



Quarter Two News

from 7th grade Team Two

**Allin, Kuehl, Dunkelberger, Hovden,
Estrella**

Welcome to Quarter 2, Team Two Students and Families!

Thanks to all of our NMS students for their effort during Quarter 1! We appreciate the communication and support from parents and families as well. This newsletter contains information about our Quarter 2 units as well as other tips for success in 7th grade.

Core Class Information:

Science: Mrs. Allin (aallin@northfieldschools.org)

Thanks for a great quarter one. Many students are doing a great job of listening to their classmates, sharing their own ideas, using class work time well, and submitting work on time.

October 28, we started investigating how living things heal. The unit begins with doctor reports of a student who dropped a heavy weight on his foot. We use this as an anchor to study how skin, bones, muscles, blood, and nerves work together. Soon we will use microscopes to zoom in for a closer look at these structures and consider how their

structure impacts function. We will also do an egg lab in which we investigate how cells get materials needed to grow.

In December we plan to start a new unit in which the anchoring phenomenon is a student who is suffering with nausea, a lack of energy, and weight loss. Our students look at possible medical conditions and figure out the best diagnosis. As in our current unit, we will do labs, investigate data and other evidence, and figure things out together.

Student notes are a key resource for keeping track of what we have figured out. We do phase one note taking together, with students processing, connecting, and summarizing more independently, but with guidance. Students get frequent reminders on how many pages of their notes should be completed. Periodically, we do note progress checks. I write notes pages that should be done on pieces of paper and put them in a beaker and I randomly draw out a page. Tests are open note.

A key resource when students are absent are teacher slideshows, posted in Schoology by date. Please encourage your student to use these slideshows when they miss class. I am also available to help students during FLEX study hall or before school most days with make up work.

Please contact me with questions. I look forward to a great quarter two!
Amy Allin

Social Studies: Mrs. Hovden (lhovden@northfieldschools.org)

Greetings! To close Quarter 1 in social studies, we wrapped up our mock trial. I'm so impressed with the students' hard work and enthusiasm for this activity!



To begin Quarter 2, we will learn about how elections work, focusing on voting, political parties, lobbying, and the Electoral College. To conclude, students will have their own experience with a campaign and conduct a mock election. This activity will conclude our unit on Civics and Citizenship.

On November 17, a selected group of 25 students will participate in the optional field trip to the Justice & Democracy Center and State Capitol in St. Paul. This is an exciting opportunity for students to learn more about civics. Applications are due by November 11th and are available in my classroom.

In late November, we'll move into topics in U.S. History. We'll begin with the post-Civil War time period, covering the Reconstruction Era. We'll examine the changes in the United States with the rise of industry and the impact of the Gilded Age. We'll move forward in history from there.

In this quarter (January), we will also study World War I. For this unit, students will read a novel set during the time period. We have five different books students will be able to choose from and they'll be bringing one home to read. In the World War I unit, the main homework is for students to read their books. Look for more information about this in late December. We'd love for you to encourage your child to keep up with their reading. Additionally, if your child is a struggling reader, we can connect when the time comes and make plans for support.

Thanks so much!
Lisa Hovden

Math--Mr. Dunkelberger (Dunk)
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Pre-Algebra

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The end of the quarter has come and gone! In **Pre-Algebra**, we've had a productive start to the year. We completed **Unit 1: Scale Drawings and Scale Factor** and **Unit 2: Rational Number Operations**, where students practiced adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions, decimals, and integers.

As we move into the next quarter, we'll begin a new unit : **Introducing Proportional Relationships**. This unit will build on what students learned about scale and ratios, helping them make deeper connections to real-world situations involving proportional reasoning.

We will also be **piloting a new curriculum called Amplify Desmos**. This program offers a digital platform that allows students to engage in lessons interactively and submit answers anonymously in real time. Homework will now be completed and submitted digitally through the platform, with students uploading screenshots to show their completion in Schoology.

One of the great features of this program is its **instant feedback**—fill-in-the-blank questions are graded automatically, so students can immediately see whether their answers are correct. For those who prefer working on paper, that option remains available; however, students will still need to enter their final answers online to check their work.

I'm very excited about this new curriculum and believe it will help students experience more success and confidence in math. As we explore this new system together, please know that routines may evolve as we find what works best. This is new for all of us, so thank you for your patience and support during this transition.

Looking forward to another quarter working with your students.

Brent Dunkelberger

Algebra:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Quarter 1 has come and gone! It's been a great start to the year in **Algebra**, and students have been working hard to build a strong foundation in key concepts.

So far, we have completed:

- **Unit 1:** Real Number Operations - Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying and Dividing Real numbers.
- **Unit 2:** Solving Multi-Step Equations, including **literal equations** and **absolute value equations**.

We are now wrapping up **Unit 3: Solving Inequalities**. Students have been practicing solving and graphing inequalities and will take a **Unit 3 Test on Thursday** (11/6) to conclude this unit.

After the test, we'll begin **Unit 4: Functions**, where students will explore how to represent and interpret relationships between quantities. From there, we'll move into **Unit 5: Linear Functions**, continuing to deepen their understanding of how equations and graphs connect.

