



Patriot News

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.”

- Abraham Lincoln



From the Principal

It is hard to believe the year is already half over. We began our third quarter this past Monday, January 28th. Report cards for the second quarter will be issued on Friday, February 3rd. Looking a month ahead, we turn all of our attention to the upcoming ISAT testing. Students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th grades will be taking the tests March 6th through March 16th. These tests are very important and used by the State to help determine funding. The school uses this information to help gauge the progress of the students. Although these tests are not the sole indicator of progress, it is very important to encourage your student to do his or her best.

time after 8:45am are considered tardy and may have to sit in the office if their class has already started testing. Thank you in advance for your extra consideration during these two weeks.

Finally, the inclement weather usually means an increase in the number of students who are driven to school. We ask that if no vehicles are in front of you in the drop-off lane, please pull as close to the corner of Grissom Drive and 169th Street as possible to expedite the drop-off and pick-up procedures. We understand that everyone would like to drop their child off as close to the entrance as possible in the cold weather, however, by pulling forward, it really makes a difference in students getting to class on time.

-Mr. Olson

Especially during these testing times, it is crucial that your children get enough sleep and have a good breakfast before coming to school. Please be diligent about getting your children to school on time as well. Students arriving any

From the Assistant Principal

Middle School requires more than just being able to read, write, and do math. What else do middle school students need to be successful? They need good organizational skills. Your child should be able to find their supplies, books and assignments easily.

Lastly, remind your child of the importance of asking for help. Often children will not ask for help because they are afraid of “looking dumb”. The best students are not always the ones who earn straight A’s, but the ones who frequently take chances and ask questions. Help is always available.

Promoting these skills will help your child flourish in middle school.

-Mrs. Szczaswy



Having several different teachers means several sets of expectations. Be sure your child is using their assignment notebook daily.

Time management is another area where middle school students may need some assistance. Children often underestimate the size of a long term project and then procrastinate until there is not enough time left to complete the assignment to the best of their ability. Encourage your child to do a little bit of the project daily instead of leaving it all until the last minute.

SU	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
			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			

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

The Team Line-Up

Maurer Team (Gr. 8)	2
O' Neil Team (Gr. 8)	3
Harrison Team (Gr. 7)	4
Large Team (Gr. 7)	4
Rumbaugh Team (Gr. 6)	5
O' Keefe Team (Gr. 6)	6

What's Inside?

Important 8th Grade Dates	2
Operation Snowflake	2
Geonomics News	3
TCOE: Target	3
Learning Center News	6
KSD 140 Band News	7

See if your child understands what he or she is learning in class by asking them the following questions.

$1^2 = 1$

$5^2 = 25$

$9^2 = 81$

$2^2 = 4$

$6^2 = 36$

$10^2 = 100$

$3^2 = 9$

$7^2 = 49$

$11^2 = 121$

$4^2 = 16$

$8^2 = 64$

$12^2 = 144$

Math

Ask your Pre-Algebra students how to multiply or divide exponential numbers and ask your Algebra student what is the difference between direct and indirect variation.

Reading

Ask your child what is the difference between foreshadowing and flashback. Why do authors use these techniques?

Language Arts

Ask your child to recite some action, linking, and helping verbs.

Social Studies

Ask you child into what areas did the United States expand in the late 1800's.

Science

Ask your child what are the phenotypes for their traits.

Operation Snowflake

Saturday, February 25, 2012
8:30 – 3:00 P.M.

7 & 8 Graders

\$35.00 Registration Fee

Food, fun, teen staffers from Andrew, guest speakers, challenges, dancing and more.....

Free t-shirt!

