

Johnson Journal

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Cardinal Community Academy Middle School

Special points of interest:

The 8th grade students will be selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts this week! Orders are available for pick up on Thursday, order forms are due on Tuesday. Friday morning we will be selling them individually for breakfast. If your child is signed up to serve, please make sure they are there!

8th Grade Spelling List

Planet

Dangerous

Event

Leader

Peace

Mismatched

Democracy

Fought

Opposite

Friends

Capitol

Colonel

Committee

Science

Our physics unit is nearing an end as the students receive their last new information– the usage of simple machines. We depend on machines daily in our lives, but how do they exactly work? The students will learn about how this machines make work easier on us.

The students will continue with their Albert Einstein project by completing formal outlines on the computer. Their next

step will be to create a story book on his life, that they can read to elementary students. We have decided to create these on the computer using Microsoft software. I am excited to see the students put these together!

Another project that has begun is science fair. I am really impressed with the project ideas the students have come up with!! I will be taking with students individually this

week to finalize their plans. Parent booklets will be sent home at the end of the week, giving you all the details you will need for the science fair project.

Homework this week:

Due Wed– Pressure and Work Worksheet

Due next Wed– Study Guide, Part 2

Core

We have finally reached a point in CORE where review will be dissipating, and more new material will be introduced. For the last week we have been learning about direct objects, subordinate clauses, and the compound-complex sentence. This knowledge will aide the students in the sentence fluency of their writing. This week our focus will be on the many uses of verb and verb phrases. The students will be introduced to the perfect tenses; not as concrete as the simple. Perfect present, perfect past, and

perfect future will begin to be regular terms in their vocabulary.

For writing this week the students will continue working on their Parallel Journey papers. We will edit it them and discuss the STAR method of revising (substitute, take out, add, rearrange). We will also be introducing a new form of expository writing, reviews. Using doughnuts, the students will be writing review paragraphs describing their doughnut and whether they would recommend it for future eaters. This assignment will

challenge the students to use descriptive words, as well as using powerful phrases to grab their reader's attention. Not only that, but they will enjoy eating the doughnuts. :)

Homework this week:

Due Friday: Core Packet 7

Due Friday: Final Papers

Essential Question:
How have scientists throughout history positively or negatively impacted the environment?

Science

The students will be finishing up their unit on Plate Tectonics this week! On Tuesday we will review for their test by playing Jeopardy. I have emphasized with the students that they must study for this test if they want to do well. Please assist your child with this task. Studying is still an abstract idea to middle school students and they can use all the help at home you can provide. Their test on Plate Tectonics will be on Thursday this week.

I will be gradually introducing some new content when we have time this week. Their next unit will be on

oceans. A lot of this unit ties directly with Plate Tectonics, so we will be discussing that new information this week; such as how the ocean floor formed and what structures it contains.

Homework this week:

Due Tuesday: Study Guide

Due Thursday: Study for Test!

Science Fair

We are finally in the process of selecting science fair projects! All of the students turned in science fair ideas last week. I have reviewed them and selected 8 to share with the students. These are the projects that I feel will be most interesting and efficient for the students to do. They are also newer ideas, rather than projects that are done all the time.

From the eight we discuss, five will be selected. The students will be put into five

groups, based on their interest in the top five project ideas. I am really hoping to have groups determined by Tuesday next week. Please keep an eye out for the Parent Booklets! These will be sent home so you can have as much information as you need on science fair.

Science

Our first unit of the year will be successfully completed! On Wednesday the students will be taking a test on their first unit, The History of Earth and Life Forms. Based on our review last week, the students really need to study and review this material. They are very good at orally explaining the information, but struggle when they are asked to put it on paper. Please assist the students will studying on Tuesday night. Studying is still abstract for middle school students; they need all the help we can provide them to effectively complete this task. All students

have a study guide and notes to use when they study.

On Friday we will be beginning our new unit on the Nervous System! This is always a fun unit to do with seventh graders. We discuss the parts of our brain and what behaviors they control. We will explore the topic of memory and what we can do to help our brains with collecting and storing information.

Homework this week:

Due Wed: Study for Test!

Essential Question:
How have scientists throughout history positively or negatively impacted the environment?

Science Fair

Science fair topics! We are finally ready to start pairing the students up for their science fair projects. I have preliminary pairs made up right now and will be checking with you to make sure it can work. This task is never easy for me to complete so please don't be too picky over who your child is paired up with. :) As long as you feel comfortable with the other student's family and your child work-

ing with them outside of school hours, we will be fine. If you are not comfortable with your child's partner, I need to know ASAP! I want all partners finalized by the end of this week.

Please keep an eye out for the Parent Booklets on science fair. These will have all the information you will need on your child's project.