



Quarter One News

from 7th grade Team Two

Allin, Kuehl, Dunkelberger, Hovden, Estrella

Welcome to 7th Grade, Team Two Students!

This newsletter will give you an introduction to each of your students' core classes. Please read the information below. We're excited for the upcoming school year and look forward to getting to know your student. Best wishes as your family begins the new school year!

Meet the Teachers



Mrs. Allin:
Science



Mr. Estrella:
Art



Mrs. Hovden:
Social Studies



Mrs. Kuehl:
English



Mr. Dunkelberger:
Math

Mrs. Allin has taught life science for 30 years in Northfield. Both of her adult children are engineers. She enjoys gardening, singing in choir, dancing, reading, traveling and spending time at her cabin.

Mrs. Hovden has been teaching for 22 years (21 years at NMS). She lives in Farmington and enjoys spending time with her husband and five kids. She also loves running and reading.

Mr. Dunkelberger has been teaching for 14 years (6th year at Northfield Middle School). He lives in Lakeville with his wife and two sons. In Mr. Dunk's spare time, he likes to play sports, workout at the gym, and loves doing home renovation/carpentry projects.

Mrs. Kuehl has been teaching English for 13 years (12 at NMS). She lives in Northfield with her husband and dog. Both of her adult sons graduated from Northfield Schools. In her free time she enjoys yard work, reading and attending soccer games.

Mr. Estrella is going into his 13th year of teaching art at Northfield Middle School and his 17th year of teaching art. He lives in Northfield with his wife and two kids. He is always excited about all things that have to do with teaching art. When he is not teaching, you can find him

making things out of clay, sketching, cooking, playing or coaching soccer, investigating nature, or reading. He loves art and loves to teach it. His students learn that art is the best tool/lens to use to explore and learn about the world. Northfield has the best art students!

Core Class Information

Science: Mrs. Allin

aallin@northfieldschools.org

Dear Parents,

In Science class, students frequently reach a consensus and figure things out together. To help with this process, we are spending several days at the start of the year building collaborative communities. We want a classroom culture where students feel comfortable taking risks and sharing ideas. It will be important for all students to both voice their thinking and listen to their classmates.

Our primary life science unit for quarter one is Ecology. We will use eagle poisoning as a lens through which to study how living things and their environment impact each other. Students will engage in lab activities, field studies, readings, and discussions throughout the unit. They will also take notes, which they can use on the test. We will finish the unit with an Ecology Problem Assignment. The final assignment will have 3+ options.

It was a pleasure meeting so many students and parents at our family conference sessions. I look forward to a great year of learning!

Sincerely,
Amy Allin

Social Studies: Mrs. Hovden

(lhovden@northfieldschools.org)

Welcome to 7th grade social studies with Mrs. Hovden!

[Course Syllabus](#)

This year we will learn about United States history (post Civil War and beyond), as well as some civics, citizenship, local history, and more! Quarter 1 will be centered around these two units:

Unit 1 - Historical Interpretation: Our classes will examine what history is, how it can be interpreted, and what sources historians use. We will also discuss "Defining Moments" and how they shape the society and people we've become.

Unit 2 - Civics and Citizenship: We will examine the Bill of Rights, look at how elections work, conduct a mock election, learn about how the U.S. court system functions, and participate in a mock trial.

Work and Grading:

Students should work to complete their assignments on time. Completing the work on time makes the learning relevant and meaningful. Late work should be turned in before a unit ends, to earn credit for the work.

Please use the Skyward grade book to determine a student's grade. I update grades very regularly.

I'm looking forward to this school year!

Here is a [link](#) about an upcoming presentation in class.

Math--Mr. Dunkelberger (Dunk)

(bdunkelberger@northfieldschools.org)

Welcome to Mr. Dunk's Math class (Pre-algebra and Algebra).

Pre-Algebra:

This year, our school is piloting new math curriculum material. As educational standards and student needs evolve, it's essential that we explore updated resources to ensure our students receive the best possible instruction. Piloting allows us to evaluate which programs most effectively support student learning before making a long-term decision.

We recognize that transitions like this can sometimes feel different or unfamiliar, and we genuinely appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through this process together. Your support helps us focus on what matters most - building strong mathematical understanding and confidence in all students.

Daily math assignments are an essential practice for students to fully understand the material. Assignments are meant to be *practice* and to help prepare for the tested skill at the end of the unit. Assignment grades are based on effort and completion, not right and wrong. Students will be provided with an answer key as a *tool* to monitor their own learning. We will practice what this should look like and emphasize integrity.

Algebra:

In Algebra, we will not be using a new curriculum this year. Students will primarily use their iPads for all lessons, homework, and quizzes. I will provide PDF notes through Schoology, which students are expected to fill out as we go through each lesson together. If a student is absent, completed versions of the notes will be available to help them stay caught up and complete their homework. All homework assignments, daily quizzes (accuracy grade), and (partial) answer keys can be found in my Schoology course. Assignments will be graded based on completion and effort (see grading details below). Tests will be given at the end of each Unit. There will be no retakes or corrections on these tests.

Algebra and Pre-Algebra Grading:

Student's grades will be weighted and consist of these categories:

- **Daily Work:** 30% of the math grade. I will be using this rubric as I'm grading each daily assignment:
 - 4 points - Showed all your work and gave best effort.
 - 3 points - Missing some work and/or skipped some problems. Didn't give best effort
 - 2 points - Incomplete, poor quality and needs fixing.
 - 1 point – Poor quality, showed no work/effort and needs fixing.

