

SCS News

stewartstown.sau7.org

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Principal's Corner

I so greatly enjoy the first weeks of school—new school supplies, vibrant bulletin board displays, teachers' excitement about new units to be taught, but **mostly**, welcoming our students and families back for what promises to be an amazing school year! The smiles, summer stories, and community shared in the walls of SCS is unlike any other.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Open House on September 13th. If you weren't able to stop by, please feel free to contact us at any point in time to check in. Our doors are always open!

When you are looking for updates and/or information about our events, please check the following places: our school newsletter, our website, the lobby bulletin board, your child's agenda/backpack for notes/fliers, and listen for our OneCall emails and phone calls.

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year with our staff, students, and families. It is our **teamwork** and **collaboration** that will help our students experience success! Here's to a brilliant 2018-2019 school year!

Mrs. Mathieu



I have a **GROWTH MINDSET.**

I am in charge of how smart I am because

I can **GROW** my **BRAIN**

like a muscle by learning hard things.

I can achieve

ANYTHING

with **EFFORT** and

RIGHT STRATEGIES.

And even if I fail or make a mistake,

it is a **GREAT** thing, because

I can **LEARN** from them and

I GET BETTER!

Big Life Journal

www.biglifejournal.com

News from Pre-K / K

September was a super busy month! We've been working on routines and procedures, getting to know each other, and diving into the curriculum. We learned all about monarch butterflies, then a bit about farms. We've practiced the capital letters F, E, and D and are listening for their sounds. We've been learning how to read, write, and count 1-5. We've learned the high frequency words *the*, and *I*. Next up is *see*, and an apple exploration.

Mrs. Hemon



News from Grades 1 & 2

First and Second graders have been off to a PAWSitive start! We spent the first few weeks of school learning new routines and practicing the skills that we will need to make the classroom run smoothly. During Math, we split into grade level groups and complete work accordingly. We are very excited to be launching an expanded approach to language arts called **Walk to Read**. We are a lucky enough this year to align schedules with grades 3 and 4. During this time students are split into smaller groups to meet student learning needs. We are still using the classroom structure called Daily 5. Students currently have the chance to choose between Read to Self and Read to Someone. Soon they will be able to engage in Word Work, Listen to Reading, and Work on Writing. We have started practicing word sorts in the classroom and will eventually be sending this home. In Science, we have started learning about Autumn. We have read many books and have experimented with leaves to see why leaves change color.

Mrs. Ricker



News from Grades 3 & 4

Third and fourth graders have really started to settle into our new grouping for the year! We are becoming a cohesive community that works hard to support each other as best we can. This is a terrific start for the year! We all enjoyed the visit from Simon Brooks. Being able to have a guest professional storyteller with us for the day was an amazing chance to learn more about storytelling and for each student to begin to write a fractured fairy tale of his or her own. We will be completing these in class, so stay tuned for some special stories to come home!

Math instruction has been mostly a review and refresher so far. Practicing math facts for fluency when doing math problems is a wonderful way to help your child with math, and really should be done every day. Third grade is working on rounding, while fourth is moving forward with division.

Spelling homework is assigned daily Monday through Thursday. Thank you for your support for your child in meeting this expectation, and for your communication with me as the teacher with questions and concerns. I cannot stress enough how much I value your feedback about your child, and I look forward to continuing to strengthen this partnership. School and home working together really helps students achieve more!

Mrs. Hodge

News from Grade 5

September has been a busy month and school has just barely started. Fifth graders have been working their brains with learning all sorts of new topics. Many have had that wide-eyed look of panic on their faces, but never let it overtake them. They are a class of students that want to learn new things and make connections.

We've been "reviewing" parts of speech in ELA and will continue to do so for a few more weeks. We have also taken on the ambitious task of tackling the book Harry Potter. This text will give us ample opportunity to learn new vocabulary, test our decoding skills with this vocabulary and a plethora of nonsense words (often found in fantasy books), and develop a firm understanding of the elements of fiction.

Social Studies topics have been somewhat foreign too. We have been covering how people got to the Americas and the cultures they developed. Many of the students were amazed at how different, yet sophisticated, they all were. Students also took a brief look at the Native American cultures of the West, Southwest, Plains, and Eastern Woodlands. This culminated in a mini project of showing what they learned using any method of choice. Let's just say the fifth graders are quite an artistic and dramatic crew of kids. Everyone did an excellent job.

Our focus in Science has been DRONES. We have been learning all about how they work, how to operate them safely, different types, their uses, and even some controversial aspects of their use. Students built their own Lego FLYBRIX drones to learn and practice with. Then we got out a more sophisticated drone with a camera and have been practicing what we've learned to fly that one too. Our minds are churning with ways we could use drones to enhance our learning of all sorts of topics. Any suggestions are welcome!

