



MONARCH MESSENGER

Bunsold Middle School Newsletter

May 2012

Year End Honors Program

The evening of Tuesday, May 29, will be a special night of recognition for our middle school students. During the annual BMS Honors Program many of our students will be recognized and honored, including those on the Year End Honor Roll (based on the first three grading periods) and the 8th grade recipients of the Presidential Academic Awards.

This year we are splitting the program into two sessions. The 7th Grade program will start at 6:45 pm in the middle school gym. The 8th Grade program will begin at 7:45 pm. The Middle School Jazz Band will perform starting at 6:00 pm.

A list of students on the Year End Honor Roll and the names of the 8th grade Presidential Award recipients will be posted at the school in homerooms for students to check. Please contact Mr. Hoehn (7th grade), or Mrs. Carvour (8th grade) if you have any questions about the awards program.

May Events at Bunsold Middle School

May 7-11: OAA Test Make-up Days

May 14: Spring Choral Concert at MHS 7:00 PM

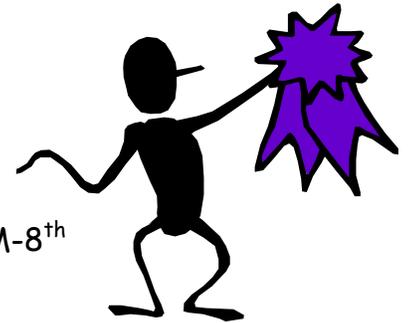
May 15: Spring Band Concert at BMS 7:00 PM-7th Grade, 8:00 PM-8th Grade

Bunsold Middle School Art Show 6:30-8:30 PM

May 24: 8th Grade Science Festival 3:00-6:00 PM

May 29: BMS Awards Program- 7th Grade 6:45-7:30 PM and 8th Grade 7:45-8:30 PM Jazz Band 6:00 PM

May 30: Last Day of School: 8th Grade Pool Picnic, 7th Grade Schoolympics





Grade Cards

The final grade card of the school year will be mailed to parents within one week of the close of school in June. Any student with outstanding fees and/or fines will not receive the grade card. Fees and fines can be paid during middle school office hours.

Summer Office Hours

The middle school office will be open from the close of school through June 14th. The office is scheduled to re-open on Aug. 1. Summer office hours are 7:00 am - 3:00 pm.



TIPS for Parents

Ten Things Parents Can Do to Empower Young Adolescents

1. Knock three times on that bedroom door before entering.
2. Treat your middler's friends (even the ones you don't cotton to) with respect.
3. Honor the modesty mandate of a young developing body. No sneak peeks.
4. Allow access to the Internet, but do spot check.
5. Provide a budget to redecorate the bedroom from childish to more appropriate.
6. Role model privacy by not going through your spouse's mail, e-mail, or pockets.
7. Don't open report cards arriving by mail; let your young adolescent review grades first.
8. Keep any confessions your child makes about others confidential (unless life threatening).
9. Teach about privacy by drawing privacy boundaries; affirm "that's too personal to share with me."
10. Do not snoop.

From *What Are You Doing In There? Balancing Your Need to Know with Your Adolescent's Need to Grow* by Charlene C. Giannetti and Margaret Sagarese.

Bunsold Middle School Summer School Classes: 2012

This summer, BMS will be offering a variety of remedial and enrichment classes. All classes will be taught by BMS staff members. Here are the classes being offered:

1. Math Enrichment class:
2. Math Intervention class:
3. Science Enrichment class:
4. Language Arts Intervention class
5. Language Arts Remedial class
6. Reader's Theatre: Making Stories Come Alive!
7. Creativity Project

***Class size - maximum of 15**

Summer school courses can be remedial or enrichment classes that would give students the opportunity to review and practice basic academic skills that were not mastered during the school year, OR, allow students to learn some new skills in the enrichment classes that will be offered this summer.

Cost: \$125.00 per class

Hours: 8-10 or 10-12 (am) *at teacher discretion

Where: Bunsold Middle School

When: July 30-August 10 (Ten total session)

Who: Any incoming 7th grade student - current 8th grader

Registration for middle school summer courses begins **May 7th** and ends **July 20th**. Classes with insufficient enrollment by **July 20th** will be cancelled and tuition money will be refunded.

Transportation to and from summer school is the responsibility of the students and parent.

Tuition payment, in full, must be made no later than the last day of day of registration (July 20th).

