Swope GT Newsletter

February/March 2020

Hello and welcome to another spring at the Swope Magnet. There are many exciting events for students this spring, including 6th grade participating in the KidScape program, the 7th grade race car event, and the 8th grade college project. Spring is a busy time, from these events to testing in March, April and May.

With all of this taking place (and more) we are looking to prevent students getting so far behind that it becomes a problem. Therefore, as a team we have decided
to do the following to increase accountability in all our students:

1. Weekly Grade Checks are to be completed and signed by parents each weekend
2. Teachers will also send out emails at the end of each week via IC to parents with students who have missing assignments.

We look forward to fewer missing assignments and higher grades for all our students. Thank you in advance for your willingness to discuss your child's grades with them each weekend.

Important Upcoming Magnet Dates

February 17 – No school, Presidents' Day
March 2 – UNR fieldtrip for 8th grade (still looking for parent chaperones! ☺)
March 3 – Frosh day for 8th grade
March 10 – Race Car PBL event for 7th grade
March 16-27 – Spring Break
TBD, March – Science CRT testing
Upcoming in April and May: SBAC testing, 8th grade college night

Call to Action

Each grade level has some very interesting books assigned to them. It is worth having a discussion with your student about what they are reading, how they feel about the concepts and how it may apply to their own life.

What is happening in your students' lives:

6th grade

ELA: Which philosophies presented in our text inspire you most? Students are reading Sophie's World, and will be participating in many discussions around this text.
History: How do ancient cultures continue to contribute and influence todays culture? Students have been exploring ancient cultures and will continue to do so, including investigating ancient Greece.
Science: How do Earth's different spheres influence one another? Geology is the topic of conversation. We are looking at how geologic systems influence and interact with others to give us the Earth we know.

7th grade

ELA: How do individuals respond to one another in complex situations? Students are reading Lord of the Flies and Dear Bully and will be looking at the interrelationships modeled within these texts.
History: The students are currently taking part in a simulation on the Constitution from a highly reputable program called *Choices.* Throughout February, we'll be analyzing the French Revolution, the formation of the United States after the Constitution, and Westward Expansion.
Science: Now that our race car project is in full swing, students will be experiencing and exploring Newton's laws of motion through the designing and testing of balloon powered race cars.

8th grade

ELA: How does resilience influence success? Students are currently participating in a book study around the topics of WW1 and then WW2. Working collaboratively, they will then be creating a culminating project that brings together the various themes of their readings.
History: The students are in the midst of their WWI unit, where they'll be receiving a little more reading than usual. Following WWI, we'll begin examining the Stock Market Crash of 29, the Great Depression and WWII.
Science: How does nature build in checks and balances? Students are taking a closer look at cell processes, specifically in terms of protein synthesis, mitosis and meiosis. We will be finishing out the quarter looking at Mendellian Genetics.

Math:

6th grade: Why is it human to search for understanding? Students will be writing and solving algebraic equations with inequalities, they will also be investigating two-dimensional geometry.
Integrated 1: How do we describe and use real world relationships? Students will be investigating linear functions and the variety of forms of linear equations.
Integrated 2: How do mathematical relationships help us make sense of the world? Students will be working on right triangle trigonometry and circles along with systems of equations to develop a deeper sense of how our world is put together.
Algebra 1: How can you use sketches and equations of quadratic functions to model situations and make predictions? Students will be working with polynomials and rewriting expressions to solve problems, construct models, and make predictions.
Honors Algebra 2: How are rational exponents and radical equations used to solve real world problems? Students will be taking an in-depth look at rational exponents and radical equations, developing their understanding of these by applying them to problems that occur daily within our world.