



February/March 2009 Newsletter

Principal's Letter

Dear KJHS Families:

We are having a great year at KJHS! The administrative team held "Going over the Rules" assemblies with all students in January to review behavioral expectations, so we can continue to have a successful year.

The KJHS staff spent the January 5 Institute Day afternoon involved in wellness activities and planning how to utilize the third quarter reading strategies across all curricular areas. The new strategies focus on reading comprehension: One Sentence Summary and Trio Talk. Our school wide focus continues to be raising students' literacy levels by focusing on reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and writing in all classrooms.

The middle school schedule may have a different "look" to it next year. The middle school and Unit Office administrators have been working to create a schedule that adds an additional language arts

class period in 7th and 8th grades, eliminates large study halls, and provides time for interventions for students who are not achieving at grade level. The new schedule must first be approved by the school board, but when it is finalized, we will be sharing that information with you. 7th graders were asked about their scheduling preferences in January in preparation for hiring and assigning teachers to class areas for the 2009-2010 school year.

Eighteen students from Kingsley Junior High School were invited to participate in the Youth Summit: The Power of a Promise, a unique leadership opportunity that was held on January 19, 2009, at the Doubletree Hotel. The summit was presented by the Achievement Matters Task Force, State Farm® and America's Promise Alliance in cooperation with McLean County Unit 5 and District #87 schools. The summit launched a youth mentoring opportunity for junior and senior high students who will engage in a semester of service to focus on filling gaps they

identified. Through service-learning methodologies and with the support of adult mentors, students will apply classroom learning to research and plan and implement projects which will be part of a community-wide celebration of Global Youth Service Day in April. The youth summit is an example of how schools and community work together to support the development of young people and to strengthen their communities. Thank you to the students who are representing KJHS!

KJHS was selected to participate in the "Fuel Up to Play" program sponsored by the NFL and the National Dairy Council. Mrs. Cole, our school nurse, and I are heading up this project. All students participated in a survey in PE class last semester about their eating habits and physical activity. Student council representatives are working with me to plan one healthy eating program and one physical activity program for our entire school to get students involved in making healthy decisions in their food choices and to encourage them to participate in physical activity every day. As we complete different components of "Fuel up to Play," our school will receive funds to keep these

programs going. Stay tuned for further information.

Thank you for your continued support of your students! Please help us by monitoring homework completion and communicating regularly with classroom teachers on your child's academic progress. Academic achievement will be enhanced if we all work together in a collaborative fashion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lynette Mehall, Principal

ISAT Testing

State testing will take place March 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 from 8:35-11:05 a.m. Please try to schedule appointments at other times and be sure that your child is in attendance and prepared to do the best job he/she can. Sixth and eighth graders will be tested in reading, math, and writing. Seventh grade students will be assessed in reading, math, and science. The information from these tests will help us to plan future instruction.

Upcoming Activity Nights

KJHS Activity Nights will be held in February on the following dates: 7th and 8th Grade Activity Night will be on Friday, February 13, and

6th Grade Activity Night will be held February 27. All Activity Nights are 6:30-8:30 p.m. Students must be picked up promptly afterwards (within 15 minutes) or they will be unable to attend the next Activity Night. Cell phones will be locked up in room 122 during the event. Students must arrive on time and stay for the entire evening. Please remember that students must be in attendance the entire school day to attend an after school event!

From the Counseling Office

Mrs. Linda Shipman-(A to K)

Mr. Tim Penhollow (L-Z)

Mrs. Lori Schroeder is our
Administrative Assistant-(888-
6910)

CHANGE in contact information-
Please contact (parent contact) Mrs. Schroeder if you need to change contact information (phone, address, family status). The post office will not forward letters and report cards, and the School Reach Calling System must have current working phone numbers. She is also the contact for Skyward access codes. Skyward passwords can be changed by anyone with the password, so passwords must be given to the PARENT/GUARDIAN.

We need parents to verify when a student is dropping. Please contact her by phone so that your child can be ready to enroll at his/her new school. Students must turn in books, clean out their lockers, pay outstanding fees, and have their teachers give a check-out grade to drop from KJHS

Counselors are responsible for scheduling, registration, and short term social emotional needs. If you are concerned about your child, the teacher should be your first contact. You can reach them by phone, email, or standard mail. The teacher can set up an appointment if more help is needed. We can attend those meetings, too, as needed.

Registration- 8th grade registration for high school is finished as of Feb 1. Please call your child's counselor for changes or to develop an optional 4-year plan, even if it is past that date. We hope that the Freshman Schedule Builder was helpful. We are working on a similar tool to help students and parents understand the 4-year plan.

Intern, Mr. Dan Diambri, is working in the counseling as a counseling intern two and a half days a week. He was able to take our wish list

for registration and turn it in to a website (Freshman Schedule Builder). He has been a great help in all of our assigned duties. Dan will continue his work here until April 30.