Payment must be made in the BMS South or North offices. Office hours are 7-3.

Application/Information forms can be picked up in both BMS offices, or, can be viewed and printed from the Marysville Schools Web site (Go to BMS site from the main school web site):

www.marysville.k12.oh.us

If you have any questions, please contact, 7th grade counselor Chris Hoehn, at 642-1721.

Attention Parents!



Credit Flexibility provides students with the opportunity to test out of some high school courses. Students must apply through the high school guidance department. Application deadlines are August 15th for October and January testing dates and December 3rd for March and May testing dates.

To successfully earn credit, mastery of content and certain abilities and skills must be demonstrated through a formal examination, a culminating project, and/or a presentation. Fees may be assessed for some courses. For further information, please contact the high school guidance department.



It's been a great year here at the BMS clinic...

Seventh grade vision screens & the last of eighth grade scoliosis screens have been completed.

Pennies for Patients this year was a great success with our students & staff working together to donate a grand total of \$1,982.66 to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. We held a competition between all of the teams to see who could bring in the most money to donate to PFP. Team 8-3 won donating an amazing \$813.80! The team earned a well-deserved pizza party for all their hard work.

For those of you that might have an incoming 7th grader next school year, The Ohio Department of Health has updated the required immunizations for the school year 2012-2013. Incoming 7th graders are required to have a Tdap booster (Tetanus, Diptheria and Pertussis). Please call the Health Dept. at 642-0801 or your family doctor to schedule an appointment before the school year begins.

DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

Four BMS students participated in the District Science Fair OSU-Marion on Saturday, March 17th. We would like to recognize the students for their efforts.

Seventh grader Amber Voegele received a rating of
Seventh grader Will Staats received ratings of

“Excellent”.

8th grader Shruti Parashar received ratings of

“Excellent”.

8th grader Morgan Kessler received ratings of “Excellent”.



held at
following

“Good”.

In addition, Morgan Kessler is the recipient of \$100 from the Ohio Soybean Council Foundation.

The BMS Science Department would like to congratulate each student for their outstanding participation at the District Science Fair competition.

Bob Bentz and Laura Koke represented the BMS Science Department as they served as judges for the day.

UNIFIED ARTS AT BMS



Family Consumer Science

In FCS, students read The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens book. We go through each habit with discussion, examples, and sharing stories that deal with each habit. Half of the book helps them learn more about themselves, while the second half helps them to make and keep better relationships with others. Other topics discussed during this book are goal setting, writing their own mission statement, figuring out what paradigms are and how to change them, and what a habit is along with how to break one and make one. While reading this book the students make their own version of the book that they can keep, and

refer back to when they need help. Their books go through each habit with examples that they came up with from their lives so it is more relatable for them. While reading this book, students learn many profitable habits to make that will help benefit themselves and their futures.

Career Consumer Science

CCS students + job applications + interviews = success!

Do you remember your first job interview? Were you prepared for all the questions?

Did you fill out the application correctly? Did you remember to spit out your gum!

Well, eighth grade CCS students have practiced getting ready for their first job interviews.

The process began with learning how to **fill out applications correctly**. This took a bit longer than expected. Making sure they read the application in its entirety, used black pen, and had all the information they needed for references in addition to thinking about what hours they would like to work.

Next step in the job search process, **interviews**. Career Consumer Science students had the opportunity to do peer mock interviews. Classmates were interviewers and asked a variety of questions, and rated them accordingly on their responses, posture, and attitude to name a few. Students were then asked to give feedback on how they thought they did, where they could improve, and what they did well.

Hopefully, the process has eased some fears, and prepared our future employees for their first part-time jobs!



Art Class

Mr. Andrews' Classes

The seventh and eighth grade students in Mr. Andrews's third trimester art classes begin with a creative and exciting fresh start. With craftsmanship and design in mind students begin the first projects with extreme efforts, emulating styles and works of art of legendary artists such as Pablo Picasso,

Marcel Duchamp, Andy Warhol, and Roy Lichtenstein.

Both seventh and eighth grade students just finished their second project, by utilizing a drawing technique called "The Grid System". Students decide on an image to draw and enlarge using common ratios onto large paper. The seventh graders choose something of our popular

culture to draw and finish it in a "Pop Art" style, often seen in Roy Lichtenstein's work. The eighth graders choose an image relative to their interest and finish their drawing in a "Picasso/Duchamp" cubist approach.