Forms and checks due back by
Wednesday, Feb. 8th

IMPORTANT 8TH GRADE DATES

Saturday, February 4th Freshman Registration @ Andrew High School

TBD Graduation Picture Re-takes

Friday, March 16th Graduation Fees Due

Monday, March 19th Great America Letter Sent Home

Friday, April 20th Great America Fees Due

Friday, May 4th 8th Grade Dance
6:30pm to 9:00pm

8th Grade Student Attendance Mandatory
Dismissal - 1:15pm

Tuesday, May 15th 8th Grade Awards Night
7:00pm - By Invitation Only

Friday, May 18th Constitution Test

Tuesday, May 22nd Line Up, Cap 'n Gown & Ticket Issues

Wednesday, May 23rd Graduation Practice

Thursday, May 24th Great America Trip

Thursday, May 29th Last Day of Attendance for 8th Grade Students

Wednesday, May 30rd Graduation - 7:00pm
Andrew High School

Friday, June 1st Last Day of Attendance for 6th & 7th Grade Students

Ms. Swift's Reading and Language Arts class will focus on fact and opinion as they read nonfiction selections about teens and technology in Workshop 5. Students will express and support personal views in a persuasive essay. A nonfiction book report will be due 2/29.

Mrs. Evancevich and Mrs. D'Andrea

In Reading, we will discuss the different types of Nonfiction. Some of the skills we will practice are identifying main ideas/ supporting details, cause and effect, and fact verse opinion. During Language Arts, we will review prepositional phrases, articles, and adverbs. Please continue to read for RAH.



The month of February means the big ISAT push in both **Jeziorny math classes**. In the next few weeks we plan to finally spend some time looking at properties of 2D planes, geometrical concepts, measurement of shapes and solids, as well as probability and statistics. Parents, ask your students how much they enjoy extended response math questions.

Geonomics

In the new "Geonomics" course, students play the Stock Market Game online with their iPads. Each team is given \$100,000 to invest in at least 4 companies and the goal is to make as much money as possible. This game is played throughout the state of Illinois and in the first quarter of the school year, Grissom had five of the top nine teams in the state! Awesome!

In 3rd place from 7th grade were Humza Said and Brad Koplik. In 5th place from the 8th grade were James Melody and Motaz Askar. In 7th place from the 6th grade were Juan Carbajal, Jack Doody, and Joey Fitzgerald. In 8th place from the 8th grade were Jane Folliard, Elizabeth Dempsey, and Omar Terrazas. In 9th place from the 6th grade were Lauren Mitchell, Kristina Karstensen, and Matthew Rodriguez. Congratulations!

In the second quarter, Grissom currently has 8 of the top 10 teams in the state out of 402 teams! We have the number 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10th places. Way to go, Patriots!

Take Charge of Education with



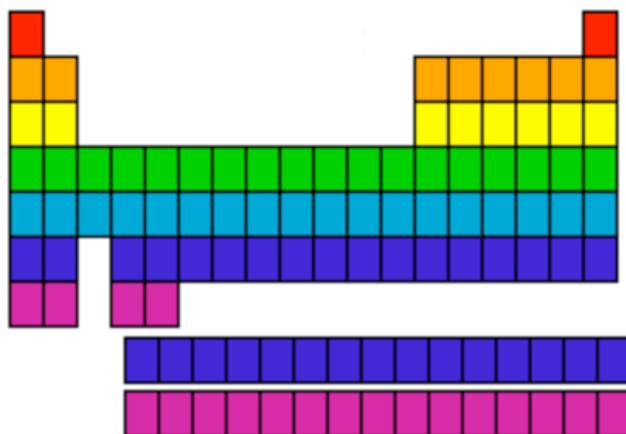
TARGET

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.

In Mrs. O' Neil's Science Classes we will continue using the periodic table. Students should have learned how to read the periodic table and what everything means on the table. Ask your students about groups, families, and periods. They should be able to let you the atomic numbers, mass, protons, neutrons, electrons, valence electrons, and family names. This is a great unit that helps the students in the future as well as now. Ask your child how many chemicals are in that can of Pepsi they are drinking for dinner. You will be amazed.