As for Math, well, fifth graders have quickly realized that everything they were taught in the past will be needed to solve math problems at this level. They will be using all their skills collectively. Their days of one step problems are over. We have started with learning about decimals and how they are just fractions written in a different form. We have written them in standard, word, and expanded form. We have compared them and will now move on to adding, subtracting and multiplying them.

What more will OCTOBER bring?!

Ms. Wonkka

News from JH Science

All three grade levels have been learning about the importance of Depth of Knowledge, Lab Safety, and how to write a lab report. Below is specifically what each grade has been learning in science so far this year.

Grade 6- Physical Science- The students have been learning key terms such as mass, weight, volume, and stages of matter. They conducted an experiment

where they were asked to use various science equipment to measure mass and volume.

Grade 7- Life Science- The students have been learning about cells and organisms. They are presently working on a plant cell project involving creating a diagram using the various parts. Not only are they learning the parts, they are learning the functions as well.

Grade 8 Earth Science- These students are learning about the Earth's atmosphere and its properties. They recently did a lab involving a bottle and balloon to illustrate air pressure. They also created their own poster illustrating the various layers to the atmosphere.

Mr. Kennedy

News from JH ELA & Social Studies

Our students have made a quick transition from summer vacation to the new school year.

In Language Arts and Social Studies classes they have been very busy practicing their researching and writing skills, as well as planning projects. Students in grades six through eight have been reading selections from a Scholastic Scope magazine. The main focus has been nonfiction reading, related to the hurricane in Puerto Rico last September. Of course we were able to relate this information to current weather events, and what we would do if put in a disastrous weather situation.

Social Studies research has been focused in different areas of study for each grade level. Grade six students are involved in solving "The Mystery of the Ice Man, Otzi", researching to gather whatever scraps of information they can find about the discovery of this ancient man. Grade seven students are learning all about our neighboring country, Canada. They will be *creating* a project that shows what they know about Canada. Grade eight students have been trying to find out as much as they can about the two early English settlements, Roanoke, and Jamestown.

All in all, it has been a great start to our year. Let's keep up the good work!

Mrs. Stebbins



News from the Resource Room

September is almost over! Where did the time go?! The students should be used to their routines after a month of classes, homework, and tests. Heads up: Quarter 1 Progress Reports go out on Friday, 9/28.

In my recent “Teachervision” newsletter, there were many articles in which parents may be interested. One in particular, “**Ten Top Test-taking Strategies**” sounded great. Here they are:

1. Have a Positive Attitude

Approach the big test as you'd approach a giant jigsaw puzzle. It might be tough, but you can do it! A positive attitude goes a long way toward success.

2. Make a Plan

The week before the test, ask your teacher what the test is going to cover. Is it from the textbook only? Class notes? Can you use your calculator? If you've been absent, talk to friends about material you may have missed. Make a list of the most important topics to be covered and use that as a guide when you study. Circle items that you know will require extra time. Be sure to plan extra time to study the most challenging topics.

3. The Night Before

Cramming doesn't work. If you've followed a study plan, the night before the test you should do a quick review and get to bed early.

Remember, your brain and body need sleep to function well, so don't stay up late!

4. The Morning of the Test

Did you know that you think better when you have a full stomach? So don't skip breakfast the morning of the test. Get to school early and do a ten-minute power study right before the test, so your brain is turned on and tuned up.

5. Test Time

Before the test begins, make sure you have everything you'll need - scratch paper, extra pencils, your calculator (if you're allowed to use it). Understand how the test is scored: Do you lose points for incorrect answers? Or is it better to make guesses when you're not sure of the answer? Read the instructions! You want to make sure you are marking answers correctly.

6. Manage Your Time

Scan through the test quickly before starting. Answering the easy questions first can be a time saver and a confidence builder. Plus, it saves more time in the end for you to focus on the hard stuff.

7. I'm Stuck!

Those tricky problems can knock you off balance. Don't get worried or frustrated. Reread the question to make sure you understand it, and then try to solve it the best way you know how. If you're still stuck, circle it and move on. You can come back to it later. What if you have no idea about the answer? Review your options and make the best guess you can, but only if you don't lose points for wrong answers.

8. Multiple-Choice Questions

The process of elimination can help you choose the correct answer in a multiple-choice question. Start by crossing off the answers that couldn't be right. Then spend your time focusing on the possible correct choices before selecting your answer.

9. Neatness Counts

If your 4s look like 9s, it could be a problem. Be sure that your writing is legible and that you erase your mistakes. For machine-scored tests, fill in the spaces carefully.

