

Piqua Junior High School

Quarterly Parent Newsletter

Mr. Jeff Clark, Principal and Mr. Chad Albers, Asst. Principal

7th Grade Classroom Updates

Seventh grade science students have continued to work through some challenging and exciting topics during the second quarter of the 2021-22 school year! We began the quarter finishing our unit on the Periodic Table of Elements and worked on energy and electricity. Students could utilize the Periodic Table of Elements, identify parallel and series circuits, as well as demonstrate various energy transformations with our school SNAP circuit kits. Then we moved into a unit over the atmosphere. Students learned how the different layers of the atmosphere change with both temperature and pressure as you move higher into our atmosphere all the way up to the exosphere. In addition, we performed a lab to practice our measurement skills with graduated cylinders that resulted in making the visible light spectrum. Overall, it has been a very successful quarter. We are excited for the transition into the third quarter where we will finish the atmosphere and start on the moon and water units.

The seventh grade ELA students have successfully completed explanatory essays and the play "A Christmas Carol" to wrap up the second quarter. As the class continues to discuss what can cause a significant change in someone's life, the students are reading stories like "Thank you Ma'am," where a chance encounter leads a boy to better life choices, and "The End of Jimmy Valentine," where a thief must choose between his criminal ways and a new-found love. As the third quarter starts, students will also be writing a timed explanatory essay and starting argumentative essays soon after that. In addition to the writing, students are reading novels independently and improving their comprehension skills with Read Theory, a program that gives them short reading selections and comprehension and analysis questions.

During the second quarter students in Mr. Scott's Social Studies class learned a great deal about Ancient Rome. They learned how Rome began and how it grew, and they learned of its eventual decline. Students in Mr. Scott's class had the opportunity to construct their own working replica of an Ancient Roman aqueduct for a class project, as well. Moving forward into the third quarter, Mr. Scott's students will learn of the origins and growth of Christianity and Islam and how this growth shaped the foundations of the Crusades in the Middle Ages. Mr. Johnson's Social Studies students recently wrapped up their exploration of ancient Africa. They learned about the lucrative salt and gold trade, as well as the ancient city of Timbuktu. The students are now learning about world religions. They will research their origins, how they spread, and how they have impacted the world.

8th Grade Classroom Updates

Eighth grade science started the second quarter with our study of Earth Science. Students explored why substances stay separate through the Layered Liquid Lab and then were able to use this lab to create their own planet to demonstrate their understanding why we have layers in the Earth's interior. After researching key aspects of the mechanical and compositional layers, students created oobleck representing our semisolid material of the asthenosphere. Classes then used the convection current lab to further explore the concepts of density and movement of material within the Earth.

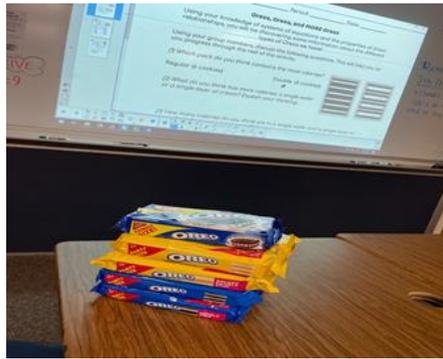
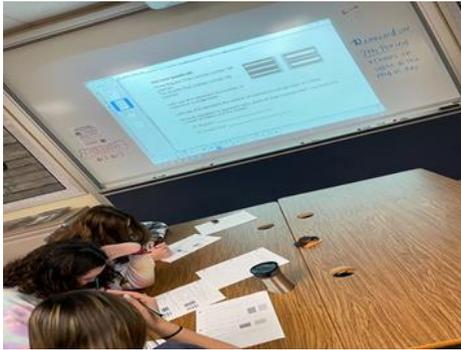
Next, we studied the Theory of Continental Drift and Seafloor Spreading. From readings to a puzzle and discussions, students were able to connect the changes occurring with the Earth's crust. Finally, classes were engaged in the snack tectonic lab. Graham crackers, fruit roll ups, and frosting demonstrated the movement of tectonic plates and geographic features at various plate boundaries. We will continue our journey studying Earth science into the third quarter of this school year.