In Chapter 22 we discussed how the United States gained oversea territories, The Spanish-American War, the U.S. influence in Latin America and the building of the Panama Canal. This will lead us to Chapter 23, WWI. We will discuss the road to war, how the Americans prepared for war, battles of war, and how peace was established. We will soon be discussing the 1920's. We will discuss the great inventions such as the radio and the Model T. Unfortunately the fun during the 20's must end and it does with a crash. We will then move into The Great Depression.

We said good-bye to Ms. Sarah Osborne who has filled in for Mrs. Eggert and Mr. Chicvara in Language Arts and Reading classes. We thank Ms. Osborne and wish her all the best as she pursues her teaching career.

Mrs. Eggert and Mr. Chicvara

This month in Reading and Language Arts classes we will pay special attention to making inferences. This means that when reading a literary selection, students draw conclusions based on the information provided and what they already know to interpret the author's meaning. Students will also use their inferencing skills in writing extended responses to questions about what they have read.

Ms. Swift

Reading/L.A. class will continue using compare and contrast skills in Workshop 8. Vocabulary skills will involve using Target Words in new contexts and in discussions and writing. Descriptive writing will focus on adding details. Students should continue nightly reading and summarizing in their book log. February's book report will be due 2/29.

Mrs. Harrison

Science classes will continue to explore Newton's Laws of Motion focusing on the second law where Force is equal to mass times acceleration and the third law, for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Students will apply the scientific method through laboratory experiments and lab write-ups.



Mrs. Griffin

Please make sure your son/daughter has plenty of pencils. Many are coming to class without any pencils. This is required for class. Also, check their math binder. The condition of some, may need replacing, and many need loose leaf notebook paper.

In **Pre-Algebra**, look for Spatial Thinking. Connected Math and the textbook will both be implemented.

In **Course 2**, Understanding Percents will be completed. Many daily skills with math labs will be incorporated to help understand the concept.

Social Studies

All social studies classes will studying how the early leaders set the precedent for our political and economic system. Students will learn about Washington as our first president, Hamilton's plan for economic growth, and Jefferson who often disagreed with both of his predecessors. The decisions from these men were the foundation for our country's political base.



Large Team 7-2

Math

Course 2 students will be finishing up ratios, proportions, and percents at the beginning of February. Afterwards, we will be exploring geometry and how it integrates in their everyday life. Pre-Algebra did a great job working in groups while examining sales ads to see where unit rates, ratios, and percents came into play. They will also be starting their geometry unit in February. Geometry is very vocabulary heavy so please make sure students are making flash cards and studying their words!

Science



We have accelerated our way into investigating Newton's Laws of Motion, what really keeps us in motion, how force, mass, and acceleration are related, and how for every action we take, there is a reaction. Our class will then explore what forces keep us grounded, and what it really means to be under pressure.

Reading and Language Arts

Reading classes will finish Unit 2 asking themselves questions like, "Isn't that ironic?" and making statements such as, "What a character!" as we analyze literature through authors' use of irony and characterization. Language Arts classes continue to work on parts of speech and writing skills. We are always working on expanding our thoughts and ideas, and we strive to add voice to our writing.

Social Studies

Social Studies classes will continue to study the development of the United States. We will be looking at the Washington and Adams' presidencies.

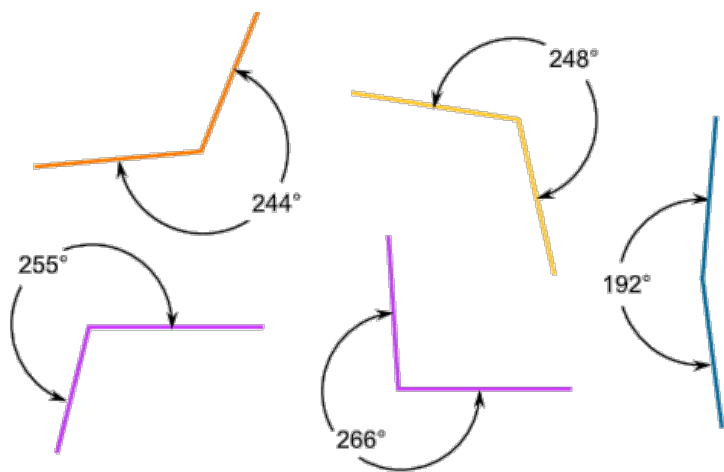
ASK YOUR STUDENT ABOUT OUR PBIS PROGRAM!

