



Quarter Four News From 7th Grade

Team Two: Allin, Kuehl, Dunkelberger, Hovden,
Bollum

Welcome to Quarter four! We're excited for spring and the last few units of the year. Below you will find a short blurb for each of your student's core academic classes as well as teacher contact information. Please reach out with any questions you might have for us. In addition, there are some "feature articles" towards the end. These will cover a reminder about 8th grade class registration, applying to be a WEB leader, and reminders about spring testing.

We are looking forward to a wonderful final quarter with our 7th graders!

Core Class Information

Science: Mrs. Allin

[\(aallin@northfieldschools.org\)](mailto:aallin@northfieldschools.org)

It is already quarter 4! I hope families enjoyed a fun, relaxing spring break and students are ready to resume working towards their academic goals.

After a few days wrapping up our Reading Adventure, our first quarter four unit will be natural selection, which explores how living things change over time. This unit builds on our recent genetics unit. Students will be introduced to evidence for the theory of natural selection. They will learn how natural selection may lead to increases and decreases of specific traits in a population and how it impacts individuals' probability of survival in a specific environment.

The end of April, we will start to study plants. During this unit, students will learn about the process plants use to make food and how they reproduce. We will also contrast plant cells with animal cells and bacterial cells. Highlights of the unit will be a student-designed lab in which we grow plants, a flower dissection, and making cell models.

We will wrap up the year with a brief look at animals, some outdoor field work and year-end review activities.

Amy Allin

Social Studies: Mrs. Hovden

[\(lhovden@northfieldschools.org\)](mailto:lhovden@northfieldschools.org)

After spring break, we will begin a three-week unit on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s as well as a few days on the Vietnam War era. Topics will include court cases such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, civil rights activists like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr., and nonviolent strategies such as sit-ins, boycotts, and marches.

At the end of April, we'll revisit our "Defining Moments" theme in American history. Students will be able to choose an event in U.S. history that they want to know more about. Through a research assignment, students will write a thesis statement, conduct

research, and present their findings about an event they feel has defined U.S. history. The project will be broken down into manageable steps and with solid effort during class work time, students will be able to complete most of their work at school.

Later in May, we'll look at one of Northfield's "defining moments," the attempted bank raid by the James and Younger Gang. In this unit, we look at how this event shaped the town. We'll also examine how towns can shape their citizens. We will finish with a trip downtown to visit the Northfield Historical Society in late May for a tour of the museum.

We will continue to use readings from the *History of US* book series (Joy Hakim) and our *Creating America* textbook, plus supplemental video clips from PBS Learning Media, the "Eyes on the Prize" documentary, and other resources.

Mrs. Lisa Hovden

Math: Mr. Dunkelberger

[\(bdunkelberger@northfieldschools.org\)](mailto:bdunkelberger@northfieldschools.org)

Moving into quarter 4, we will be preparing (A, AA and Algebra) to take the MCA the week of April 22-26. We will be taking a day per each unit or 2 units that we have covered this year to review prior to taking the MCA. Students will be given a variety of different assignments/activities as a refresher course on concepts we have learned in 7th grade so far.

A math: We have moved into our graphing unit which will consist of graphing points and linear equations on a coordinate plane. We will also learn how to translate and reflect points across a coordinate plane. We will move into finding theoretical and experimental probability of certain events occurring. This will include a variety of fun in-class activities throughout the unit to help students learn and apply probability concepts. Students will also learn about simple and compound interest, which is a valuable real-life lesson.

AA math: We will finish our current unit on multi-step equations. We will apply our understanding of simplifying expressions in order to solve multi-step equations.

Students will be able to solve equations with variables on both sides (8th grade concept). The final unit will be another unit on graphing, but will include more advanced linear equations. Students will learn how to use slope to graph equations in slope intercept form and identify equations from a coordinate plane as well.

Algebra: We will continue to work with polynomials in unit 12. This will consist of factoring polynomials using various strategies. We will be factoring binomials (two terms) and perfect square trinomials (three terms). We will transition to solving quadratic equations using many different strategies/methods including: completing the square, square root method, quadratic formula, and graphing a vertex.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Looking forward to a fresh start in this new quarter and finishing the year on a strong note.

Mr. Brent Dunkelberger

Health--Ms. Bollum

[\(lbollum@northfieldschools.org\)](mailto:lbollum@northfieldschools.org)

We finished Our physical education and Health unit. Next we will be going into learning CPR, First aid , Understanding and preventing diseases and learning about environmental health. All of the skills in 3rd and now 4th quarter students will be using those skills in all areas of our lives at all ages.

Book Chapter 12: Understanding and Preventing Diseases

- Communicable Diseases
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Preventing Diseases

Book Chapter 13: Promoting and preventing injuries

- Promoting safety in the home
- Promoting Safety online
- CPR, First Aid

Ramp Up (College Readiness)

- Growth Mindset
- Financial Awareness

- Knowledge and Skills that build Belief
- Benefits of a high skill career

It is hard to believe we are in the last quarter of 7th grade and your child will be an 8th grader soon. To help prepare them for the next level I am going to tighten up my late work policy. Work turned in after the unit quiz/ project is only worth ½ credit.

Be Well, Linnea Bollum

English 7: Mrs. Kuehl

[\(hkuehl@northfieldschools.org\)](mailto:hkuehl@northfieldschools.org)

News from Mrs. Kuehl's English 7 class:

Quarter four is here and will be over in a flash. I am always amazed by how quickly quarter four goes, and how much growth I see in grade 7 students. It is truly an honor to watch them develop during one school year! During quarter 3 we wrapped up our poetry unit and then wrote a narrative essay. Next, we reviewed literary analysis as we read the novel *Refugee* as a class. During the last two weeks before spring break, we completed our *Me Book* project which is a compilation and final edit of their own writing. Be sure to ask your student to see their book in the next two weeks after it is graded and returned. In addition, students completed 8 weeks of Reading Plus assignments.