During much of the second quarter, Math 8 students learned how to solve equations with one variable including equations with variables on both sides. In addition, students explored types of solutions in equations by interpreting key properties and structure. Students worked hard during this unit, utilizing a variety of tools and activities to aid in their understanding. In the third quarter, students will be studying transformations. They will learn how to translate, reflect, rotate, and dilate figures on the coordinate plane. Students will have the opportunity to utilize their creative side by designing tessellations and completing a reflection project. After transformations, students will be studying angle relationships and the Pythagorean Theorem.



The Algebra class started the second quarter by finishing a unit on systems of equations, as well as studying inequalities. They learned to use the Desmos graphing calculator to solve these systems by graphing, substitution, and elimination. Students were able to complete an activity with Oreos during this unit, which allowed them to apply their understanding of systems of equations while figuring out the amount of calories in each cookie and the cream. Many students were surprised their predictions were wrong, as their math calculations proved that

each cookie contains more calories than the cream! Students have started their unit on data and statistics, which will carry over into the third quarter. The focus of the unit will be interpreting and creating data distributions such as box-plots, stem-and-leaf plots, and dot plots. This will lead students into their group projects, where they will collect and analyze their own data from all of the algebra classes and create a presentation about their findings. Students will finish the quarter with more statistical analysis work.



During the second quarter, ELA students learned about the different ways one can be intelligent. Students were able to write an informational essay centered around the topic of human intelligence. In addition, students have also been learning about dystopian literature and were able to read either *The Maze Runner*, *The Giver*, *Divergent*, *The City of Ember*, or *Ender's Game*. Each week, students would read their book and connect those pages to a weekly theme within a literature circle. At the end, they were able to create a dystopian society of their own. As students head into third quarter, they will start learning about The Holocaust. Recently, students had the opportunity to read a play version of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Students will also start to read their next novel, *Refugee* or another Holocaust related novel. In this unit, students will prepare to write an argumentative essay. Throughout this quarter, many of the assignments will be geared towards preparation for the AIR test that they will take in early April.

As always, we want to remind parents and students of the importance of coming to school and getting here on time. If your child does need to miss a day of school, they should check Google Classroom for the assignments they've missed. Progress Book is also a great resource to see assignments your child may be missing.

We're looking forward to the start of a new quarter. Please feel free to reach out at any time.

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During the second quarter, social studies students on the Mohican Team have been taking an in-depth look at both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. In between those documents, we learned about the struggles the American colonists went through during the American Revolution. We explored why a change was needed from the first plan for a national government, the Articles of Confederation. We studied the seven principles of the Constitution, how this document affects us on a daily basis, and the importance of the elastic clause and the ability to amend this plan.

Third quarter, we will delve into the early challenges to the Constitution and precedents set by our first presidents. We will see the thirteen original states expand into many more through the 1840s. This will take us to the doorsteps of the U.S. Civil War.

During the 2nd quarter of Mr. Smith's American History we focused on four main topics/areas of study. These include the events that lead to the American Revolution, the impact of the Revolutionary War, Government under the Articles of Confederation and the American Constitution/Bill of Rights.

Students examined the following essential questions:

- How did the ideas of Enlightenment impact colonist's beliefs/ideas on human rights and the role of government?
- Why did Colonists risk their lives to fight for independence from Great Britain?
- How did the Declaration of Independence justify rejecting the British government?
- How did the United States win the American Revolutionary War?
- What were the outcomes of the American Revolutionary War?
- How well did the Articles of Confederation address the needs of a new nation?
- How did the founders limit the power of the first American government?
- How does the Constitution reflect major principles of American democracy?

During the third quarter students will investigate the Early Presidents and the War of 1812, Westward Expansion, Urbanization and Industrialization.

As the 7th and 8th grade choirs transition from Winter concert music to Spring concert music, students are excitedly preparing new songs. In addition to a pop song that each class voted to sing, students will be working on foreign language pieces, spirituals, and folk music in the Spring. The concert will take place on May 15th at 2 p.m. Rehearsals for the Junior High musical, *Legally Blonde, Jr.*, are also starting in February. Performances will take place on May 5th and 6th. We look forward to showcasing all of our hard work!

