

# Troopers Team Newsletter

## September 13, 2019



### **General AFMS Info:**

\*\*Order your AFMS Yearbook at the **LOWEST PRICE** of the school year today! The cost is \$35 and can be purchased online at [www.jostensyearbook.com](http://www.jostensyearbook.com)

\*\*Students will need to bring **colored pencils** to SEL (formerly Advisory) on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

\*\***TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**—Wear red, white, and blue to celebrate Constitution Day!! See school website for more details!

### **Math/Figueroa:**

Today the first EOG worksheet was due. EOG 2 was distributed and is due in two weeks. Monday the advance class will have a quiz and a Mid Test on Friday. My regular math will have a quiz next Thursday and their Mid Test is September 24<sup>th</sup>. Have a great weekend.

### **Social Studies/Rabb:**

Our work this week focused on the five themes of geography (movement, region, human-environment interaction, location, and place). We then specifically examined movement—how and why people relocate and what they take with them. We also spent some time thinking about the anniversary of 9/11.

Next week, we are continuing to analyze geography's themes as well as celebrate Constitution Day. Additionally, we will have a guidance lesson with Mrs. Smith.

Currently, there are two social studies grades in PowerSchools, with two more going in this weekend. Remember, if you do not have access to PowerSchools, please go to the office to register in person.

**Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>:** Check-in/quiz on five themes, timelines, primary & secondary sources.

### **Gentle Reminders for Our Kiddos:**

- We have **MANY** water bottles, planners, notebooks, shirts, etc. floating around our hallway. Please remind your student to keep up with her/his supplies.
- Students are only allowed to have water in the classroom—Gatorade, Boost, Ensure, smoothies, etc. should not be in water bottles. If there are medical concerns, please let us know so we can alert the nurse and get the appropriate forms filled out.
- There are multiple opportunities for bathroom breaks throughout each day. We continue to encourage our students to use those opportunities, so they don't miss important instructional time.
- We did discuss code red and code yellow lockdown procedures today.

### **ELA/Gabbard:**

Hello parents! I hope your week has been wonderful. We've been working to understand elements of plot, genre, and dynamics within our table groups for each class. All students visited during SmartBlock this week to build background knowledge centered around Greek Mythology. Our first module will be starting on Wednesday and students will continue to build background knowledge centered around this subject area.

To better assist parents with understanding the areas of study and the EL Curriculum, WCPSS has added an **Overview for Middle School English Language Arts for Families** by grade level to the WCPSS [Homework Resources](#) page. These overviews outline modules of study by grade so that parents know what to expect over the course of the year. It also provides information for parents regarding how they can support their middle schoolers in their ELA learning. Spanish translations will be added soon.

## **Science/Hipps:**

### **“Whats A Matta U”**

Some of you may recognize this obscure reference to Bullwinkle! Whenever I try to explain it to a class (the slang plus the U for university) I usually get a bunch of blank stares. However, despite lacking an understanding of New York slang, your student will soon be learning about matter, elements, compounds, molecules, atoms, and subatomic particles. .

Besides these basic particles, this week will center upon prior knowledge that needs to be tweaked and added to. For example, most students know about liquids, solids, and gasses. But they may not know or understand that it is heat, and the movement of molecules, that determine whether something is a liquid, solid, or gas.

Students may not know that we call ice melting into a liquid, a change of phase or state. Changing the phase means altering the behavior of molecules. This behavior on a molecular level will be a major focus.

Obviously we will cover some new stuff like sublimation (very fun) and plasma (very cool). We will also cover physical and chemical changes which is a difficult concept for many students to grasp.

One common misconception students often develop is that heat makes molecules expand. Heat actually makes molecules move faster, and in turn spread farther apart. This molecular movement can increase the volume of some substances, especially metals.

### **Quiz Retakes:**

I expect all students who earn below a 75 to retake their quizzes. For the first quarter I will allow any student to retake a quiz who wants to improve their grade. In Power Schools the original grade will stand, but there will be a retakes grade adjacent to the quiz grade. For example...A student earns a 60 on the Matter Quiz, then a 90 on the retake. In Power schools that would be represented with a 30 for Quiz Retake, while the 60 for Matter Quiz would remain ( $60 + 30 = 90$ ). If a student earned a 100 for the original Matter Quiz then there would be no grade for the retake because none would have been needed.

### **Student Learning Objectives:**

**I can explain that heat moves from high to low concentration until thermal equilibrium.**

**I can explain that Density is determined by how much matter is stuffed into a defined space.**

I can compare an element to a compound.

I can compare and contrast atoms, molecules, and elements.

I can explain how a gas, liquid, and solid are different on a molecular level.

I can analyze a description or diagram of molecule movement and determine the phase.

### **Key Questions:**

**What is heat?**

**How does heat impact the density of an object or defined space?**

What is the difference between an atom and an element?

How do molecules behave if they are in a liquid, gas, or solid state?

What impact does the addition of heat have upon the phase of matter?

**Quiz: moved to Wednesday**

**Science Rocks,  
Mr. Hipps**