7th grade Spanish:

The students have been learning to discuss their family these past few weeks. We will be wrapping up the lesson with an alternative assessment in which the students will be presenting information on their family members. The next lesson, Unidad 2 Etapa 1, focuses on school. The students will learn to conjugate verbs ending in "-ar" and to discuss what school supplies are needed as well as what activities one must do to be a successful student.



8th grade Spanish:

The students completed an alternative assessment in which they wrote a paragraph about an athlete and presented that athlete to the class. The students did very well! Your child should be able to tell you about his/her favorite athlete in Spanish. The next lesson, Unidad 3 Etapa 1, focuses on weather and

seasons. In this lesson the students will learn "tener" expressions and direct object pronouns as well as vocabulary to describe the articles of clothing that are necessary for certain weather conditions. (By the way, the season right now is "el invierno," and the weather can be described as "hace mucho frío" Brrr!).

German Classes

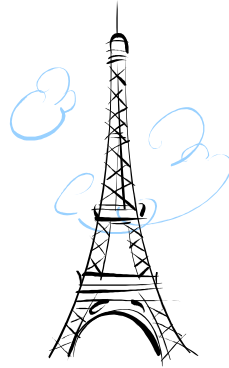


The 7th grade German students are now able to use the present tense of verbs to describe their hobbies and leisure-time activities, along with a variety of time expressions. They are doing very well, and we especially appreciate their enthusiasm for learning. In the 3rd quarter, 7th grade German students will learn how to describe where they live. They are learning the vocabulary for family members and how to describe people. They will also learn how to offer and accept refreshments. After acquiring the vocabulary for rooms and furniture, each student will design his or her "dream house."

The 8th grade German students are ready to dine in a German restaurant! They have learned the vocabulary and structures they need for ordering from a traditional German menu. They've done very nice work in small group skits. In the 3rd quarter, 8th grade German students will explore the city of München. They will describe their household chores and the frequency of those chores. I'll ask them to do some chores at home, so please feel free to make a nice list for your student! They will learn how to ask for and offer help and make basic commands. Soon we will learn how to discuss the weather. In class we will view authentic German weather broadcasts.

All 7th and 8th grade German students are welcome to join German Club at any time. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11 from 3:45-5:00 p.m.

Frau Henry
Frau Ludena



7th grade French

The 7th grade students have just finished the first section of their book. In this section, they learned basic phrases for

everyday conversation. We are concluding this by working in groups to create a menu and a skit at a café. We will then begin the second part of our book which incorporates more complex grammar lessons. We will study subject pronouns and verb conjugations with other grammar slowly added. This can be difficult for the students if they are not in the habit of reviewing their French every day. The on-line book and the take-home tutor are great resources for reviewing! I encourage you to check to see that they are practicing daily, to look over homework and to check on grades. This is the point where grades can begin to drop. Students are always welcome and encouraged to seek additional help!

8th grade French

Les élèves sont fantastiques! The 8th grade French students do great work and it is a lot of fun to teach them. In February we will add to our previous family vocabulary and

learn how to show possession. We will then spend some time enriching our vocabulary and improving our reading skills by reading some cultural material in French! Next we will learn lots of clothing vocabulary and do a fun project to choose and describe what people are wearing. We will then learn stem-changing verbs and more articles. There is a conjugating website that we used in class that students can also use free at home. It is www.conjuguemos.com and provides an interesting way to practice verb forms.



Team 6-1

As we welcome the New Year, Team 6-1 will be introducing some new subject matter. In math students will be learning about fractions, integers, probability, and geometry. Social Studies classes will be moving from Egypt into China, India, and camping a while in Greece. Science students will be finishing up chemical reactions and move on to acids, bases, and solutions before delving into forces and motion. We have a new and exciting egg car project to wrap up the unit! In language arts, we will be working with narrative and persuasive writings as well as independent reading, poetry, and categorizing genres.

We also would like to make parents aware that information will be coming home about various activities and requests this quarter. Please ask your student on a weekly basis or check the Team 6-1 website as we post all of the information on here as well. As ISAT testing nears, we will ask for snack donations as well as send home information about our 6th grade trip.

The Habaneros, "Can't Get Any Hotter" has survived the Illinois and U.S. Constitution!!

Now they are getting ready for the ISATs. Keep up the good work!!

In language arts the 7th graders are reading for Brickyard, writing persuasive papers on *The Giver*, and reading stories in our anthology to prepare for *Lupita Mañana*. The 8th graders are reading for INDY, reading *Daniel's Story*, and studying World War II. This is a joint project with the 8th graders at Chiddix. They are also preparing for the reading and writing portions of the ISAT. Writing extended responses are totally fun!

In science the 7th graders are starting bacteria, protists,

fungi, and viruses (ew!) and are moving on to biomes and ecology - going green baby! We will be getting into dissections and specimen observations. We are also getting ready for the ISAT as well. The 8th graders are currently studying volcanoes which ties in with a previous Earth shaking topic, plate tectonics. The next unit of study will be on weather. At the end of January, 8th graders will start an Earth Science Expo project that will be presented to KJHS 7th graders at the end of February.

