

EVANS MIDDLE SCHOOL QUARTER 2 NEWSLETTER 2023-2024

7th GRADE NEWS

Language Arts

In Quarter 2, students have primarily been focusing on advertising and youth. We have read informational and opinion/research based articles teaching students about why companies focus on youth in their marketing campaigns and how vulnerable children can be to persuasive information. We are wrapping up the unit by researching a topic around this issue and learning how to use in-text citations correctly and a bibliography to list out sources of information for our paper. We will continue to work with persuasive writing techniques in the 3rd Quarter while also taking time to read a fiction classic, The Outsiders.

Pre AP Literacy

Students are reading the text, The Hunger Games, this quarter while also working on vocabulary words and figurative writing techniques. Students have been given various options for reading the text in order to improve reading comprehension. Making mental pictures and connecting to the text has been another focus for this unit in order to help students to remember what they read and engage with the text. Students will be discussing the concept of Utopias and dystopias and will have the opportunity to create their own 'Utopia' while discussing important aspects of this concept.

Social Studies

Seventh Grade Social Studies: Students wrapped up their unit on standard of living at the beginning of November. During this unit students got to take a closer look at how standards of living vary from country to country, and from one community to another. They compared developing countries to developed countries and how their access to education, health care, homes, etc. is different and why. The newest unit that was started before Thanksgiving Break is on the global issue of population growth. The world's population has just recently reached 8 billion people, making issues such as food supply, energy resources, and water quality even more serious. Students have focused a lot on causes and effects of population growth within this unit while trying to determine how many people it can support. They have been working on answering compelling questions with evidence and reasoning to support their thinking. We encourage students and their families to

regularly check PowerSchool as a way to ensure they are staying up to date on their work!

Pre-Algebra

In the second quarter, we have covered a multitude of topics inside of percentages and proportional relationships. These students have done sales tax, tips, discounts, percent of change, proportionality, graphs, tables, amongst other standards and ideals that are essential to their math future. These students have been working hard with lots of different homework, but it has paid off with lots of great test grades and success in the classroom. These students will be moving into expressions and equations next as they really pick up the algebraic thinking that progresses them into 8th grade.

Science

Seventh grade science students have been learning about genetics. We began the unit discovering some of the interesting dominant and recessive human traits including rolling our tongues, widows peaks, and hitchhiker thumbs. We then moved on to Punnett squares and compared chances of receiving dominant or recessive traits. Then students learned about probability when drawing randomly out of paper bags to figure out what genetics beetles had. We will be studying growth and reproduction to finish this quarter. Students will understand differences in sexual reproduction and which factors affect growth of organisms. We will also be learning about behaviors and traits that affect reproduction.

Math 7

In Quarter 2, students have completed a unit on percentages. Students learned to think about percentages in a variety of everyday contexts through the following key ideas:

- Percentages are proportional relationships where there is a comparison to 100; for example, 60% is another way to say 60 out of 100 or .60.
- You can change a percent to a decimal by dividing by 100 (ex. 24%=0.24, 8%=0.08)
- An essential step in solving a percentage problem is to determine what 100% means in the given scenario.

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- In problems involving tax, tip, markup, or interest, you usually find the percent of the total (ex. 20% of the \$100 check) and add it to the total ($\$100 + \$20 = \$120$).
- In discount problems, you can find the discount percent of the total (ex. 30% of the \$100 cost) but you would need to subtract it from the total ($\$100 - \$30 = \$70$).

In our next unit, students will see that proportional relationships are a collection of equivalent ratios and can be represented in different ways: tables, equations, graphs, and verbal descriptions. The following are key ideas for the unit:

- Finding the constant of proportionality is key to solving problems involving proportional relationships.
- Proportional relationships can be represented with tables, equations, or graphs
- In a proportional table, you can multiply one quantity by the constant of proportionality to get its match of the other quantity.
- Proportional equations take form $y = kx$, where k is the constant of proportionality
- Proportional graphs always have a straight line that passes through the origin.

Introduction to Computer Science

Computer Science classes continue to work on logical thinking and problem solving through creating apps in MIT App Inventor. We have created sounds and modified images that we have put into our apps. A critical skill that we learn is how to create high-level documentation to improve the development process. Students will also research different careers in the Computer Science and Information Technology fields and discuss the importance of digital responsibility.