We have seen tremendous growth in our Team 6-1 students as the year has progressed. As a team, we have a few goals for our students to help them grow even more academically and socially.

1. Fill out your assignment notebook at the end of each period. This is a lifelong skill we feel will help the students with their homework completion and organization.
2. Use your TIP time effectively. Students have 20 minutes each day to ask teachers for help on struggling topics, do RAH minutes, complete homework, and organize themselves.
3. Get involved! Grissom has many activities, intramurals, sports, and clubs to join. Being part of an activity can enhance your students middle school years by teaching them time management, collaboration with others, and increasing their PATRIOT PRIDE. Look in the announcements on our school's website for upcoming opportunities.

Math

Course 1 students have begun their unit on fractions. We have started with the fundamentals of prime and composite numbers and finding factors of a number. To practice this, we played the Factor Game in class. This game is a great way for students to practice finding factors of a number and practicing their multiplication facts. Your student should have a list of the rules and a game board in their math binder. How about having a family game night this week and try this game at home?



Course 2 students have started their Geometry unit and should be studying the vocabulary nightly. We are integrating our Algebra skills into this unit to keep them fresh in our minds and to start thinking more algebraically. All mathematical problems need to be done by setting up an algebraic equation and solving. Ask your student to find the supplement to a 73 degree angle, algebraically of course!

Reading and Language Arts

Mrs. Chaps' reading and language arts classes are in the middle of Unit 2 in their Reader's Journey textbooks. While reading the short story "The Snake Thief", the students will be discussing whether the conflict has a positive or negative effect on the plot. They will also be finishing their grammar unit on adjectives by creating a mini book about adjectives. Don't forget to fill out their Read At Home calendars.



Ms. Hayes' reading and language arts classes have been studying the many different kinds of verbs. The students are excelling at distinguishing between action verbs and linking verbs. Her students have also started writing a compare-and-contrast essay, in which they will be using their knowledge of verbs and verb tenses to increase the sophistication of their work. The students have also been reading a variety of short stories, such as "Stargirl" and "The Diary of Anne Frank". Please continue to sign your child's R.A.H. calendar.

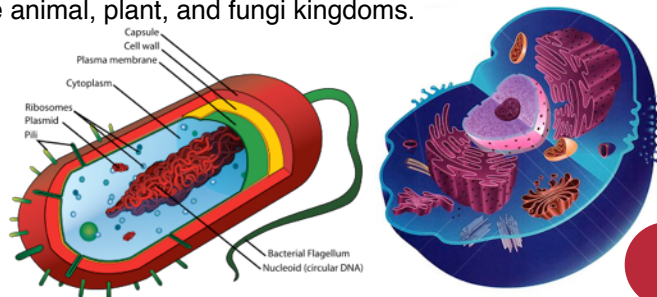
Ms. Swift's reading and language arts class will practice summarizing skills in Workshop 4 as they read articles about child labor around the world. Students will use Target Words when writing an expository summary paragraph. They should continue nightly reading and summarizing in their book logs. The February book report will be due 2/29.

Social Studies

Students have been learning about the origins of the Hebrews and Judaism and comparing and contrasting them to our other studies of ancient civilizations. Our next adventure will be to Ancient Greece where students will learn about the Greek Gods and Goddesses. The Olympics will also be studied and students will have an opportunity to be fierce competitors in the 6-1 Olympics held during Social Studies.

Science

Students did a wonderful job creating models of animal and plant cells. Many students enjoyed displaying their creative and artistic talents with this project. Currently, we are exploring the microscopic world of protists. Next, students will be comparing the characteristics of the multicellular organisms of the animal, plant, and fungi kingdoms.



