



Middle School Newsletter

August 19, 2019

Crown Pointe Academy

Volume 15 Number 1

Week of August 19, 2019

Monday, August 19:

Menu: Crispy Chicken Sandwich, Cheese Pizza, MS extra option: Pepperoni Pizza

Tuesday, August 20:

Menu: Beef Soft Tacos with salsa, Toasted Cheese Sandwich (GF), MS extra option: Meat Lovers Calzone

Wednesday, August 21:

Menu: Coconut Chicken Strips w/ Sweet Chile Sauce & orange rice, Mac and cheese w/ garlic bread, MS extra option: Bratwurst Sandwich w/ Caramelized onions

Thursday, August 22:

Menu: Chicken Potstickers w/ Fried Rice & Flatbread, Cheese Ravioli w/ garlic bread, MS extra option: Pork Green Chile Burrito

Friday, August 23:

Open Gym Grades 5-8, 3:45-5:00 w/permission slip

Menu: Hamburger or Cheeseburger w/ oven baked fries, Veggie Chili Cheese Fries w/tortilla

Saturday, August 24:

CPA Back to School Picnic 12-5pm

Science with Mrs. Roe
Marcia.roe@crownpointeacademy.org X504



Welcome back for the 2019-2020 school year. I am excited to see all that we can accomplish in science this year.

Today (8/19/19) we began the process of science fair. Paper guide books were sent home with commitment sheets/calendars. Topic proposals and Research Plans have been uploaded to Google Classroom. This is a great chance to choose a topic/question that will help them to learn at a deeper level something they will learn this year.

In addition to science fair, we will begin our first units:

6th Grade: Energy

7th: Chemistry

8th: Genetics

Tests will be announced one week in advance. It is my recommendation that each student study 10 minutes per day the notes or book work that we did each day.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Note: Conferences this year for fall semester are October 3rd and 4th, 2019. I will be out of town for a family commitment. While I am always available by email, in person conference times can be made by appointment and I will also have the following dates that I am in my classroom from 4pm-6pm : September 24th, September 26th, October 1st, October 8th, October 10th

Grades for science are weighted:

15% Homework and Practice

35% Unit Tests

25% Semester Projects (Science Fair-Fall, Grade Specific-Spring)

25% Interactive Notebook and Textbook Checks

Important Dates for Middle School Students!

Wednesday, September 11th: End of Grading Period for Progress Reports

Monday, September 16th: Progress Reports Sent Home

Thursday, September 26th: 8th Grade Ropes Course Field Trip

Friday, September 27th: Middle School Social Event

Thursday, October 3rd and Friday, October 4th: Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 11th: End of 1st Quarter

Thursday, October 17th-Monday, October 21st: No School— Fall Break

Tuesday, October 22nd: Report Cards Sent Home

Social Studies with Mrs. Hughes

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Welcome back to school! We had a great first week back - I hope your students agree. A couple reminders of things you can do to help your student be successful in middle school:

- Make sure they are eating breakfast and send them with a lunch/buy school lunch ("It's yummy this year!" That is from the students!) - empty stomachs and in turn low blood sugar affect concentration, memory, attitude, and performance. It is imperative that middle school students are eating a balanced diet.
- Check their planner or Google Classroom daily for all missing, current, and upcoming work. Almost everything they need for my class is available on Google Classroom.
- Make sure their pencil pouch stays stocked with the following: pencils, pens, colored pencils, highlighters, scissors, and tape.
- Get students in bed by 9:00pm on school nights. Studies prove that middle schoolers need almost as much sleep a toddler. This means 8-10 hours a night. Sleep affects all of the same things diet can. A student with poor sleep habits and a poor diet set up for failure.

For my class, it is really important that your student have a three (3) or (5) subject college ruled, spiral notebook. They should number the front of each page in the bottom right hand corner if they haven't already. They should not number the backs of pages. If they have not purchased this please make sure they do so this week as it will be harder to transfer things over the farther we get into the year. A single subject spiral notebook **WILL NOT** work for this year.

