



Patriot News

Grissom Middle School

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.”
 - Abraham Lincoln

October 2011 ★ ksd140.org

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

For the latest calendar information, please visit ksd140.org.

Ask your student about our
PBIS
 Program!

| The Team Line-Up | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Maurer Team (Gr. 8) | 2 |
| O'Neil Team (Gr. 8) | 2 |
| Harrison Team (Gr. 7) | 3 |
| Large Team (Gr. 7) | 3 |
| Rumbaugh Team (Gr. 6) | 4 |
| O'Keefe Team (Gr. 6) | 4 |

| What's Inside | |
|------------------------|---|
| Geonomics | 2 |
| Learning/Media Center | 5 |
| District 140 Band News | 6 |
| TCOE: Target | 6 |

From the Principal

Greetings, Patriots!

This year is off to a fantastic start! It is amazing to see how the 6th grade students have already acclimated to Middle School, and for the 7th and 8th graders this is old hat.

Mrs. Szczasny and I have noticed something about all the students this year, they are polite! That's correct, I said **they are polite**. As we are walking down the hall, or greeting the students as they enter the building, they are saying, "Good Morning!" before we get the

chance. We have also noticed them picking things up off the floor, and helping each other when they drop something.

I truly believe that this is a testament to your parenting skills, Character Counts in the elementary buildings, and PBIS in the middle schools. The students overall behavior continues to improve each year these programs are in place. Thank you for your hand in making sure these positive behaviors continue in school and out.

-Mr. Olson

From the Assistant Principal

At Grissom Middle School, the 2011-2012 school year is off to a terrific start! Our students are establishing daily routines in their respective classes. I hope the start of the school year has been positive for both you and your children.

Please review the student handbook with your child. Not only is it a good way to see what is going on academically at school, it also contains our school's daily procedures.

This year we will once again promote Positive Behavior Expectations: Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be a Patriot! A matrix detailing our Positive Behavior Expectations is posted in each classroom and students have been learning these expectations in their grade level teams.

Throughout the school year, the Grissom Middle School monthly newsletter will communicate important information and dates for the upcoming month. Also, be sure to check our website, it has a wealth of information! Regarding classroom issues, if you have any questions or concerns during the school year, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher. Our teachers are a great resource and will be happy to help you. Additionally, if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact me.

I look forward to a wonderful year at Grissom Middle School!

-Mrs. SZCZASNY

Maurer Team 8-1

Does your child tell you about what they are learning in school?

Ask him or her these questions to see if they understand what they are learning.

Reading—What is truth? Is the truth the same for everyone? What are good ways to preview a text to predict what they will learn?

Language Arts—What is figurative language? Name three types of figurative language and give an example of each. Why are we encouraged to use figurative language in our writing?

Social Studies—What were the causes and the effects of the Civil War? What were the plans to readmit the Confederate states into the Union?

Science—What types of organisms did you see in your pond water?

Pre-Algebra—What is 5 more than the opposite of y?"

Algebra—If the price of a CD is \$17.95 and the sales tax is 7.5% use the formula $C = p + rp$ to find the total



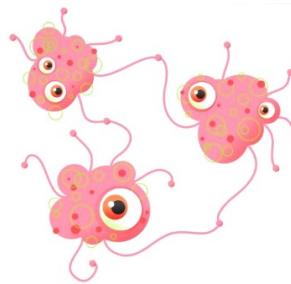
O'Neil Team 8-2

Pre-Algebra and **Algebra** are coming into the home stretch of Chapter 1 in their respective textbooks. Moving forward, both classes will attempt to sharpen their computational skills in the basic building blocks of long division, multiplication, fractions, and decimals.

We hope to be ready for our Andrew High School Andrew computational test on November 15th, 2011.

Mrs. Swift's Reading/Language Arts class is working on main idea in Workshop One. They will be creating scenes from their independent reading using Comic Life. Target words are used in story writing activities, and students will be writing an expository paragraph.

In **Social Studies**, we will be wrapping up the Civil War and moving into Reconstruction.



In **Science**, we are investigating unicellular and multicellular organisms. We will be constructing plant and animal cells in class along with recalling all their parts and functions. We will also continue to use microscopes to help enhance our research and our inferences.

