



Quarter Four News From 7th Grade

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

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, reminders about spring testing, and an upcoming spring field trip.

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

Core Class Information

Science: Mrs. Allin

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Thanks for your support throughout the year. Our focus has been on building science skills as students collaborate in both the lab and activities. It has been rewarding to see the growth in students as we learn about life science.

Our first quarter 4 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.

Our next unit will be about 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 outdoor field work and year-end review activities.

Amy Allin

Social Studies: Mrs. Hovden

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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 early June 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.

Finally, our upcoming field trip to the History Theater is highlighted at the bottom of this newsletter.

Mrs. Lisa Hovden

Math: Mr. Dunkelberger

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In quarter 3, we expanded our understanding of using proportions to solve real world problems in A class. Throughout the second half of the third quarter, we continued to use proportions within our unit on geometric proportionality (primarily focused on circles and circular prisms) in A and AA. In AA, we did some graphing on a coordinate plane. We spent some time learning about probability and also learning how to use simple and compound interest equations. We finished the quarter solving some more advanced multi-step equations.

Moving into quarter 4, we will be preparing (A and AA) to take the MCA the week of April 17-21. 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. It's important that each student completes the assignments in the coming weeks and use their time wisely in class as we review. Some of the work will be in class only activities.

In A math, we will move into our graphing unit which will consist of using ordered pairs, tables and linear equations to graph points and lines on a coordinate plane. This unit will focus on graphing proportional equations that go through the origin. 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.

In 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. Students will also learn how to graph equations in standard form, which will require converting equations to $y=mx+b$ format (another 8th grade concept).

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--Mrs. Weis

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We finished our social health unit, but we have not stopped using the skills covered in that unit such as good communication, conflict resolution, problem solving, and emotional regulation skills. We will be using those skills in all areas of our lives at all ages.

The skill we will focus on for the 4th quarter is the skill of advocating for health.

Book Chapter 2: Knowing how your body works

- Supporting the moving body
- Moving and exchanging substances
- Digesting and removing substances
- Controlling and regulating the body

Book Chapter 12: Understanding and Preventing Diseases

- Communicable Diseases
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Preventing Diseases

We end the year creating a PSA (Public Service Announcement)

SEL Unit: Recognizing Bullying & Harassment

The goals of this unit include students being able to:

- Recognize various types of harassment and understand how they are different from bullying
- Understand the impact of harassment on individuals and the school community
- Understand students' rights to be protected from harassment
- Understand students' responsibilities to create a harassment-free school environment

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 or test is only worth 1/2 credit. In the human body unit it is so important to do the work to prepare for the quizzes and tests. Students will have very little homework if they use their class time to work.

Be Well, Lisa Weis

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. Then we reviewed literary analysis as we read *Refugee* as a class. During the last couple days before Spring Break, we started our Persuasive Writing Unit. In addition, students completed 7 weeks of Reading Plus assignments.

When students return from Spring Break, we will be continuing our work on persuasive writing and working on Reading Plus assignments. During the week of April 10-14, 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 finish our persuasive writing project. Then we will finish our *Me Book* project. During this unit, students will do a final revision of four of their writing projects from this year. Then they will bind them together using their book covers that we completed and laminated during quarter 3. Parents and guardians have been asked to complete a writing portion to add to the project as well. If you have not received the pink direction sheet from your student, please ask them to see it on Schoology under an assignment called "Biographer and Me" letter.

Next, students will participate in small group book clubs where they will work on their communication skills, literary analysis and create a presentation with their group. Finally, we end the year with a favorite 7th grade tradition: 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 14th 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 Wednesday, April 5th. The applications are due by Friday, April 14th, 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 on Wednesday of this week.

<h2>23-24 WEB Leader Application</h2> <p>Hey 7th Graders! We are looking for WEB leaders for the 23-24 school year! →Are you interested? READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT!</p> <p>WEB stands for <i>Where Everybody Belongs</i>. WEB leaders play a special role at Northfield Middle School. We need leaders who have these qualities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <p>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 23-24 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.</p> <p>As part of the application process this year, we would like you to complete a <i>GOOGLE FORM</i> 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.</p> <p>The application link will close at 3pm on Friday, April 14th. <u>No late applications will be accepted!</u></p> <p>Click on this link for the WEB Application 23-24. (Or, find the link through the Class of 2028 page on Schoology.) On the application, you'll provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>→→→On Friday, April 28th, 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.</p> <p>KEEP READING.....there's more on the next page.</p>	<p>DATES:</p> <p>Below are some dates and events you are REQUIRED to attend as a WEB Leader. <u>Please note, if you can't make these dates, you can't be a WEB leader.</u></p> <p>Friday, May 12th 5-7th hour - SPRING PLAY DAY! Monday, August 21st 8AM-12:30 PM - LEADER TRAINING DAY #1 Tuesday, August 22nd 8AM-2:30PM - LEADER TRAINING DAY #2 Tuesday, August 29th 6:45 AM - 12:30 PM - 6th GRADE ORIENTATION DAY!</p> <p>→You will also need to be available for follow up activities with your WEB group during the school day throughout the 23-24 school year. These events will happen approximately once a month.</p> <p>This form must be signed and uploaded to your Google Application. You could sign this your iPad, or take pictures of a printed copy. This is to ensure that your parents have seen required dates. No late forms will be accepted!</p> <p>Questions? See Mrs. Yamry, Mr. Estrella or Mrs. Otte!</p> <p>Student Name: _____ I have read this application and am able to attend all dates listed above!</p> <p>Student Signature _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____</p>
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Spring Testing Reminders:

April 10 - 14 MCA Reading Testing

April 17 - 21 MCA Math Testing

For testing, learners should have:

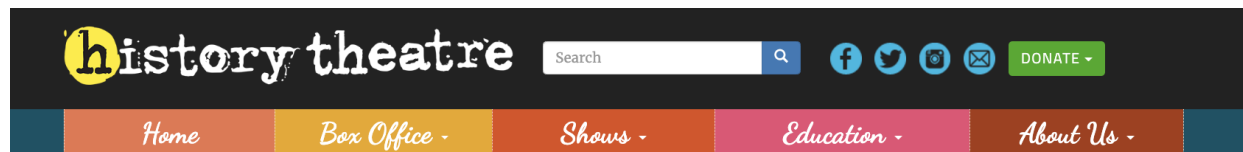
- iPads fully charged
- Plug-in (corded) earbuds.
- A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast

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.



Coming in May: Field trip to History Theatre!



The Defeat of Jesse James

Written by Jeffrey Hatcher
Music and lyrics by Chan Poling

April 29–May 28, 2023

1876. Every year, the town of Northfield, Minnesota reenacts the events that took place on September 7, 1876, when The James Gang attempted to rob the First National Bank. The townspeople said NO! It's a story of small-town grit performed by volunteers on horseback firing blanks. But this year, volunteer Finn Dahlberg finds himself in a reenactment with a twist: It is September 7, 1876! The robbers are real and so are the bullets, as Finn is transformed into Joseph Heywood, the bank cashier who gave up his life rather than open the safe!

From the team behind Glensheen, The Defeat of Jesse James is “Back to the Future” meets “High Noon” in a time-warping, nail-biting, sidesplitting ride.



Team Two is scheduled to see the production of “The Defeat of Jesse James” at the History Theatre in St. Paul on **Thursday, May 11th**. Look for permission slip information in the next few weeks.