Magazines: We need magazines for class. We are looking for any of the following: Time, Sports Illustrated, National Geographic, Better Homes and Gardens, Good Housekeeping, Newsweek, Popular Mechanics, Life, Popular Science, or any other magazine that is more education based. Please have your student bring them to my classroom.

Google Classroom: Students need to make sure they have signed into GC and are able to see all the posts and assignments for each of their classes. If you would like to receive access to the parent notifications on Google Classroom (GC) you need to email me from the email that you would like to receive the information. In your email please state your request and who your student is and I will get you connected.

6th Grade: Unit 1: Origins - Chapter 2: Beginning of Civilization Students will be working on a packet that will help guide their reading through the chapter and then they will complete an activity to highlight important ideas from the chapter in their Interactive Notebooks (IN). This will be the basic structure for much of our course work. There will be small assessments along the way and there will be a larger unit test or project at the end of each unit. INs may be used for this assessment as well.

7th Grade: Unit 1: Origins - Chapter 1: Ancient Southwest Asia and Africa and Chapter 2: Ancient Egypt and Nubia Students will be working on a packet that will help guide their reading through the chapter and then they will complete an activity to highlight important ideas from the chapter in their Interactive Notebooks (IN). This will be the basic structure for much of our course work. There will be small assessments along the way and there will be a larger unit test or project at the end of each unit. INs may be used for this assessment as well.

8th Grade: Topic 1: The Early Americas and European Exploration Students will be working on a packet that will help guide their reading through the chapter and then they will complete an activity to highlight important ideas from the chapter in their Interactive Notebooks (IN). This will be the basic structure for much of our course work. There will be small assessments along the way and there will be a larger unit test or project at the end of each unit. INs may be used for this assessment as well.

National History Day

Our theme this year is *Breaking Barriers in History*. *More information will be coming.*

Weighted Grades

I do weight my grades for academic classes as follows:

- Major grades = 55%
- Tests, projects, presentations, community service and other major assignments
 - Minor grades = 45%
- Quizzes, homework, classwork, notes, participation, and other daily or minor assignments

This does make it so that you can't add up their total number of points and divide it by the total points possible and calculate a correct grade. Please email me if you have any questions.

6th and 7th Writing, 8th Literature with Mr. Scott

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This week in language arts:

6th Grade will be starting off by reading some short stories.

7th Grade will be reviewing grammar terms.

8th grade will be looking at "author's purpose" as it relates to short stories.

Please contact me if you have any questions! Have a great week!

SEL Lab and Electives with Mrs. Worley and Mrs. Southern

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SEL Lab:

"Research shows that IQ can help you be successful to the extent of only 20% in life. The remaining 80% depends on your EQ (Emotional Intelligence)." -Daniel Goleman

HAPPY 2019 - 2020! I am so excited about this coming year!

The SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Lab is a specially planned curriculum developed to help middle school students discover their own personal core qualities, values, and beliefs. They will dig deeper into understanding their emotions, thoughts, feelings, and perceptions. They will learn the fascinating science behind the emotions of love and fear and their effects on the brain and body. They will practice active listening, empowering communication, critical thinking, and creative problem solving. Most important, they are going to create and execute specific, personal goals and intentions that align with each student's core values.

This week we will begin working on Mindfulness and on intentional (mindful) breathing. Tuesday will be our first study hall day. Students will check their grades on Infinite Campus (IC), look for missing assignments, and do any class/homework they might have. All students should know how to log on to IC and their school gmail account as we worked on this in SEL this past week. Please have them email us if they have problems.

Communications

Hi, My name is Julie Southern. I will have half of your students in my class during this semester for electives and the other half in Jan, second semester, for International Towne. Please ask your students if they have communications this semester as their elective. I am excited to offer this course as I have a degree from Pepperdine University in the communications field. I am also working with Mrs. Roe and Mrs. Hughes with some cross-curricular planning and will be utilizing a bit of communications class time for Science Fair and National History Day.