Reading classes are immersing themselves in the new reading series. It is tough and students are working hard on reading their anchor books and responding in their reading journals.

Geonomics

The new enrichment course combining economics with geography is off to a good start. Students enjoy using the iPads instead of books. They began the course learning about the “economic way of thinking” and applying those concepts to current events and a couple of real life situations.

They are currently learning about the stock market and have just begun to play the online Stock Market Game administered by Northern Illinois University. Each team is given \$100,000 of virtual money and told to invest in at least four companies. Over the course of the 9 weeks, students will track their stocks to see how they have performed. They are learning about paying broker’s fees and getting dividends. They all know the slogan: “buy low, sell high”.

Students will also be doing a project which consists of planning a nine day road trip vacation. They will have to budget for gasoline, food, lodging, and activities for a family of four. They will have to decide whether to stay in a hotel or a camping trailer based upon the cost. It should be a real eye-opener for them!

This year the enrichment courses will last an entire quarter so students will have more time in each course. The other three enrichment courses are Applied Technology, Music, and Art.



Harrison Team 7-1

“Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions,” as inspired by Oliver Wendell Holmes. As the children venture through seventh grade, their minds will be stretched as they gain knowledge in each of their classes.

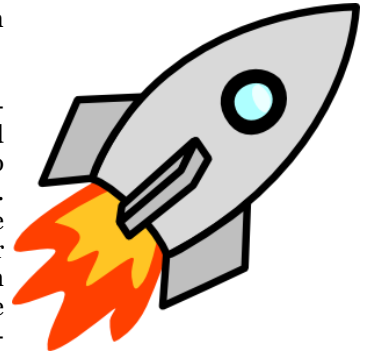
We encourage parents to check their child's assignment notebook on the calendar dates for daily work and in the back of the book to check for highlights. In addition, parents can check grades that will be posted with SDS online. Both tools are a great way to view your child's progress at school.

Mrs. Eggert's and Mr. Chicvara's Reading/Language Arts classes have embarked on our new series, *The Reader's Journey*. This is a novel-based series that introduces reading skills and strategies in a markable student text. The students then apply these reading skills and strategies to a novel they are reading independently. Some of the novels are assigned by the teacher, and some are selected by the student. In addition to whole-class learning activities, novels are discussed in small groups called literature circles. Writing assignments and grammar skills are interwoven with the literature text. We look forward to an exciting excursion as we journey through the wonderful world of literature!

Mrs. Swift's Reading/Language Arts class is working on story elements as they read an Edgar Allan Poe horror story. They will create a Comic Life scene from independent reading and will be writing literature reviews on workshop selections.

Mrs. Harrison's Science classes blasted off this month exploring space objects.

Students analyzed the electromagnetic spectrum and applied everyday objects to the different types of waves. Ask you child to tell you the position of the Big Dipper constellation during each season. He or she knows the story that can help them remember the seasons.



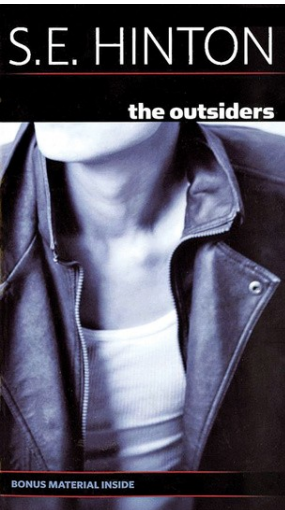
Mrs. Griffin's Math classes—

In **PreAlgebra** students are reviewing and incorporating some Connected Math into their review of Chapter 1. Excel will be taught and used to generate some graphs.

In **Course 2** students are reviewing and incorporating games into their review in Chapter 1. Please check your son/daughter's math binder. All daily math, homework, notes, and quizzes/tests are in this binder.

Social Studies classes will learning about European explorers in the new world. Students will incorporate how the expeditions led to world trade and technology development.

Large Team 7-2



Reading/Language Arts:

Students are delving into their new series *Reader's Journey*, a truly “novel” approach to reading. All reading classes will experience a new novel together each quarter. The novel selections this quarter are *The Lottery Rose* and *The Outsiders*. Reading and writing activities will revolve around these novels and the themes surrounding them. Reading skills covered in the textbook include using context clues, analyzing informational text, and author's purpose.