Visual Art

From 7th Grade Art. We just completed our “Starry Night” project. With this project, the students were required to creatively represent themselves. They also had to write a reflection paper describing how their piece represented them. Some of those reflections moved me to tears. They all did such a great job. After Thanksgiving break, we jumped into our next project, Paper Quilling. With this project, students learn how to use different coils and scrolls to create their design. They are graded on craftsmanship and presentation. This is to encourage them to take time to focus on the quality of their work. I am excited to see the finished product near the end of the semester.

I hope that everyone has a fantastic winter break that includes plenty of rest and relaxation.

Family Consumer Science

Being from the Midwest, most of us have heard of “Farm to Table” events, however, the FCS classes have been lucky enough to do “Garden to Table” events. Mrs. Hull, an Evan’s Science teacher, gave us some Seminole squash. We cut them in half, cored them, and baked them in a bath of water. Next, the classes extracted the squash meat which was blended into a puree. That puree was turned into pumpkin dump cake and pumpkin bars. The students were pleased to share them with the construction workers at Evens, the custodial staff, and those working at Evans and even some at Liberty. We are grateful to Mrs. Hull.

We have also made s’more crescent rolls, macaroni and cheese, and Monkey bread with homemade caramel sauce. The students compared and contrasted the history of Pizza Hut versus Dominos, and currently, we are working on sewing two and four hole buttons. We will round out the semester by working on making beds and writing a letter to themselves which I will mail to them when they graduate.



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PLTW

PLTW Automation and Robotics classes have recently completed a research project over a STEM career of their choice. Students picked a STEM career, researched the career, and then created either a poster or a slideshow to present the information. We had some really great presentations and I think the students learned a lot about career choices. Students are currently learning about all the different mechanisms that we can build using our robotics materials. Students are learning and building mechanisms like cam and follower systems, rack and pinion systems, crank and slider systems, and chain and belt drives. They will use this knowledge to finish out the semester by building and automating different robotics systems.

Physical Education

7th Grade Physical Education just completed a basketball unit, where we practiced dribbling, passing the basketball, and shooting. We are now playing some different team games, and the students also have the option to ride the exercise bikes if they choose to do so. Please make sure your student stays active over winter break, as there are many things they can do inside such as jumping jacks, sit ups, push ups, or running in place. Taking a walk around the block is always a good option as well!

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8th GRADE NEWS

Language Arts

8th Grade English students are in the middle of their second unit of Study Sync, In Time of War and thinking about the question, “What do our responses to war and other conflicts teach us about ourselves?” Through exploring this question, students will be reading both short stories and a novel and working on the following skills: word meanings, text evidence, central or main idea, theme, reasons, and evidence.

Pre AP Literacy

8th PreAp Literacy students are in the middle of Unit 2, The Challenge of Utopia. This gives the students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the world. Through their study of utopian societies, students see that life cannot be perfect, no matter how hard we try, but they also see that without hardships, heroes would not exist. The first half of the unit will be spent reading the novel, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry to analyze literary elements and author’s craft, and for responses to literature by using the compare/contrast structure to organize ideas. The second half of the unit will be focused on developing an effective argument through reading, writing, collaboration and debate.

Social Studies

Eighth grade began the year with the Native American cultures of North America in the early years before exploration. This led to the Age of Exploration and Exchange between the Old and New Worlds known as the Columbian Exchange. From here we will continue on with colonization leading up to the Original 13 Colonies in North America. We continue to work on paraphrasing, note-taking, finding evidence, summarizing, and justifying how/why evidence supports a claim.

Pre-Ap U.S. History

We have been working hard in Pre-AP to cover as much as possible in the time we get. We are currently wrapping up our unit over the American Revolution. The students have been looking at several different aspects of the American Revolution, including major battles, important people, women’s roles in the Revolution, and spies.

As we move forward following winter break, we will begin looking at how this country was formed, how the

Constitution was created, and the early problems our young country faced. Our goal is to cover the Civil War by the end of the year, and at this pace, we will do just that!

Pre-Algebra

In Quarter 2, students covered units 3 and 4. In Unit 3, students made connections between the rate of change, slope, and the constant of proportionality, drawing on previous knowledge to explore an exciting new relationship: the linear relationship. They then moved onto Unit 4 by developing algebraic methods for solving linear equations with variables on both sides of the equation. They then use these algebraic methods, along with graphs and tables to solve systems of linear equations.

Algebra

In Quarter 2, students explored univariate and bivariate data sets, many of which relate to climate change. Along the way, they will investigate, calculate, and interpret descriptive statistics, including measures of center, variability, and association. They also will cover unit 3 which expands their understanding of the key features and multiple representations of functions. They will write, graph, and interpret linear functions, absolute value functions, and the inverses of functions.