Prior to the Pop Art and Abstract projects, students completed their ceramic projects making amazing sculptures utilizing techniques such as pinch, coil, slab, and modeling the clay. Clay is both additive and subtractive, which allows students with the opportunity to make changes quickly and more accurately.

Following these projects students can expect to begin the unit based on drawing from life, in which they will draw a life size skeleton from a perspective they choose.

Any student who is interested in enrichment in the Visual Arts is encouraged to join Art Club at anytime throughout the year, Art Club meets every Tuesday after school until 4:00

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 3rd annual spring art show this May 15th.

Mr. Ritchie's classes

The Spring Trimester is moving fast with only a month left in the school year. Students have been working extremely hard on all projects, and everyone is showing great improvement.

All seventh and eighth grade Art students began the Trimester by creating an art portfolio. Each student had to design his/her name, create a decorative border, and draw five images that had something to do with each student individually. Students drew everything from favorite foods to iPod apps.

Following this project, all Art classes started a drawing unit. Here, Mr. Ritchie taught Bunsold students the tricks of drawing in order to become a better "observer" of art. All students drew practice and final still life drawings from objects in class. Mr. Ritchie taught four drawing styles to all students. The first style is called a gesture sketch where students "speed" draw for practice. The second is a continuous line drawing where students draw a still life without lifting their pencils from the paper. The third, and student favorite, is the blind contour drawing. Here students draw a still life without looking at their papers. Finally, students took these skills to create a still life drawing using only a pencil, eraser, and a paper towel to smug pencil lead thus adding shadows. Final drawings are currently on display in the main hallway here at Bunsold Middle.

Next, all Art classes are currently finishing on their clay units. Seventh graders are constructing a pinch and coil pot. On the outer surface area of their clay pot, students are tasked with sculpting some sort of monster or alien face. Mr.



Ritchie showed all classes a PowerPoint slide show on the "monster" art throughout history. Medieval gargoyles were placed on many buildings throughout Europe, lions were sculpted in entrance ways in ancient Persia, and the jackal became a popular theme in ancient Egypt. In modern times, middle school students are familiar with many monsters and aliens such as characters from movies like *Monsters Inc*, *Robots*, *Monsters vs. Aliens*, *Transformers*, *Megamind*, and *Star Wars*. Students brainstormed ideas with practice sketches, and are now working on their sculptures.

Eighth graders have also started their clay unit in Mr. Ritchie's classes. These students are using the clay sculpting technique called slab construction to create their pieces. Students will be building a geometric structure with a base, walls, and possibly a lid. These students must meet the objectives of selecting a theme for their sculpture, and decorating it with that selected theme. Students have selected themes like sports, TV shows, cartoons, technology, music, and other personal interests. All students have just finished practice sketches of their slab construction, and are in the process of working with clay to create their masterpieces. Finished pieces from last Trimester are on display in the BMS Media Center.

Be on the lookout for the **2012 Bunsold Art Show** coming up Tuesday, May 15. It will run from **6:30 - 8:30 pm** both before and during the **Spring Band Concert** on the same night. We would like to invite the entire Marysville community to come and hear some great student music, and check out the wonderful artwork of our Bunsold students. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr. Ritchie at jbritchi@marysville.k12.oh.us. As always, thanks for all of your support of the Arts!

Physical Education



With school coming to an end the PE department at Bunsold will be looking forward to getting the students outside this spring. We plan to take advantage of our open space here at Bunsold. Activities that are planned are: Ultimate Football, Frisbee Golf, Cross Country Run or Walk, Around the Diamond Kickball and Capture the Flag.

Parents please take note: we will give your student advance notice when we are going outside. So, please have your student dress for the weather. We will be going outside if the temperature is 55 or above, as long as it is not too wet and there is no mud.

We will be doing a post-test in all physical education testing areas and comparing it to our pre-test toward the end of May.

Computer Technology



At BMS, all students participate in a 12 week Computer Technology and Applications class in both 7th and 8th grade. The curriculum for both grade levels is based upon the National Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for students (NETS) developed by the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE). If you would like more information about ISTE and the standards and performance indicators for students you may visit www.iste.org.

