

Haines Happenings...

Behind the Scenes

September 10, 2015

A Message From the Principal...



Welcome to our first edition of Haines Happenings...Behind the Scenes. Each day we have great things happening here at Haines and these newsletters will be our way to showcase it with our families.

A few of the areas we will focus on will include an overview of different content areas, teams, school philosophies, staff development, and overall school initiatives. I hope this provides you with information that will help you understand your child's experience while at school. If at any time you have questions or suggestions about the material contained in these newsletters, please do not hesitate to contact me and I would be happy to talk with you. Enjoy your first edition of Haines Happenings... Behind the Scenes.

Mrs. Pam Jensen

Our Motto: Empower, Persevere, Excel

Our motto was developed during the school year of 2013-2014. These words were the ones that emerged as the core beliefs of what we want our students to embrace. We want our students to not only be **empowered** to do their best, but to **empower** others as well on their learning journey. **Perseverance** is a trait that we feel is very important in not only learning challenges, but life challenges as well. The ultimate goal for all of our students is for them to have the skills necessary to **excel** toward their dreams. Throughout the year, your children will hear these words and participate in experiences that challenge them to really understand the meaning and power these words could have in their lives. These words are posted in our hallways as a daily reminder to students. Teams also give out awards based on this motto for students that embody the essence of Empower, Persevere and Excel. Please take a minute to talk with your child about these words, what they mean to him/her, and even what they mean to you. As you use these words in your lives at home, remember that we work together to help our children grow.



Curriculum Corner

Sixth Grade English Language Arts

6.1, Katie Johnson - 6.2, Hallie Potter
6.2, Lauren Keller - 6.1 Sharon Wroble
6.2, Cari Clavelli - 6.3, Chrissy Vasilopoulos



General Topics of Study

Unit 1: Identity...How do I want others to perceive me?

Unit 2: Perseverance...What does it take to persevere?

Unit 3: Influence...How can I give my voice power?

Ongoing Activities and Projects

Literature Circles, Socratic Seminars, Research Based Learning, Weekly Writer's Notebook,
Weekly Reading Responses and Essential Grammar Instruction

How can parents support their 6th grader
in Language Arts this year?

Check in with your child! Ask them what they are reading, how their weekly reading responses are going, and ask them to share with you something they wrote in their Writer's Notebook recently!

Looking for some book recommendations
for your student?

Close to Famous by Joan Bauer (Realistic Fiction)

Code Name Zero by Chris Rylander (Realistic Fiction/Adventure)

Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Science Fiction)

A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd (Fantasy)

Yellow Star by Jennifer Roy (Historical Fiction)

Seventh Grade English Language Arts



In 7th grade Language Arts, we believe that students should develop a lifelong love of reading and writing. We focus on Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening as our major core areas.

7th grade has 5 major units of study focused on essential questions. In general, we have integrated units that focus on narrative reading and writing, informational reading and writing, and argumentative reading and writing. We use read-aloud, writer's notebooks, independent reading, direct instruction in grammar and vocabulary, literature circles, novel studies, and presentations to foster that learning.

Students regularly create quarterly book projects, articles of the week, personal narrative essays, argumentative research papers, and informational interview essays in order to demonstrate their learning.

Our team uses Edmodo, Blackboard, Google Classroom and Classzone (our online text) as online resources. We use the student planner as an organizational tool. One of the best ways to help your student is to encourage them to read for pleasure daily. Our team consists of: Stephani Jones, Debbie Yelle, Kim Karpus, Sonja Brazell, Christine Voreis and Rhonda Yegge. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Eighth Grade English Language Arts

We want all of our students to become critical thinkers through the practices of reading and writing. Critical thinking places students in the position to be empowered, to persevere, and excel in the classroom and beyond.

All of our units revolve around an essential question and combine reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

The four unit questions are as follows:

How do choices affect outcomes?

How can I effectively communicate through written language?

What do I choose to believe?

How does literature influence change?

Grade 8 projects include a narrative writing piece focusing on decision making, an extensive research paper, a novel study, and students presenting to their peers.

Parents are a valuable piece of educating middle school students. The most important thing a parent can do to help is to make education the priority in your home. This includes creating a consistent and structured environment for your child to complete their schoolwork.

Essential resources for our grade 8 students includes Edmodo, Classzone, Purdue Owl, and the student planner.

Team Time

Featuring 6-1 7-1 8-1

6-1 Team Leader/ Teacher – Mrs. Katie Hoffmann
Teachers – Mrs. Carole Schmidt, Mrs. Katie Johnson, Mrs. Jennifer Cesario, and Mrs. Sharon Wroble



Team Leader & Social Studies: Ms. Katie Hoffmann
(Katherine.Hoffmann@d303.org)

I attended Illinois State University and I like to travel to warm, sunny places! I also enjoy reading, shopping and spending time with family and friends!

Language Arts: Mrs. Katie Johnson (Kathleen.johnson@d303.org)

I attended Wheaton College and I like to spend time with my (new!) husband, eat at Chipotle, and shop at Target all while drinking an ice cold Coke Zero!

Math: Mrs. Jennifer Cesario (Jennifer.Cesario@d303.org)

I attended Northern Illinois University and I love to spend time with my family and travel.

Language Arts & Math: Mrs. Sharon Wroble (Sharon.Wroble@d303.org)

I attended Carroll College and I love spending time with my kids, reading and shopping.

Science: Mrs. Carole Schmidt (Carole.Schmidt@d303.org)

I attended Elmhurst College and outside of school I enjoy spending time with my family, making quilts, golfing and cooking.

