school coaches:

Nancy Grove – nancy.grove@d300.org _& Michelle Merk – michelle.merk@d300.org

**Congratulations to the following
2016 Algonquin Middle School Classroom Spelling Bee Winners:**

6th Grade:

Dylan Markland, Berlyn Bendler, Brett Rueffer, Adrian Kur, Amanda Quillen, Damian Gurtierrez, Josue Vargas, Angel Moore, Zach Shapero, Olivia Allendorf, Madeleine Cruz, Aidan Dunphy, Anthony Greinke, Abigail Lossau, Aynaz Namik, Amira Qureshi, Gabriel Rodriguez

7th Grade:

Gianna, Tampa, Ibrahim Shah, Maddie Lyter, Kathya Jimenez, Mitchell Farinas De Leon, Nick Stotz, Konrad Kurnat, Symone Zaliszczak, Mia Petronella, Alex Gonzales, Yash Dulla, Katelyn Mobley, Quinn Wesol, Adam Jackson, Daniella Rico, Ben Kanner, Riley Johnson, Alex Sutherland, Christian Prado

8th Grade:

Will Flowers, Jason Salinas-Gallegos, Devin Ramirez, Kaden Mannis, Alize Miller, Kyle Shallcross, Travis Gallagher, Tristan Posecion, Madeline Farinas De Leon, Aiden Svec, Caitlin Miller, Tiffany Taller, Gabby Park, Owen Butler, David Thacker, Angelique Floress, Holly Foreman, Cydney Tetzloff, Ryan Lessner, Haley Popp, Joanna Zotelo, Billy Schroeder, Jackie Vergara, Pawel Zujko, Vicky Kasprzak, Kyle Markland, Tyrese Leynes, Jimmy Ptaszek

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**Another Congratulations to the 2017 Algonquin Middle School
Grade Level Spelling Bee Winners who will compete in the
District Wide Spelling Bee at Jacobs High School on February 9th.**

6th Grade Winners:

Berlyn Bendler, Angel Moore, Abigail Lossau, Madeleine Cruz, Zach Shapero

Alternate: Gabriel Rodriguez

7th Grade Winners:

Nick Stotz, Ben Kanner, Symone Zaliszczak, Alex Sutherland, Yash Dulla

Alternate: Mitchell Farinas De Leon

8th Grade Winners:

Madeline Farinas De Leon, Aiden Svec, Gabby Park, Holly Fohrman, Angelique Floress

Alternate: Tristan Pocesion

**Our 2017 Algonquin Middle School ALL- SCHOOL Spelling Bee
Winner is:**

Angelique Floress

Avid

Students continue to work on the WICOR strategies (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading) during the AVID class. The students implemented WICOR with the study of On Our Way to School. The final piece of the unit was the designing of their own classroom explaining what would be a part of the class and why. We will continue to focus on reading and writing in the third semester. Tutorials continually improve!

Music

It is a busy time of year for the AMS Music Department. The bands, choirs, and orchestra are all preparing for upcoming performances. In addition, all classes continue to work on music theory. We just finished a large composition project. The students did a great job using their skills, knowledge, and creativity to write their own music.

Our next big fundraiser will take place on Friday, January 20th. AMS INDIANS GOT TALENT! Tickets can be purchased via order form (sent home w/ students) or during student lunches during the week of the show! We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Performances:

February 21- AMS Choir Concert

February 23- AMS Band Concert

February 28th- AMS Orchestra Concert

March 7th- MB Jazz Night

March 16th- 18th- AMS Musical

Exploratory

We are in our third quarter Exploratory classes already! After practicing some much needed Study Skills first quarter, students have been immersed in their new classes learning a variety of art and technological skills. Your student may be in:

- Art (Ms. Sitko)
- Digital Literacy (Mrs. Merk)
- Computer Essentials (Mrs. Nelson)

Students change classes and teachers each quarter. If you were unable to meet with the third quarter teacher for Parent / Teacher Conferences, please feel free to contact your student's teacher at any time. You are welcome to arrange a phone conference, schedule time to meet us in person, or ask for an email with updates on how your student is performing.

