

Team 8-1 Update

Language Arts: In Language Arts class, we will be beginning the research paper. Students will be choosing an American president. Classes will then be reviewing the research process (note cards, bibliography, etc.) and putting the paper together piece by piece. The bulk of the work for this project will be completed in class. I will be monitoring the students' progress as they work through the research process. A list of due dates, requirements, and guidelines will be sent home with all students in the upcoming week.

Mathematics: Currently in mathematics, the Pre-Algebra classes are working on proportions. On Thursday, January 28th, the students put their knowledge to the test in a team wide interdisciplinary unit. In teams the students had to create scale drawings of bridges. They then had to work together to construct the bridges they designed in their blueprints. It was a fun afternoon of teamwork! This December the Algebra class was introduced to polynomials. They are currently building on their prior knowledge of the topic by working to multiply polynomial fractions.

Reading: In January the students have been reading *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. They have enjoyed this wonderful drama about the Salem witch trials because they get to learn about history through this fictional account. This play is also an allegory for the House Un-American Activities Committee of the 1950's, which Miller clearly saw as a "witch hunt." As students of drama, however, what is of most interest to us is the fact that the play is still so popular, long after the political content that inspired it has faded. Students have worked on many activities where they identify and discuss the major themes of justice and injustice, including a trial simulation project where they act as the defense for one of the accused characters in the story. They also completed a character analysis for many of the main characters, as well as discussing the features that characterize the Puritan society and its thinking.



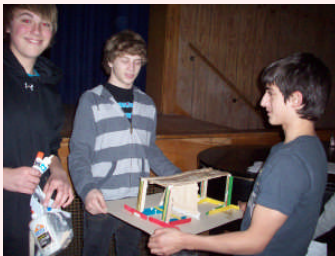
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Science: At the start of January in science, the students submitted their 9 square projects. Every student completed an advertisement for his or her assigned element. The results of their work were displayed in our hallway in the shape of the periodic table.

The rest of January and into February we have been working on various topics dealing with elements, compounds, and mixtures. We have been studying atoms, molecules, the periodic table, and chemical reactions.

We're even tried balancing chemical equations. For our final grade of the 2nd marking period we incorporated more technology into our classroom by using the personal response clickers to take a quiz.

Every student was given a remote control and by "clicking" their answer to questions in a PowerPoint game displayed on the classroom's Smart board the computer calculated their grade and the students could see how they scored right at the end of the quiz.



On Thursday, January 28th the students took part in a team wide interdisciplinary unit focusing on the Renaissance. The bridge building project they started in mathematics class will also be counted as a science grade for the third marking period.

Social Studies: Team 8-1 students over the last month and a half have completed their study of The Cultures and Kingdoms of West Africa. The students dove deep into the topics of African Geography, Early Societies in West Africa, and Ghana: A West African Trading Empire. Currently the students are working on the next unit after Africa, Imperial China. The topics that fall under this unit are, The Political Development of Imperial China, Chinese Discoveries and Inventions, and China's Contacts with the Outside World. This Wednesday team 8-1 students will be presented with a poster project comparing medieval Chinese inventions with modern inventions in the topics of Exploration and Travel, Industry, Military Technology, Everyday Objects, and Disease Prevention. Finally, February is Black History month. In the second week of February we will take time to remember and learn about important persons and events.

