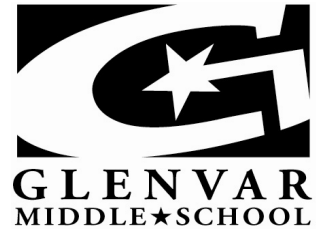


HIGHLANDER HIGHLIGHTS

October 2010 Volume I, Issue 7

Glenvar Middle School
4555 Malus Drive
Salem, VA 24153
(540) 387-6322
<http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/glms/>



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES:

Juliette B. Myers

Dear Glenvar Middle School Community,

Life in a middle school is always full of activity and this is especially true at Glenvar Middle School! It is great to see so many of our students involved in athletics, clubs, or community activities. The creation of the Friends of Rachel Club (FOR) this year has been a wonderful addition to our school culture. Our students and staff have always done a great job of treating one another with kindness, but the positive effect that Rachel's Challenge has had on our school community has taken us to a whole new level of understanding of the importance of forming respectful relationships.

As you review the contents of this newsletter, you will learn of the many opportunities available to your child. I encourage you to discuss the upcoming events with your child to learn more about their interests.

If you have not already done so, you may receive regular emails from me announcing upcoming events. Please send me your email address at: jmyers@rcs.k12.va.us and I'll add you to the list. Email has allowed me the opportunity to "talk" to so many of you this year and it's been great! I love the chance to learn more about your child and to provide you with the forum to express your concerns, questions, etc. Let's keep it up throughout the year. Glenvar Middle School is truly a family and that family includes you!

Sincerely,

Juliette Myers, Ph.D.

GUIDANCE NEWS

October 2010
Volume I, Issue 7
Highlander Highlights



8th Grade Field Trip to BCAT (Burton) is Tuesday, October 19, 2010. We want all of our 8th graders to have the opportunity to tour the Burton electives & Specialty Centers that will be available to them next year! Please remind your children to return their field trip permission slips to their homeroom teachers if they have not done so all ready.

Honor Roll Ice Cream Social is Monday, November 1, 2010 at 2:15 PM in the GMS cafeteria for all 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders who achieved *A Honor Roll* or *A&B Honor Roll* for the 1st Nine Weeks Grading Period.

Parent Teacher Conference Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2010. Please call our Guidance Secretary at 387-6322 by Oct. 29 to schedule a conference with your child's team.

8th Graders Attend a Specialty Center Virtual Presentation on Friday, November 12 during first period in the GMS Forum. They will learn information about the Burton Specialty Centers to which they can apply: Center of Visual Arts, Center of Performing Arts, Center of Mass Communication, and Center of Engineering.



Algebra and Geometry Students Attend a Governor School Presentation on Tuesday, November 16 during 5th, 6th, or 7th period in Ms. Fajardo's classroom.

All Current 6th Graders Bring Home Registration Information For Next School Year on Wednesday, January 19, 2011.

All Current 7th Graders Bring Home Registration Information For Next School Year on Thursday, January 20, 2011.

All Current 8th Graders Bring Home Registration Information For Next School Year on Friday, January 21, 2011.

Parent Registration Night for Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders is Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7:00 PM at GMS.

Registration Forms for Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders Are Due Back to GMS on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

Parent Registration Night for Rising 9th Graders is Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the GHS Library.

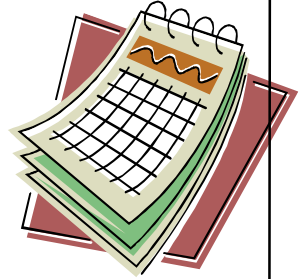
Eighth Graders Applying to Governor School and/or the Center of Engineering Take the MAT Test as part of the application process on Thursday, February 3, 2011 in the Forum during periods, 1st through 4th.

8th Grade Writing SOL Tests are on Tuesday & Wednesday, March 8 & 9, 2011. Please help your 8th graders to avoid any pre-planned absences on these days. If you are aware that your child will be out on these testing days, please contact Guidance at 387-6322.

The Spring SOL Testing Window for 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders is May 16 -26, 2011. Please help your children to avoid any pre-planned absences during these two weeks. If you are aware that your child will be out during these testing days, please contact Guidance at 387-6322.