Science

8th grade students are working through the unit of Energy and Matter. We have started with looking at particles in motion and states of matter. Students will then focus on the transfer and conductivity of thermal energy. Students will end this topic by focusing on explaining ways to maximize or minimize thermal energy transfer. Students will finish the Energy and Matter unit by looking at the water cycle as well as weather and climate.

Physical Education

Currently in P.E. we have finished our bowling unit and moved on to football. Bowling offered students a break from the traditional activities we do in PE with lower intensity classes. With the end of bowling, students have been working on their throwing and catching for football. They have completed multiple different activities and will wrap up their final week of school before break with ultimate football!

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Introduction to Physical Conditioning

Students are now into a higher repetition building phase to improve their max out lifts and jumps before our next testing session. The workouts also have shifted to have a larger emphasis on plyometrics and balance. They are continuing on with other various auxiliary lifts to hit all the major and minor muscle groups. Students have made tremendous progress with their lifting movements and will be working on more complex movements.

Visual Art

Eighth graders are working on designing a dragon as the subject for the next unit. They found images and combined two or more dragons to create their own. The dragons will overlap into the border and sometimes completely go off the page. This overlap is a dynamic move that shows we are not restricted by boundaries. The medium used for this unit is ink and watercolor. Prior to painting students will review color theory, focusing on warm and cool colors.

Financial Literacy

To close out this semester of Financial Literacy, the students started learning about savings and checking accounts and the differences between the two. They also had some practice with how to balance an account statement. We learned about the power of compound interest versus simple interest, and how to protect themselves from possible fraud, scams, and identity theft.

We are finishing out these last few weeks of the quarter with preparing for high school and learning how to determine the best classes to take to set them up for a seamless transfer towards a Post-Secondary degree or career in the field of their interest as well as how to seek employment while still a teenager. This included the application process and how to make a great first impression. Lastly, we will take a deeper look at what they can expect from their college experiences, how to find the right school based on their desired occupation, plus the price to attend that college and what alternatives are available to a 4 year degree.

Spanish 1

Students have learned the most important verb (SER) in present. They have also been working on vocabulary relating to the classroom and clothing. They are working on answering questions in Spanish.

The students enjoyed our Culture Days with *Dia de los Muertos*. They did a great job on their projects!

We will begin using the verb ESTAR and prepositions as well as the meaning of Christmas in Spain for our Culture Days during the coming weeks.

7th/8th Agriculture

We began this quarter in Intro to Ag by studying the different commodities produced across the United States where students discovered the top commodities produced by each state. We then moved into studying the lifecycle and parts of plants and flowers. Students enjoyed having the opportunity to dissect flowers in class to see each part and how they come together. We are currently working on building skills necessary to work as a member of a team which will be used as we move into group projects studying the importance of agriculture in Southeast Iowa.

7th/8th TAG

Evans' seventh and eighth grade TAG students have spent the second quarter CREATING, EVALUATING, CONVINCING, and PROBLEM SOLVING. Students spent a few weeks designing, creating, and playing an original board game developed on their own. Students were responsible for the theme, a marketing cover, and the rules. The project was divided into three phases- design, maker, and play. Students were asked to decide on their area of expertise and design a challenging 15 question quiz to test their peers. Students came up with over 30 different subjects for their quizzes. Examples of the student- made quizzes came from history, animals, math, and mythology.

Most recently, we have undertaken a project that is modeled after the TV show "Shark Tank". However, we are looking at developing products that could solve problems in the community. Students have a checklist that has them identify problems in Ottumwa, narrow it down to a problem they would like to solve, then develop a product (real or creative) that could help improve the community. They are responsible for sketching and building a prototype, then putting together a sales pitch for when they enter the Shark Tank (their peer class). Evaluation, persuasion, and problem solving are all part of the project.

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Fine Arts

It's a very busy time of the year in the band, orchestra, and choir departments! Read on for the highlights...

