

Northern Potter Middle School News

September 4, 2018

<http://hopomiddleschool.weebly.com>

Issue 1

Class News

English Language Arts

Seventh grade students are working towards understanding the difference between fiction and nonfiction along with the elements of each. They will soon begin their fiction unit in which we will read *Where the Red Fern Grows*.

English 8 students are quickly reviewing the elements of fiction in preparation for their first novel unit. We will begin reading *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. As this is historical fiction, we will also learn about the Jim Crow Era and discuss the impacts of the time period.

Math

Math 7 students are working on the number system unit. They have learned about place value, expressions, and equations. Next, they will learn about simplifying expressions using the order of operations.

In Math 8, students are also working on the number system. They are learning how to classify numbers as rational or irrational, and are reviewing rational number operations.

Science

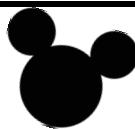
Life science students are working on proper lab techniques and how scientific technology helps us in everyday life. In the next few weeks, we will be discovering the intricacies of the cell composition. We will be learning about the function of each cell organelle and how the cells work together in the body.

Earth science students are learning about the formation of Earth and other planets. We also are discussing the components of the hydro-sphere, geosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. In the next few weeks, we will be working with minerals particularly focusing on the formations and the properties of minerals.

Social Studies

Students in Social Studies are learning routines and gearing up to learn the foundations of the social sciences. 7th graders will embark on a journey around the world starting in the United States and ending in Australia. They are currently learning how to map.

8th grade students have started learning the rich history of Pennsylvania and have reviewed important concepts learned in 7th grade that will carry over to 8th grade. Ask your 8th grade student the five themes of geography!



Welcome to Middle School

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you once again to our middle school family. You can expect to receive a newsletter from us each month that will explain what is happening in classes, provide information on upcoming events, and spotlight the accomplishments of our students.

We would also like to remind families to ask students about their days at school and to encourage them to try their best. You can keep track of your child's progress by checking CSIU weekly and planners daily. If your child is not in band or chorus, he or she has a daily period at the end of the day to work on assignments and prepare for assessments. During this time, we also stamp planners. You can expect to see a stamp on students' planners. This stamp does not signify that the work is complete. It is to let parents know that students have accurately recorded any assignments they have.

Please contact the middle school team if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help each of our students achieve his or her goals.

"All of our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."
~Walt Disney

Important Dates

September 17– Moving Wall Field Trip

September 21– Student Early Release

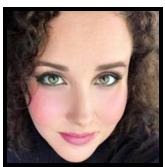
October 8– No School for Students

October 25– Early Release for Students / End of 1st 9 weeks

October 26– Fall Break-No School



Meet Your Teachers



Ms. Geiser teaches science. This is her tenth year as a teacher at Northern Potter. Prior to Northern Potter, Ms. Geiser was the assistant director of Science in Motion at Pitt Bradford for nine years. She has five cats and her 200 pound Mastif named Moose. Ms. Geiser enjoys refurbishing antique furniture and going to the gym. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate degree in Teaching and Curriculum from Northcentral University.

Social Studies teacher, Mrs. Hamilton has taught at Northern Potter for five years. Before joining our team, she worked as a Program Director at Dickenson for the Student Assistance Program. She has been married for fourteen years and has three children. They completed their family with the addition of their puppy, Timber. Mrs. Hamilton enjoys vacationing, laying at the pool, and reading to her children. Recently, Mrs. Hamilton travelled to Poland where she toured many cities and sights of the Holocaust.



Mrs. LaBarron is the middle school math teacher. She has been at Northern Potter for eleven years, and previously taught for one year at Galeton. Mrs. LaBarron has been married for eleven years and has two daughters. She also has a dog, Izzy, and an aquarium of neon fish. Mrs. LaBarron enjoys watching her daughters participate in sports and camping. She is also a member of the Dirt Road Dears Roller Derby team.

Mrs. Pomeroy teaches English Language Arts in the middle school, and is currently in her 10th year at Northern Potter. She has been married for seven years to her husband, Matt, and she has a six year old son, RJ, and a three year old beagle named Charlie. Mrs. Pomeroy enjoys reading, spending time with her family, and building LEGOS. This summer, she developed a passion for solving Escape Rooms, and has a three for three success rate.



Ms. Szymanik is one of our middle school learning support and gifted teachers. She has been a teacher at Northern Potter for four years. Prior to coming to Northern Potter, Ms. Szymanik worked as a teacher at the Pittsburgh Children's Institute for individuals with multiple disabilities. She enjoys camping and hiking with her best canine friend, Fina, and her boyfriend, Jon. Ms. Szymanik is a creative person who likes to craft and cook. Ms. Szymanik has been a ballet dancer for many years.

Mrs. Woolgar is our second middle school learning support teacher. This is Mrs. Woolgar's sixth year as a teacher at Northern Potter. In a previous career, Mrs. Woolgar enjoyed working as a hairdresser. She has been married for nearly 24 years and has two daughters and a granddaughter. She also has four cats, Chloe, Hazel, Sophie, and Lilah. She enjoys playing cards, baking, and spending time with her family. Recently, Mrs. Woolgar received her Masters degree from the University of Albany.



A Special Note from Mrs. Hamilton



While traveling in Poland with 18 other educators this summer, we had time to share things that we are doing in our classrooms, schools, and communities. I was also sent home with a reading list of books recommended to students. I chose to introduce the students to a story titled *I Will Always Write Back*. The story is about a 7th grade girl named Caitlin who lives in Hatfield, Pennsylvania and a boy named Martin from Zimbabwe. They begin a pen pal exchange that forms a beautiful friendship. I hope to infuse social studies lessons throughout the book. The story takes place in 1997, so I have asked students to talk with you about what the 1990's were like. We even listened to what dial-up internet and the famous "You've got mail" sounded like. Share your experiences with your students. You are all great teachers as well. I am excited about *I Will Always Write Back* and I see some epic lessons on the horizon!

Featured PBL



Pictured, students are working to create as many words pertaining to social studies as they can in a ten minute time



period. The winning team earned a candy treat of their choice.