When students return from Spring Break, we will begin by using materials from a new curriculum source to review literary analysis and close reading strategies as well as write an argumentative essay.

During the week of April 15-18, students will be completing the Reading MCA standardized test during English class. Please remind your student to get adequate sleep. Also, students will need wired headphones. If they have a pair, please remind them to bring them to school along with a water bottle and a book to read each day.

Quarter 4 contains many projects in English 7. After the MCAs, we will complete the review of new curriculum materials and the argumentative writing piece. Then, students will participate in small group book clubs where they will work on their communication skills while completing small group literary analysis and a presentation.

Finally, we end the year with a favorite 7th grade tradition: "Dear Senior Me Letters." Students will write a letter to their future selves. I keep these letters and mail them during their final year of high school. This is meant to be a fun, reflective activity

to end the year reviewing all the lessons they have learned. **For this project, we ask each family to provide a stamp and envelope.** Please consider sending an extra stamp or two with your student to help a classmate who may forget!

We will also continue our work to improve our comprehension and reading fluency using our individualized, online reading program called Reading Plus. Please remind your student to practice their reading each week that there is an assignment. If your student's Skyward account shows missing work in this area, you can easily check how they are doing by asking to see their Reading Plus Dashboard.

Please let me know if you have any questions about your student's progress or coursework. I am looking forward to a fabulous fourth quarter!

Mrs. Heather Kuehl

Other Helpful Information

Registering for 8th grade:

On March 18th our seventh graders registered for 8th grade classes during their social studies class periods. If your child did not get a chance to complete registration yet, please have him or her stop in to see their guidance counselor in the guidance office.

WEB leader applications:

Do you have a seventh grader that's interested in being an 8th grade WEB leader? Digital applications will be posted to Schoology in the "Class of 2028" group on Monday, April 8th. The applications are due April 16th by 3pm. The link will be turned off at 3pm that day. Reach out to Mrs. Yamry in the guidance office if you have any questions.

Interested students will fill out a [Google Form](#). As a part of the Google Form, students will need to sign an application document to ensure they've shared important dates with their families. A [sample application](#) is shown below for parents to see. Students can access these items through Schoology .

24-25 WEB Leader Application

Hey 7th Graders!

We are looking for WEB leaders for the 24-25 school year!
-Are you interested? READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT!

WEB stands for Where Everybody Belongs. WEB leaders play a special role at Northfield Middle School. We need leaders who have these qualities:

- Strong communication skills
- Willingness to lead others
- Ability to manage a small group of students
- Accountability to show up to all events and trainings
- Willingness to take risks
- Interest in helping others
- Dedication to NMS
- Positive and enthusiastic attitude
- Self confident and self directed
- Respectful of diverse ideas

At the end of the summer, leaders spend two days training for how to be a leader and how to guide a small group of incoming 6th graders through their Orientation Day. WEB leaders will also meet with their WEB group during the school day throughout the 2024-25 school year for fun activities. WEB leaders are **role models** in our school and in the lives of incoming 6th grade students. WEB leaders learn many valuable leadership skills and have a tremendous influence on our new students.

As part of the application process this year, we would like you to complete a GOOGLE FORM telling us a little about you. Please include as much information as you can. This helps us get to know you. You can find the link on this document or on the Schoology post in the *Class of 2029* page.

The application link will close at 3pm on Tuesday, April 16th. **No late applications will be accepted!**

Click on this link for the: [WEB APPLICATION 24-25](#)
Or, scan this QR code + 
Or, find the link through the Class of 2029 page on Schoology.

On the application, you'll provide the following:

- Your name
- Something interesting or unique about you
- Why you want to be a WEB leader
- A challenge that you have faced in middle school and what you learned from it

+++On Friday, May 3rd we will be conducting small group interviews for everyone that applied. Your interview will take place during the school day and will last about ½ hour.

KEEP READING....there's more on the next page.

DATES

Below are some dates and events you are REQUIRED to attend as a WEB Leader.
Please note, if you can't make these dates, you can't be a WEB leader.

Tuesday, May 21 5-7th hour - SPRING PLAY DAY!
Monday, August 19th 8AM-12:30 PM - LEADER TRAINING DAY #1
Tuesday, August 20th 8AM-2:30PM - LEADER TRAINING DAY #2
Friday, August 23rd 6:45 AM - 12:30 PM - 6th GRADE ORIENTATION DAY!

-You will also need to be available for follow up activities with your WEB group during the school day throughout the 24-25 school year. These events will happen approximately once a month.

This form must be signed and uploaded to your [WEB APPLICATION 24-25](#) You could sign this on your iPad, or take pictures of a printed copy. This is to ensure that your parents have seen the required dates. No late forms will be accepted!

Questions? See Mrs. Yamry, Mr. Estrella or Mrs. Otte!

Student Name: _____

I have read this application and am able to attend all dates listed above!

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Spring Testing Reminders:

April 15 - 19 MCA Reading Testing

April 22 - 26 MCA Math Testing

For testing, learners should have:

- iPads fully charged
- Plug-in (corded) earbuds.
- A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast

Student Collaboration:

As part of the implementation of the AVID program at Northfield Middle School, we have been building a culture of collaboration throughout Team 2 classrooms. Students were invited to share ideas, listen to one another and engage in team-building activities. We would like to showcase a few photos that illustrate students working together productively in a learning environment.



