

Swope Middle School GT Magnet

*The second
semester begins
on January 9th!
We look forward
to seeing everyone
back and ready to
learn!!!*

Happy 2017!!! It's always a great feeling to start a new year when everything feels fresh and new and as if anything is possible! This is the time when people make their New Year's Resolutions; it is always fun to think of new possibilities and fresh perspectives. Enjoy the rest of your Winter Break and we look forward to everyone returning to school on January 9th: rested, refreshed and ready to learn!

When students return to school on January 9th, the second semester will begin. And, if you thought the first semester flew by, the second semester always seems to go by even faster. Please talk with your child about their first semester reflections and encourage them to build upon their success and learn from the challenges they faced. Feel free to communicate with us regarding any support your child might need to ensure their continued success. Don't forget Swope has a wonderful after-school tutoring program available to students on Tuesday and Thursdays; we find that having this time dedicated to academics has really helped many of our students.

Each student will complete another Project Based Learning Unit this semester. 8th Graders will research their dream college and what they will need to accomplish in high school to make their dream college a reality. 7th Graders will design race cars and put them to the test in actual races! And 6th Graders will turn their focus to improving our community. You will receive more details and information about these projects as the semester progresses.

Thank you to all our families for their most generous donations during Swope's Annual Food Drive. Your generosity made a difference to many families in our community.

Please know that we pack as much curriculum as we can into every single minute your children are scheduled to be in class. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments and/or trips when school is in session. While we understand that this doesn't always work out, we do appreciate your efforts to have your child here every day. Thank you!

Important Dates for Upcoming Events

*No School on Monday,
January 16th to
celebrate
Martin Luther King
Day!*

Monday, January 9
Thursday, January 12

Spring Semester Begins!
7th Grade Parent Presentation—Children’s Cabinet
“Signs of Suicide” program preview; students will
participate in this program in January
No School!!! Martin Luther King Holiday
8th Grade Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience

Monday, January 16
Thursday, January 19

High School Transition Information

*GATE Institute
Applications are
due on Friday,
February 3rd!!*

Sunday, January 1
Sunday, January 29
Friday, February 3
Thursday, March 15

AACT Applications Due
Signature Academy Applications Due
GATE Institute Applications Due
7:30-2:00 p.m. RHS Frosh Day at Reno High
School!!!

Upcoming Field Trips

*8th Grade Field
Trips*

January 19th

Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience
8:00-1:45 p.m.
Lunch is included! ☺
Students will be learning about career options in
wildlife as well as participate in archery and other
activities.
Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help
chaperone! ☺

April 17th and 18th

Bodega Bay
Cost: \$150/student and \$100/parent chaperones
More Details to follow
Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help
chaperone! ☺
*Please Note: If you want to chaperone on this
overnight field trip, you must have your fingerprints
submitted to WSCD no later than March 1st.

March 16th

RHS Frosh Day
All 8th graders registering to attend RHS in August
2017
7:30-2:00 p.m.
Lunch is included

*7th Grade Field
Trips*

Spring Semester TBA

NV Energy

More details to follow

Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help

chaperone! 😊

Spring Semester TBA

Discovery Museum

More details to follow

Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help

chaperone! 😊

January Classroom Previews

Mr. Bodensteiner

7th Grade:

The students will explore the sociology behind the causes of the American Revolution, the Revolution itself and the leaders involved. They'll also examine the French Revolution.

8th Grade:

The students will analyze both the Progressive Era and World War I. We'll examine a variety of texts and participate in simulations.

Mrs. Cabangon

Algebra

Unit 6 in Algebra is comprised of Exponents and Radicals. Students will explore the rules that govern multiplying, dividing, adding and subtracting exponents and radicals. This is a key concept for Algebra because students are expected to use this in every area of math, including Geometry, from this point forward.

Algebra II Honors

Next semester will begin with the combination of Unit 6: Transformations and Unit 7: Exponential and Cubic Functions. Students will be learning how the graphs of these parent functions move on the coordinate axis.

Integrated II

Upon returning from Winter Break, students will continue their work through Formal Geometry with Unit 7: Geometric Transformations and Unit 8: Triangle Congruence. Students were assigned a small amount of work over winter break that needs to be completed before returning on January 9th. This will help ensure that students are fully prepared to jump right into the content during the first few days of Spring Semester.

Mrs. Hoy

8th Grade ELA:

Our guiding question for the third quarter is “How does imbalance require resilience?” Students will begin the quarter by reading three books—one based on events during World War I, another from World War II, and a third on the Holocaust. Students will have several choices for each study and will collaborate

in small groups to analyze their book. Students will then complete a group project that will help them combine the various themes from all of the books into one central idea. Students will then take a final essay assessment covering this novel study the last week of the quarter.

8th Grade GTC:

We ended the first semester with an essay using suggested writing styles from our study of the Stephen King's On Writing. Students will use this essay as a launch pad to creating a cause and effect essay that is both entertaining and structurally sound. Students will also continue working with NoRedInk.com and Vocabulary.com to build their writing skills.