I have provided a class syllabus to your student and that requires your signature. This is due Friday. I have provided your student with their google classroom numbers for Communications and I will check to see if the class has been added on Friday as well for a grade.

6th Grade Communications: I0bln5
7th Grade Communications: 29hhwbb
8th Grade Communications: seadgat

In electives, I utilize the google classroom a bit differently. I will use it as a resource for students to find assignments and links as needed throughout the class. I do not update it daily, and commonly just post at the start of each mini-unit plan.

6th and 7th Literature, 8th Writing with Ms. Laxton

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This week all three grades will be participating in Galileo testing for ELA.

6th grade will be reviewing literary terms and the plot points of a story using Sandra Cisneros' short story, "Eleven."

7th grade will be using Gary Soto's short story, "Seventh Grade" to review characterization techniques and inferencing.

8th grade will be reviewing informational writing strategies and effective word choice.

Math with Mrs. Davis and Mr. MacGregor

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Welcome back to school! Last week was great reconnecting with prior students, meeting new ones, and hearing about all of the wonderful things that went on this summer. Things are off to a great start and we are looking forward to another fantastic year.

We would like to reiterate some things that were mentioned at Back-to-School night that are important to keep in mind this year:

- You should expect your student to have math homework each night. Google Classroom is your best resource for checking for assignments and finding class notes. If you need assistance getting signed up with Google Classroom please let us know.
- This year we have decided to go with a pre-determined test schedule so students have advance notice of when they will take place. There will be two major Content Area tests per quarter, one approximately halfway through the quarter ("End of Grading Period") and the second being a comprehensive test at the end of each quarter. Our first test is on September 6th. Please note that there will be a handful of other "minor" tests (like math facts and computation assessments) that will be classified as Tests in Infinite Campus.
- At the end of each week we will have a quiz. Students may use their notes, textbooks, and homework on quizzes

Last week students completed their benchmark Galileo tests. This test helps us gauge student progress and guide instruction throughout the year. We will have one-on-one conferences with students to discuss their results and growth goals once their scores become available.

6th Grade - This week we begin our first unit, **The Number System**. We will explore different number sets to understand their similarities and differences. At-home reinforcement should include discussions about the different places we encounter negative numbers in real-life situations.

7th grade - This week we begin our first unit, **The Number System**. We will go in depth with operations on Rational Numbers, starting with adding and subtracting integers. For at-home reinforcement, real-life applications would be to have your student calculate various account balances if it starts negative and then a deposit is made, or if you make a purchase that is greater than your current balance.

8th grade - This week we will begin our first unit, **The Number System**. We will begin by reviewing 7th-grade concepts and then move to working with irrational numbers. For at-home reinforcement, ask your student when it would be necessary to use operations (add, subtract, multiply, divide) with rational numbers (negatives, fractions, decimals)

Community Service/Mrs. Hughes

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Community Service

Summer and first quarter hours are due October 3. Please turn them in as soon as possible if they are complete.

Community Service Grading

- 2.5 new hours each quarter in addition to the hours required the quarter before
- To receive a 100%, students should have a total of 2.5 hours at the end of 1st quarter, 5 hours at the end of 2nd quarter, 7.5 hours at the end of 3rd quarter, and 10 hours at the May 11th cutoff date for 4th quarter.
- Until the previous quarter's requirements are met no new credit will be given.
- Students will receive 20 points for each **completed** half hour of service in the quarterly requirement. Additional half hours are credited to the following quarter up to the 10 hour requirement. Once the 10 hour requirement is met the student will receive a 100% for that quarter and all following quarters.
- A log (available in Mrs. Hughes' room) must be completed for each month's service and turned in to Mrs. Hughes' room.
- Partial half hours will receive no credit. Hours turned in after the quarterly deadline will be counted toward the total in the next quarter.
- Students cannot receive any compensation for those hours
- Students cannot do the work for the house they live in - exceptions must be arranged through Mrs. Hughes
- Activities like babysitting only count if it is so the parent can complete some kind of service act (serving in a soup kitchen or leading a troop of some kind, etc.) - babysitting for a date night **does not** count