

Piqua Junior High School

Quarterly Parent Newsletter

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

7th Grade Classroom Updates

Seventh grade science has started the year on basic science laboratory safety rules. Next, we explored the scientific method with a paper airplane experiment. As students collected and recorded data, they completed their first lab report of the school year. Students were able to write a hypothesis, identify the variables, and create a three-step conclusion based on the results and original hypothesis. As scientists, we tested our measuring ability when we determined the amount of gum base in different types of chewing gum. To improve our skills with using devices and reading procedures, the students created cupcakes in our metric cupcake lab.

The second half of the quarter led to our chemistry unit about the Periodic Table of Elements and matter. Students were able to categorize matter as elements, compounds and mixtures using shapes and studying their physical and chemical properties. Next, students studied the differences between metals and nonmetals by determining conductivity, magnetism, and researching specific properties about key elements. Our online flame test lab demonstrated the colorful properties of alkali and alkaline earth metals in fire, which is how pyrotechnics create such beautiful fireworks. Our classes discussed the atomic structure and chemical reactions. Finally, students were astounded by the AP Chemistry class demonstrations on the last day of the first quarter. Students are looking forward to learning more about the Periodic Table, energy, electricity, and our atmosphere in the coming quarter.

The seventh grade ELA students have successfully completed RACE writing, the novel Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper, and a few short stories to wrap up the first quarter. As the class continues to discuss the elements of explanatory writing, we are headed into understanding how people overcome adversity in the face of overwhelming obstacles and the literary elements that accompany fiction and nonfiction readings. The students are also reading independent novels, working on IXL's to help with their skills in both reading and writing, and building their independent reading skills on Read Theory. Second quarter should be exciting as we are also implementing a couple of plays and other fun reading activities.

First Quarter for 7th grade math went through two units that neatly used similar methods and concepts to relate new concepts to prior learning. In the first unit, students examined and created scaled copies of figures, as well as explored scale drawings of real-life objects. Secondly, in the next unit, students learned what a proportional relationship is, how it is represented, and what types of contexts can be modeled by proportional relationships.

During the 1st quarter, Mr. Scott's class learned about Ancient Greece. Within this unit, the students had several activities that included the students creating their own Greek city-state, and the students had the option of building a 3-D replica of the Parthenon, an ancient Greek open air theater, or a trireme (Greek ship). Moving forward, Mr. Scott's class will be learning about the Roman Empire, the spread of Christianity and Islam, and the Renaissance and Reformation.

The Miami Social Studies classes started the year navigating the waters of Ancient Greece. We learned about their geography, the rivalry between Athens and Sparta, the founding of democracy, the Olympics, mythology, and how Ancient Greece still impacts our lives today. We are now exploring the beginning of the Roman Republic. The students will soon be transitioning to the Roman Empire, and they will be amazed by how much of a legacy the Romans left behind to study.

8th Grade Classroom Updates

During the 1st quarter of American History Shawnee students completed 3 Units of Study: Native Americans, European Exploration, and the Growth of 13 American Colonies/Colonial Regions.

Students examined the following essential questions:

- What are the most important geographic characteristics of the U.S?
- In what ways were the cultural traditions of Native Americans and Europeans alike and different?
- How did interactions between European and Native American cultures shape early American history?
- How did location affect daily life in the New England, Middle and Southern Colonies?
- For various groups, what does it mean to be “American” in 1750?
- What were the religious and economic reasons that Europeans came to early America?
- What factors shaped the development of a new “national identity” for colonists?
- For various groups, what does it mean to be “American” in 1750?
- In what ways were the American colonies becoming their own nation before 1763? In what ways were they still part of the British Empire?

During the second quarter students will investigate important historical documents including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution. Students will also examine the Revolutionary War.

The Mohican Social Studies students started the year with Ms. Lee learning about the beginning of Exploration into the New World. Mr. Riley returned from his surgery in October. A few of the topics of discussion have included Slavery in the colonies, colonization in the various regions of the colonies, and the conflicts that Britain and France had over control of North America. In the second quarter, students will be running through a variety of simulations to understand the causes leading up to the American Colonies and declaring independence. Students will be constructing a Veteran's Appreciation Wall, exploring the Declaration of Independence, and studying the beginnings of the United States as a nation.