Math:

Team 7-2 math students have had an awesome start to the year! Course 2 students have been doing great work with decimals and integers. Pre-Algebra students reviewed integers at the beginning of the year. They will be digging into manipulating and solving variable expressions. Don't forget about konrathskorner.blogspot.com, which can be used for extra resources and practice games.

Science:

3...2....1.... Blast off!! We have “rocketed” into Astronomy! Before we began our exploration of the universe, we have seen constellations, looked at objects in space through various telescopes and satellites, taken a pit stop at the International Space Station. From there, we learned about Flyby spacecrafts and orbiters which examine what conditions are like on other planets. For those planets that have a rocky surface, we saw what landers and probes can do. With these tools, we hope to discover lots of cool things about space! As we begin our journey into space we will be traveling out of Earth's orbit to the moon to see how astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins landed on the moon. We will be studying the what the surface is like. We will then see why and how the Earth experiences seasons. Next, we will examine the phases the moon goes through during a month and what effect the moon has on our planet. We will then explore the other planets in our solar system, extending out into our galaxy, and into our universe. Whew....its going to be a long trip!

Social Studies:

Social Studies classes will be studying the exploration and colonization of North America. We will be focusing mainly on the English colonies.

Rumbaugh Team 6-1

Team 6-1 students have done a wonderful job transitioning to middle school, organizing their lockers, and changing classes every period. To continue this success, please encourage your student to use his/her assignment notebook on a regular basis to help with organization and homework completion. Please sign your student's assignment notebook daily so we are in constant communication with one another. Our team homework policy is now in effect, so be on the lookout for a red "Missing Homework" stamp in the assignment notebook.

In **Social Studies**, we will be learning about Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent. We will be using Discovery Streaming to help this chapter come alive. Our first Time for Kids issue has arrived and we will be using it to relate current events to those of ancient civilizations.

Science:

Students are beginning the year by reviewing the Scientific Method. They are developing hypotheses, collecting data, and drawing conclusions in various activities and experiments. Next, students will be exploring the Earth's atmosphere.



Mrs. Swift's Reading/Language Arts class is working on finding the main idea as they read stories about immigration in Workshop One. They will be using Comic Life on the computer to create a scene from their independent reading.

Our **Reading/Language Arts** classes have gotten off to a great start. All classes are currently reading their anchor novels and participating in their Literature Circle groups. Mrs. Chaps' students' "All About Me" posters are on display in the hallway. They look fantastic! Mrs. Chaps' students are also wrapping up their unit on nouns by creating their own mini book. Ms. Hayes' students have been working in collaborative groups to help recognize the distinct differences in narrative texts. Finally, don't forget to sign your child's Read At Home calendar. The calendars are due on September 28th.

Math:

- Course 1 will be diving into Geometry. Vocabulary will come alive as students find real-world examples of geometry.
- Course 2 students will be exploring fractions and using the Connected Math Series to see how fractions are used in life on a daily basis.

All math work is done in your student's math binder. Ask your student to see their stamp sheet to check on homework completion.

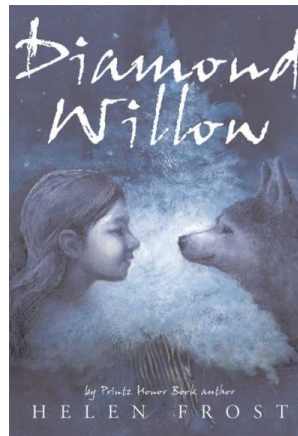
O'Keefe Team 6-2

Team 6-2 has made a great start to the new school year. All the students are finally settling in and are able to get their supplies and to their classes on time. We are pleased that the students are very responsible in getting their assignments complete and we have not needed to use the HMS system that much. Remember to continue to check your child's assignment notebook daily to ensure good homework production.

Math:

We are excited to have Mrs. LaPlant from Governors State University working with Mrs. O'Keefe and the team fulfilling her student teaching requirements for middle school mathematics. She has been teaching the Course 1 classes for two weeks and will slowly be taking over the Course 2 classes and Social Studies in the next few weeks.

Reading/Language Arts:



Mrs. Luttrell's and Mrs. Scarpelli's reading and language classes are working in the new reading series. Both classes are studying Unit one deciding what is true through both fiction and non-fiction texts.

