

Swope Middle School GT Magnet

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The Panther Prowl this year was a great success. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated their money, or their time and helping to make this event such a successful fund raiser for our school. We truly have the most wonderful parents. Students had a lot of fun running or walking around the school's track getting plastered with bright colors.

With cold and flu season coming up fast we know some students may be affected and miss school. It is essential that a student who is absent follow up with their teachers upon their return to get their missing work. With the new attendance policy it is vital that students are making up assignments so absences are cleared within Infinite Campus and do not negatively impact a student's progress towards high school. This is true of absences caused for nearly any reason. The complete attendance policy is posted on our Swope GT website.

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!

Our 8th grade students will soon be deciding where they want to go to high school. Our GATE high school facilitator, Judith Lombard, will be coming to speak to students the second week of November to discuss options for high school, including the GATE Institute and other high school programs. Ms. Lombard will also be joining us on December 12 at 5:30pm before our 8th grade PBL event to answer any questions regarding these programs. We hope you will be able to join us.

Our team website, <https://www.washoeschools.net/swopegt>, has a tremendous wealth of information from characteristics of GT, to links to WCSD's attendance policy. The Swope GT Crew strives to communicate with you frequently throughout the school year. We update our team website frequently and our individual class websites as appropriate for class content. We send out a short email a minimum of once a month with a friendly reminder to check our website. Please check these on-line resources to see what your child is learning and responsible for completing. Each month there will be a newsletter to inform you of things to look forward to: Swope Magnet events, Swope School events, and other pieces of information that you might find helpful. Please know that we do this to encourage your participation in your child's academic experience and if you have further questions and/or concerns, please contact us. Furthermore, if you think of something that you'd like included in our website and newsletter, please let us know. We want each of these communications to be helpful to you.

Finally, a huge shout out to Dena Harrison, who – after retiring – donated her entire classroom library of over 500 books to our GT 7th grade ELA classroom! Students were very excited and are benefitting every day from this generous donation.

Please make sure your student is checking in with their teachers after an absence.

Important Dates for Upcoming Events

October 24	No early release
October 25	Report cards issued
October 26	Nevada Day Observed, no school
November 4	Daylight savings, set back your clocks
November 6	Election Day, no school for students.

October Classroom Previews

Teacher Biographies at <https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/8119>

Mr. Bodensteiner

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7th Grade – Essential Question: How can political and social power be limited or expanded? Why do inequalities and oppression exist and how should either be addressed?

The students are in the midst of analyzing and discussing the powerful and significant persuasive arguments Thomas Paine makes in his 47 page pamphlet, “Common Sense”. They've been reading the adapted young readers version and participating in Socratic discussions from the text. The students are examining Paine literary efforts and how he persuaded the 13 Colonies to join the rebellion during the American Revolution. Upon return from fall break, the students will examine the role of Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence. There will be a document based project with the Declaration and “Common Sense”.

8th Grade – Essential Question: How can political and social power be limited or expanded? Why do inequalities and oppression exist and how should either be addressed?

The students have just finished their unit on immigration, and have just begun the Progressive Era. They will have a Muckraker (Journalism) Magazine project upon return from fall break. In this unit the students will discover all of the social, political and economic progress the U.S. makes. This unit will align with ELA's reading of Upton Sinclair's, The Jungle. They will then visit a meat packing plant for a field trip. Following the Progressive Era, the students will launch into a special WWI centenary 1918-2018 unit. I'm planning on taking them on a field trip to the Carson City history museum to explore the WWI Centennial exhibit in the first week of November.

Mrs. Hanzlik- Wilcox

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Math 6 – Essential Question: How does the structure of arithmetic help us model and predict the world around us?

This month Math 6 students will finish learning about number theory, after which, we will begin our unit on operations and real world applications of fractions.

Integrated I – Essential Questions: How does the structure of arithmetic help us model and predict the world around us? How can interactions be transformative? How do we describe and use real world relationships?

This month Integrated I students will finish their work with solving linear and literal equations, After which, they will explore foundations of geometry before moving on to apply their understanding of linear equations to geometric problems.

Mr. Harrison

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6th Grade ELA and GTC – Essential Question: How does one discover and celebrate their own individuality? How do I increase my word power through my reading in order to improve my writing?

In ELA, we continue to read Tangerine and work on exemplification essays. Remember, we hold a vocabulary workshop every other Friday. Please be sure to ask your students to share the words they have been collecting for the upcoming vocabulary workshop.

In GT Challenges, we have begun exploring rhetorical arguments and their structure as we prepare to write an argumentative essay in the second quarter.