- **Tests:** 70% of their grade.

I'm looking forward to an excellent school year!

English 7: Mrs. Kuehl

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

Welcome to Mrs. Kuehl's English 7 Class. This year we will be exploring reading, writing, speaking, listening and grammar using a variety of texts including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama.

Contact information

Email is a fast and effective way for **parents and guardians** to communicate questions & concerns or to request a personal phone call:

hkuehl@northfieldschools.org

Students are encouraged to speak with Mrs. Kuehl directly while at school. However, they may also feel free to leave a message on Schoology when they are absent and have a question.

English 7 Units of Study

- We will be starting the year with a new Language Arts Curriculum. We are excited to share these new resources with our students!
- During class this week, each student was given a "Tips for Families" sheet to take home. Please ask your student to share it with you. If they are not able to find it, remind them that there is also a copy available on Schoology in the COURSE INFORMATION folder of their English course.

Grading

- Students' grades for each quarter are meant to be a reflection of their learning. Students are instructed to ask questions and keep me informed if they are having difficulty completing assignments. Please remind your student that I am available to help!
- Late work that is submitted **after** the **unit is over** will **not** be graded.
- I update Skyward regularly and indicate when an assignment is missing as soon as possible. If your student believes they have turned in an assignment, and Skyward shows that it is missing, please ask your student to discuss it with me.

Reading Plus

We will be using the Reading Plus program as a tool to increase our reading skills.

“Reading Plus will help you become a stronger, more confident reader. You will learn to read faster, recognize new words, and comprehend what you have read. Becoming a stronger reader will enable you to read textbooks, novels, articles, blog posts, and other pieces of text more easily.

SeeReader gives you reading practice that will change the way you read. As you read in SeeReader, you will be able to choose stories and articles that interest you the most. . . SeeReader uses a Guided Window to help train your eyes to move smoothly and quickly across the text. . . After you read a selection, you will answer questions. These questions will help you think carefully about what you just read, remember the most important information, and connect what you just read with what you already know.”

--Excerpt from Reading Plus Explained to Students

Visual Art and Media Art 7: Mr. Estrella

(restrella@northfieldschools.org)

This is a class that will meet every other day throughout the school year. The class will cover both Visual Art and Media Art standards, as required by the state of Minnesota.

This allows us to immerse ourselves in a more robust and comprehensive art curriculum that will give artists the opportunity to simultaneously experience both choice and improve their creative, technical, and cognitive skills.

Over the course of the year artists will be exposed to a variety of art materials providing them with the opportunity to express themselves in more than one way. These art materials include but are not limited to pencil, acrylic paint, pastel, color pencils, clay, and watercolor. To support and explore the Media art component, artists will learn to use more digital art tools within their iPads and will have access to software like illustrator via trips to our computer lab.

The main goal for this class is for our artists to feel confident and comfortable with using a variety of mediums to analyze, process, and convey their mesmerizing ideas.

The 1st quarter will be dedicated to the simple task of drawing. This will allow us to learn how to loosen up and revisit art fundamentals in order to continue to build a strong art foundation. Artists will also learn about left and right brain research, as a way

to demystify the notion that art is only about talent. When in reality it is also about practice, building a strong foundation, and learning to observe the world around us.

Other Helpful Information

Learn More About PBIS!

NMS is proud to be a PBIS school. PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. PBIS is a school-wide system that teaches, models, and reinforces appropriate student behavior. We use an acronym to make our expectations easy to remember. We ask students to show Raider PRIDE.

P = Prepared
R = Respect
I = Integrity
D = Dependability
E = Excellence

When students show Raider PRIDE, they may earn points through the PBIS Rewards program. They can check point totals via an app on their iPads and redeem points for prizes. This year prizes will include raffle items at the end of each quarter and smaller prizes each mid-quarter. If the student has Flex study hall period 4, an additional possible use of points is to “purchase” an early-to-B lunch pass through their Flex teacher’s PBIS store. You can ask your student what they have earned PBIS points for lately.

Interested in donating to our PBIS Program?

Looking for a way to support PBIS? We always appreciate donations! Students like downtown establishments such as Tin Tea, Cake Walk, Hogan Bros., etc., so \$5 gift cards make great prizes. We will also accept monetary donations that will allow for teachers to purchase prizes for the end of quarter raffles. Here is a link:

<https://northfieldschools.revtrak.net/middle-school/ms-donations/#/list>

Planners:

Students have paper planners to aid in their organization this school year. Students are expected to have a system of organization in which they write down and keep track of deadlines and due dates. We hope they share that system with you!

FLEX study hall teachers use a document called "Daily Lesson Highlights" to teach students how to fill out their planner. This document is projected on the screen each day in study hall and students should be copying down their assignments. If your child's planner is empty, please encourage them to get back on track with organizing and planning. Thanks so much!

Schoology:

When students are absent, they can find lessons and materials on Schoology. This is the best place to look to find out what they miss. Please encourage your child to look in Schoology during or after an absence. Students do need to complete the work they miss when they are absent.

7th Grade Family Conference Presentation

During family conferences, teachers presented information regarding schedules, homework expectations, school initiatives and more. Here is the link to the presentation:

[Grade 7 Team 2 Family Engagement Presentation](#)