10. I'm Done!

Not so fast - when you complete the last item on the test, remember that you're not done yet. First, check the clock and go back to review your

answers, making sure that you didn't make any careless mistakes (such as putting the right answer in the wrong place or skipping a question). Spend the last remaining minutes going over the hardest problems before you turn in your test.

If I can help with other subject ideas such as Study Skills, or Homework Completion, please email me at mmiller@scs.sau7.org or call me at 246-7082.

Have a great Fall. Enjoy the upcoming beautiful foliage.

Miss Miller

News from the Media Center

We just started a new school year and a month is gone. This year is going to whiz by. Our yearbook committee has had one meeting. Members are Jayden Riendeau, Savannah Ricker, Kade Cameron, Kaedyn Covell, Anthony Dumont, Kole Chapple, and Julia Noyes. We will be using box top money to fund the yearbook, making sure that every student and staff member will receive a free, colored yearbook. So, collect those General Mills box tops for our school! We will still be having "Box Top Raffles" throughout the year with the first one on October 30th. A flyer will go home soon, but if anyone has any questions, just see me in the library, call, or send me an email.

Our Scholastic Book Fair week will be October 22-26, with Family Night on Thursday, the 25th. Hope to see everybody there!

Mrs. Placey



News from JH Math

In our math sixth class we have been working with variables and expressions. Students have reviewed exponents as well as the properties of operations. A new property introduced to them this year was the distributive property. Moving forward, students will be using variables to write expressions and evaluating algebraic expressions. For their first project, students are planning their dream vacation. This requires students to pick a destination and research airlines, hotels, and attractions. Students will be required to complete an itinerary and total budget sheet for their stay. This project is designed to review mathematical operations with decimals.

In our seventh grade class we have been working a lot with operations with integers. Students are reviewing the rules when adding and subtracting with positive and negative numbers. To help better understand this concept, students have been using a number line as a tool. Moving forward, students will be completing their first project using coordinate planes. Students are creating and graphing an image of their choice. Their image must contain at least 60 points, all in which are labeled with the ordered pair and quadrant number.

In our eighth grade class we have been reviewing classifying numbers as irrational, rational, integers, whole numbers, and natural numbers. In addition to classifying students are comparing, estimating, graphing, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with rational numbers. Our first project is a favorite for football fans in the classroom. Students are creating their own *Fantasy Football* League. Students will be drafting a QB, RB, and WR and tracking their stats per week and calculating them using the scoring system I have created. To conclude the project students will be comparing their players points to others in the class and graphing their information to determine who drafted the best league.

Ms. Saari

Title I News from Mrs. Stebbins

Welcome Back to School!

The first few weeks of the school year are always busy. There are assessments to be given, expectations to be reviewed, and summer stories to be told. This year

proved to be no different. Once all of these “mechanics” were taken care of, I had the opportunity to get into the classrooms and help out when needed. I have been working with students in grades 1-4 on practicing writing skills. The month of September was all about learning/practicing sentence structure, what made a complete sentence, paragraph structure, and how to stay on topic when writing a paragraph. I am very pleased with the students’ progress and enthusiasm for writing.

October 1 kicks off our school-wide reading challenge. For those who choose to participate, students will need to read a story and present me with some information about what they read (students in grades K-2 need to draw a picture and students in grades 3-8 need to write one paragraph relating to the book they read). Once students have read and presented me with the appropriate materials, they have a chance to win a variety of prizes! A newsletter will be sent home October 1, 2019 with more information regarding this challenge to help answer any questions, explain the prizes, and give a more in-depth outline of the guidelines. I hope to have everyone try at least once!

Happy Reading!

Title 1 News from Mr. Kennedy

I have been assisting children in the younger grades in their classrooms. Grades 1 and 2 students have been working with their math assignments involving adding and subtracting. Kindergarten students have been learning about ducks and other farm animals. I have also has been in the older grades helping with math and language arts.



Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 1, 2018

Picture Day / 4:15 PM Board Meeting

OCTOBER 3, 2018

Grade 8 visits Colebrook Academy

OCTOBER 4, 2018

Student of the Month- 11:50 AM
Early Release- Noon

OCTOBER 5, 2018

No School- Admin Day

OCTOBER 8-12, 2018

Fire Safety Week

OCTOBER 9, 2018

Fire Safety Presentation

OCTOBER 15-19, 2018

National Hot Lunch Week

OCTOBER 17, 2018

Grade 8 visits Pittsburg High School

OCTOBER 22-26, 2018

Red Ribbon Week

OCTOBER 25, 2018

5:30-6:30 PM Book Fair & Family Night

OCTOBER 30, 2018

Box Top Raffle

OCTOBER 31, 2018

Class Halloween Parties