Reading and Language Arts

Language classes will be studying adjectives in the positive, comparative, and superlative forms. As for writing, students will be working on expository essays.

Mrs. Scarpelli's reading and language classes will continue with the second unit. We will be finishing up the novel *Maniac Magee*, and the grammar focus is still on verbs.

With the beginning of third quarter underway, Mrs. Luttrell's reading classes will be working in Unit 3 of their Reader's Journey text. The concentration is on nonfiction literature and selecting what information is important to know. Students will also be practicing extended response samples for ISAT.



Math

Course 1 classes have been working out of the Connected Math series Prime Time book. Students have been learning about the different types of whole numbers and using them to make factor trees and cakes. Prime factorization is being used to find GCF and LCM. Both concepts will be used in upcoming chapters focusing on the use of fractions.

Course 2 classes will be continuing the study of geometry focusing on discovering formulas for area of different polygons.

Science

February brings Science class to a new unit - Diversity of Living Things. We will be focusing mostly on biology and living organisms. The topics covered are the parts and functions of cells, viruses, Kingdom Bacteria, Kingdom Protists and Kingdom Fungi. Students will be experiencing labs and many other hands-on activities.

Social Studies

As for social studies, students will be finishing up the unit on China. Each student will report their findings on their topic from China and explain how it relates to current day.

Honors Social Studies classes will be finishing the study of Ancient China. This class will be working on a project focusing on the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Philip P. Scully

Learning Center News

Rebecca Caudill Reading Program: The Rebecca Caudill program will end on February 24th, 2012. Students who have read three of the twenty nominees by that date will be able to vote for their favorite book and also attend the Battle of the Books assembly in March. Also, prizes for Battle of the Books will be distributed in March. We extend a special thanks to the PTO for providing incentives for our student readers.

Internet Use at the Tinley Park Public Library: If a student under the age of 18 plans to use the Internet at the Tinley Park Public Library, a parent must go with their child to the library the first time to sign an Internet permission form. Once the permission form is signed, it is kept on file at the library.

Media Aide Party: Thanks to all the Media Aides that attended our Winter Party! Everyone had a great time playing games and having fun. Our staff is extremely grateful for all their assistance throughout the year. Please see pictures below.



Enjoying a fun game during the party!



The Human Wrapping Project: The students had to gift wrap someone with their non-dominant hand.

Our band students have been very busy preparing their music for their upcoming contests and performances. Please remember to have your student's band uniform ready, including their tuxedo shirts, black band shoes, and black socks/hosiery.



On Saturday, January 21st, several of our band students participated in the 16th Annual SWCCB Concert Band Day in Lemont. Our band members had a chance to perform with students from over 20 other school districts from the Chicagoland area. The day included band rehearsal with a guest conductor, master classes with area music educators, and pizza and cake for lunch. The day concluded with a finale concert in the afternoon for the public. All whom attended had an enjoyable and educational day!

The KSD 140 Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held on Saturday, February 11th at Grissom Middle School. Students participating have been busy preparing their solos and have been practicing with their piano accompanist. Other students have been rehearsing their group ensembles to prepare for their performances. All participants have the opportunity to enter up to five events. All soloists and ensembles will perform their music in front of a judge for a rating. This is an excellent way to see how your band student is progressing.

We would like to acknowledge the Beginning Band students on their first public performance that was held January 18th at Prairie View Middle School. All of the students did a wonderful job demonstrating their new musical abilities. Keep up the great work!

The Dist. 140 Band Parents will be hosting the IGSMA State Band Contest at Prairie View Middle School on Saturday, April 28, 2012. The Band Parents will need many parent volunteers to assist with this day-long contest, which will help raise funds for our band programs. Approximately 30 parents per shift will be needed. There are two shifts available that day and there are a variety of duties that may be performed. Information and forms will be sent home with all Cadet, Concert, and Symphonic Band students and will also be sent out to the parents by email. The Band Parents will be asking for donations of soda, water, and baked goods for the concession sales at this event. Please remember to return your response form to your child's band director or contact Debbie Puckett at 708-403-4832 or by email at: puckmdmtam7@msn.com. The Band Parents appreciate everyone's assistance in making this event a success!

