

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF COMPLETED AND UPCOMING TOPICS IN EACH SUBJECT.

SOCIAL STUDIES (WAY):

In Social Studies class, students began the year by exploring primary and secondary sources and learning how historians use both to develop a deeper understanding of the past. From there, they transitioned into our largest unit of the year: Geography. Throughout this unit, students are exploring topics such as globes and hemispheres, latitude and longitude, types of maps, climates, time zones, regions, and human geography. Up next, students will travel back to the year 1500, investigating the world as it existed then and examining the key events and developments that set the stage for the exploration of the Americas.

SCIENCE (SMITH):

This month in science, we will be exploring three exciting topics:

1. Nature of Science – Students will learn about what science is, how scientists ask questions, make observations, and conduct experiments. We'll focus on understanding the scientific method and how evidence is used to explain the world around us.
2. Mapping – We will study different types of maps and how to read them. Students will learn about coordinates, elevation, and how maps help us understand Earth's surface, including topographical maps.
3. Meteorology – We'll dive into the study of weather and the force of nature. Students will explore weather patterns, tools used by meteorologists, and how forecasts are made. This topic will continue with atmosphere next month.

By the end of the month, students will have a better understanding of how scientists study our planet and the processes that shape our weather and environment. Bonus challenge was picking the Corn Moon. See REMIND for more information.

"The science of cartography is not an exact science but an art of representing reality."

— Gerardus Mercator, 16th-century cartographer

MATH 8 & ALGEBRA 1 (LUCAS):

Currently, in Math 8 & Algebra 1, we are learning about exponents and scientific notation. Students will be using their prior knowledge of exponents to develop an understanding of the properties of exponents and scientific notation. By having a solid understanding of these concepts, students will be better prepared to study more advanced mathematical material later in the school year.

- Previous: Last year, students learned how to apply properties of operations.
- Current: Powers and Exponents, Monomials, and Scientific Notation
- Next: Real Numbers

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (FRANKS):

In English Language Arts, students are continuing to brush up on some practical grammar and writing skills with practice in identifying parts of speech, proofreading errors, and completing their first constructed response paragraph. For reading, students are studying plot diagrams and have recently completed their test focusing on "Abuela Invents the Zero" by Judith Ortiz Cofer, a short story about a young girl and her complex relationship with her grandmother. Next, we will begin our notes on theme and allusion. In the near future, expect students to cover types of sentences, write more paragraphs, and read "The Veldt" by Ray Bradbury, a science fiction author who has written many well-known texts, including *Fahrenheit 451*.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (TOTH):

In Language Arts class, we are reading, discussing, and writing about some short stories and Scholastic Scope articles.

MATH (TOTH):

In Math class, we are learning Terms to Know and reviewing procedures with integers.

TABLE TALK

DITCH THE DINNER-TIME DRAMA, AND LET'S GET THOSE BRAINS BUZZING! "TABLE TALK" IS HERE TO RESCUE FAMILY DINNERS FROM THE DREADED, "WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?" WHICH WE KNOW ALWAYS RESULTS IN AN EYE ROLL AND TEENAGE-PITCHED, "NOTHING!"

• MS. WAY (SOCIAL STUDIES)

Keep the conversation going at home by asking: "What careers use latitude and longitude today?"

• MRS. FRANKS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS)

Ask your student to identify the conflict in their favorite TV show, movie, or book.

• MRS. LUCAS (MATH & ALGEBRA 1)

Ask your student, "How are exponents used in everyday life?"

• MR. SMITH (SCIENCE)

Ask your student, "What is the Autumnal Equinox, and what affect does it have on us?"

• MRS. TOTH (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & MATH)

Ask your student, "How are integers used in everyday life?"

Dream it! Plan it! DO IT!

ADVICE FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE TEAM!

• MS. WAY

About a week before each chapter test, students will receive a study guide to help them prepare. Completing the guide provides a helpful review and an opportunity to earn bonus points.

• MRS. FRANKS

Small assignments add up to big points. Do not neglect assignments just because "It's only a few points!"

• MRS. LUCAS

A planner is a great tool to have to help you keep track of assignments and upcoming tests.

• MR. SMITH

In science class, a 3-ring binder with 5 tabs is very important. Staying organized will help you succeed.

• MRS. TOTH

Be sure your student has their binders set up and organized. Twenty minutes a day, outside of class, spent on each class will make a positive impact on your grades.

SEPTEMBER

BMS - EIGHTH GRADE

NEWSLETTER

2026

THE BEARCAT AMBASSADOR



WYATT LINDLEY
POSITIVE ATTITUDE

LOOK AHEAD

- SEPTEMBER 7TH - NO SCHOOL
- SEPTEMBER 8TH - OPEN HOUSE, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 14TH - COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER KICKOFF
- SEPTEMBER 18TH - NO SCHOOL
- SEPTEMBER 22ND - RACHEL'S CHALLENGE ASSEMBLY
- SEPTEMBER 30TH - PBIS KICK OFF
- OCTOBER 5TH - 9TH - BOOK FAIR
- OCTOBER 7TH - 2-HOUR DELAY
- OCTOBER 13TH - PICTURE DAY

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO SHOW THAT YOU
HAVE REVIEWED THE NEWSLETTER!



STUDENTS CAN EARN TWO BONUS POINTS
TOWARD THEIR MATH IXL GRADE BY RETURNING
THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A GUARDIAN
SIGNATURE BY SEPTEMBER 11TH!

ENRICHMENT HIGHLIGHTS

BELOW IS AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT STUDENTS ARE LEARNING IN ENRICHMENT, A CLASS PERIOD DESIGNED FOR SUBJECT-SPECIFIC ENRICHMENT OR REMEDIATION.

ALGEBRA 1 ENRICHMENT: In Algebra 1, students will be learning all of the curriculum for both Math 8 and Algebra 1. While learning the Math 8 curriculum, students will be working together and on their own to complete higher-level application problems that involve real-world situations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ENRICHMENT: Enrichment time is a "Grammar Gym" in that students are completing reps and sets of grammar workouts to strengthen their skills. Some of our highlighted skills for Enrichment this month are identifying and defining parts of speech as well as focusing on how to organize writing in a clear and organized manner.

SOCIAL STUDIES ENRICHMENT:

We're off to a great start this year as students dive into our first unit, Citizenship and Participation! Students are exploring what it means to be a U.S. citizen and learning about the different ways a person can become a citizen. They are also discovering the difference between our rights as citizens and the responsibilities and duties we have to our communities.

To broaden their perspective, students will explore global citizenship by learning about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in other countries. Most importantly, they'll have the chance to put their learning into action through a community project. Each student will choose an issue that matters to them, research ways to address it, and create a plan for making a positive difference.

We're excited to see students grow as informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizens!

CONTACT INFORMATION

THE BEST TIME TO CONTACT AN EIGHTH
GRADE TEACHER IS BETWEEN
8:15 AM - 9:00 AM

- **MS. WAY (Social Studies)**
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- **MRS. FRANKS (English Language Arts)**
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- **MR. SMITH (Science)**
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