Using those NETS, we have formulated 4 essential questions that guide all of our activities and projects. Let's take a look at the fourth essential question: How can I use digital tools to produce high quality and creative products that effectively communicate my ideas? The first of our three essential questions focused more on how the students could use digital tools to gain information and skills. In other words, what can the students get from technology. This question turns things around a bit and focuses on how students can use those tools to show what they've learned, and is mostly software oriented. It includes:

- Using productivity software such as Microsoft Office to produce documents, spreadsheets, and presentations
- Using advanced formatting techniques to make those documents, spreadsheets, and presentations clear and visually appealing
- Using pictures, maps, charts, graphs, diagrams, and other visuals in documents, spreadsheets, and presentations
- Creating multimedia videos



MONARCH MESSENGER TEAM NEWS



In **language arts** the students wrote business letter asking companies to donate items to the Union County Personal Needs Pantry. The 7th grade had a great response. They received many items and over \$2000 to give to the pantry. We will start our Lois Duncan author study. The students always love her books. Along with reading, we will have weekly quizzes and group discussions. We will also be writing a persuasive letter. In **social studies**, students learned about African trading customs. Who knew that salt was more valuable than gold in the Ancient world? Currently, students are learning about Ancient China with a focus on the Silk Road and Chinese inventions and discoveries. Did you know that there were no tomatoes in Italy, no potatoes in Ireland, and no chocolate in Switzerland until after Columbus discovered the Americas? In the remaining weeks of school, students will learn about the Renaissance, the Reformation, and explorers. Students will end the year by creating a project on an explorer they choose.

In **math**, as we begin our fourth grading period I want to remind all of my students and parents of the importance in having an organized binder and keeping it organized for the entire school year. Organization is an important tool for all students to possess as it helps them prepare for the upcoming years in school. I like to remind students, just because the sun is shining again does not mean that the school year is over. We still have plenty of work to accomplish in the next month. We will be testing over units 10, 11, & 12, and there is an economics unit that will be covered in regular math. Don't forget to take advantage of checking our Aries grade books, homework hotline and weekly update page.

The Team 7-1 **science** classes have been busy this quarter! Learning the reactants and products of photosynthesis, following the flow of energy through an energy web,

simulating a deer population and going on a "cougar hunt" to discover how limiting factors affect the carrying capacity of an ecosystem are just a handful of the activities students have engaged in. The final topic of the year will be weather. Other highlights that the students are looking forward to in the coming weeks are building and launching model rockets as well as taking a trip to the creek behind the school to suit up in waders to collect organisms and do water testing.



2012 - Team 7-2 has had a very productive year in **language arts**. The students' reading and writing skills have improved greatly since the beginning of the year. I am very proud of how diligently all the students have worked throughout the year. During the month of May we will focus on our Lois Duncan author study unit. Students love her books!! We will discuss and compare her writing techniques in three of her suspense-filled novels. Our final writing assignment will be a persuasive essay. Students enjoy writing passionately about topics they truly support. The business letters the students wrote in February turned out to be a great success. Businesses from all over responded, and we were able to donate many, many items and \$2260.00!!! It is amazing how powerful words can be – I am enormously proud of all the students' efforts.

As summer approaches please encourage your child to continue read and write. Thank you so much for your support and a wonderful year.

In **social studies**, as we are wrapping up the school year in this final quarter, we have learned about China and its important Silk Road trade route that connected many cultures to each other. In our next unit, we are learning about the Renaissance time period and the effects of the Reformation throughout history. Students will become

experts at Renaissance art, and they will also get in groups to learn about a leading figure of the Renaissance and teach about this person to the rest of the class! Our final unit will be on the Explorers, where students will learn about the impact of exploration on the world and the individuals who dared to go places and risk their lives for fame, fortune and glory! Students will each individually research and create a powerpoint presentation about a famous explorer. They will be able to share their final products with the teacher and other students. It has been a great year, and I am pleased with the students' efforts!

In **math**, students are currently learning about sequences and patterns, and how to graph linear equations and linear inequalities. We have also been reviewing for the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA), which is administered the first week in May. To finish the school year, we will study probability, data analysis, symmetry, and transformations. Please remember that homework, which is an extension of the day's lesson, is given every day, with the exception of test and quiz days.

In **pre-algebra**, students recently finished a unit on sequences and patterns, and how to graph linear equations and linear inequalities. We have also been reviewing for the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA), which is administered the first week in May. To finish the year, we will continue our study of algebra by learning the slope formula, how to graph linear equations using the slope-intercept form, and how to graph quadratic equations. We will also study data analysis. Please remember that homework, which is an extension of the day's lesson, is given every day, with the exception of test and quiz days.