Mrs. Leslie

7th Grade ELA:

For the month of January in reading, students will begin reading sections of Stephen Ambrose's Undaunted Courage, a non-fiction account of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Simultaneously, they will read Roland Smith's Captain's Dog, a fictional account of the same expedition. This novel will scaffold those students who struggle with comprehending Undaunted Courage while giving all students opportunity to compare and contrast how authors, writing about the same topic, shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.

This month students will also prepare a book talk to be presented later this quarter. This opportunity helps students gain confidence speaking to an audience with an appropriate conversational style. Students work on remembering information for their talk without memorizing every word.

By the middle of January, students should have completed reading their 3rd quarter non-fiction adventure book. Students will have class time to create the independent book project in their reader's notebook.

7th Grade GTC:

For the month of January in writing, students will begin Sacred Writing Time. This is a 10- minute time every day in class to write about topics of their own choosing. "It is a place where the exploration of questions of needs, wants, desires, longings, withholdings, secrets and trouble of all varieties, can yield new understandings of what it is to be an individual, a child... a friend, an enemy... a member of a community, an outcast from a community, a citizen of the world." (Minor, The Importance of Creative Writing)

Also, this month, students will participate in a Race Car Project Based Learning Unit in Science. The English portion will require students to write a technical process paper. Unlike other genres of writing, this type of expository writing requires students to briefly and succinctly write about a process and analyze the results without use of figurative language, strong elaboration, or personalization. Students will focus on strong technical word choice, transitional phrases and concise articulation.

Lastly, students will be analyzing short stories and writing one of their own. The writing focus for this genre is the use of Feytag's Pyramid to develop a strong plot coupled with varied literary elements to develop a theme.

Mr. Pascual

I am excited to have all your students back and hope you had great Winter Break. Make sure to relax in these last few days before the school starts up again. There is no Winter Break homework, so no need to worry; we will come with a fresh new start this upcoming quarter/semester. I can't wait to see you all!! If you haven't yet, check out <http://mrpascual.com> for more information.

Integrated I

Upon returning to school, students will begin with the Functions Unit which will focus on graphing and equations. Students will learn how to differentiate between discrete or continuous equations; determine patterns of exponential and linear functions; algebraic graphing; and how to determine both the domain and the range of the function. Additionally, students will continue learning how to manipulate equations.

6th Grade Math

Ending with fractions the last semester, we are going to continue on with decimals. This is an easy transition for everyone because of their relation, and a majority of you have already some exposure to decimals. We will make sure your kiddos are proficient enough to even teach them to anyone that asks them, well hopefully.

Mr. Shader

6th Grade Science

Earth, and its history are the subject for January. Students will start out by taking an extensive look at the Grand Canyon and what it tells us about the formation of the earth and its crust. Students will then learn about the types of sedimentary rocks and how they formed with the goal of developing an awareness of the Earth's complex crust and how geologists study it by trying to answer the question, "What is the story of this place?" Students will then focus on weathering and erosion and its effects on soil formation.

6th Grade English

Students start reading Sophie's Choice and will work our way through this thought-provoking novel for the rest of the semester. This is a terrific novel that covers most of the prominent philosophers through history. Students will also be completing another independent book project based on a novel of the students' choice. It's probably not a bad idea for students to choose a novel and start reading it now.

6th Grade GTC

Students will work on developing their argumentative writing skills, using the DBQ (Document Based Question) format. The questions will also correlate with our study of ancient cultures in history: China and the Silk Road, Egypt and the Nile Valley, etc. Students will also begin learning debate processes to reinforce ideas that are presented in Sophie's World.

6th Grade History

Students will continue their work on “Big Era 4,” or the time period from 1200 BC to 500 AD which looks at expanding networks (of all sorts of things like communication, travel, trade, etc.) and focuses on humans and their environment, ideas, and other humans. Students will also take a closer look at specific early civilizations such as Ancient China and Egypt. Look forward to a fairly extensive research project on one or both of these cultures.

Mrs. Taylor

7th Grade Physical Science:

Upon returning to school in January, students will be starting to learn about Forces and Motion. Lessons will be focused on Newton’s three laws and the 7th graders will be introduced to the Race Car PBLU. The Race Car project incorporates both their writing and science classes.

8th Grade Biology:

Upon returning to school in January, will be learning about cell biology, including the structure and function of the organelles as well as transport of materials in the cell. Students will also be learning about how the body remains in homeostasis.

Spring Break Camps!

*Fun Things To
Do Over Spring
Break!!!*

Kids University	http://www.kidsuniversity.unr.edu
Challenge Island	http://www.challenge-island.com/programs/camps/
Discovery Museum	https://www.nvdm.org/learn/camp-discovery/
Kidscape Productions	http://kidscapeproductions.com/camps/
City of Reno	http://www.reno.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-community-services/youth-and-teens/camps-for-kids-vacation-station
Galena Creek	http://www.galenacreekvisitorcenter.org/spring-exploration-camp-2017.html