In math, geometry is making everyone go in circles! Both grade levels are getting ready for the ISAT by writing extended responses, practicing using the calculator, and becoming experts on using formulas like $e=mc^2$ just like Albert Einstein! No really, the formulas we are working on are area, volume, surface area, and perimeter.

In PE, what else can we say? PE is fun everyday!

In ESL students are soaring through the sky and planting gardens. Advanced ESL is reading an excerpt from a biography on *Rosa Parks* by Andrea Davis Pinkney. This will lead into

biography writing. Students will write about their heroes or someone they admire. Beginning ESL is reading excerpts from *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. In both classes the students are focusing on vocabulary and reading strategies to help them prepare for ACCESS ELL and ISAT. ACCESS ELL is right around the corner. We will be testing the weeks of January 12th-January 23rd. Please continue to monitor your students reading. Students are still reading for ESL Top Readers. Basic ESL is required to read 200 pages, Beginning ESL is required to read 250 pages, Intermediate is required to read 300 pages, and Advanced ESL is required to read 400 pages. Each level also completes 2 story maps per quarter.

In social studies the 8th graders survived the Illinois Constitution and are now moving on to studying the Great Depression and World War II. Don't worry; they won't be too depressed because they will be creating their own 1950's commercials - during the decade of Rock n' Roll. The 7th graders made it through the U.S. Constitution with flying colors! Now we are moving west with Lewis and Clark and the rest of the

brave pioneers. Oregon or Bust Baby!!!

The Cyclone Team twisted into the New Year. The following topics are in our path:

Language Arts - Work Study creatures, nonfiction text, writing, and Wolf continues.

Math - algebra and geometry

Science - Chemistry

Social Studies - Ancient China and Ancient Greece

ESL - plays, speeches, reading strategies

IMC NEWS

Mark your calendars for the Barnes and Noble Book Fair Saturday March 7th. We are very excited and hope many families join us for a fun filled day of activities and performances. If you are interested in helping please let Beth Ann know bambam2621@comcast.net we will need volunteers to help run games and greeting tables as well as other activities. Watch your student's backpack for flyers and vouchers with more information. Spread the word to friends and family. Not sure how a Barnes and Noble Book Fair works...shop on the 7th of March and tell the cashier to apply the purchase to the

Kingsley Book Fair or present a voucher to the cashier. At the end of the day they will run the register receipts and any flagged as book fair will be totaled. The IMC will receive a percentage of the total in gift cards to be used at Barnes and Noble. These gift cards are used to purchase new books for the library during the time when district funds are not available.

NURSE NOTES:

NEW CHANGE IN BOARD POLICY:

1ST DAY EXCLUSION for Kindergarten, 6th, 9th, & new students.

In November, the Unit 5 Board of Education adopted a change in the policy that deals with the exclusion date for physicals and immunizations. In the past, October 15th of each school year was used as the deadline for parents to turn in state required physicals and immunizations.

Starting in the fall of 2009, a physical examination (completed within 1 year prior to entry) as well as a current & complete immunization record must be turned in with registration papers in order to attend school.

Unfortunately, appointment cards will NOT be accepted.

This is a change from previous years, so please be prepared. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming newsletters!

If you have any questions regarding the new policy, please feel free to give me a call at 888-6908. Thank you! ☺

Kelly Cole - KJHS School Nurse

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------|---|--------------------|--|
| Feb. 2 | 5:00 p.m. Wrestling vs. Morton/Tremont | Feb. 18 | 5:00 p.m. Wrestling vs. Mattoon/Mt. Zion |
| Feb. 3 | 4:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. Olympia | Feb. 19 | 8 4A Basketball Tournament |
| Feb. 4 | 6:00 p.m. Boys' 7 th Basketball Sectionals | Feb. 23 | 5:00 p.m. Wrestling vs. CJHS |
| Feb. 5 | 4:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. Pontiac | Feb. 24 | 4:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. Mt. Pulaski |
| Feb. 9 | 5:00 p.m. Wrestling vs. Clinton/Edison | Feb. 26 | 4:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. PJHS |
| Feb. 10 | 7:00 p.m. PTO in IMC | Feb. 27 | 6:30 p.m. 6 th Grade Activity Night |
| Feb. 12 | 4:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. Champaign Jefferson | March 2 | 7:00 Unit Band Concert |
| Feb. 13 | 7:00 p.m. 7 th /8 th Grade Activity Night | March 2-6 | 8:35 - 11:05 ISAT Testing |
| Feb. 14 | 8 4A State Basketball Tournament | March 10 | 7:00 p.m. PTO in IMC |
| Feb. 17 | 4:30 p.m. Volleyball vs. CJHS | March 13 | 8:00 - 4:00 Dental Clinic |
| | | March 23 - 27 | SPRING BREAK |
| | | March 30 - April 1 | Cheerleading Try-Outs for 2009-2010 |