In **science** class we are currently working on Weather. We will be going over the types of clouds and what each mean for the forecast. We are also looking at weather

fronts and what each one predicts for approaching weather. There is a weather project that we have started as well. Each student is responsible for a city in the united states. On four different days, each student will collect weather data on their city. We will be using this data for developing a weather map showing temperature, wind, high and low pressure areas, cloud cover and other factors related to weather. Coming up after the weather unit will be activities such as creating a structure that can protect an egg dropped from the second floor. Students have access to various supplies to create this structure. We will also be going to the creek behind the school to collect macroinvertebrates. These are aquatic bugs that indicate the water quality of a stream.



In **language arts**, as we approach the last weeks of school, we approach the final times to do certain items...the final IRT's, the final SUV units, the final times to read in plays, the final times to write in the free writing packet, the final book orders. We will also be reading one of four suspense books written by Lois Duncan, and doing a project over each of them. Finally, we will be focusing on a persuasive essay, writing a thesis and an outline.

It's a girl! Mrs. Schneider had a baby girl on Friday, April 16th. The new bundle of joy is named Delaney Marie and mother and baby are doing just fine. Mrs. Irwin will be Mrs. Schneider's replacement for the rest of the school year in **social studies**.

Recently, the students completed a unit on Africa. They learned about ancient African civilizations and have a fund-raising project going on with the Columbus Zoo's Partners in Conservation. Money collected from the 1000 Books Challenge project and the Gorilla dance will benefit the people of Rwanda and help save gorillas in the wild there. Students had a very interesting debate

in class about slavery in ancient times and how that compares to modern day slavery in the world.

After Africa, the students moved on to ancient Chinese cultures. Three separate days were spent learning about some of the different ancient Chinese philosophies. They experienced first – hand what it would be like to live in a society where Confucianism, Daoism, and then Legalism were the predominant schools of thought. One of the learning targets was to see how a particular philosophy could influence government. Students are currently learning about the Silk Road and how trade influenced the Chinese and surrounding cultures. During testing week, students will take a look at ancient Japan and its feudal system by completing a web quest on the Samurai. From there it's off to Europe to learn about the Renaissance and Reformation periods.

In Mrs. Tucker's **Pre-Algebra** class, students have covered the 7th grade mathematics requirements and will be ending the year by extending their learning to cover additional concepts. Students learned how to graph linear equations and will now move on to graphing parabolas and systems of equations. In **math** classes, students will end the year working with transformations such as reflecting or rotating a parallelogram on a coordinate grid. Students will also explore probability with hands on activities like the "rock, paper, scissors" lab. Both classes have been making connections to mathematics in science class through graphing, exploring measurements, and interpreting graphs and charts. A data collection project will allow students to show what they have learned by gathering information and presenting it through appropriate charts and graphs.



We have been very busy learning about real-life skills in **Language Arts** class! We did a Creative Writing Workshop where students were allowed to write whatever they wanted, as long as they were able to "show off" the six required writing skills. Our next writing project will incorporate persuasive writing, math, and propaganda. Our reading projects have involved science fiction, short stories, and independent reading choices. To end the year, we will be reading our Lois Duncan mystery books! We will use the skills this real author uses in our own creative writing. Finally, we will reflect on the "Power of Words" with activities to celebrate the end of a great year!

In **science** students recently completed our Environmental Changes unit.

Overpopulation and environmental succession were discussed. We also reviewed the characteristics of different biomes.

Weather is the current topic of discussion. Students learned how to create Station Models for weather data collected from various cities in the United States. They also reviewed the cloud types and will finish the unit by understanding frontal systems and pressure systems. Students will also practice reading weather maps and making weather predictions.

The year will conclude with a few culminating activities. Weather-permitting, we hope to be able to complete water analysis studies outside and go seining in order to identify living organisms in the creek behind our school. For the unit on Science and Technology, students will work on solving problems with constraints. These activities will challenge their creativity, cooperation, and critical thinking skills. Be sure to ask about the "Alien Invasion" that should take place mid-May. Students will also build and launch rockets to combine our

physical science unit with our weather unit if time permits! We have a great deal to accomplish before the end of the school year!