2nd Quarter Perfect Attendance

7th Grade

Katelyn Deweese, Zayd Elqadah, Logan Fletcher, Elijah Hasselbeck, Kennedy Parshall, Chase Perreira, Gunnar Swartz, Sarah Weiser, Brogan Wion

8th Grade

Enzo Alexander, Lukah Branam, Adriana Emery, Raegan Heitkamp, Carrie Schroer, Elijah Watkins, Ian Wessel, Lilliana Willcox, Austin Wiltheiss

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Seventh graders Aiden Cavey, Katelyn DeWeese, Megan Hull, Xaedyn Lynn, Chase Perreira, Alexa Wyrick, Noah Crosson, Ella Snyder, Noah Woods and Noah Behm were selected as the PJHS October Students of the Month. Gianna James, Audreinah Sims, Kaitlyn Szachta, Eli Watkins, Ryan Earick, Josie, Jack McMaken, McKenna Watson, and Kaitlyn Schlosser were the eighth graders selected for this honor.

November seventh grade students of the month were Sarah Weiser, Quintin Haney, Lainey Smay, Brady Weiss, Treasure Higgins, Logan Mertz, Preston McMaken, Ibtihaj Suleiman, Braelynn Langston, and Jaydon Ramirez. Grace Harshbarger, Andon Laughman, David Thompson, Megan Trainer, Jacey Hepner, Garrett Katz, Isabella McGraw, Karl Mercer and Enzo Alexander were the eighth graders chosen.

Seventh graders Holden Hildebrand, Elayna Kew, Lance Lawson, Taylan Swartz, Maggie Mantooth, Chase Pettus, Owen Snyder, Kendall Soto, and Austin Curtis were selected as the PJHS December Students of the Month. Raegan Heitkamp, Evian Rojas, Robbie Taylor, Brynna Watkins, Audrey Applegate, Kalel Moreaux, Renner Phillipps, Giana Taborn, Isaac DelBosque, and Bethany Henry were the eighth graders selected for this honor.



October



November



December

Honor Roll

Seventh Grade Honor Roll: (3.75—4.0 GPA) Presley Arzola, Kathryn Beasley, Aiden Bryant, Brooke Buecker, Kaitlyn Byron, Maliyah Chambers, Samantha Clark, Ethan Cox, Noah DeMarcus, Katelyn DeWeese, Zayd Elqadah, Elijah Hasselbeck, Molly Hemmert, Treasure Higgins, Holden Hildebrand, Kaylie Hittle, Ryder Holtvogt, Kaesen Hughes, Megan Hull, Dominic Johnston, Quinten Karabinis, Sofia Kemmer, Elayna Kew, Skylar Kinney, Braelynn Langston, Brayden Langston, Rylan Larsh, Lance Lawson, Alexis Lee, Lorelai Manson, Preston McMaken, Logan Mertz, Lucille Neal, Campbell O'Neal, Kennedy Parshall, Kira Parshall, Adelle Perry, Owen Peterson, Chase Pettus, Liberty Price, Rachel Price, Jaydon Ramirez, Malaikhii Rees, Julianne Robbins, Haylie Schultz, Aiden Schwable, Arabelle Simmons, Elaine Smay, Ella Snyder, Owen Snyder, Kendall Soto, Bryce Streib, Liberti Tipps, Isabelle Vincent, Lillyan Wackler, Gage Walling, Dylan Weatherly, Sarah Weiser, Brady Weiss, Emily Weldon, Rylee Weldon, and Alexa Wyrick

Seventh Grade Honorable Mention: (3.5—3.749 GPA) Nevaeh Berry, Jackson Bowman, Joey Burroughs, Aiden Coppock, Blake Covault, Adriana Deal, Daulton Funderburg, Makenize Greene, Macy Hall, Olivia Hanson, Vivian Hulme, Andrew Maddox, Alexander Martin, Hazel Morrison, Avela Osornio, Chase Perreira, Vox Saunier, Taylan Swartz, Megan Sweetman, Jayden Waggoner, Ashlin Webster, and Madyson Wintrow