IMPORTANT DATES:

October 21	End of 1st Grading Period
October 22	SCHOOLS CLOSED—teacher workday
October 27	2 hr. early dismissal
October 29	Report Cards Sent Home
November 2	SCHOOLS CLOSED—conference day
November 24	2 hr. early dismissal
November 25, 26	SCHOOLS CLOSED—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
November 29	Interim Midpoint
December 6	Interim Reports Sent Home
December 20-31	SCHOOLS CLOSED-WINTER BREAK



**HOMEWORK
REQUESTS**

A student needs to be absent two (2) consecutive days in order for parents to request make-up work. Please call the school on the second morning of the illness by 9 am.

Remember to be certain to pick it up between 3:15 pm and 4:00 pm and encourage your student to complete the work.

**ATTENDANCE
INFORMATION**

Please remember that if your child is absent from school, they **MUST** bring a note from home, signed by the parent/guardian, stating the reason for the absence. If a student does not bring a note after an absence, it will be recorded as an “Unexcused Absence” on the attendance record.

6th GRADE



6th Grade History

Reminder to parents: I will send home a chapter newsletter describing what the chapter covers and the essential questions the student needs to know for the SOLs. The newsletters are a good study guide for you and your student to use throughout our study of the chapter. They will be sent home at the beginning of each chapter.

6th Grade History

Reminder to parents: I will send home a chapter newsletter describing what the chapter covers and the essential questions the student needs to know for the SOLs. The newsletters are a good study guide for you and your student to use throughout our study of the chapter. They will be sent home at the beginning of each chapter.

6th Grade Pre-Algebra

Students are doing a great job adjusting to middle school and the fast pace of this class. We have already covered many basic skills such as computation with integers, using the order of operations, identifying and using the properties of real numbers, and graphing points on the coordinate plane. We have also delved into some algebra topics such as simplifying algebraic expressions and solving one-step and two-step equations. We are using algebra tiles to grasp the concepts concretely before moving on to abstract representations. Students are doing a great job in keeping up with homework. However, please continue to encourage them to *study and review* a little each day. Please also check your child's Pre-algebra site on Blackboard frequently. (Each student should know how to log in.) There you'll find daily homework assignments, helpful websites for study and practice, and you can access your child's current grade at any time!

6th Grade Math

We have just finished our Unit two test on Number Theory and are moving on to ratios, proportions, and percents. Students are encouraged to complete homework each night to help with the understanding of what was taught in class. A great way to review at home is using the website www.studyisland.com (the students know how to log in) Each blue ribbon earned is a chance at extra credit!

6th Grade Pre-Algebra

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6th Grade Math

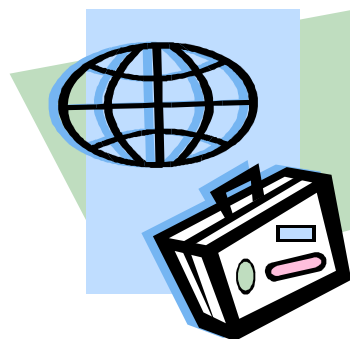
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7th GRADE

Math 7-Deal and Sigurdson: The 1st nine weeks is almost over and time has really flown by! We have been very busy in class learning about decimals, fractions and integer operations. In the next few weeks we will be studying order of operations, scientific notation and properties. Just a reminder we are offering extra credit for students who complete 1 hour on www.studyisland.com

If your child is having trouble studying/reviewing at home remind him or her to use any graphic organizers, frames or foldables for each lesson. Study Island is also a great way to help review topics students are having difficulty with.

Please check your child's planner daily to ensure all homework is completed and your child is aware of upcoming tests and quizzes. Also, check to see if your child needs paper or pencils for class.



Pre-AP Math 7-Deal: The 1st nine weeks is almost over and time has really flown by! We have been very busy in class learning about decimals, scientific notation, fractions, patterns, exponents and order of operations. Students have completed a project using fractions as well. In the next few weeks we will be studying integers, properties and equations. Just a reminder we are offering extra credit for students who complete 1 hour on www.studyisland.com
If your child is having trouble studying/reviewing at home remind him or her to use any graphic organizers, frames or foldables for each lesson. Study Island is also a great way to help review topics students are having difficulty with. Please check your child's planner daily to ensure all homework is completed and your child is aware of upcoming tests and quizzes. Also, check to see if your child needs paper or pencils for class.

