

# EXPLORER NEWSLETTER

SEPT. 2, 2011

## Language Arts

The overlying theme for 8th grade language arts is Challenges. As students begin Unit 1: The Challenge of Heroism, we will explore the connotation and denotation of that word. Students now have SSR books that they are reading both in and out of class for a specific purpose. Students have also taken a grammar pre-assessment to measure what they already know. Our first grammar concept for the month of August will be parts of speech and compound sentences.

## History

Students will start off the year researching European explorers. They will learn their motives for exploration, when they explored and what they discovered. We are working on this timeline of exploration in class this week. Some students may have to do some work at home to finish by the end of the week.

## Team News

- Please take a moment to read the Explorer Team newsletter that is attached as it has the policies, rules etc. of our team that we will be following all year. If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to e-mail us at anytime.
- Attention Parents and Students:  
This year in Math we will be providing a new opportunity for students to receive additional help and extra practice in Math! Our Math Initiative Program will be conducted on Friday's during encore class periods with Mr. Choate, our Math Initiative teacher. Your son or daughter may be pulled out of one encore class for 45 minutes on a Friday to receive additional help and assistance with their math skills. These students will be recommended by the LSMS Math Teachers and Mr. Choate. All of our Math Teachers and Encore Teachers at LSMS are aware of the program and excited about the opportunity for our students to improve their math skills. If you have any questions about the Friday Math program, please feel free to contact Mr. Choate at [choatecorey@rockwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:choatecorey@rockwood.k12.mo.us).

Thanks,  
Corey Choate  
LSMS Math Initiative Teacher

## Math

Pre-Algebra: Next week we are digging into linear equations. We will be practicing graphing on a coordinate plane and creating equations using slope-intercept form.

Algebra: Next week we are going to be working on a variety of equations. We will be working on multi-step equations and equations using absolute value.

## PE

This week students ran the mile and participated in indoor soccer. We also read an article about the importance of keeping hydrated during the day especially when the temperature is high. Next week we will continue with soccer.

## Science

Students took their Lab Safety Test and began the study of the Scientific Method. They will continue this into next week by performing a lab. Students should all have their spiral notebook set-up and continue to keep it updated throughout the school year.

## Wildcat Weekly

After-school activities and any school announcements are posted on the Wildcat Weekly. Here is the link to the Wildcat Weekly so you can know what activities are available after school!

[Wildcat Weekly](#)

## Upcoming Events

- 9/5 -Labor Day –No School
- 9/7- Fundraiser kick-off
- 9/14 -Early Dismissal
- 9/28- Picture retakes
- 9/28– Fundraiser ends

## Quote of the Week

“We first make our habits and then our habits make us.”

John Dryden

## NEED TO CONTACT US:

TEAM TIME IS HELD ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 7:40—8:10. YOU MAY CONTACT US BY CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW:

[Explorer Team Website](#)

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Encore Updates

## **Week of September 6 - September 9**

**Art (Raleigh):** This has been a great week! Students created outstanding art portfolios! We have been reviewing the vocabulary and terminology of the elements and principles of art. We will begin a “Kaleidoscope Design” incorporating these terms.

**Band (Medcalf/Blumhagen):** Students will continue working on Tipps, Eb Concert and 14 Weeks, Exercise 2.

**Business (Priese):** Students are continuing with our TechTopic unit, having used Word ‘SmartArt’ to plan how they will teach the class their newly acquired information. Now they are in various stages of writing scripts, taping or filming, adding media links and finalizing projects to present.

**FACS (Odlum):** Students are currently working on sewing samples before they start on their main project.

**French (McPheeters):** Students are doing a great job of reviewing past material and will take an assessment on Faire vs. Jouer on Tuesday!

**German (Dunn):** Students will practice their reading and writing skills. They will also review the accusative case, used for direct objects of sentences. The review unit will be tested next week.

**Orchestra (Cramer):** Students are working on Brandenburg and Tennessee Waltz as well as the two octave G major scale. Please be sure your student is practicing the required number of minutes each week. One way to earn minutes is to attend our weekly Orchestra Practice Club. Students can practice for 60 minutes after school each week and put those minutes towards the practice requirement. Practice club meets in the orchestra room on most Tuesday, but will meet this week on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any questions!

**Spanish (Wallace):** Students are presenting review lessons on Friday and Tuesday over topics that are in the summer review packet. They will take an assessment over those topics on Wednesday. They should be reviewing topics missed on their pre-assessment.

**Speech (Hancock):** Students have finished researching their informative speech topics and will be typing key word outlines next week.

**Theater (Hancock):** Students are learning about creative movement and humor. We will work on using this information to create pantomime performances next week. Students have also done a great job getting to know each other.

**Technology (Rock):** Students are learning about the history of space flight. Each student has chosen a mission into space that the US has participated in and they and a partner will be creating a PowerPoint on that mission. Late next week we will be building and testing our soda bottle rockets. Please check with your child to see if they have turned in their soda bottle.

**Vocal Music (Waterman):** Students will continue to work on singing position and vocal technique. They continue to work on singing in three parts as they rehearse literature for our first two concerts. They will begin to review some basic sight singing skills. They will begin to review recognizing some ascending intervals P4, P5, P8 with the addition of M6. Choir shirt and hoodie orders are due Thursday, September 8.