GT Challenges:

To kick off the second quarter, students will begin work on a personal quest to learn what it takes to develop and build a career, along with the persistence and resilience inherent in doing so. Some highlights of the activities students will be working on in October include interviewing the adults in their lives about their careers, so don't be surprised if your child suddenly starts to take an interest in your career--including positions you've held along with the education and training you've had to earn your positions. Be sure to share with them how various professional relationships have sustained you along with how you had to adapt to a changing environment throughout your career. Students will also continue to write in their writer's notebooks daily as they develop habits that every writer uses. Don't forget to ask your child to share their writings with you...they are being so creative!

English/Language Arts:

Students will begin to read Upton Sinclair's, The Jungle, as the second quarter begins. This is a significant book that changed our society in the early 1900's and yet, its themes remain relevant to today's society. Students will discover how the various characters and, even American Society, adapted to a changing environment and expectations for survival. Every year, student conversations feel more like current event discussions than book discussions! I invite parents to read this book along with their child; if you need a copy of the book, please email me and I'll send a copy of the book home with your child. Meanwhile, students will continue to pursue their own independent reading. Each quarter students self-select and read a novel of choice, a genre novel (this quarter is Social Criticism novels--either fiction or non-fiction) and a piece of writing that has a message of resilience. Students are also continuing our yearlong study of literary devices. Lit Device Trivia is scheduled for the last week of the quarter.

Please contact me any time you have any questions or concerns you might have regarding our class activities.

Please feel free to keep up-to-date with my class via my class website--washoeschools.net/jhoy or via twitter @HoyEnglish.

Please contact me any time you have any questions, concerns or ideas regarding what your child is learning in N-7.

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Mrs. Leslie

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7th Grade ELA and GTC

In writing (GT Challenges) for the month of October, students' compare/contrast essays will be returned with teacher feedback and they will revise once more before turning the final draft in on Thursday, October 11. They have worked incredibly hard and utilized many new skills in this process. I'm very proud of them! After this, students will participate in the Patriot Pen essay competition.

Additionally, students will begin learning about the narrative essay in light of the future: college application essays and scholarship essays. To kick off this project based learning unit, students will bring in personal items that represent who they are and what they believe, to share with peers. Ultimately, students will decide on three core beliefs that impact the quality of their life and define who they are. From there, students will determine topics for their narrative essay that are unique and personal.

On another note, students have gone through quite an adjustment since they first walked into this building in early August! The goal for this quarter is to utilize the new habits they learned in first quarter like filling out their planner daily, using a homework folder to streamline what needs to be done and to ensure it gets turned in, and to keep working on planning ahead to meet project deadlines. If your student did not get stellar grades in 1st quarter because of the significant change in expectations and organization required, celebrate the growth you have seen that isn't necessarily reflected specifically in the final grade. They have worked so hard and I know you are as proud of them as I am!

Accelerated Algebra 1 – Essential Question: Why is it useful to have different forms of linear equations?

We have had a great first month getting to know each other. I am excited to guide your children in their math journey, with this month's focus of linear equations. We have finished reviewing the skills from previous years, and exploring solving equations and inequalities.

Accelerated HS Integrated Math 2 – Essential Question: Why is it useful to have different forms of linear equations?

We have had a great month getting to know each other. I am excited to guide your children in their math journey. Last month students started the class with a review of previously learned math skills. We are now working through an in depth look at linear linear functions and their application.

Honors Algebra 2 – Essential Question: Why is it necessary to solve a system with three variables?

We have had a great first month getting to know each other. I am excited to guide your children in their math journey. Last month students reviewed knowledge from previous years that will help them in the units to come. Now students are solving systems of equations with three variable and working with matrices to solve systems with a different approach.

Ms. Ross

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Mr. Shader

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Accel. 6 History – Essential Question: How does culture develop and change over time?

We'll spend a good part of the month looking at the culture of Mesopotamia. First, we came up with a consensus definition of culture that we'll be revisiting throughout the year. Then we'll do a close-read, source-based, academic-style essay on the Code of Hammurabi and look at the early concepts of justice. We'll also do a short inquiry on the Ancient Hebrews.

Accel. 6 Science – Essential Question: How does weather differ between locations?

We'll start with a unit on heat transfer and its effects on weather at different locations on Earth. We'll take a look at some particular locations and their climate based on latitude. We'll also spend some time on solar angle and how it affects climate as well. Finally, we'll take a look at the factors that affect surface temperature and how the sun is the source of many of these variables.

7th Grade Science – Essential Question: How does energy affect matter?

Students are very excited to begin chemistry. After learning how to read a periodic table we will be looking at chemical equations, types of chemical reactions and polymers. Several labs are in the works and should yield an exciting quarter.

8th Grade Honors Biology – Essential Question: How do parts work together to help the success of the whole?

With the conclusion of bottle biology and a much nicer smelling classroom, we are moving on to cells and cellular biology. We begin with an over view of the organelles found in eukaryotic cells and then shift into essential functioning of those organelles including photosynthesis, respiration, and protein synthesis.

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