Mr. Cunningham's fourth nine weeks **language arts** classes are currently involved with our Science Fiction Unit. The unit consists of students reading a variety of short stories, with a concentration on Ray Bradbury stories, and students reading either The Giver or City of Ember towards the end of school. Also, this nine weeks writing assessment will be of persuasive nature, with students supporting whether or not certain stories fit the genre of Science Fiction, or a comparison of pieces of literature. Students have also been preparing for the OAA tests the first week of May. The end of the year, students will wrap up with Demonstrative Speeches.

In **American History** class, we have just completed a major project over Westward Expansion. We will round out our 2011-2012 school year with a look at how the United States found itself embroiled in Civil War. Prior to our unit on the Civil war, we'll discover more ways passionate Americans have made a difference in their society and involved themselves in the political process. Please continue to remind students of the importance of ending their 8th grade year on a strong note leading into high school. It's been a wonderful year with the kids, and we'll be sad to see this group go. Thank you for all your support.

In **Algebra**, students have been studying Algebra topics that will be part of the 8th grade Ohio Achievement Assessment. The topics that have been covered in the last few weeks are probability, data analysis including representation of data with stem and leaf plots, box and whisker plots and histograms, quadratics, the Pythagorean Theorem, distance, midpoint and slope formulas, exponents, and exponential

algebraic functions. To finish out the year students will be learning about polynomials and factoring, and work with radicals including radical equations and functions.

In **Pre-Algebra**, students have just finished learning about probability, data analysis, displays of data (different types of graphs), graphing systems of equations, number patterns and measurement systems. Students also have been spending class time reviewing topics for the upcoming Ohio Achievement Assessment. Students will spend two weeks on a short unit covering basic Trigonometry starting during test week. After this unit is complete students will review topics learned this year in Pre-Algebra class that are important for success in Algebra at the High School next year. For both classes, it is important for students to remember that there is still a month left of school. During this time students will still be expected to come to school ready to learn, with all materials and homework completed. There will also be tests and quizzes to assess student learning during this time.



Mrs. Loftus's **Language Arts** classes will spend May reading and writing about science fiction. Our fourth nine weeks essays integrate persuasion with our collection of Ray Bradbury's classic science fiction stories. After the essay, we will read our last novel of the year, *The Giver*. This novel gives students a chance to look at a utopian community and evaluate what they appreciate and love about our world, in addition to what we can learn from other models of community. We hope to conclude the year with demonstration speeches. In **pre-algebra** we are working hard in class, finishing up material and reviewing for the OAA test. We will be doing a lot of work in class so if you see less homework that is ok. We will be studying right triangles after the test. Do you remember

the Pythagorean Theorem? We will extend that discussion on into Trigonometry. We will study the basic trig ratios and how the length of a side of a right triangle relates to the size of an angle.

In **Algebra 1** we are working on factoring polynomials and solving quadratic equations. We will finish the year by simplifying radicals. Even though the weather outside is getting nicer the Algebra is getting harder. Please continue to encourage your student to do their homework nightly and study for quizzes and tests.

In **Geometry** we have completed a unit with logic and indirect proofs. Yes I know that middle school students do not always seem logical but they can do logic problems. We just finished working on translations and size changes. That leaves us with the study of right triangles (Trigonometry) and of circles for the end of the year after OAA tests.

Students, in **American History** class, completed their study of Westward Expansion and are presently learning about the Age of Reform in which Americans developed a renewed interest in religion, reform for education and the temperance movement. Students will also discuss the anti-slavery movement and the pursuit of women's rights. We will end the year with the study of the causes of the Civil War, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Slavery, states' rights, and issues of taxation were to determine the future of the Union and formation of the Confederacy. Discussion will center on tension between the North and South with the secession of the Southern States once Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860. Students will learn how the Civil War devastated the economy of the South while contributing to the rapid growth of economy in the North and West, and finally how African Americans gained their freedom.

Team 8-2 **science** students ended have spent the last few weeks reviewing for the science OAAs. They had to reach back all the way to 6th grade science class for some of the knowledge! Next, we will be exploring problems facing the world and figuring out ways to solve them! Expect to hear about their ideas for making a change in their world using scientific thought processes!