Our 8th grade ELA curriculum this year is *My Perspectives* by Pearson Education, Inc. The themes of the units are: Rites of Passage, The Holocaust, What Matters, Human Intelligence, and Invention. We are excited about this curriculum because each unit begins with whole-class learning, then small-group learning, and finally, independent learning. There are performance tasks throughout the unit that lead up to the performance-based assessment. There are also novels that go with each unit. In addition, the text focuses on eighth grade standards. We began the school year with Unit 4 (Human Intelligence) and have recently started Unit 5 (Invention).

To start the year, students read a dystopian book. Some of the options were *The Hunger Games*, *The Maze Runner*, *City of Ember*, *Divergent*, and *The Giver*. Upon completion of this novel, students wrote an informational essay focusing on the following prompt: In what ways can people be intelligent? Students also completed a dystopian project where they were assigned an element of dystopia and had to find examples and quotes in their book to support. Engage in conversation with your child about their book! As the second quarter begins, students will start their next class novel titled *What About Will* and will focus on argumentative writing.

Aside from all of the great academic activities we've done thus far, we have been working hard at implementing Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness into our classrooms. Each week, we elect a “Student of the Week” - someone who stands out the week prior for a variety of reasons. Ask your student if they have received this award yet! In addition, we want to remind parents and students of how important coming to school is and getting here on time.

We've had a great start to the year and are looking forward to the second quarter. If at any time you have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher.

Emily DeBella: debella@piqua.org, Maggie Bergman: bergmann@piqua.org,
Maria Barhorst: barhorstm@piqua.org, Amanda Stone: stonea@piqua.org

Eighth grade science has started the year on basic science laboratory safety rules and the power of observation. The first unit of the year was force and motion. The first big lab of the year was our crash test dummy lab. Classes explored the relationship between mass, velocity and distance. Students learned about balanced and unbalanced forces as well as the types of friction. We utilized some online interactives to determine the relationship between forces and velocity.

Next, we explored density with a layered liquid lab. Students were able to use this lab when creating their own planet in addition to understanding the layers of Earth's interior. After researching key aspects of the mechanical and compositional layers, students will create oobleck representing our semisolid material of the asthenosphere. We will continue our journey through Earth science into the second quarter of this school year.

During much of the first quarter, Math 8 students have been exploring how to transform various shapes. They have learned how to translate, reflect, rotate, and dilate figures on the coordinate plane through various digital and hands-on activities. Students used their understanding of transformations to discover angle relationships with parallel lines and triangles. Students completed a variety of tasks and activities independently, with partners, and as a class to display their understanding of similar and congruent shapes. A highlight of the first quarter was the collaboration and engagement amongst their peers to help foster a deeper understanding of the material. Students were often developing the connections between our topics on their own through our in-class activities. In the second quarter, students will continue to build connections with their content knowledge, discovering the properties of slope and discovering proportional and linear relationships.

The Algebra 1 students have been hard at work this first quarter. They focused on discovering and investigating the key foundational concepts that they will be building upon the rest of the year. To begin the first quarter, students worked with linear and exponential relationships and patterns. Students collaborated together through a variety of lessons, both digitally and on paper, through our Desmos curriculum to discover the properties of these relationships. Students used real-world connections to guide conversations in class, such as how memes and stories in the world can go viral, which led to them analyzing types of graphs. Students were able to let their creative side shine. In addition, students learned how to solve and graph equations in various forms, analyze graphs for specific situations, and model inequalities on a number line, graphically, and verbally. They discovered the connections between multiple representations, using these to help them solve these types of problems in more than one way. For most of the second quarter, students will be working on a unit based on describing data using different visuals and representations with real-world content.

September Students of the Month

Seventh graders Makenzie Carroll, Timothy King, Anna Koenig, Dallas Ward, Aydan Hare, Bronson Kaye, Gabby Schroeder, Kortney Schultz, Lillia Creekmore, and Dylan Laub were selected as the PJHS September Students of the Month. Bryer Langston, Jace Palmer, Leila Roberts, Max Willoughby, Ava Bolin, Lillian Harvey, Lawrence Pitman, Dominic Snapp, and Karsen Lyman were the eighth graders selected for this award. Each student will receive a Student of the Month certificate, personalized congratulation notes from their teachers, and be invited to a pizza luncheon in their honor. Congratulations to all our Students of the Month.