Here are a few good facts to know:

- Students in Exploratory classes have limited homework assignments. Typically, students finish their work during class. Please contact the current teacher in the Exploratory class your student is enrolled in for questions.
- It is helpful for students to have one folder marked "Exploratory." They can clean out the folder at the end of one quarter in preparation for their next class.
- The third quarter rotation ends on March 10th. Fourth quarter starts March 13th. Check student schedules for fourth quarter Exploratory classes.
- **COMING SOON...** Art students may have their pieces selected to be displayed in cases in our building and at Art Shows! Congratulations to our young artists! Please contact Ms. Sitko if you have any questions.
Shows: The Village of Algonquin Art Show and one in the Otto Engineering Building in Algonquin Dates which will be in the Spring.
-Your students will be contacted with more information if their art is included in any show!



Physical Education and Health News

We hope everyone enjoyed the Winter Break!! We can't believe that it's the beginning of 3rd Quarter!! This year is flying by.

This quarter your students will be participating in Team Handball, Floor Hockey, Basketball and Circuit Training! We look forward to a fun and exciting quarter!!

If you happen to be doing any spring cleaning and you have any fitness equipment that you would like to donate please contact us. We are always looking to enhance our classes.

Please mark on your calendars the next PE Open Gyms: February 3rd and April 21st – we hope to see you there.

As always please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Vodvarka

Mr. Bloomberg

Mr. Cardenas

Mr. Brice

**Congratulations to the
AMS 7th and 8th Grade
Dance Team:**

Liss Donet

Maya Bodmer

Victoria Kasprzak

Alyssa Robertson

Camden Svec

Allison Michalek

Elizabeth Epperson

Arianna Martino

Annabell Mahaney

Katie Rice

Victoria Sanchez

Manager: Hannah Collier

Coaches: Mrs. Thomas
and Mrs. Vodvarka

**Thanks for a great
year!!**

LEAP and LIFE

Mr. King's Class is continuing to work on the PCI 2 and 3 during reading, as well as, SRA reading mastery. Students in this class participate in weekly I-ready lessons, spelling words, reading comprehension and daily oral language. In Math, students are using the Equals curriculum which focus on different topics/skills. Weekly I-ready lessons, math assessments also help the students continue to work on different math skills. Currently, students are working on fractions, decimals, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In Social Studies, students will read News-2-You articles, kid's baking, championships, and winter festivals. We will also be studying History, WWI, WWII, and the Revolutionary War. In Science, we are beginning State of Matter, and Simple Machines.

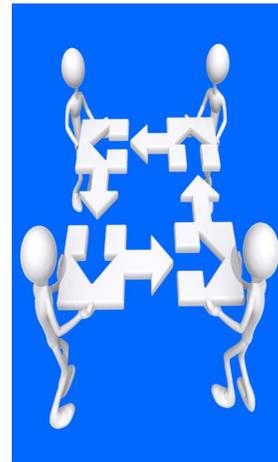
Ms. Kemper's Class: In Science, before break we started working on States of Matter, so for the first few weeks of the year we will be continuing with that unit. They will be completing some cool experiments, looking at different states of matter. In Social Studies, we will be using the Unique curriculum for Social Studies. This month's topic is "We Need Change". During this unit they will be learning about; Conflict and War, The American Revolution, The Civil War, World War I, World War II, and War on Terror.

Mrs. Collins' Class will be starting The Lightning Thief in the coming weeks. This story is based on Greek Mythology. It is the first novel in the *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* series, which charts the adventures of modern-day twelve-year-old Percy Jackson as he discovers he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and the Greek god Poseidon. Percy and his friends Annabeth Chase and Grover Underwood go on a quest to prevent a war between the gods Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades. Students participate in weekly I-ready lessons for Reading and Math. In Math, students are working in 3 different chapters of the Equals curriculum. Students are rounding numbers, predicting/confirming results of sliding, flipping, and turning 2-D shapes, and using x and y axis to find coordinate plots. In Science, we are working on the 6 different Simple Machines. In SS, students are working on conflict and wars. We will learn about WWI, WW2, and the Colombian Exchange.

