

Third Quarter Math

General Math*Adding, subtracting multiplying and dividing rational numbers*Finding the area of triangles and trapezoids*Finding the circumference of a circle*Solving equations and inequalities involving rational numbers*Solving proportions*Solving percent problems including percent of change*Finding interest*Indirect measurement*Square roots*Pythagorean Theorem*Distance formula*Special right triangles

Algebra*Solving linear inequalities*Solving absolute value open sentences*Graphing inequalities and systems of inequalities*Solving systems of equations by graphing, substitution and multiplication or addition*Scientific notation*Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of monomials and polynomials

¡Viva el español en el octavo grado!

Las Vacaciones

Where do you go on vacation?(¿Adónde vas en vacaciones?) and what is the weather like?(¿Qué tiempo hace?) are two questions that we have learned how to answer. The classes have been studying vocabulary about vacations and weather. We are also learning how to conjugate stem changing verbs. These verbs do not follow normal conjugation patterns, so their forms must be memorized. Third quarter will begin with students choosing a Spanish speaking country and creating a project about places to go, and the weather conditions of this country.

Russia and Beyond

Moscow, St.Petersburg, and Vladivostok are all cities that world culture students have learned about while studying Russia. Also, we compared and contrasted life before and after communism. Students took a fictional ride on the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and created a travel book about the cities and places they visited. Our travels have now led us to North and South Korea. This has allowed us to focus on the current events of today.

Language Arts and Common Time

Why are prepositions important to know? Can you still remember them?

We learned forty-eight prepositions. Students had to write them in order at a 100% rate. Why in order? They're actually easier to remember that way. If you know they come in four columns of twelve, in alphabetical order, and remember the little stories, song, and dances we made up, they're EASY to remember.

Prepositions are meaningful links for nouns, pronouns, and verbs. When they are used, writing is more clear, colorful, and much more enjoyable to read.

Verbs are another part of speech that are extremely useful to know. We spent much time learning how to conjugate and understanding tenses. By learning how to conjugate, we also learned about voice and number. All this will help our writing by preventing tense and voice shift and keeping subject-verb agreement correct.

Mrs. Agnello's classes are busy reading *The Outsiders*. This is a story about relationships, learning whom you can trust and finding out what is really important in life. The students were surprised to find out that the group of people they thought were trustworthy turned out to be very shallow, and other "gang" turned out to be the ones who really knew what was important in life.

Each student spent time in the media center finding information and taking notes. The final product was a typewritten report with a bibliography.

Common Time was very busy this past quarter writing terror stories (which were very creepy!). During the final two weeks of the quarter we practiced writing explanations for solutions to math word problems. This directly prepares us for the new requirements on the ISAT test, which is coming up in April.

Industrialization!

Quarter two began with an in-depth study of the transcontinental railroad. The students assumed the role of a passenger, railroad owner, or Chinese immigrant to understand the different perspectives of how the railroad impacted America.

Studying the impact of the transcontinental railroad helped prepare us for a look at the industrialization of America. The classes studied the ways in which America transformed itself from an

agricultural nation to an industrial nation full of new factories. Although the industrial revolution had many positive effects, we realized that industrialization did not come without a price. After studying the working and living conditions of the workers and the eventual strikes, we concluded that America had one of the most violent and destructive Industrial Revolutions.

Get psyched for our adventure into the U.S. Constitution during third quarter!

Science fair

Don't forget that February 8 is the science fair at Peacock Middle School. I hope your child will consider entering. Permission forms are due January 24. I have extra permission forms if they are needed. Thank you for your support.

LUCKY, LUCKY PENNIES

**This is just a reminder that Peacock Middle School students are continuing to collect pennies for charity. Our goal is six million pennies. Please allow your child to bring pennies to school for this activity. Thank you,
Eighth Grade Team**