



# "KNIGHTLY NEWS"

Eastern York Middle School  
Newsletter  
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Eastern York Middle School  
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**The Middle School Social Studies department is beginning to teach new courses this school year. Each grade will pilot a new textbook that will also be available to students online. The new courses being taught are 8th grade American Foundations, 7th grade Ancient Civilizations, and 6th grade World Geography.**

## Power Standards and Common Assessments Dr. Jason P. Marin, Principal

The Pennsylvania Department of Education established state academic standards in nearly all subject areas several years ago. These standards describe what students should know and be able to do, and the standards increase in complexity and sophistication as students progress through school. Unfortunately, it is estimated that it would take over 20 years of schooling to teach all of the standards. Therefore, teachers must prioritize the standards to ensure the most important information is learned in each subject area at each grade level. Part of the process of prioritization is to identify the Power Standards, which are the eight to 10 most critical standards in a given subject area. Although students will be exposed to more than just the Power Standards, we as a school system are committed to ensuring that all students are proficient in all grade level Power Standards. In fact, the motto at the middle school this year is: *"Every Student - Every Power Standard - No Exception!"*

Once the Power Standards are identified, the teachers work hard to create common assessments that are designed to measure a student's level of achievement related to each Power Standard. These common assessments are often comprised of ten or so questions specifically designed to assess a single Power Standard. Some common assessments are based on performance skills, such as writing a persuasive essay, and take on the form of a project.

Through the course of this school year, students will be assessed using these common assessments in every class every three to four weeks. The results of the assessments will be shared with the individual student, and those students demonstrating proficiency in a given Power Standard will receive enrichment or will move on to the next Power Standard. Students who are unable to demonstrate proficiency on a Power Standard will receive various interventions and remediation until proficiency is achieved. This is our way of ensuring every student masters every Power Standard. This robust process of guaranteeing learning will result in increased student achievement in all subject areas, a most worthy mission.

# News from 6th Grade

## I T e a m

Moving to the middle school from elementary school can be a stressful time in the life of a preteen student. Leaving the comfort of a primary teacher in a smaller school to coming to the middle school with lockers, small hallways, and multiple teachers can cause anxiety for any student. The sixth grade teachers have developed transition activities to help ease any parental and/or student fear about coming to Eastern York Middle School.

The first week of school was devoted to meeting new team members, getting to know the building, and learning more about the team teachers. Locker organization, using locks, and reading a schedule were also focused upon during this transition time. Teachers emphasized the importance of using teamwork to problem solve, establishing a time and place to do homework, and basic study skill techniques. The A.R.M.O.R. Program was discussed at length, and both teams implemented Positive Behavioral Initiatives. N-Team students will be working to achieve Character Coins, and I-Team is striving to earn ARMOR Awards and Bonus Bucks.

The sixth grade teams were extremely pleased with the turn out for Back to School Night, and we are all looking forward to a great school year!

The middle school and you have something very important in common--your child's best interests. In order to ensure that your sixth grader be exposed to as much as possible, groups of teachers were specifically selected based on their experiences and interests.

The I-Team consists of six teachers with diverse backgrounds:

- Math- **Mrs. Margaret Beaver** graduated from Millersville University with a B.S. in Elementary Education. This is her 27<sup>th</sup> year in Eastern York School District. She is the Mathematics Subject Area Coordinator for the Middle School.



- Science- **Mr. Joshua Campbell** is starting his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of teaching at Eastern York. He taught at Spring Grove School District prior to returning to his alma mater. He has a B.S. in Elementary Education from York College. Mr. Campbell is a Varsity football coach.



- English- **Mr. Eric Hengst** is an Eastern York alumnus. He received his B.S. in Elementary Education from Penn State University. Mr. Hengst is entering his 9<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. Mr. Hengst is an avid soccer coach.



- Healthy Lifestyles- **Ms. Jeanne McCuean** is entering her 10<sup>th</sup> year at EYMS. She graduated from Fairmont State College with a degree in Family and Consumer Science.