7-1 Team Leader/Teacher – Mr. George Limberis
Teachers – Mr. Brandon Petersen, Mrs. Christine Voreis, Miss. Elizabeth Ronge, Mrs. Stephani Jones, and Mrs. Jeni Crowe

As a team, we incorporate two interdisciplinary units during the year. One unit in the first quarter and another unit in the fourth quarter. We also do a couple of problem solving team days during the year.



Mr. Petersen -- I graduated from North Central College in 1996. I received my Master's degree from Aurora University in 2003. I have been at Haines 15 years and have taught 19 years overall. I enjoy spending my free time with my wife, Carrie, and my sons Ryker and Colton.

Mrs. Voreis -- I attended ISU and have a Master's in Reading from Northern Illinois University and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. I have taught at Haines since 1994 and in my free time I love to spend time with my three children and reading. I often say because I teach middle school and have twins nothing can scare me.

Mrs. Ronge -- This is my first year at Haines Middle School! Last year I taught 6th grade science in South Carolina, but decided to move back to the area to be closer to my hometown of Crystal Lake. I attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to becoming a teacher I worked at a public accounting firm in Chicago for two years. When I am not at school I enjoy running, reading, and spending time with friends and

family.

Mrs. Jones -- I'm the resource teacher on 7-1 and beginning my 14th year teaching and my 6th year at Haines. I received my special education degree from Northern Illinois University. In my free time I enjoy reading, taking long walks with my dog, and traveling to various parts of the country watching my kids compete in swim meets, gymnastics meets, and soccer games.

Mrs. Crowe -- Before I became a Crowe, I was a Zabka (Czechoslovakian heritage). I was raised in Batavia as part of a large family (there were 10 of us kids)!! So, when college came into the plans... I sprinted to Colorado to attend Western State College of Colorado (a very small school-I was done with big family settings). Living in Colorado, I expanded my love of nature and began to notice how humans have impacted our world. I enjoy all outdoor activities: gardening, yard work, swimming, camping, biking, skiing, hiking, etc. The list is endless!! Love your home-Love planet Earth.

Mr. Limberis -- I am beginning my 30th year of teaching, 12th year at Haines Middle School, and 6th year as the team 7-1 Team Leader. I have an undergraduate degree from Judson University and Master's degrees from NIU and Concordia University. In my free time I enjoy movies, sports and the outdoors.

8-1 Team Leader/Teacher – Mrs. Kathy Goettel
Teachers – Mr. David Simone, Mr. Justin Manny, Mrs. Jeanette Katz, Mrs. Sharon Wroble, and Miss. Lauren Keller



Mr. Simone
Language Arts & Read 180

- Creighton College
- 2 Girls ages 12 & 9
- Hobby: Gardening
- 331-228-6710



Mr. Manny
Math, Algebra, & Applied Studies

- North Central College
- 1 Girl age 6 & 1 boy age 3
- Hobbies: Hunting & Fishing
- 331-228-6678

Team 8-1

Mrs. Katz
Science & Entrepreneurship

- Univ. Tennessee Chattanooga
- 2 Boys ages 3 & 1
- Hobby: Outdoors
- 331-228-6771



Mrs. Goettel
Team Leader
U.S. History & Digital Media

- Michigan State
- 2 Boys ages 19 & 16 and 1 girl age 6
- Hobby: Running
- 331-228-6659



Mrs. Wroble
Resource Teacher

- Carroll College
- 3 Children ages 18, 16, & 11
- Hobby: Spending time with her kids
- 331-228-6721



Miss Keller
Resource Teacher

- Illinois State University
- 1 Dobermann age 2
- Hobby: Planning her Wedding!!!
- 331-228-6673

Professional Learning Teams

Last year, our teachers embarked on a new form of professional development known as Professional Learning Teams. For each of the SIP and Institute Days, our teachers got together in multi-faceted groups to study, learn and grow with the focus being formative assessments. These groups chose multiple topics under the broader concept of Formative Assessment including feedback to students and learning targets. Teachers studied student work, visited each other's classrooms and studied research on these topics. They also applied this knowledge to the classroom and then came back together to talk about the strategy related to student learning. Professional Learning Teams will be in their second year for the 2015-2016 school year. Stay tuned for more information on what is happening in our Professional Learning Teams (PLT's) this year.

Social Emotional Learning Team

Social Emotional Learning Team (SEL) is a group of teachers who volunteered to focus on the implementation of the three SEL standards. These standards focus on: developing self-awareness and self-management skills, establishing and maintaining positive

relationships, and decision making skills. Our goal is to create meaningful opportunities for the students to learn and implement the standards throughout their day.

Needs Assessment Team

Needs Assessment Team (NAT) is a team of 15 teachers who volunteered to create our school improvement goals. The purpose of NAT is to use district and national data to determine what topics our staff needs professional development on and then facilitate the professional development based on the differentiated needs of the staff.

The school improvement goals focus on math tasks, text dependent questions, and tier two vocabulary words. Each content area will focus on one of the three goals and produce teacher and student growth data to track our progress.

Parent University

Date: October 7th

Location: Haines Middle School LRC

Time: 9:00 - 10:00 am

October topic: Join us for our first Parent University on October 7th to learn about what bullying looks like, types of bullying, prevention at Haines and what you can do at home to support your child if he/she is faced with bullying.

Contact Jean Scott to RSVP (by October 5) at 331-228-6707 or by email at jeannine.scott@d303.org.