Seventh Grade Commended List: (3.25—3.49 GPA) Trinity Battson, Sophia Bean-Palivec, Blayne Bertholomey, Izic Blair, Garrett Brewer, Austin Curtis, Emma Geist, Myles Haney, Khloe Harvey, Karmody Higgins, Seth Holt, Karina Huffman-Ramirez, Raegan Ivory, Megan Laub, Xaedyn Lynn, Anthony Phillips, John Potter, Madeline Quillen, Marlon Robinson, Oliver Sampson, Isaiah Schoenberger, Leon Schwarz, Catelin Skinner, Danika Steiner, Ryder Swarts, Tavian Tousley, Trent Townsend, and Nyla Willis

Eighth Grade Honor Roll: (3.75—4.00 GPA) Enzo Alexander, Zaydyn Allen, Elijah Emick, Audrey Applegate, Riley Baker, Camryn Best, Kaylee Carr, Kaden Earick, Addyson Ford, Madalynn Godfrey, Braden Goetze-Peters, Grace Harshbarger, Madison Haworth, Raegan Heitkamp, Bethany Henry, Jacey Hepner, John Hess, Josie Hill, Lainey Honeycutt, Gianna James, Emery Kuhlman, Abigail Kirk, Gavin Larger, Andon Laughman, Chloe Martin, Isabella McGraw, James McMaken, Jayden Melvin, Kalel Moreaux, Ava Mumaw-Nichols, Haileejo Nichols, Brilynn Norris, Bryanna Penny, Rashad Pope, Andrew Reindel, Evian Rojas, Kaitlyn Schlosser, Grace Schulz, Kaitlynn Sorrell, Raylie Sterling, Kaitlyn Szachta, Kacen Tayloyr, Benjamin Thompson, David Thompson, Troy Thompson, Wesley Thompson, Johnny Ward, Elijah Watkins, Erin Watson, Ian Wessel, Austin Wiltheiss, and Connor Young

Eighth Grade Honorable Mention: (3.5—3.749 GPA) Sam Assell, Gracie Bridges, Alexis Burroughs, Emma Clark, Brendon Cox, Adriana Emery, Shaylene Farrell, Austin Fletcher, Steven Gordon, Brynne Hammer, Natalie Hemmert, Becca Henry, Landon Ivory, Rachel Janson, Alexis Merzke, Briley Miller, Ava Owen, Audreinah Sims, Gianna Taborn, Izabelle Thoma, Grace Voskuhl, Robbie Wilczek, Lilliana Willcox, and Audrey Young

Eighth Grade Commended List: (3.25—3.49 GPA) Harvin Bornhorst, Cohen Brown, Nolan Earick, Ryan Earick, Jayce Johnson, Nickolai Kaye, Colton Leininger, Kasey Marrs, Skylar Pittenger, Jayden Pleasant, Aajay Pry, Lillian Shawver, Eli Smith, Alyson Street, Blake Walling, and Anthony Wilmer

Building News

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership had a very active month in December! With the help of our generous students and staff, we brought in over 4,200 items that were donated to the Salvation Army in Piqua. This is BY FAR the most overwhelming response to a food drive that we have ever had, so THANK YOU for all of the donations. Special shout out to the winning class - Mr. Smith's advisory - for bringing in 762 items on their own. They won a pizza party for their outstanding efforts. Since we demolished our building goal, all students were able to attend a dance for the last hour of the school day on December 17th. Students got to hang out with friends and jam to some music, all while wearing their festive ugly sweaters. It was a blast! Our holiday spirit week was also a success. It was fun to see our students and staff participating in the daily themes. On the last day before break, students were also awarded with a movie to end the day. Our final activity for the month was a holiday door decorating contest. Miss DeBella's class won this year's contest! Coming up, we will be planning another spirit week and some other activities to help celebrate upcoming holidays.

PIQUA JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Junior Honor Society completed their first service activity during the second quarter which consisted of adopting a Piqua City Schools family in need for Christmas. Students were able to bring in and wrap gifts for the family. It was awesome seeing students involved in this! In the third quarter, 7th and 8th grade students will be notified if they're eligible to apply for Junior Honor Society. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher to be considered. Students will be notified during their Advisory class once report card grades have been posted. If a student is eligible, they will need to fill out an application and have two recommendations. Teachers will also have an opportunity to rank students based on their character. All of these factors will determine acceptance into Junior Honor Society. If you have any questions, please email the advisor, Emily DeBella: debellae@piqua.org