Honor Roll

Seventh Grade Honor Roll: (3.75—4.0 GPA) Liam Alspaugh, Jacob Anderson, Espen Atha, Hannah Bailey, Kenzie Bertholomey, Landyn Best, Rainey Bornhorst, Easton Bryant, Makenzie Carroll, Adrianna Chambers, Ryleigh Coppock, Johnathan Davis-Shinall, Olivia DeBrosse, Abigail Detter, Athena Duff, Kamaya Graham, Savannah Gress, Kaden Hampshire, Aydan Hare, Dakiya Hester, Gylia Hester, Luke Jensvold, Autumn Jones, Bronson Kaye, Lauren Keener, Coral Kindell, Layla King, Madison Kiser, Anna Koenig, Jersey Lee, Addison Leonard, Madeline Lewis, Alysa Lin, Tiffany Liu, Cohen Manson, Avery Marrs, Levi McGuire, Ellexis Mertz, Sophia Palmer, Kailey Perreira, Alora Perry, David Pitman, Miranda Price, Bentley Ritter, Demi Roberts, Kortney Schultz, Annaleigh Scott, Connor Sloan, Malachi Smith, Evangeline Staley, Raygin Sterling, Landon Sullenberger, Johnny Sutton, Cooper Swink, Jocelyn Thoma, Vance Thoreen, Drake Thornhill, Chloe Watkins, Lilian Wellman, Elizabeth Wessel, Payton Wilson, and Katie Wolf

Seventh Grade Honorable Mention: (3.5—3.749 GPA) Landon Bryant, Chloe Bulmer, Uriah Burgh, Lucas Crawford, Jilian Davis, Leyah Fair, Michelle Gray, Cheyanne Herring, Timothy King, Chloe Marcum, Mayson Page, Abigail Palmer, Dominick Schaffer, Gabryela Schroeder, Mackenzie Shaneyfelt, Bryanne Stambaugh, and Shariah Tlaskal

Seventh Grade Commended List: (3.25—3.49 GPA) Dominic Allen, Brooklyn Arnett, Kale Baumann, Akeylah Cox-Haralson, Christopher Graham, Kaedrick Hester, Landry Hinkle, Adisen Litsch, Bailey Meadows, Veronica Miller, Joslyn Quinter, Justine Simpson, Brysen Sprague, and Troy Wildenhaus

Eighth Grade Honor Roll: (3.75—4.00 GPA) Julianna Alexander, Aiden Allen, Brennen Angle, Sawyer Barga, Rogan Baumann, Laila Beireis, Ava Bolin, Jillian Boyd, Parker Butler, Selena Callejas, Madison Cantrell, Abigail Carnahan, Christopher Davis, Ashlyn Deal, Blake Deal, Mischa Dillion, Sophia Duley, Cylie Evans-Apple, Liam Fast, Christian Ferguson, Keaton Fisher, Chastinn Fitzgerald, Tristyn Frazier, Isabell French, Dane Funderburg, Kahles Gannon, Kaydance Graham, Hunter Grissom, Jeffrey Grote, Lillian Harvey, Parker Hickerson, Annabelle Hicks, Laila Hobart, Carson Holtvogt, Andrw Hostetter, Kaylee Huber, Soraya Hudson, Jonathan Huelskamp, Ruby Jess, Lucas Koenig, Ava Krommenecker, Bryer Langston, Chloe Laqui, Joseph Lavey, Connor Lawson, Joshua Layne, Trinity LeMaster, Jason Lin, Anderson Lyman, Karsen Lyman, Libby Magoteaux, Chase Mangen, Mazzimo Martinez, Leann Massengill, Layla McDowell, Kamri Mendenhall, Adaleigh Mitchell, Brenden Morrison, Meyah Murphy, Brayden Myers, Jasmine Nickels, Maya Oduro, Jayden Ostendorf, Jace Palmer, Kameron Pfenning, Lillian Pierron, Aldin Poeppelman, Annalyse Pummill, Bailey Quinter, Samil Ramirez, Sai Reed, Kaden Rice, Skylar Riedel, Leila Roberts, Braxton Roller, Michael Rowley, Audryna Rudy, Emilee Schulz, Ethan Shaw, Adalynne Shawler, Calvin Shawver, Tara Smith, Dominic Snapp, Tanner Stevens, Grady Stillwell, Zayne Strong, Raygan Swabb, Allison Szachta, Taylor Tevis, Sevahna Thompson, Samantha Toopes, Laurie VanMatre, Jack Vore, Aubrey Wagner, Piper Ward, Samantha Westfall, Audrey Williams, Max Willoughby, Olivia Workman, Ella Worley-Josefovsky, David Yohey, and Payton Youngerman