English 7-Graham:

Mrs. Graham's writing classes just finished up with parts of speech review. Students are now learning about good paragraph structure. They have conquered good topic sentences, and currently they are practicing with supportive detail sentences.

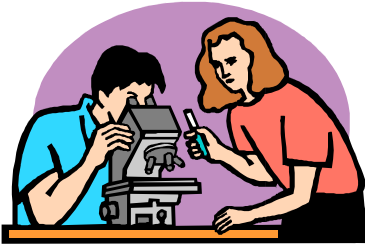
Mrs. Graham's literature classes just finished a unit on short stories. Students learned about the parts of plot and the elements of a short story. They will use these terms all year long. Our next unit is about folklore. Students will learn about the different types of folklore. They will read each type of story and be able to identify what type of folklore story it is.

cmchain@rcs.k12.va.us



Ms. Culler's Pre AP English 7

It's strange to have 2 classes of Pre AP 7; that is very rare, indeed. We started the year with projects and assignments to really get to know one another better. Students wrote me letters, (even some of you wrote me letters), prepared a presentation to tell the class all about who they were, wrote "Where I'm From" poems and even created a personal soundtrack to share with the class. More academically, we started out by working with our summer reading, The Call of the Wild. Students are always amazed (whether they liked the book or not) that it was written in less than five months and that this was his first draft; no revisions! From there we moved on to folklore, even writing our own "spun" fairy tales in the style of Jon Scieszka. As the nine weeks comes to a close, we're reading a fictional tale of a Chinese immigrant moving to San Francisco during the Gilded Age of Industrialization. It dovetails nicely with what they are learning about in U.S. History II.



Life Science-Mr. Crockett:

Science classes have just finished up with scientific method. We are digging deep into cells and using microscopes. Pre-Ap classes should have their science fair packets.

History 7-Mr. Darby/Ms. Culler:

We have already finished three units! The first unit students reviewed their states, major cities, mountains, and bodies of water. This unit can be a challenge at times because of those darn mid-western states that are all shaped like a square. We then picked up where they left off last year with Reconstruction. They learned about the reasons Reconstruction failed and the birth of Segregation. They also learned about the migration to the Great Plains and how poorly Native Americans were treated as a result. We just finished a unit on the drastic change the United States went through because of new inventions and industrialization. Our upcoming units will be immigration, the Spanish American War, and then WWI.

Math 7-Mr. Rohrback:

This year we started with a review of decimal operations. Next, we studied comparing numbers written in fraction, decimal, and percent form. We also discussed changing fractions back and forth from mixed numbers to improper fractions using “the wheel” method. From there, we moved on to our unit on fraction operations, paying special attention to the steps for all operations with mixed numbers using our frames. Our current unit is on Integer operations. We learned the adding and subtracting rules using a foldable, and then moved on to the “camping rules” for multiplying and dividing integers!



So far, my seventh graders have been working very hard! As we approach the end of the first nine weeks, we will be learning about exponents, scientific notation, and solving expressions and equations. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



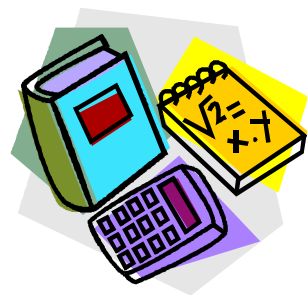
Thanks to parents,
students and staff for a
successful magazine/
cookie dough
fundraiser!



8th GRADE

Math-8 Mr. Rohrback/Dr. Powel:

Our first unit of the year dealt with Integers. To begin the unit, we discussed the first three subsets of the Real Number System, which includes the Counting or Natural Numbers, Whole Numbers, and Integers. We used a Venn Diagram to understand how each set related to the others. Then, we reviewed our operation rules for Integers along with our steps for Problem-Solving. Our second unit included exponents, algebraic expressions, and the order of operations. To finish the unit, we worked with numbers written in Scientific Notation. Our current unit is on Solving Equations and Inequalities. We are using notes frames to break down solving each problem with a step-by-step method, and also used Algeblocks to solve equations with a “hands-on” approach. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

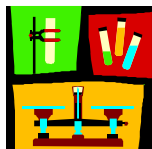


Algebra I-Fajardo:

We have wasted no time getting busy in algebra! We started out working hard at reviewing important computation skills and understanding new basic algebra ideas which provide the groundwork for the rest of the year, such as how to use properties to simplify expressions. We recently put all those skills to use as we learned how to solve all kinds of equations, from simple to complex, for an unknown variable. Students used algebra tiles to help them understand the concepts concretely before we did them algebraically. Next, we will further extend these concepts towards solving simple and complex inequalities.