In **language arts**, April and much of May is devoted to the study of the science fiction genre. Students will read several stories by Ray Bradbury, and will write their final essay of the year based on his fascinating stories. All classes have finished their *Wordly Wise 3000* workbook, and the words they learned will be reinforced for the rest of the year. All students have one additional novel to read this year. Students in advanced language arts will read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, which is a science fiction novel. Students in language arts will read *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson, and it is a nonfiction book about the assassination of President Lincoln and the manhunt for John Wilkes Booth. Hopefully there will be time the last week of the year for students to give a demonstration speech, which has been an annual tradition for many years.

American History: Mr. Sements

The people who make history are not the people who make it who are there but the people who make it and then write about it.

Since the Constitution /Bill of Rights, we have been studying the events leading to the growth of our country and the Westward Expansion – Louisiana Purchase / Lewis and Clark; War of 1812; Manifest Destiny; Trail of Tears; Mexican War; Oregon Country. We continue with our study of American History in the era of American Reform of the 1800's in the realm of education, literature and inventions. Finally we descend

upon the causes and outbreak of the Civil War. Students are given an opportunity for a Civil War project which will be sent home with more detail. Once again, it is very important for students to maintain an organized notebook for a major portion of their grade. We conclude with our study of the Reconstruction after the Civil War. We conclude the year with a photography project that involves local landmarks around Union County. We also focus on community and governmental leaders that students should know which should reflect responsibilities of good citizenship.

Regarding Good Citizenship:

Congratulations to members of the 8-3 team who will volunteer in several community service projects and receive extra credit in return.

Science students on Team 8-3 used the weeks between spring break and OAA's to revisit and review some of the knowledge that they have gained over the last three years. Topics covered included properties of matter, weather, environmental relationships, interactions of organisms, and cells. They constructed atomic models of various elements, conducted an oil spill clean-up lab, and built plant and animal cells.

During the month of May, science students will be working on a science festival project. Every student is required to work on a project (either individually or with a partner) that is done mostly during the school day. Then each student/pair participates in a "festival" by displaying their project for community members, parents, teachers, and other classmates to see. This is different from the traditional science fair because students do not actually have to be judged or asked to speak about their project outside the classroom setting, just simply display the finished visual aid during the Science Festival on Thursday May 24th from 3:00- 6:00. Watch for more

detailed information to be sent home in the very near future.



Science students on Team 8-4 used the weeks between spring break and OAA's to revisit and review some of the knowledge that they have gained over the last three years. Topics covered included properties of matter, weather, environmental relationships, interactions of organisms, and cells. In addition they have been working on their extended response answers and formatting.

During the month of May, science students will be working on a science festival project. Every student is required to work on a project (either individually or with a small group) that is done mostly during the school day. Then each student/pair participates in a "festival" by displaying their project for community members, parents, teachers, and other classmates to see. This is different from the traditional science fair because students do not actually have to be judged or asked to speak about their project outside the classroom setting, just simply display the finished visual aid during the Science Festival on Thursday May 24th from 3:00- 6:00. Watch for more detailed information to be sent home in the very near future.

Team 8-4 **Social Studies** with Mrs. Danals just completed their second group project for the year over Westward Expansion. Along with history content students worked on 21st century skills necessary to work in today's business environment while working collaboratively with their peers. The year will conclude with the study of The Age of Reform, The Civil War, and The Reconstruction. It has been a pleasure to work with this team of students. I have enjoyed watching them mature this year. In **Pre-Algebra** we have been working with a variety of math concepts, such as volume

and surface area of solids and we just finished looking at different types of graphs and data analysis. We are beginning a unit on probability and will be preparing for the OAA. Students are applying their knowledge and using technology (using graphing calculators) to solve real life application throughout these units.

In **Algebra** we are finishing chapter 11 on the Square Root Function. Students demonstrated understanding of square roots through graphing, solving algebraic equations, and by implementing them into real world situations. In the next unit student will discover the effects exponents have on equations/inequalities and their graphs. Graphing calculators and technology will be utilized throughout these units.

In **language arts**, April and much of May is devoted to the study of the science fiction. Students will read several stories by Ray Bradbury and will write their final essay of the year based on his literary musings. Students are eager to complete the last three lessons in the *Wordly Wise 3000* workbook. Students in language arts will read their final novel of the year which is *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James Swanson. It is a gripping nonfiction read about the 12 day manhunt for John Wilkes Booth. Students in advanced language arts will continue with two more science fiction selections. They will read the play version of *Flowers for Algernon* and *The Giver*. The students look forward to ending the year with demonstration speeches.