Eighth Grade Honorable Mention: (3.5—3.749 GPA) Zane Achor, Amari Abdullah, Cameron Albright, Wyatt Behm, Matthew Bishop, Addison Black, Austin Bowen, Zariah Bowers, Astarie Carroll, Michael Davis, Angeleah Elliott, Mia Ellis, Ashlyn Faulkner, Dalan Goff, Pacience Haynes, LeahAnn Jones, Rakayla Jones, Kaleb Karnehm, Addison Kotchka, Me’Kilah Leger, Jacob Meyer, Miranda Miles, Maison Miller, Andrew Nugent, Lawrence Pitman, Annabelle Price, Chloe Riegel, Luke Selhorst, Payton Shoffner, Gabriel Sloan, Evin Spark, Ariel Staudt, and Maya Tobe

Eighth Grade Commended List: (3.25—3.49 GPA) William Ahrens, Wyatt Allen, Keegan Davis, Jude Dobrzeniecki, Kayaunna Epley, Emmett Farrier, Colton Jones, Zaine Longshore, Landon May, Stone Miller, Lucas Moberly, Noah Murray, Kaden Oldham, Aiden Penrod, Landon Pierce, Tristen Pisano, Colton Powers, Samuel Rossman, Kaylianna Rudy, Rebekah Shaner, Charles Shawver, Aubrey Shelby, Gary Sullenberger, and Amaysn Thompson

1st Quarter Perfect Attendance

7th Grade

Liam Alspaugh, Jacob Anderson, Uriah Burgh, Nolan Butler, Makenzie Carroll, Davion Cooper, Ryleigh Coppock, Akeylah Cox-Haralson, Lillie Creekmore, Athena Duff, Breydon Finley, Kaden Hampshire, Myia Haynes, Cayden Herron, Landry Hinkle, Lylah Howard, Kylar Jones, Layla King, Teeghann Kiser, Anna Koenig, Aaliyah Leonardo-Cotterman, Madeline Lewis, Alysa Lin, Tiffany Liu, Victoria Martin, Mayson Page, David Pitman, Demi Roberts, Gabryela Schroeder, Annaleigh Scott, Cooper Swink, Chloe Watkins, Lilian Wellman, Lacey Wirrig, Katie Wolf

8th Grade

Cameron Albright, Aiden Allen, Bryson Baumann, Wyatt Behm, Laila Beireis, Madison Cantrell, Ashlyn Deal, Keaton Fisher, Chastinn Fitzgerald, Tristan Fox, Tristyn Frazier, Lillie Harvey, Pacience Haynes, Carson Holtvogt, Andrew Hostetter, Kaleb Karnehm, Jason Lin, Anderson Lyman, Karsen Lyman, Josh Mack, Libby Magoteaux, Adaleigh Mitchell, Noah Murray, Maya Oduro, Jayden Ostendorf, Jace Palmer, Lawrence Pittman III, Annalyse Pummill, Skylar Riedel, Audryna Rudy, Ethan Shaw, Calvin Shawver, Lyla Silvers, Evan Smith, Raygan Swabb, Blake Swan, Samantha Toopes, Laurie Vanmatre, Piper Ward, Prestyn Wintrow

Building News

STAFF CHANGES

Each fall brings a few new faces to every school. This year, Ms. Hannah Vallandingham will be teaching 7th grade ELA taking over for Mrs. Brulport who has moved to 7th grade math. Mrs. Marcy Hall is the new PJHS Media Specialist replacing Mr. Cantrell. Miss Kimora Lee will be our building substitute teacher this year. Welcome ladies, we are very happy to have you as a part of the junior high staff.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership is gearing up for the year! So far, we encouraged students to participate in Homecoming Spirit Week along with the high school, and we organized a costume contest for Halloween. It has been fun seeing students and teachers show their spirit by participating in these activities. We have recently welcomed our new members and will be meeting soon to plan the details of our annual canned food drive, which will begin one November 6 and end on November 15th. Donations will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Piqua to help with holiday meals. More details will come soon! December is always a fun month, so we will be brainstorming ideas for school activities at our upcoming meeting. Details about any of our events or activities will be on the PJHS News and can be found on the advisory website. Stay tuned!

