

Piqua Junior High School

Quarterly Parent Newsletter

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

7th Grade Classroom Updates

First quarter has been outstanding for the 7th grade English Language Arts students. We have all completed a unit on facing adversity, and the students learned about some amazing individuals who overcame challenges faced during the Dust Bowl, the Stock Market Crash of 1929, the loss of limbs, and the lack of electricity in a small town of a third-world country. The students also completed the novel Out of My Mind, which is about Melody, a girl with a photographic memory and cerebral palsy. The students had some great conversations and were inspired to face whatever adversity they may experience. The students also truly improved their abilities to answer an extended response question while supporting their opinions with evidence from the text.

Seventh grade science has started the year on basic science laboratory safety rules by creating a lab safety poster. 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 unit, 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, we explored the characteristics of the families on the Periodic Table of Elements. Students are looking forward to learning more about the Periodic Table, energy, electricity, and our atmosphere in the coming quarter.

During the 1st quarter, Mr. Scott's class learned about Ancient Greece. Within this unit, the students had several activities that included a classroom Olympic games, creating their own Greek city-state, and choosing between options 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.

This quarter in Mrs. Mitchem's class, we have focused on building rapport; empathy; perseverance; and self-advocacy. All of these are skills that benefit us now and in the future.

The Miami Social Studies students recently wrapped up their study of Ancient Greece, and we have now landed in the heart of the Roman Empire. For the next two months, we will be exploring the world the Romans created that still impacts us today. Important emperors, Roman numerals, the Colosseum, great inventions of Rome, and the fall of Rome will be discussed before we leave for Winter Break. The students will even have a chance to build their own Roman aqueduct as an extra credit project.

In the first quarter, 7th grade math students had the opportunity to look at statistics and probability situations. These concepts included: calculating mean, median, mean absolute deviation, and interquartile range. We also looked at how to gather and display data. Students also found simple and compound probabilities. They were asked to identify theoretical vs. experimental probability. We ended the quarter by introducing rational numbers, specifically adding and subtracting positive and negative numbers.

8th Grade Classroom Updates

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 Inventions. 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 1 (Rites of Passage) and have recently started Unit 4 (Human Intelligence).

If students are unable to come to school, they may work on assignments using the following online resources:

- Google Classroom where they will find directions & daily/weekly assignments
- IXL will provide weekly independent learning practice to achieve mastery on ELA skills.
- My Perspectives textbook is online
- Choice book
- Other depending on our focus of the week.

To start the year, students read The Outsiders. Upon completion of this novel, students began independent reading each day for 15 minutes. When possible, engage in conversation with your child about their chosen book!

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 the importance of coming to school 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.

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During the 1st quarter of Mr. Smith's American History class, students completed 3 Units of Study: Native Americans, European Exploration, and the Growth of American Colonies/Slavery.

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?
- 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.

The Mohican Social Studies students started the year learning about the beginning of Exploration into the New World. Topics of discussion have included Slavery in the colonial, attracting settlement in the various regions of the colonies, and the conflicts that Britain and France had over control of North America. We concluded the quarter in the 1760s and 1770s. Students had a choice on how they wanted to show their understanding of the causes leading up to the American Colonies declaring independence. The various projects consisted of songs, newsletters, journal entries, news broadcasts and digital presentations. In the second quarter, 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.

During much of the first quarter, Math 8 students have been exploring the number system on a deeper level. Students have spent most of the first quarter exploring the patterns within numbers, which allowed them to discover further connections for the rules and ideas they will be using for various concepts this year. Students learned how to identify types of numbers, operate with given numbers involving square roots and exponents, and express large and small numbers using scientific notation. Students were given the opportunity to explore the real-world connections in our scientific notation unit, where they investigated the net worth of celebrities of their choice. Within this project, they utilized multiple representations to explore their celebrities net worth through tables, word problems, number lines, and visual representations. Students displayed their creative side by creating a poster for a celebrity of their choice. In the second quarter, students will use their ability to operate with types of numbers as they begin to solve equations in one-, two-, and multi-step situations. Students will be doing a variety of tasks and activities independently, with partners, and as a class to display their understanding of equations in the second quarter.