8th Grade Math

In 8th Grade math, we are currently in the middle of our third unit, Thinking With Mathematical Models. Students are further exploring linear relationships and learning to interpret and analyze data. The main topics of study include writing linear equations when given a table, graph, or situation and using them to solve problems, identifying inverse variation, interpreting scatter plots and residuals, calculating measures of central tendency, and reading data. Our next unit will be Growing, Growing, Growing. In this unit, we will explore exponential relationships by studying exponent rules and modeling exponential growth and decay. Throughout all the units, students often work in groups on problems that allow them to build their ability to problem-solve, think creatively, and communicate about math using appropriate arguments and vocabulary.

In 8th Grade Algebra, we are beginning the second semester. During our first unit, Chapter 6, we are completing our work with linear relationships by exploring systems of equations and inequalities. Students will solve systems using graphing, substitution, and elimination methods. They will also learn to graph inequalities and be able to identify solutions to systems of inequalities graphically. Our next units include Exponents and Exponential Functions, Polynomials and Factoring, and Quadratic Functions and Equations. These are newer topics for the students, so more time will be spent on each of these topics. Throughout all units, students are learning to model mathematics using many representations, justify and communicate their reasoning, and problem solve using a variety of strategies.



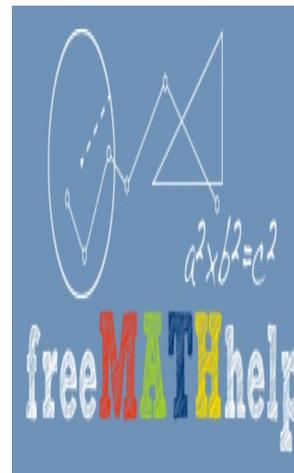
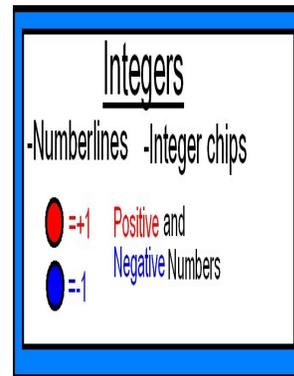
7th Grade Math

In General Math, we are beginning third quarter by wrapping up our first unit on integers and equations. Students have worked on operations with integers, and solving simple one and two step equations. Upon completion of this unit, we will move on to a new book, called *Stretching and Shrinking*, which explores the topic of similar figures. Students will explore what it means for figures to be similar and develop strategies for using similar figures to solve problems.

In Accelerated Math, we recently finished a unit (before winter break) on integer operations. Our current focus is linear relationships. We are now working in a book called *Moving Straight Ahead*, which includes topics such as tables, graphs, and equations in two variables, proportionality, and solutions to equations in one variable. The unit contains a great deal of information which will help prepare the students for next year's accelerated class, Algebra 1.

All students continue to strengthen their math skills through weekly i-Ready lessons. Students are expected to complete and pass one i-Ready lesson per week, as well as an additional lesson at the end of each month.

As a reminder, help sessions are offered two days a week for students who may be struggling with certain math topics. Math help sessions are Tuesday mornings from 7:40 until 8:30 and Wednesday after school from 3:30 until 4:30. The location is Room 214.



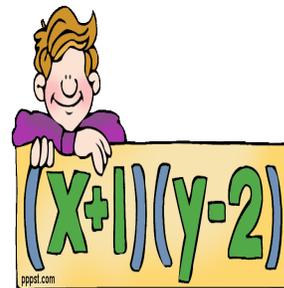
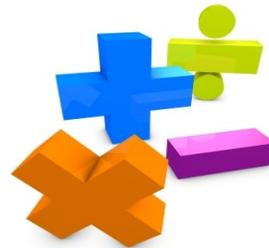
6th Grade Math

Math

Sixth Grade math is beginning the unit Decimal Ops. Students will be making sense of and use the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division on decimal numbers. The students will also improve their understanding of and skill in working with percents. The main topics this unit are estimating and operations with decimals, using percents to find tax, discounts and markups, and using decimals to find unit rates. This unit is very applicable to the real-world so please talk to your students about where you see and use percents in your everyday life.

