



Quarter Two News

from 7th grade Team Two

**Allin, Kuehl, Dunkelberger, Hovden,
Bollum**

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 25, 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 and heal. We are using microscopes to zoom in for a closer look

at these structures and consider how their structure impacts function. Soon we will begin 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 headaches, 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. I randomly draw out a page. Students submit that page at the start of class. 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.

Please contact me with questions. I look forward to a wonderful quarter two!

Sincerely,
Amy Allin

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

Greetings! We'll spend the first week of Quarter 2 wrapping up our mock trial. I'm so impressed with the students' hard work and enthusiasm for this activity! Next, we'll move on to the topic of elections. Students will learn general election information, explore how voting works, and experience a

mock class election activity. This will conclude our unit on Civics and Citizenship.

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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Quarter one has come and gone. It was a good start to the year in math.

Building up

endurance to completing math assignments independently has been a focus to start this year. We covered our unit 1 and 2 on Integer and Rational Numbers operations (including negative and positive fractions and decimals). Overall, we finished strong this first quarter with work completion in class, but it has taken a bit of support to make sure students are completing/turning in both the homework and quizzes daily.

A Math: We are working through our unit 3 on Order of Operations, which incorporates our learnings from unit 1 and 2 taking those concepts to another level. We will soon be moving into unit 4 on Solving Equations. The next unit on Solving Inequalities, will be an extension to solving equations. In AA math, we have started our first algebra unit on Solving Equations.

AA Math: We have finished up our unit 3 on Order of Operations and are moving into one of the more important units that is a foundation of Pre-Algebra focused on Equations. This unit will start out focusing on simplifying expressions and move into solving more complex multi-step equations. This will lead us into solving inequalities, a similar concept to solving equations.

Algebra: We are nearly through unit 3 on solving some pretty complex inequalities. We will move on to unit 4 on Functions. We will be covering sequences (geometric and arithmetic) and solving/graphing functions within this unit. This will lead us to unit 5 on linear functions. Graphing different types of functions will be a major focus for this unit.

I will be spending time to start off this quarter reflecting on routines and using time wisely in class. Please check skyward regularly to help support your student at home in their math learning. I do give students around 15 minutes to 20 minutes (sometimes more) to complete homework in class, but that isn't always enough time to finish their work. Extra time at home might be required to stay on top of math if students are getting behind or don't have a flex/study hall course. As another reminder, I have been giving students opportunities to retake their tests (only problems they get wrong) if they don't pass or do well on their first attempt. That is an excellent way to increase their understanding of the math concepts we are learning and will help students in their math grade.

Looking forward to the next quarter of working with your students.

Brent Dunkelberger

Health--Ms. Bollum (lbollum@northfieldschools.org)

Health Class Update

Health class is moving into Unit 2. Our health book and Second Step curriculum align very well in this unit.

Unit 2: *Taking Care of Mental and Emotional Health (Chapter 5 & 6)* includes:

- Being mentally and emotionally healthy.
- Making sense of emotions.
- Stress
- Bullying
- Stages of grief.
- Suicide
- How to get help or help others
- Mental health project

SEL Unit: Emotion Management includes:

- understanding anger.
- staying in control.
- coping with stress.

Ramp-UP lessons include:

- Mindset
- Student Support Services “asking for help.”

Excited for quarter 2 to start!

MS. Linnea Bollum

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 completed our first 5-paragraph essay, studied the elements of fiction in our short story unit and began our grammar unit. In addition, students completed 5 weeks of Reading Plus assignments.

As we begin quarter two In English 7, we will be wrapping up a unit on grammar. In this unit we have worked on how understanding and using proper grammar helps us communicate more clearly and effectively. In quarter two we will be writing our second five-paragraph essay that focuses on gratitude. We are looking forward to using the skills we learned in our grammar unit in this new writing assignment.

Alongside the writing of this essay, we will begin our study of Charles Dickens and his

ghostly tale, *A Christmas Carol*. We will be studying the themes found in this classic piece of literature and how history and the time period in which Dickens was writing affected his message. That unit will take us right up to Winter Break.

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. Each week that Reading Plus is assigned, students will have 4 empty boxes that will be checked off when the lessons are complete.

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

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. In addition, Ms. Bollum (Health) has some availability during 4th hour. 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! 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 given 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>

Quarter 1 Celebration & Showing PRIDE

Last Friday, November 3rd, we celebrated students' academic efforts during Quarter 1 with a movie in the auditorium. Regretfully, we experienced a number of behavior issues and poor choices that made it difficult for our 7th graders to truly enjoy the movie. We plan to start Quarter 2 by revisiting PRIDE expectations with our students. Families, we could also use your help. While the celebration was meant to be a relaxed atmosphere and a good time shared by the large group, we witnessed a number of students not showing their Raider PRIDE and many others tolerating disrespectful behavior. Perhaps a discussion at home, to accompany our discussion at school, would help to reiterate how important it is to respect the rules and expectations of our hallways, common areas, and the teachers and staff that help to enforce them. We will expect students to improve these behaviors as we go through the year, and we'd love to be able to continue celebrating positive behaviors and meeting our goals.