BUILDERS CLUB

Builders Club is a service club that is part of the Kiwanis organization. Builders Club has had a busy semester. Our junior high students have helped work the concession stand during the junior high football games and also the basketball games. In November, we promoted a Thanksgiving card project. Students in the entire school were able to color Thanksgiving cards to distribute at the nursing facilities in Piqua. In December, a group of us walked in the Piqua Holiday Parade. We also purchased, wrapped, and delivered Christmas gifts for a family with three children. This month, we are having our annual Pennies for Patients event. Students are encouraged to bring in their loose change as a donation to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This money is used for research in the fight against cancer. All students are welcome to come to our meetings and to participate in the activities. The purpose of Builders Club is to "grow" Leaders.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

During the first week in February, all students will be given paperwork to take home to parents regarding procedures for our new online scheduler for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Conferences for PJHS students will be held on Thursday, February 17 from 2:30 – 7:30 p.m. Each conference will be scheduled for 15 minutes. Information will also be available on the PJHS website.

LEGALLY BLONDE JR.

Under the direction of Miss Hayley Hoss and Mr. Corey Bryant, the PJHS musical this year will be *Legally Blonde Jr.* Leads this year include Izabelle Thoma, Brackett Osborn, Chloe Martin, Haylie Schultz, Destined Dewberry, and Aiden Cavey. Performance dates are Thursday and Friday, May 5 & 6, 2022. Curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. As always, we will have reserved seats and tickets will go on sale at the end of April.

STATE TESTING

State testing dates for PJHS students will be:

April 5 and 6 – English

April 20 and 21 – Math

April 26 – 8th Grade Science

Make-up days are scheduled for students who miss any of the above testing dates.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Are you the parent of an 8th grader? Do you want to find out more about course scheduling for your 9th grade son/daughter? There is an "Incoming Freshmen Parent Scheduling Meeting" at 5:00 P.M. at PHS in the CPA on Thursday, February 17, 2022.

College Credit Plus: Important Meeting for 7th and 8th graders who are interested in taking College Credit Plus (CCP) courses. Did you know that competent 7th-12th grade students can take college level courses and get college credits...for free? In order for a student to participate in this opportunity, there is a mandatory parent meeting. The College Credit Plus Parent Meeting takes place at 6:00 P.M. at PHS in the CPA on Thursday, February 17, 2022.

Naviance: All 7th and 8th grade students have access to a career-based website, provided by Piqua City Schools. Students have been working on this website in their advisory classes. There are 17 topics (or tiles) that students should complete this school year. Each "tile" helps students reflect on important career-based topics. Ask your child about Naviance and what he/she has been learning about future careers. Students can log onto Naviance through Clever and their advisory class assignments.

Make 2nd semester the best! Help your child celebrate his/her successes from first semester and set new goals for second semester. Yes, of course, reflect on grades and attendance. Identify ways to meet those goals, but also help your child identify personal goals. This could include: exercise, positive friendships, a new extracurricular activity, club, sport, or youth group. Maybe even replace cell phones & video games with a monthly family game night or outing. Enjoy Life Together!

PICTURES

There will be a photographer from Lange Photography here on Tuesday, April 12 to take spring pictures. Picture packets will be sent home with students. There are no retakes for spring pictures.

Also on Tuesday, April 12 we will be taking the annual 8th grade panoramic picture. Order forms for that will also be coming home with students.

Upcoming Dates

Feb. 2 – Kona Ice
Feb. 8 – Group picture day for yearbook
Feb. 17 – 2 hr. early dismissal from school
Feb. 17 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb. 18 – No school
Feb. 21 – President's Day – no school
March 2 – Kona Ice
Mar. 18 – End of 3rd grading period
March 21 – 25 – Spring Break – no school
April 5 – State testing begins
April 6 – Kona Ice
April 12 – Spring and 8th grade panoramic pictures taken
April 15 – No school
May 4 – Kona Ice
May 5 – PJHS Musical – 7:30 p.m.
May 6 – PJHS Musical – 7:30 p.m.
May 15 – Spring Choir Concert – 2:00 p.m.
May 17 – Top 10 Awards Program
May 20 – 8th Grade Dance
May 24 – Spring Band Concert – 6:30 p.m.
May 27 – Last day of school for students