Accelerated Math

Sixth Grade accelerated math is finishing their focus on the 6th grade standards in the unit titled Variables and Patterns. Once we finish this unit we will begin working through 7th grade standards. In the first part of this Unit, students explore three ways of representing a changing situation: with a description in words, with a data table, and with a graph. Later in the Unit, students write symbolic expressions as a shorter, faster way to give a summary of the relationship between two variables. The advantages of a symbolic rule over a data table or graph are investigated. Students use informal reasoning to find values for x or y when given a value for the other.



Social Studies

The 8th Grade students recently began our next units of study, “The Roaring Twenties,” and “The Great Depression.” In our “Roaring Twenties” unit, students are learning about the impact of the Roaring Twenties on the culture of the United States, focusing on the economic, political, and social factors during this prosperous time in American history. Following the 1920’s students will learn about the dark time in American history as the Great Depression took an immense toll on our country socially, politically and economically. During this unit student will examine and appraise the impact of the Great Depression on the culture of the United States.

7th Grade Social Studies: During third quarter we take a look at the expansion of the nation. In the post-American Revolution days, the focus of our nation becomes expansion from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We will examine the social, political, economic and geographic implications of this on native people in the west and along the frontier; we will look at how the nation will capitalize on the newly explored Louisiana Territory by Lewis and Clark, as well as the acquisition of Texas and the Southwest in the 1830s and 1840s.

As the nation expands geographically and economically, we will look at the impact this has on the Native American culture living in the plains and the west, as well as the expansion of slavery in the south. We will focus on how our government and the federal courts created laws or made decisions that limited some people’s rights, while expanding the rights of others. Students will examine how sectional differences led to conflicts between people of different regions across the country and how these differences would eventually lead to civil war.

6th Grade Social Studies: The 6th grade just wrapped up our unit on Egypt. The students had the opportunity to create maps of ancient Egypt, as well as to explore the Ancient Pyramids, and learning how a mummy is prepared. For 3rd quarter we will be exploring Ancient India. The students began the exploration of India by working with partners to come up with a “preview poster”. We will continue the exploration of India when we return from break. Student learning targets will be based on being able to explain the importance of geography, distinguishing the importance of Mohenjo-Daro, analyzing Hinduism including the basic beliefs, practices, and spread of religion, as well as analyzing the basic beliefs of Buddhism.

ELA

8th Grade ELA classes will be supplementing their Social Studies unit on WWII and the Holocaust by participating in book clubs. The students will be reading both historical fiction and nonfiction books focused on the events and the people of the Holocaust. In addition, students will be training to be word experts through the study of Greek and Latin affixes. Students will share their acquired knowledge by writing an argument paper. And as always, students continue to grow and flourish as readers through readers workshop.

7th Grade ELA: During the 3rd Quarter, English Language Arts (ELA) will be focusing reading informational texts that center around the theme of "Justice Served". We will be reading multiple short stories and excerpts of stories that examine historical figures that have made an impact in defending the rights of others. Within these texts, we will be introducing the various types of text structure that frequently appear in informational texts, and learning about how those text structures affect how the reader understands the text. This quarter, we are also increasing the emphasis that is placed on comprehending and properly using vocabulary, so expect to see your child spending time studying vocabulary words and definitions. Finally, we will be dedicating more time in class to reading and discussing books your son or daughter choose to read independently from our ELA Curriculum.

6th Grade ELA and Accelerated ELA

RL.6.3 - describe a plot and its influence on characters

RL.6.9 - compare and contrast genres

L.6.4 - context clues

Students will continue to implement all of the Common Core standards with extra focus on the standards above. The novel The Lightning Thief will be the anchor text, and students will look for textual evidence to support the development and change in the characters. Continual implementation of the reading strategies will determine plot development, conflict, and resolution. Vocabulary continues to be an area of emphasis. Affixes will support the vocabulary study as will pronouns. Congratulations to all of the winners of the spelling bee! We appreciate all of the students' hard work!