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. Students learned how to solve and graph equations in various forms, analyze graphs for specific situations, and model inequalities on a number line, both graphically and verbally. Students will extend their understanding of these concepts in the second quarter, as they will be studying systems of equations and inequalities. They will learn how to use multiple representations and solve these types of problems in more than one way. After systems of equations and inequalities, students will be starting a statistics and data unit. In this unit, students will be collecting real-life data and analyzing trends within our own student body.

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 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.

September Students of the Month

Seventh graders Ryder Holtvogt, Brayden Langston, Madeline Quillen, Dylan Weatherly, Sophia Bean-Palivec, John Potter, Lorelai Manson, Isabelle Vincent, Lucy Neal, and Mikayla Bryant were selected as the PJHS September Students of the Month. Madalynn Godfrey, Josh Hess, Emery Kuhlman, Maddison Rampulla, Riley Baker, Raylie Sterling, Alyson Street, Kacen Taylor, and Skyler Snelling were the eighth graders selected for this honor.



Honor Roll

Seventh Grade Honor Roll: (3.75—4.0 GPA) Presley Arzola, Kathryn Beasley, Jackson Bowman, Aiden Bryant, Brooke Buecker, Joey Burroughs, Kaitlyn Byron, Maliyah Chambers, Samantha Clark, Blake Covault, Ethan Cox, Katelyn DeWeese, Zayd Elqadah, Macy Hall, Myles Haney, Khloe Harvey, 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, Alexander Martin, Preston McMaken, Logan Mertz, Hazel Morrison, Lucille Neal, Campbell O'Neal, Kennedy Parshall, Kira Parshall, Adelle Perry, Owen Peterson, Chase Pettus, Anthony Phillips, Liberty Price, Rachel Price, Madeline Quillen, Malaikhii Rees, Julianne Robbins, Haylie Schultz, Aiden Schwable, Leon Schwarz, Reykiah Seidynaly, Arabelle Simmons, Elaine Smay, Ella Snyder, Owen Snyder, Kendall Soto, Bryce Streib, Megan Sweetman, Liberti Tipps, Isabella Vincent, Lillyan Wackler, Jayden Waggoner, Gage Walling, Dylan Weatherly, Ashlin Webster, Sarah Weiser, Brady Weiss, Emily Weldon, Rylee Weldon, and Alexa Wyrick.

Seventh Grade Honorable Mention: (3.5—3.749 GPA) Trinity Battson, Sophia Bean-Palivec, Jaylyn Bolden, Garrett Brewer, Aiden Coppock, Noah DeMarcus, Kelly Forman, Makenize

Greene, Karina Huffman-Ramirez, Vivian Hulme, Avela Osornio, Chase Perreira, Caden Phillippi, Oliver Sampson, Vox Saunier, Brenner Spangler, Danika Steiner, Ryder Swartz, Adisynne Weigel, Nyla Willis and Madyson Wintrow.

Seventh Grade Commended List: (3.25—3.49 GPA) Jacob Beougher, Lindsay Bernard, Nevaeh Berry, Ria Bird, Izic Blair, Noah Crosson, Austin Curtis, Haelei Davis, Adriana Deal, Jay'Zail Hancock, Joseph Harrison, Silas Herndon, Karmody Higgins, Raegan Ivory, Austin Koehl, Gabrielle Landrey, Talaija Moore, John Potter, Braxton Reynolds, Catelin Skinner, Ibtihaj Suleiman, Taylan Swartz, Camryn Thompson, Tavian Tousley, Jazlyn Wright, and Owen Young.