Throughout the nine-weeks, students have also been learning graphing calculator skills. I emphasize in class, though, that the graphing calculator is meant to be used as a tool to supplement, not replace brains!

The key to success in algebra is study and practice! Please encourage your child to spend a little time each day reviewing what we learned in class. Please also check your child's Algebra site on Blackboard frequently. (Each student should know how to log in.) There you'll find daily homework assignments, helpful websites for study and practice, and you can access your child's current grade at any time!

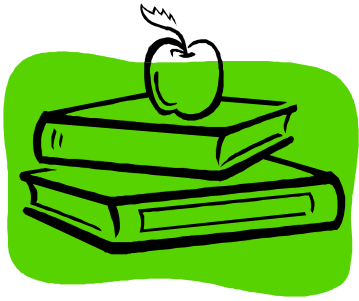


Science 8-Chapman

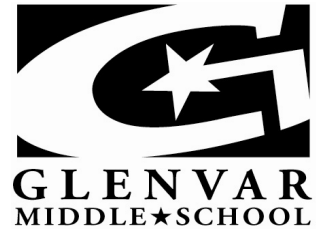
The 8th grade science classes have finished their study of the scientific method, metric measurement, and graphing. The introduction to these topics may be gone but not forgotten. These principles are the basis for all things covered in physical science so we will be using them all year long.

We have begun the next topic of energy. In this unit, students will learn about the many different forms of energy and how energy can be changed from one form to another. The study of energy has particular importance to all of us with the upcoming elections. Many candidates are talking about their ideas for future energy consumption and production and becoming “energy independent”. We will discuss these topics and explain how, even though not right now, this WILL affect them in the future. From energy, we move on to simple machines. In this unit, students will discover how simple machines are used to make our daily lives easier.

The Pre-AP science classes have begun their Rube Goldberg projects. The first research paper was due on October 8 and the final research papers for the project are due on Friday, December 3. Upon completion of the research paper the students will begin design and construction of their Rube Goldberg “machine”. More information will be sent home with students when necessary.



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Highlander Highlights



Ms. Culler's Pre AP English 8

It was so nice to start the year with so many familiar faces this year. I rarely get to follow a group of students for a second year; it is truly a treat. We're getting used to cramming two class periods of work into one; that's pretty difficult. We started out the year working with their summer reading, Nothing But the Truth. Students completed mini projects, researched Supreme Court cases involving first amendment rights and even held a debate on whether or not Philip's rights were violated in our novel. From there, we moved on to folklore and researching Rube Goldberg for their science projects. It was definitely a learning experience as to how to conduct formal research, create topic cards, a bibliography and in-text citations. Hopefully these life lessons are ones they will come back to time and time again as they continue through school. As the nine weeks comes to a close, we're jumping into Steinbeck's The Pearl.

English 8-Balthis/Whitaker:

Welcome to 8th grade from Mrs. Balthis and Miss Whitaker!!

We are excited to start a new year of reading and writing. Being a strategic reader is so important to being a life-long learner. We will cover fiction, nonfiction, poetry and research in a variety of challenging and engaging ways to help your child on this journey. Our students have already made great strides toward becoming sophisticated readers and writers!

Please ask to see your student's planner; much of our communication will occur there and Reading Logs need to be initialed Monday – Thursday. Blackboard is accessible to students and parents and should prove to be a valuable resource and tool to help you feel connected to what is going on in class.

Book Adventure is well underway. We have passed the first deadline outlined in the Procedures that are taped in the students' notebooks. The next deadlines are October 20 and then November 23. These books are read in class, but they should also be the books the students are using to complete the Home Reading Log.