It's been great to see the effort and progress students have shown so far this year. Please encourage your child to review notes, complete practice problems, and reach out with questions as we continue through the semester.

Looking forward to another quarter working with your students.

Brent Dunkelberger

English 7: Mrs. Kuehl (hkuehl@northfieldschools.org)

News from Mrs. Kuehl's English 7 class:

Thank you for a terrific start to the school year! During quarter one, we studied the Medieval Ages and narrative arcs using 3 texts written in different formats. We also practiced identifying requirements of a prompt before writing a narrative. In addition, students completed 5 weeks of Reading Plus assignments.

As we begin quarter two in English 7, we will be wrapping up the module on the Medieval Ages with a culminating narrative writing assignment.

Shortly after Thanksgiving Break, we will begin our next module. During this module, we will be using the text *Code Talkers* by Joseph Bruchac. This is a part of our newly adopted curriculum called Arts and Letters.

Before we begin the next module, each student will be 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 will also be a copy available on Schoology in the COURSE INFORMATION folder of their English course.

Finally, we will 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. Each week that Reading Plus is assigned, students will have 4 empty boxes that will be checked off with green or yellow boxes when the lessons are complete. In addition, students may make up their missing lessons simply by completing extra lessons following their weekly assigned lessons.

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

-Mrs. Heather Kuehl

Art: Mr. Estrella (restrella@northfieldschools.org)

It is hard to believe that the 1st quarter is behind us! Despite how quickly the quarter went, we managed to accomplish a lot during these past few months. Your students have done an amazing job, getting us off to a fantastic start. I am very fortunate to be working with all of them and I am looking forward to the art projects that are ahead of us!

The first thing we did to start the school year was to establish connections. Getting to know each other is very important for all of us. To strengthen our connection, we jumped straight into making art—there is no other better way. We started with a very simple drawing. Students were asked to only use different types of lines to fill in a 9x12in piece of paper. Yes, art is as simple as using only a variety of lines on a surface. This concept of simplicity led to the interesting conversation revolving around our brains and how they work, especially when it pertains to the process of art making. We discovered that some research on the brain suggests that for the majority of us, the right side of our brain is “dormant,” and we need to learn how to stimulate it to “wake it” up. Why? You may be wondering. The right side is attributed to be the

side of our brain that manages a lot of our creative output. With this in mind, we created a piece of art that built on the connection we established at the beginning of class titled, “All About Me.” Working on this project allowed me to see what your students are already able to do so that I can start to craft ways to fill in some of the gaps and start to help them build their artistic confidence. Afterall, teaching confidence is one of my ultimate goals. I want all the students to feel like they can create without little to no hesitation.

To continue to build their confidence and demonstrate how our creative right side needs to be stimulated, students drew a Picasso piece upside down. A technique that allows us to see and use visual language such as lines, shapes, angles, and direction as opposed to the use of symbols such as naming what we are drawing or looking at. To their surprise, they all did better than they thought they would!

Simultaneously, we participated in the global phenomenon that is “Inktober” with a version of our own—students only had to make 3 drawings as opposed to 31. Inktober is a time in which artists around the world draw everyday for the month of October using only ink. There is a list of words that the organizer of the event shares on the website. Artists refer to this list to facilitate the drawing process. Our students did a wonderful job with this too. Some of them did end up doing all 31 drawings—talk about motivation!

Now as we look forward to the second quarter, we are working on drawing our hands. We started this drawing towards the end of quarter 1 and it will be the first main project of the second quarter. Followed by clay and then acrylic painting. Students are excited; I am excited; we are all excited and I hope you are too!

Thank you for your ongoing support and please if you didn’t make the 1st conference day, Nov 6th is the next opportunity. It would be wonderful to meet you in person and share with you how awesome your student is.

Student Art Samples



Other Helpful Information:

Tips for Organization:

Completing school work and meeting deadlines are important skills. We continue to encourage active planner use in 7th grade. All students should have a system for keeping track of due dates and important events.

Students are also encouraged to check Schoology regularly. When students are absent, they can find lessons and materials on Schoology in each of their courses. 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 and to complete absent work in a timely manner.

FLEX study halls:

Many students in grade 7 have a FLEX study hall during 4th hour. We intentionally use the word FLEX because students have the flexibility to work with several of their teachers during this time. On our team, Mr. Dunkelberger (Math), Mrs. Hovden (Social Studies), Mrs. Allin (Science), and Mrs. Kuehl (English) all have study hall 4th hour every day. Therefore, students who have a question for any of those teachers have the opportunity to work individually with them. Many students who use their study hall time well are able to complete all of their 7th grade homework within the school day. We give our students lots of reminders about this opportunity, but reminders from home are helpful also. If you see that your student is struggling with any content, and they have a 4th hour study hall, please encourage them to take time during study hall to meet with their teachers.

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>

Quarter 1 Celebration

Last Thursday, October 30, we celebrated students' academic efforts during Quarter 1 with a movie in the auditorium. 7th grade students did an excellent job showing PRIDE during our celebration time and we look forward to experiences like this in the future!