- The 7th and 8th Grade Jazz Band meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15-8:00 am.
- The 7th and 8th grade choirs are preparing for their Winter concert. Students will be performing "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch", "All I Want For Christmas is You", and a song from the comedy Holiday movie "Spirited". The concert is at 6:30pm on December 19th in the Evans auditorium.
- SUPERNOVA, Evans 7th and 8th grade show choir, are rehearsing regularly on Monday and Tuesdays to prepare for Sweets and Sounds in January.
- 7th-8th Grade Orchestras just completed a successful Winter Concert featuring classic Songs such as "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!", "Jingle Bell Rock!" as well as "Once Upon a December" from the Disney Classic Anastasia. Soon we will be working on sight-reading and solo preparations for our Solo day Event on February 22/23rd. Keep out a listening ear for Suzuki Solos soon during practice time at home :-)
- The 7th and 8th Grade Bands just had their Holiday concert on December 10 and did a great job!
- The Drama Department is fresh off two fun performances of Elf the Musical, Jr.". The hard work of the cast was evident on the stage and the behind the scenes work of the crew made everything run smoothly. Students interested in the spring play are encouraged to listen to the announcements in January - we will meet to read through two possible plays and then vote on the one to perform!

As you can see, there is never a dull moment in the life of the Evans fine arts students and their teachers here at Evans Middle School!

MULTICULTURAL, NONSEXIST STATEMENT

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicants for admissions and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Ottumwa Community School District are hereby notified that the District does not discriminate on the

basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the Ottumwa Community School District's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VII, Title IX, Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 is directed to contact David Harper, who has been designated by the Ottumwa Community School District to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VII, Title IX, and Section 504.

David Harper
1112 N. VanBuren
david.harper@ottumwaschools.com
Phone: (641) 684-6597

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE-TITLE IX

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, Title VI, or Section 504 may be directed to Compliance Officer, David Harper, 1112 N. Van Buren, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501, Telephone: (641)684-6597, Email: david.harper@ottumwaschools.com, or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-7204, Telephone: (312)730-1560, Facsimile: (312)730-1576, Email: OCR.Chicago.ed.gov

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Ottumwa Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status(for programs) in its educational programs, and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator, Maria Lantz, 1112 N. Van Buren, Ottumwa, IA 52501, Telephone (641)684-6597,Email:

maria.lantz@ottumwaschools.com; or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661-7204, Telephone (312)730-1560 Facsimile: (312)730-1576, Email: OCR.Chicago.ed.gov

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ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT POLICY

Harassment and bullying of students and employees are against federal, state, and local policy, and are not tolerated by the board. The board is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. To that end, the board has in place policies, procedures, and practices that are designed to reduce and eliminate bullying and harassment as well as processes and procedures to deal with incidents of bullying and harassment. Bullying and harassment of students by other students, by school employees, and by volunteers who have direct contact with students will not be tolerated in the school or school district.

The board prohibits harassment, bullying, hazing, or any other victimization, of students, based on any of the following actual or perceived traits or characteristics, including but not limited to, age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status,

sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familiar status. Harassment against employees based upon the employee's race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, age or disability is also prohibited.

This policy is in effect while students or employees are on property within the jurisdiction of the board; while on school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school or school district (Board Policy Code No. 106). Any student or staff who feels they may have been a victim of bullying or harassment should contact a building administrator.

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Calendar

12/14/23	7:00 p.m. 6-8 th Orchestra Holiday Concert
12/19/23	6:30 p.m. 5-8 th Vocal Holiday Concert
12/21/2	1:00 p.m. Dismissal for Winter Break
1/3/24	8:05 a.m. Classes Resume
1/15/24	MLK Day/No Classes
2/14/24	5-7:00 p.m. Travel Fundraiser #3 Delivery
2/27/24	6:30 p.m. 5-8 th Vocal Concert- Evans Auditorium
3/4/24	4:00-7:30 p.m.
3/7/24	1:00 Dismissal Conferences
3/8/24	No School
3/11-3/15	Spring Break
3/23/24	7 th Grade Chicago Trip
3/29/24	Good Friday (No School)
4/5/24	7:00 p.m. All-City Concert
4/20/24	6 th Grade St. Louis Trip
5/9/24	7:00 p.m. 7/8 th Band & Orchestra Pops Concert- OHS Auditorium
5/14/24	7:00 p.m. 5-8 th Vocal Pops Concert- OHS Auditorium
	7:00 p.m. Travel Program ECE Required Parent Meeting- Evans Auditorium
5/16/24	7:00 p.m. Travel Program Discovery 21 Required Parent Meeting- Evans Auditorium
5/23/24	1:00 Dismissal- Last Day of School
5/27/24	Travel Program- ECE Trip Leaves, Returns 6/4
6/6/24	Travel Program- Discovery 21 Trip Leaves, Returns 6/16
7/29/24	Travel Program- Black Hills Adventure Trip Leaves, Returns 8/5