

Language Arts: Language arts classes are working through the persuasive writing unit. We have just finished the persuasive introduction, in which we worked on and discussed different/catchy ways to begin the essay. Effective thesis statements were produced and strong arguments were built. All my classes are now working on persuasion through the use of propaganda. Students will be working in groups no larger than four to produce an effective, persuasive advertisement for a unique product. Their advertisements must include at least two types of propaganda, which we have been discussing in class. Advertisements will be presented the week of November 16th.

Mathematics: During the month of October, Pre-Algebra finished up Chapter 3 in their textbook. This chapter covered solving multi-step equations and inequalities. This month, we are moving into Chapter 4 which will cover factoring numbers, monomials, and polynomials. Our first marking period benchmark is scheduled for Friday, November 13th.



Algebra also finished Chapter 3 in October. We discussed the importance of charts and how they can help organize a word problem so that it is easier to solve. We also transformed (simplified) multi-step equations. In November, we will be moving into Chapter 4 which begins with a review of exponents and then moves into adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing polynomials.

Students will continue to receive homework four nights a week, and I anticipate at least two quizzes and one chapter test this month in both Pre-Algebra and Algebra.

Reading: This month, the students entered the tragic world of the “star-crossed lovers”: *Romeo and Juliet*. We began the study of the play through two mini documentaries, Understanding Tragedy and Understanding Romeo and Juliet. This provided the students with a strong foundation for the story. I provided each student with an activity packet that contains a character list, vocabulary list, and plot analysis. The students are exploring the universal themes of love and chance and fate.

Team 8-1 Update

During our class activities, the students are garnering pertinent reading skills that will help them during the NJ ASK: The students paraphrased the Prologue to Act 1 in modern English. They used character journals to understand characterization. The students listed six instances of personification from Friar Laurence's speech, and then they created their own instances of personification. To strengthen public speaking skills, the students dramatized their favorite scene from *Romeo and Juliet*.

Science: October was a busy month in science class for Team 8-1.

We just completed chapter 2 which focused on physical and chemical changes and properties. We completed many lab and class activities relating to this topic. One of our most fun days was our Halloween lab in which we caused a chemical reaction to create slime! In class we also performed a lab that clearly showed how a chemical change effects the properties of a substance by producing a reaction of sulfur and iron that eliminated the property of magnetism in the iron. We also used a few physical properties to create works



Randy using the hood

of art. The students used density and solubility to effect paint and markers and create artistic projects. We are planning on displaying our art work at the PTA Reflection Showcase later in the year. In November we will be beginning a

chapter that deals mainly with states of matter.

Social Studies: During the last month of Social Studies we have explored the later stages of feudalism in Western Medieval Europe.

As a class we have looked at the role of the church in medieval Europe, life in medieval towns, and the decline of feudalism. In this month ahead we will be diving into the Byzantine



Empire and starting out study of the rise of Islam. On a side note: I will be staying late every Thursday (3:30 pm) for the remainder of the school year, so that students may stay at school to work on school work with a teacher. Students staying late to work on Thursdays will be able to take the late bus



Per. 8 working on a science experiment

EMS provides.