Eighth Grade Honor Roll: (3.75—4.00 GPA) Enzo Alexander, Zaydyn Allen, Audrey Applegate, James Armstrong, Sam Assell, Riley Baker, Camryn Best, Reign Bolden, Gracie Bridges, Cohen Brown, Kaylee Carr, Emma Clark, Brendon Cox, Kaden Earick, Nolan Earick, Ryan Earick, Adriana Emery, Addyson Ford, Madalynn Godfrey, Braden Goetze-Peters, Brynne Hammer, Grace Harshbarger, Madison Haworth, Raegan Heitkamp, Natalie Hemmert, Bethany Henry, Rebecca Henry, Jacey Hepner, John Hess, Josie Hill, Lainey Honeycutt, Landon Ivory, Gianna James, Jayce Johnson, Garrett Katz, Nickolai Kaye, Emery Kuhlman, Abigail Kirk, Gavin Larger, Andon Laughman, Chloe Martin, Isabella McGraw, James McMaken, Jayden Melvin, Karl Mercer, Kalel Moreaux, Ava Mumaw-Nichols, Haileejo Nichols, Brilynn Norris, Ava Owen, Bryanna Penny, Renner Philipps, Rashad Pope, Aajay Pry, Maddison Rampulla, Andrew Reindel, Evian Rojas, Kaitlyn Schlosser, Grace Schulz, Kaitlynn Sorrell, Raylie Sterling, Kaitlyn Szachta, Kacen Taylor, Benjamin Thompson, David Thompson, Wesley Thompson, Megan Trainer, Grace Voskuhl, Blake Walling, Johnny Ward, Elijah Watkins, Erin Watson, Ian Wessel, Robert Wilczek, Austin Wiltheiss, and Connor Young.

Eighth Grade Honorable Mention: (3.5—3.749 GPA) Zackariah Boeke, Keaton Bolden, Harvin Bornhorst, Alexis Burroughs, Claire Coe, Salvador Jess, Asad Jaylani, Dominique Knisley, Alexis Merzke, Briley Miller, Brenner Ormberg, Audreinah Sims, Eli Smith, Kelsi Stahl, Alyson Street, Robbie Taylor, Troy Thompson, Ellee Ward, and Kalee Williams.

Eighth Grade Commended List: (3.25—3.49 GPA) Madeline Baker, Gregory Belt, Briana Cox, Draven Davis, Brady Erwin, Day'Lynn Garrett, Ethan Garrison, Steven Gordon, Rachael Janson, Maddox Kotchka, Coleton Leininger, Nathan Manning, Kasey Marrs, Alivia Murray, Brackett Osborn, Jayden Pleasant, Austyn Potter, Lillian Shawver, Angel Smith, Amaya Stroud, Aubrey Trader, Madison Ward, Jayden Ware, Bryanna Watkins, Ava Werst, Lilliana Willcox, and Audrey Young.

1st Quarter Perfect Attendance

7th Grade

Presley Arzola, Ethan Bowers, Aiden Bryant, Mikayla Bryant, Joey Burroughs, Landyn Cavanaugh, Haelei Davis, Kian Davis, Zayd Elqadah, Elijah Hasselbeck, Treasure Higgins, Holden Hildebrand, Kaylie Hittle, Audrianna Kendall, Elayna Kew, Skylar Kinney, Austin Koehl, Preston McMaken, Hazel Morrison, Avela Osornio, Kennedy Parshall, Kira Parshall, Adelle Perry, Liberty Price, Isaiah Schoenberger, Haylie Schultz, Ella Snyder, Owen Snyder, Gunner Sorrell, Adryan Stambaugh, Gunnar Swartz, Tavian Tousley, Isabelle Vincent, Jayden Waggoner, Ashlin Webster, Nyla Willis

8th Grade

Enzo Alexander, Riley Baker, Camryn Best, Noah Bird, Zack Boeke, Reign Bolden, Lukah Branam, Cohen Brown, Nolan Earick, Ryan Earick, Adriana Emery, Nicholas Farrier, Reagan Fugate, Madalynn Godfrey, Caiden Goode, Brynne Hammer, Raegan Heitkamp, Jacey Hepner, Mary Hutton, Sofia Jones, Nickolai Kaye, Nathan Manning, Karl Mercer, Aajay Pry, Andrew Reindel, Javier Rivera, Kaitlyn Schlosser, Carrie Schroer, Kelsi Stahl, Kacen Taylor, Elijah Watkins, Ian Wessel, Dietrich Whiteford, Lilliana Willcox, Kalee Williams, Anthony Wilmer Jr., Austin Wiltheiss, Chase Wright, Connor Young, Madison Young