Mrs. Scarpelli's class is reading the anchor book Leon's Story. Mrs. Luttrell's classes are reading Diamond Willow and Jim Thorpe : Original All-American. These are novels that the students read in class and may take home with them as well.

The grammar focus is on nouns. Students have learned common, proper, singular, and plural nouns. The next focus will be on personal and possessive pronouns.

The focal point for writing will be on autobiographical narratives. Students will be shown how to organize their ideas and provide elaboration for their writings.

Don't forget to check your child's assignment notebooks for homework daily.



The Course 1 classes are studying decimals. They are learning about place value, comparing, ordering, and will be exploring problems using all four math operations. These classes will be exploring how to use decimals in real life by completing an in-class check book activity.

The Course 2 classes are also studying decimals and will be learning about integers next.



The Grissom Media Staff can't wait to start the new school year.

We look forward to working with your children on a variety of projects, book selection and helping with technology.

Scholastic Book Fair

Volunteers are needed to help with the Scholastic Book Fair, **October 19-25, 2011.**

We have 2 shifts per day and need 2 volunteers to work each shift.



If you can help, please call Ms. Browne at Grissom, 429-3030 ext. 9589 (daytime) or 9508 (after 5 p.m.).

Passwords for Electronic Databases

Students at Grissom have access to several electronic online databases from school and home through Grissom's Resource Page. In order to access these databases from home, use the information provided below.

Grissom's Resource Page –

Go to <http://destiny.ksd140.org> and then click on "Virgil I. Grissom Middle School" on the right-hand side. This page includes links to several online databases, search engines and curricular resources.

Destiny Library Catalog –the online catalog to find materials in the Grissom Media Center. Click on the "catalog" tab at the top of the page to search.

Career Cruising—(Career matchmaker, information, education, and portfolios)

Use the following passwords:

Username: grissom
Password: patriots

Student Resource Center—an electronic database for magazines, newspapers, videos and more

Use the following passwords:

Username: tin_log
Password: patriots

Points of View—Pro/Con database

Use the following passwords:

Username: kirby140
Password: ebsco

Online Encyclopedias

World Book Online – online encyclopedia

Use the following passwords:

Login ID: kirby140
Password: worldbook

Grolier Online – America the Beautiful (U.S. History, Presidents and States) and online encyclopedia

Use the following passwords:

Username: kirby140
Password: Grolier

This needs to be entered each time you use Grolier Online.

Reading Resources

Novelist—Recommended and suggested fiction and non-fiction reading for all ages. This database can also recommend novels based on lexile scores.**

Use the following passwords:

Username: grissom11
Password: patriots11

If you have problems accessing these resources, please contact Mary Claire Browne at 429-3030 ext. 9589.

****Novelist** will be available to students and parents starting in October. The username and password may change. If it does, an updated username & password will be provided in next month's newsletter.

District 140 BAND NEWS

Welcome back to BAND!

Band directors: Ray Forlenza, Mike Szczasny, and Mark Hodges, and the District. 140 Band Parents Association are looking forward to another exciting year.

Concert and Symphonic band members will be fitted for uniforms in October. Uniform fittings for all boys have been **tentatively** set for Monday October 24th, and uniform fittings for all girls have been **tentatively** set for Thursday, October 27th. The times for both dates will be from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. at Prairie View Middle School in the band room. **Letters concerning uniform fittings will be given to the students during their band class. Please consult that letter for date confirmation.** This is a mandatory event for all Concert and Symphonic Band students. Students will also be sized for band shoes on these dates.

Our fall fundraiser of wrapping paper and holiday items will kick off on October 3rd. Order forms will be sent home with your band student. The last day to turn in orders will be October 17th. You may bring your orders to Prairie View Middle School that day from 4:00-6:00 PM. November 14th has been scheduled as the pickup day for the fundraiser. Band shoes will also be available for pick up that same day. This will take place at Prairie View Middle School from 4:00-6:00 PM. **There is also an online ordering option available this year. Online orders would be shipped directly to your home at no cost to you. You may also order online anytime during the school year.** Proceeds from this fundraiser provides for many things, such as band equipment, student awards, concert supplies, band student incentives, contest truck rentals, and summer camp scholarships.



The Band Parents appreciate your support!

