

NBFA 7th Grade Newsletter



New Beginnings

FAMILY ACADEMY

Working together for
brighter futures

ELA: Laura O'Shaughnessy

Science: Jason Feeney

Math: Kim Gibbs & Joseph Brigante

Social Studies: Lisa O'Marra

Health: Taylor Tema

ELA: Welcome to marking period two! The students have already begun reading the novel, *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. We will be analyzing the main character (Scrooge) and how he changes throughout the novel. The students will be doing many activities to coincide with the reading including: writing a newspaper article, writing poetry, reading non-fiction articles, and watching the movie version to compare/contrast that with the novel. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the field trip to see the show live due to low interest. On Monday, 12/5, they will have their first vocabulary test of the marking period.

There are many students who are coming to school with nothing to write with and this is hindering them from doing their work. Please make sure that your child has a number of pencils and pens. Also, the students do have homework a few times a week; some may be writing, others may be reading or studying.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at conferences on December 15, however, if you have any questions or concerns now, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Social Studies: The seventh graders will begin quarter two learning about the Age of Exploration. The students will explore "unchartered territory" to discover some of the rewards, challenges, and dangers during the Age of Exploration. Students will then compare their experience to those of actual European explorers.

Health: I have really enjoyed working with the 7th graders this past marking period. They are such a bright bunch of students! I am excited to start marking period two. I have just introduced our new unit: mental and emotional health. We will be learning about emotions, mental disorders, and various other mental and emotional health topics. Students will have more take-home assignments (the first coming up around next week), so I encourage you to work with your children on these assignments. Mandela homeroom will also be assisting me with another food drive for the Christmas season. They did an excellent job this past month with collecting the boxes of canned goods and loading them into the cars to donate. I was so proud of their efforts! If you have any

questions, feel free to contact me!

Science: In quarter 2, seventh grade will be studying life sciences. Specific topics for quarter 2 will include: living versus non-living things, cells, and the human body. Students will be engaging in several lab activities that will reinforce class content and NGSS standards. The first lab asks students to look at cells and planting corn kernels. I look forward to seeing you all at conferences on December 15th.

Math: Students will be working on integers and rational numbers having to deal with adding, subtracting multiplying, and dividing positives and negatives. At the end of this module, students will be required to produce a timeline using positive and negative integers for years recorded. Project requirements will be sent home. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Upcoming events:

- 12/15/16: Conferences (Half Day)
- 12/16/16: School Dance
- 12/23/16: Half Day
- 12/26-1/2/16: Winter Break