- Reading- **Ms. Michelle Myers** is a graduate of Millersville University where she earned her degree in Elementary and Special Education. Ms. Myers has earned her Masters degree in Curriculum Design and Research from Penn State University. This is her 13<sup>th</sup> year at the middle school and 6<sup>th</sup> as I-Team leader.



- Social Studies- **Mr. Bradley Weaver** is a 1995 graduate of St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. in History with certification in Elementary Education and Social Studies. This is his 15<sup>th</sup> year at the middle school. Mr. Weaver is the Social Studies Subject Area Coordinator for the Middle School.



# News from 6th Grade

## N T e a m

### Meet Our Team

**Mr. Pry** teaches English on the N-Team. The curriculum is designed to cover the writing process, spelling, grammar and punctuation instruction. Students will focus on informative, narrative and persuasive pieces of writing this year.

**Mrs. Sherrer** teaches Math on the N-Team. The curriculum presents lessons from the Everyday Math Program. Lessons include decimals, fractions, percents, geometry and much, much more. BASIC FACT KNOWLEDGE IS A MUST!

**Miss Mable** teaches Reading on the N-Team. The reading curriculum provides strategies that good readers use. The acronyms FLIRT, DRIVE and RELAX facilitate the strategies in fiction, nonfiction and poetry genres.

**Mrs. Eyster** teaches Social Studies on the N-Team. The curriculum covers the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Students will discover the world in 180 days. The focus of each area includes the land, the people and the economy of the region.

**Miss Sylo** teaches Science on the N-team. The curriculum is designed to introduce cells, plant life, animal life, simple organisms, the scientific method and much, much more.

**Mrs. Dunlap** teaches EYMS Essentials for both N and I Teams. This program provides students support with the transition between elementary and middle school. Lessons include: the 7 Habits of the Highly Effective Teen, study skills, organizational strategies and Junior Achievement curriculum for BizTown.

**Mr. Ishler** will be providing Math Intervention for both the N and I Teams. He will be co-teaching in Mrs. Sherrer's classroom two periods a day, as well as, providing math labs for any N-Team student needing additional support on math concepts presented in class.

**Ms. Dajani** will be providing Reading Intervention for both the N and I Teams. She will be co-teaching in Ms. Mable's classroom two periods a day, as well as, providing reading labs for any N-Team student needing additional support on concepts presented in class.

Please feel free to contact us at any time; parent communication is the key to a successful school year.



In addition to 97 smiling sixth-graders, Miss Sylo has also joined the N-Team this year. She is the team's science teacher. Miss Sylo is a recent graduate from York College of Pennsylvania. Not only was she nearby during her college years, she also graduated from Dallastown Area High School. While growing up, Miss Sylo enjoyed playing soccer and field hockey. She also loves to watch football. Like many students and teachers in the district, her Saturday's often consist of cheering on Penn State. Miss Sylo is excited to teach life science on the N-Team this year!

# News from 7th Grade

## H T e a m



Shawn Little is the new 7th grade English teacher at EYMS this year. He graduated from West York Area High School and earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from Elizabethtown College. While at E-Town, Mr. Little spent a semester studying in Athens, Greece. After spending some time as a substitute teacher in the York City School District, he returned to school and earned his master's degree in education from Villanova University. Before joining the staff at Eastern York, he served as a substitute teacher for the Springfield School District in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. In his spare time, Mr. Little enjoys watching and playing various sports. He was a sprinter on the track team in college, and hopes to help out with the track team at EYMS. Mr. Little is looking forward to a fantastic year at the middle school, and he is excited to work with the wonderful students at Eastern York!

## G T e a m



### An Eye-Opening Experience: The Power of Observation



Mr. Monaghan's 7th Grade Science students were involved in a fun and exciting lab that coupled observation and inference with history! During this lab, students needed to use their indirect observation skills to figure out which pennies were zinc-based and which were copper-based. Their mission: To determine when the U.S. Mint stopped making pure copper pennies.

