



Quarter One News

from 7th grade Team Two

Allin, Dunkelberger, Kuehl, Hovden, Bollum

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Welcome to 7th Grade, Team Two!

This newsletter will give you a brief introduction to each of your student's 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!

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Meet the Teachers



Mrs. Allin: Science
Dunkelberger: Math

Mrs. Hovden: Social Studies

Mr.



Mrs. Kuehl: English



Ms. Bollum: Health

Mrs. Allin has taught life science for 29 years in Northfield. She enjoys gardening, walking, biking, reading, traveling and spending time at her cabin.

Mrs. Hovden has been teaching for 21 years (20 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 13 years (5th 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 12 years (11 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.

Ms. Bollum is starting her 2nd year at Northfield Middle School. She enjoys hanging out with her family/friends, long road trips, boating, fishing and watching basketball, soccer and football games.

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

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

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

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

Students will primarily be using their Ipad for all lessons and homework/quizzes this year in math. I will be providing pdf notes found in Schoology for students to fill out as I go through them during each lesson. In the event that a student is not in class the day of a lesson, I do provide completed notes for students to look through to assist with completing homework. Also found in my Schoology course are homework assignments, daily quizzes and answer keys (partial). Each assignment is graded on completion and effort (grading below).

Grading:

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

- **Assignments:** 15% of the math grade. Each lesson will include an assignment that will be graded out of 4 points. I provide an answer key for most assignments in Schoology, which is available for students to **check their answers** before submitting each assignment. I will be using this rubric below as I'm grading each daily assignment:

- o 4 points - Showed all your work and gave best effort.
- o 3 points - Missing some work and/or skipped some problems. Didn't give best effort
- o 2 points - Incomplete, poor quality and needs fixing.
- o 1 point – Poor quality, showed no work/effort and needs fixing.

- **Quizzes:** 15% of your grade. For each assignment/worksheet, students will input 4 to 5 answers into a Schoology Quiz and receive points for correct answers. If a student receives less than a 100% on their first attempt, the expectation is to work through incorrect problems and retry the quiz to show mastery and improve their grade.

- o I expect assignments and quizzes to be completed by class time on the due date, which is typically the next day of class. I will allow late work up until the end of the unit to start off the year. This policy is subject to change during the year.

- **Tests:** 70% of your grade. At the end of each unit there will be a unit test to assess student's mastery of the unit standards/skills. There will always be a unit study guide assigned on a review day, that students will be expected to work through in order to prepare for their unit test. If a student does not do well on the first attempt of the test, they will be given an opportunity to improve their grade through corrections on some tests and retakes on others. If a student fails a test, I will be expecting that student to correct or retake the test. Corrections/retakes can be completed during a study hall in my classroom or during work time in class.

I'm looking forward to an excellent school year!

Health--Ms. Bollum

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

Welcome to Ms. Bollum's class,

 [Health Syllabus](#)

Our health curriculum is designed to build skills and knowledge around all three sides of the Health Triangle, including Social, Physical, and Mental/Emotional Health. Students will have access to our new health book *Health Skills for Middle School*, our SEL (Social Emotional Learning) *Second Step* curriculum, and most Wednesdays (2 per month) we use the *Ramp-UP* curriculum for career and college readiness.

First Health unit is *Taking Charge of your Health and Wellness*

- Understanding Health and Wellness
- Knowing how your body works
- Good Personal hygiene
- Getting the sleep you need

First SEL unit is *Empathy and Communication*

- Working in Groups
- Disagreeing respectfully
- Negotiating and Compromising
- Giving and Getting Support
- Building Classroom norms and PRIDE

Ramp Up Lesson

- Habits Towards College Readiness (planners, organization, SMART goals)
- SEL skills for 7th grade Success and Beyond
- Past, Present and Future Careers

I am looking forward to this school year. And I am excited to get to know each student in our learning community. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

English 7: Mrs. Kuehl

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

- Elements of fiction and Short Stories
- 2 Expository Essays
- Grammar
- Drama
- Poetry
- Whole Class Novel-*Refugee*
- Narrative Essay
- Revising writing for publishing
- Persuasive Writing
- Independent Novel Choice Book Clubs

- *Reading Plus*

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!
- Students who submit their work **on time** will have an opportunity on most assignments to re-do or correct their work to ensure understanding and improve their grade. Any work that a student wishes to have re-graded must be submitted **with the original assignment and rubric within 2 school days of receiving it back from Mrs. Kuehl.**
- 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

Other Helpful Information

Learn More About PBIS!

Click [here](#) to learn more about PBIS, our building-wide initiative.

Interested in donating to our PBIS Program?

Looking for a way to support PBIS? We always appreciate donations! We will accept any NEW items that you think a student may enjoy receiving as a prize. Items could be school supplies, gift cards, games, fidgets, healthy snack and/or drink, a Northfield hat or t-shirt, etc. These items can be turned in to Mrs. Rose (Math Teacher Team 1) or give to the office and let them know it is for the 7th grade school store. We will also accept monetary donations that will allow for teachers to purchase prizes for the school store or for their own classroom store. 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:

[7th Grade Family Conference Presentation](#)