BUILDING NEWS

STAFF CHANGES

Each fall brings a few new faces to every school. This year, Mrs. Mindy Hodge will be taking over the ISS duties from Mrs. Yount, who retired in the fall. Mrs. Emilee Tannyhill will be teaching 7th grade ELA taking over for Miss Meece, who will now be an Instructional Coach. Ms. Melanie Seibel will be joining the other 8th grade ELA teachers as Mrs. Butt moves to the office to become our new school counselor following the passing of Mrs. Toni Riley. Mrs. Riley became the junior high school counselor in 2016 and quickly made an impact on both students and staff with her kindness and understanding, creative spirit, positive attitude, and infectious smile. When her breast cancer returned a few years later, she faced it head-on while never letting it affect her work. Unfortunately, Mrs. Riley lost her battle with cancer at the end of September. The students lost a strong advocate and the staff lost a true friend. Following in the footsteps of someone like Mrs. Riley will be difficult, but Mrs. Butt is up to the challenge and hopes to carry on many of the programs initiated by Mrs. Riley the past few years.



Mrs. Riley

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership is just getting started this year. Our first project was to come up with ways we could remember and show support for Mrs. Riley and breast cancer awareness. We sold pink ribbons at lunch time and raised over \$300, which is allowing us to plant a tree here in her memory. All donations are sincerely appreciated, and we're happy you have played a part in making sure her memory lives on at our school. Next, with the help of the high school, PJHS joined forces with all school buildings to have a spirit week during the week of Homecoming, giving students and staff an opportunity to have fun and show some school spirit. Lastly, on the Friday before Halloween, we had Halloween Dress-Up Day and a costume contest. The amount of students in costumes this year was AWESOME! We love seeing our students' creative (and creepy) qualities. We will soon be announcing who our new members of Student Leadership will be, and we look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for our club and for PJHS students and staff. Stay tuned!

PIQUA JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Piqua Junior Honor Society recently elected their 2021-2022 officers. Congratulations to Chloe Martin (president), Kacen Taylor (vice president), Kaitlyn Szachta (scholarship chairman), Ben Thompson (service chairman), and Addy Ford (secretary). At the conclusion of the first quarter, a grade check will be completed for all members. In order to maintain eligibility in Junior Honor Society, students must maintain a 3.6 or higher cumulative GPA for the entire school year. Looking ahead, members will also start planning for the annual Christmas drive where we adopt a Piqua City Schools family in need. A list of items to purchase/donate will be coming home with students before Thanksgiving break.

YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

Now is the time to order your 2021-2022 Piqua Jr. High School Yearbook. These 88 page, full color yearbooks are of the highest quality and sure to provide your child with lasting memories of their time here at PJHS. Now through Nov. 26, Josten's is running a Back to School Special. Base price of a yearbook is only \$32 and with the personalization option (to add your name to the cover) for \$6.50, you can also select up to four free icons to add to the front of your yearbook (a \$15 value). After Nov. 26, the price for each icon goes up to \$3.75 each.

As hard as the yearbook staff tries to cover all school events, sometimes it just doesn't happen. That's where students and parents come in. If you are at a school event and happen to get a picture or two that you think would ideal for the yearbook, please send it to barhorstc@piqua.org. Everyone looks at taking pictures differently, so the yearbook staff is always excited to receive pictures taken from a different perspective than that of their own.

Upcoming Dates

Nov. 24 – 26 – Thanksgiving Break – no school

Dec. 1 – Kona Ice

Dec. 6 – Winter Band Concert

Dec. 14 – Holiday Choir Concert

Dec. 23 – Jan 2 – Winter Break – no school

Jan. 12 – Kona Ice

Jan. 14 – End of 1st semester

Jan. 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no school

Feb. 2 – Kona Ice

Feb. 17 – 2 hr. early dismissal from school

Feb. 17 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Feb. 18 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

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