



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!

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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.

During quarter 4, we will continue our natural selection unit. In this Open Sci Ed unit, students investigate how living things today are connected to things that lived long ago. We will evaluate evidence and learn about connections between ancient and modern penguins to understand natural selection. Students 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 some lab activities, 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)

As we move into Quarter 4, we will be preparing both A and AA classes for the MCA, which will take place the week of April 21-25. To ensure students are ready, we will dedicate time to reviewing each unit or two we've covered throughout the year. During this review, students will engage in various assignments and activities to refresh their understanding of the 7th-grade concepts we've learned so far.

A Math: We are nearing the end of our unit on geometric proportional reasoning. We will spend some time reviewing before students take a test. After that, we will begin our graphing unit, where students will learn to graph points and linear equations on a coordinate plane. They'll also explore translating and reflecting points across the plane. Next, we will cover theoretical and experimental probability, including fun in-class activities to help students grasp and apply probability concepts. Lastly, students will learn about simple and compound interest, providing a practical real-life application.

AA Math: We will begin our unit on multi-step equations, building on our understanding of simplifying expressions to solve more complex equations. Students will also learn to solve equations with variables on both sides, an 8th-grade concept. The final unit of the year will focus on more advanced graphing. Students will explore

graphing linear equations using slope-intercept form and will also learn to identify equations from a coordinate plane.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out. I'm excited for the fresh start this new quarter brings, and I'm confident we'll finish the year strong!

Best regards,
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 1/2 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 studied the problem of plastic in the ocean and wrote an argument essay using materials from a new curriculum source. Next, we turned our attention to narrative writing and finished work on our Narrative Essay. This assignment is due the first day back from Spring Break and will be a part of their quarter 4 grade.

When students return from Spring Break, we will be reviewing literary analysis as we read the novel *Refugee* as a class. In the middle of this unit, during the week of April 14-17, 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.

After we finish our novel, we will briefly pilot a new curriculum with stories and non-fiction focusing on the Middle Ages. Then, we will complete our *Me Book* project which is a compilation and final edit of their own writing. Parents/Guardians have a chance to contribute to this special project. Please watch for a letter that will be sent home with your student this week!

Be sure to ask your student to see their book after it is returned. It is a keepsake!

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 17th 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 who's interested in being an 8th grade WEB leader? Digital applications will be posted to Schoology in the "Class of 2030" group on Monday, April 7th. 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 student support office if you have any questions.

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. Students can access these items through Schoology on Monday, April 7th .

Spring Testing Reminders:

April 14 - 17 MCA Reading Testing

April 21 - 24 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 classroom activities. We would like to showcase a few photos that illustrate students working together productively in a learning environment.