The sale of the District 140 Band decals will be ongoing for the remainder of the school year. If you have not purchased a decal and would still like to have one, please notify your child's band director. The Band Parent Organization will also continue to sell these decals at all future band events. The decals are available for a cost of \$5.00.

Please mark your calendar with these important dates.

February 11, 2012 – Solo and Ensemble Contest at Grissom Middle School.

February 16, 2012-Jazz Band field trip to Prairie State College. This will be done during the school day. Please watch for permission forms to be sent home with your child.

March 5, 2012 –Annual rehearsal and clinic for the Concert and Symphonic Bands. The students will work under the direction of guest clinician George Pierard, as well as the band directors that day for their upcoming District Contests. Pizza will be served for lunch. Information will be sent home as soon as it becomes available.

March 7, 2012 – Music In Our Schools Showcase Concert at **Grissom Middle School** beginning at 7:30 PM. The Concert Band will perform that night, as well as the District 140 Choir.

March 10, 2012– St. Laurence Band Directors' Festival at St. Laurence High School in Burbank, Illinois. The Cadet Band will perform in this event.

March 17, 2012 – IGSMA District Organization Band Contest at Manhattan Junior High School in Manhattan Illinois. The Concert and Symphonic Bands will perform at this event. If the bands receive a 1st Division Superior Rating at this contest, they will be invited to the State Band

Contest on April 28, 2012 at Prairie View Middle School in Tinley Park, Illinois.

March 20, 2012- The Jazz Band will perform at the Andrew High School "Evening of Jazz" Concert at 7:00 PM. The Jazz band would be the opening concert before the Andrew High School Jazz Band.

Dist. 140 Band Parents

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

Grissom PTO Newsletter



Upcoming Hot Lunch Dates

2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 & 2/29

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

To all our Grissom students, families and staff, **STAY SAFE & WARM!**



FEBRUARY EVENTS:

- 2/01 Hot Lunch
- 2/01 PTO Meeting 9:30 a.m.
- 2/03 Pizza Day orders due.
- 2/08 Hot Lunch
- 2/10 Pizza Day
- 2/15 Hot Lunch
- 2/22 Hot Lunch
- 2/23 Market Day Pick-up
- 2/24 Dippin Dots
- 2/29 Hot Lunch
- 2/29 Marcus Theater orders due.

Market Day

Please pick up your orders in the Commons between 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, February 23rd.

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.

Dippin Dots

Watch for orders forms— next date is February 24th.



Pizza Days

Our next Pizza Day is Feb 10th.

Orders for the 2nd 1/2 of the year for Pizza Days are due Feb 3rd. Orders forms are available in the Virtual Backpack and in the Grissom office. All proceeds for the March 1st Pizza Day will benefit the 8th grade dance.

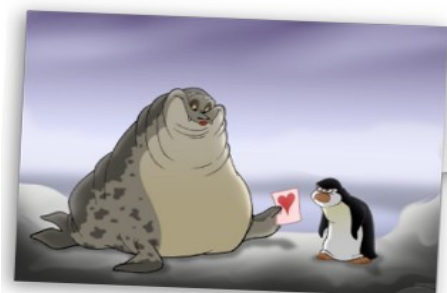
The PTO Round Table!

Please join us at our upcoming PTO Meeting on Wednesday, February 1st @ 9:30 a.m., @ Grissom Middle School.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

Marcus Theater Tickets

The Grissom PTO will be offering Marcus Theater movie tickets and gift certificates at a discounted price as part of a year-long fundraiser. **The next turn-in date will be February 29th.** Order forms are available in the Virtual Backpack, on ksd140.org and in the school office. Make checks payable to Grissom PTO





HELP OUR SCHOOL

Remember to 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.