In order to accomplish this, students randomly chose pennies to test and dropped them on the table. Every time they dropped a penny, they had to record the sound it made, as well as the year of the particular penny. The sound of the pennies helped the students determine which were copper and which were zinc. Mr. Monaghan confirmed their inferences by using direct observation through the melting of the zinc-based pennies.

# News from 8th Grade

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade!

We would like to introduce you to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team teachers.

S

Teaching English are Mrs. Bennett (T) and Mr. Young (S). This year some of the classes are co-taught with Mrs. Gillig. Co-teaching benefits the students by having 2 teachers available to individualize the curriculum and provide remediation/acceleration as necessary.

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Our history teachers, Mr. Marcini (T) and Ms. Townsley (S), are working with a new curriculum this year. Their focus is American history from the birth of our nation through the 1700's. Students will be experiencing colonial times highlighted by their new textbooks.

The science team consists of Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Fenton. Mr. Fisher will concentrate on the chemical aspect of the science curriculum while Mrs. Fenton's expertise is meteorology and astronomy. They will be changing teams at the semester break so that students will get the same scientific experiences.

d

Mrs. Lesser (T) and Mr. Henry (S) are also co-teaching classes with Mrs. Stauffer in Basic Algebra. The additional opportunities for support will increase students' performance on exams and standardized tests. The Academic Algebra I curriculum has been changed to meet the new requirements for the Keystone tests. Keystone tests are the newly mandated state tests that all students will take at the completion of their Algebra I course and Geometry course at the high school. Mrs. Mauro will also provide co-teaching with Mrs. Lesser in Algebra I.

T

Providing semester instruction for both S and T team students are Ms. Vezza, Literature; Ms. Lesser, health; Mr. Hartman, art; and Mrs. Campo, Foreign Languages.

T

In Literature class, Ms. Vezza focuses on active reading using "Talk to the Text" strategies. In addition they will do a poetry unit and a novel unit.

e

The health curriculum includes the topics smoking, drugs and alcohol, the reproductive system and healthy choices. A field trip to the Susan Brynes Health Center accompanies this class.

a  
m

Art appreciation and esthetics are cornerstones of Mr. Hartman's art class as he instructs students to create works of art using a variety of mediums.

World language class includes the study of Spanish and French at the middle school level. The focus of this class is conversation and knowledge of cultural differences.



**A Message from the Attendance Secretary**

When your child is being picked up early from school, your wait time in the school office can be decreased if you send a note with the student in the morning. The note should indicate who will pick them up and what time they are leaving. When they bring a note to the office upon their arrival to school, we will issue a pass for them to leave class and be in the office waiting when you arrive. Hopefully this can streamline the process for you and for us.

# Upcoming Events

- 10/11/10 – No School – Columbus Day
- 10/15/10 – PTSO Fun Knight  
6:00-8:00 p.m. – Middle School
- 10/27/10 – Middle School Parent Visitation Day  
8:00-10:15 a.m.
- 10/27/10 – Early Dismissal – MS/HS – 12:45 PM



The Giant Program is a cash back to schools for patrons who place their Giant Bonus Club number into their computer system. A certain percentage of everything you spend then would come back to the school in the form of a check in April.

A patron can designate up to 2 different schools. If they do that; the percentage is split between the schools. Actually it is FREE money for schools.

Go to [www.GiantAPlus.com](http://www.GiantAPlus.com) or [www.Giant.com](http://www.Giant.com) to learn more. Be sure to visit this site often to view program updates and to track your school's A+ School Rewards progress.

The Middle School number for the Giant Program is 00690.



## September ARMOR Raffle Winners



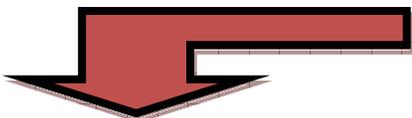
6th Grade



7th Grade



8th Grade



Don't forget to check your child's grades and assignments online at <http://www.evork.k12.pa.us/>



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