This year we would like to extend an invitation to parents and community members to come speak to our classes to show ways that you use reading skills at work everyday. We want children to see the value of reading in a nonacademic setting. If you think you don't really use reading strategies at your job, give us a shout, we can prove that you do! Thank you for your encouragement and support. We look forward to a productive year.

PARENTS! : PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SIGNING THE READING LOG IN THE BACK OF YOUR CHILD'S PLANNER MONDAY- THURSDAY. EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO READ 20 MINUTES EVERY NIGHT. THIS IS PART OF THE HOMEWORK GRADE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

8th grade English classes, single block- Mrs. Wynn

It has been a long two weeks, working on research skills. The students had to read and learn about Rube Goldberg and take notes on note cards. They wrote a 5 paragraph essay paper and then learned how to include internal citations about their sources. We finally created a Works Cited page to complete the paper.

As a daily warm-up, the class is reading a funny version of Romeo and Juliet and editing sentences for correct, punctuation and spelling issues. This will continue all through the year.

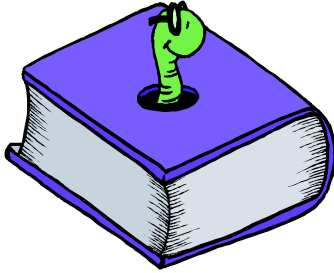
We are gearing up to move into our scary story unit closer to Halloween.

PARENTS: 1) YOU CHILD NEEDS TO HAVE COLORED PENCILS, COLORED INK PENS, HIGHLIGHTER, &PENCILS IN A PENCIL POUCH AT ALL TIMES.

2) PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS A PEN DRIVE AND THEY KNOW HOW TO SAVE THEIR INFORMATION AT HOME UNDER MICROSOFT WORD 2003. WE DO NOT HAVE 2007 AT SCHOOL YET.

3) HELP YOUR CHILD KEEP UP WITH THEIR BOOK ADVENTURE QUIZZES AND PROJECTS. THEY SHOULD BE READING A NEW NOVEL EVERY TWO WEEKS.

THANKS---MRS. WYNN



LIBRARY NEWS

Book Fair Open House – November 2nd 12:00 – 6:30 pm

The book fair open house will be on parent conference day, November 2nd. Visit the GMS library between noon and 6:30 pm for the best selection of titles for kids, teens and adults. New this year, Scholastic has selected some of their best titles for a special Young Adult display. These books were selected especially to appeal to mature middle school readers who prefer teen literature. On Wednesday, November 3rd, students will visit the fair with their English classes for an opportunity to purchase books or make a wish list. Students are encouraged to discuss their book selections with their parents or guardians. Students will have the opportunity to return to the book fair either Thursday, November 4th or Friday, November 5th with their English classes.

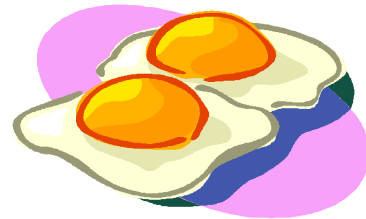
Thank you for your support of our library program. We look forward to seeing you at the fair! For more information about the Book Fair visit our book fair website or contact Mrs. Perdue in the library.

GMS Book Fair website

NUTRITION TIP:

EGG-STRA GOOD:

Eggs have it all: they're full of protein, they don't cost much, and they can be prepared many quick and delicious ways.



Mexican scrambled eggs: Whisk 2 eggs with fat-free milk, and set aside.

Heat a skillet coated with cooking spray. Cut 2 corn tortillas into thin strips, and sauté until crisp. Add 1/4 cup sliced scallions and 1/4 cup tomato, and sauté another minute. Pour in the eggs, and stir with a wooden spoon until set.

Egg Casserole: Spray a square baking dish with cooking spray, and line with 4 slices of whole-wheat bread. In a bowl, beat 4 eggs with 1/2 cup fat-free milk. Pour the mixture over the bread, cover, and refrigerate overnight. Then, bake (covered) at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, and bake 5 minutes more.

Roanoke County Public Schools does not discriminate with regard to race, color, age national origin, sex, or handicapping condition in an educational and/or employment policy or practice. Questions and/or complaints should be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent of Administration/Title IX Coordinator at (540) 562-3900 ext. 10121 or the Director of Pupil Personnel Services/504 Coordinator at (540) 562-3900 ext. 10181.