Please mark your calendars with these important dates:



October 1, 2011 – IMEA Festival Auditions
Bryan Middle School in Elmhurst

October 3, 2011 – District 140 Band Parent Meeting, Grissom Middle School's band room at 7:00 PM. All parents are invited to attend.

October 3, 2011 – Fall Fundraiser Begins

October 17, 2011 – Turn in for Fall Fundraiser at Prairie View Middle School from 4:00-6:00 PM.

October 21, 2011 – 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band students will perform the National Anthem for the football game at Andrew High School.

October 24, 2011 – Uniform fittings for all boys in Concert and Symphonic Bands from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Prairie View Middle School. **(Tentative Date)**

October 27, 2011 – Uniform fittings for all girls in Concert and Symphonic Bands from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Prairie View Middle School. **(Tentative Date)**

November 5, 2011 – IMEA Festival at Riverside-Brookfield High School in Brookfield

November 12, 2011 – IMEA Jazz Festival at Rich South High School in Richton Park

November 14, 2011 – Fall fundraiser and shoe distribution at Prairie View Middle School from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Dist. 140 Band Parents

President – Debbie Puckett
1st Vice President – Mark Volk
2nd Vice President – Jim Bauman
Treasurer – Julie Pavoggi Bauman



Take Charge of Education with Target

Because of the generosity of District residents, Grissom has earned cash funds through Target's "Take Charge of Education" program. Here's how it works:

When parents, teachers, and other school supporters use their REDcard (Target Visa Credit Card, Target Credit Card, or Target Check Card), Target donates up to 1% of their purchases to their designated eligible K-12 school. It's minimal effort for your school with maximum reward. The more people are involved, the more Grissom can earn. All they need is a REDcard to enroll and participate. Enroll at Target.com/tcoe or 1-800-316-6142.

October, 2011

Grissom PTO Newsletter



Upcoming Hot Lunch Dates

10/5; 10/12; 10/19; 10/26

If you have any questions please contact Jill Yanko @ 633-7216.



Thank you to all parents and students who helped at Walk Through Day.

Your help was truly appreciated.

OCTOBER EVENTS:

10/04 Taffy Apple Orders Due
10/05 Hot Lunch
10/05 PTO Meeting 9:30 a.m.
10/07 Magazine Orders Due
10/12 Hot Lunch
10/13 Magazine Orders Due (final)
10/14 Pizza Day
10/19 Hot Lunch
Week of 10/17—Taffy Apple Pick-up
10/20 Market Day Pick-up
10/26 Hot Lunch

Market Day

Please pick up your orders in the Commons between 5:00 p.m., - 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, October 20th.

If you have any questions please contact Mary Staisiunas @ 214-7977.



REMEMBER: Market Day Orders are available on-line and order forms are also available in the office.

Pizza Day—October 14th



DIPPIN' DOTS October 29th

Order forms will be sent home in backpacks.



The PTO Round Table!

Please join us at our upcoming PTO Meeting on Wednesday, October 5th @ 9:30 a.m., @ Grissom Middle School.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

SPIRITWEAR

Orders need to be turned in by November 16th. Orders will be in before Winter Break.

Spiritwear features the **NEW GRISSOM LOGO!** This is the only order being placed for this school year. Spiritwear makes great holiday gifts!! Order forms are available in the office.



TAFFY APPLE SALE

Order forms are due October 4th. Pick-up will be the week of October 17th. Order forms are available in the office if you did not already receive one in your child's backpack.



PTO questions or concerns? Please contact Principal Shawn Olson @ 429-3030



HELP OUR SCHOOL

Remember to bring in your used ink cartridges for recycling. Also, clip and send in the Box Tops for Education found on many of the products you use at home along with Campbell's Soup Labels and Tyson Food Labels. We can earn cash to help our school, students and staff. Many stores offer coupons which count as additional box tops. Please send these coupons to the office. They are a great help to the program.

Target Red Card

If you have a Target Red Card, please be sure you have Grissom Middle School listed on your account. With every purchase you make Grissom receives a rebate. This money helps fund awards, assemblies, prizes and other Grissom activities.



MAGAZINE SALES

Sales runs through 9/26—10/13
Turn in days are 9/30; 10/07 & 10/13.

In addition to helping your school, your child will have a chance to win fun prizes!! **Get a jump on holiday gift giving!!**

