

Blake Middle School
Term 1 Update for Families
Grade 7
10/16-10/20

Dear Families,

During this week we take time as a community to provide you with an update with regard to areas of curricular focus and student work. You may also receive an email from your child's teacher if there are specific areas of concern with regard to progress towards meeting the standards under consideration this term. Please know that you may reach out to teachers or your child's counselor at any time if you have questions or concerns about their progress. We hope that the information provided in this document will help foster conversations at home.

| Subject | Term 1 Update <i>Priority Standards, Learning Skills, Student Work</i> |
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| Art | Grade 7: Expressive Portrait - Using either themselves or a family member as a reference, students are creating a portrait that reflects a mood or "expression" based on proportional accuracy, color selection and overall composition. (STUDIO HABIT - Observation) (Priority Standard - Creating, Connecting) |
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| English | We have recently finished our first novel of the year, Lynn Joseph's <i>The Color of My Words</i> . During this first unit, students have been analyzing characterization, figurative language, and the role of power in the narrative. They have completed nightly reading notes, examined Literary Signposts, and engaged in a Socratic Circle. In Writing Lab, students have been working to implement tips for creative writing, including focus on small moments, dialogue, show vs tell, imagery, and structure. We also continue to practice choice reading time in order to strengthen connections to literature and improve comprehension. |
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| | In French class, we have been working on two units. The first one |

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| French | <p>was about “Getting to know each other” where students ask each other about their likes and dislikes. They also worked on the “Moi” Project which they presented in class. The second unit is about “School life” where we are learning the cultural differences in school in France and Canada, learning vocab of school subjects and a school day in Blake. We have been also focusing on regular verbs ending in -er and how to use them.</p> |
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| Mandarin | <p>In our Mandarin lessons, we've covered inviting someone over and discussing our favorite and least favorite colors. Additionally, we've read six short children's stories in Mandarin. As for cultural exploration, we've delved into the Mooncake Festival.</p> |
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| Math | <p>In math, we've successfully completed our first unit, which covered operations with rational numbers (including fractions, decimals, and integers), as well as our initial mini-unit on area and perimeter in geometry. Our upcoming unit will dive into the essential concept of proportionality, a key focus in our 7th-grade standards. This unit will be more extensive and introduce many new and potentially unfamiliar concepts to the students. Rest assured, extra help and support are readily available for those who may encounter difficulties along the way.</p> |
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| Science | <p>In science we have been working on all four of the Science and Engineering Practices; SE-1 Skills of Investigation, SE-2 Skills of Analytical Thinking, SE-3 Skills of Evaluating and Communicating and SE-4 Skills of Scientific Literacy. In seventh grade we completed units studying communication systems and forces that can interact from a distance (ex, gravity, magnetism and electricity). We are beginning our study of potential and kinetic energy as our next unit.</p> <p>The benchmarks for each of the Science and Engineering practices students are expected to reach by the end of each term are linked here. Many students may be approaching the benchmark of the standard at this point in the term with the expectation that most students will reach the standard by the end of the term.</p> |
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| Social Studies | <p>We have spent the first 6 weeks of school focused on the ancient Greeks. This has been a wonderful platform to examine different forms of governments, strategies for war, make cultural comparisons, read mythology, and learn about some of the great thinkers of the ancient world. We have tackled how to study for different types of assessments using study guides, and have focused on how to take notes during class.</p> <p>As we move forward, we will embark on a DBQ (answering document based questions) about Alexander the Great. They will need to answer the far reaching question... Was Alexander great? Students will make their argument using factual evidence from the documents provided in the packet. Once the DBQ is completed, we are off to Rome...</p> |
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| Spanish | <p>In 7th grade Spanish, we have read several short stories about the return to school, and are now moving on to talking more and more about our lives and interests. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we have listened to music from almost all 21 Spanish speaking countries, and we have highlighted different countries, cultures and notable Latinos who have contributed positively to our world.</p> |
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| Wellness | <p>Grades 6 & 7 completed introductory units in Track & Field. 7th Graders developed skills in the long jump and 100m race. Traveling down to the HS track was a great way to start the year and enjoy the Fall weather.</p> <p>Next up! As we enter Unit 2 and acclimate to the cooler temps - we continue to utilize our outdoor spaces. Grade 7 students will also be playing Disc Golf and fine tuning their frisbee skills in the game of Ultimate Frisbee.</p> |
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