PIQUA JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Junior Honor Society officers have been elected for Junior Honor Society. The following students were chosen: Ashlyn Deal (President), Libby Magoteaux (Vice President), Lily Pierron (Scholarship Chairman), Chloe Laqui (Service Chairman), Sam Toopes (Service Chairman), and Carson Holtvogt (Secretary). There will be a 1st quarter grade check for all current members. Remember, members must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.6 or higher to remain eligible. Our first whole group service activity of the year will begin soon. We will adopt two families in need this Christmas and purchase gifts for them. Members should be working towards obtaining their four mandatory service hours. A few current volunteer opportunities include: working concessions for basketball games and ringing the bell at the Salvation Army Red Kettles.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

First quarter has been a time to settle into the new school year, get into a routine, make new friends, set academic goals, and participate in extracurricular activities. The school counselor met with 7th and 8th graders in September. Students who would like to meet with Mrs. Butt can fill out the Google Form on her Google Classroom, and she will call them to her office.

During first quarter Advisory (and into 2nd quarter), students have been focusing on career exploration and the importance of developing hard skills and soft skills. These skills are extremely important for a successful future. **Please help by reinforcing these skills at home!**

- **Hard Skills** are skills you learn in school: reading, writing, science, social studies, mathematics, art techniques, STEM, using machines/tools, etc.
- **Soft Skills include:** communication, teamwork, time management, flexibility, self-discipline, commitment, problem solving, etc.

So what is coming up?

Toward the **middle of November and December**, we will focus on **gratitude**. Did you know that research indicates...people who show gratitude are happier? Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, enjoy good experiences, improve health, deal with adversity and build strong relationships.

Showing gratitude is a great quality to model for our kids.

On November 20, the 8th graders will take a walking field trip to tour **Edison State Community College**. On this day, students need to wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the **weather conditions**. This is a great opportunity for our students to see what programs are offered to our College Credit Plus (CCP) students and to students after high school. **Note: For more information about CCP, there is a meeting at PHS at 5:00 on February 8 at the CPA.**

On November 21, the 7th graders will take a walking field trip and tour the **Upper Valley Career Center** (formerly the JVS). This is a great opportunity for our students to see what programs are offered at the 11th and 12th grade level. On this day, students need to wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the **weather conditions**.

In mid-December, students who have lost a loved one can participate in: **A Time to Remember**. We will gather together and take time to celebrate our loved ones who have passed away. If you think it would be good for your junior high child to attend, please send an email to buttl@piqua.org with your child's name and the name of the person who has passed away.

If you need information about logging onto **ProgressBook** to check your child's grades, please contact Mrs. Barhorst to get a username and password. You will be able to see what has been assigned and if any assignments are missing, along with grades.

TRIBE

Tribe is a new student organization for all athletes in grades 7-12. Tribe is centered around improving mental health and performance for athletes both on and off the field. So far, Tribe has had 4 meetings this year. At the first meeting a sports psychologist from The Ohio State University, Dr. Marcia Edwards, gave a presentation about having confidence in athletics. Some other topics Tribe has covered include battling adversity, nutrition, and surrounding yourself with positive people. Tribe meets twice a month - all student athletes are encouraged to attend!

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

Piqua Junior High School is partnering with Herff Jones this year in production of our annual yearbook. Herff Jones offers a variety of different options from what we have had in the past including the option to purchase a soft cover yearbook at a reduced price from the standard hardcover. They will periodically be sending emails to parent accounts reminding you about purchasing a yearbook. Once you have ordered, you will no longer receive emails. All purchases this year will be online. There is no option to purchase a yearbook through the school.

Each year, the yearbook staff put numerous hours into taking and cataloging pictures, designing pages, and making sure that each and every student is included in the book somewhere. This year will be no different. This 88-page, full-color yearbook is something that not only your child, but you as well, will hopefully look at in the future and will bring back happy memories of the junior high years.

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 9 – 8th grade field trip to Carillon Park in Dayton
Nov. 17 – Pie Peddler order forms (for Washington DC trip) going home with student
Nov. 22 – 24 – Thanksgiving Break – no school
Dec. 1 – Pie Peddler order forms and money due
Dec. 5 – Winter Band Concert – 6:30 p.m. @ PHS
Dec. 6 - Kona Ice
Dec. 14 – Holiday Choir Concert – 6:00 p.m. @ PJHS
Dec. 19 – Spelling Bee – 8:00 a.m.
Dec. 19 – Pie Peddler pick-up 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Dec. 21 – Jan 1 – Winter Break – no school
Jan. 2 – Students return to school
Jan. 10 – Kona Ice
Jan. 11 – End of 2nd grading period
Jan. 12 – No School
Jan. 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no school
Feb. 7 – Kona Ice
March 4 – District Band Concert – 6:30 p.m. @ PHS
March 6 – Kona Ice
March 7 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 8 – No School
March 15 – End of 3rd grading period