

PS 72 Lorraine Elementary

71 Lorraine Ave, Buffalo, New York 14220 Telephone: 716-816-4809

Junior High General Information

Middle school teachers are working diligently to motivate and inspire our students to do their best during remote learning. Our 8th grade students are showing how they have matured during the pandemic and the new format of education. Our 7th grade students are acclimating to the junior high class structure and having so many new teachers during a typical school day. As we navigate the remote learning process, appropriately adjusting as obstacles and limitations arise, we remain dedicated to educating our students to the best of our ability.

Some additional information that can help with remote learning: Students should have a private or semi-private, distraction free area for learning. Attendance is taken daily so every student is required to log into Schoology every day and join their TEAMS meetings. Cameras should be on at all times during instruction, unless there is a technical issue. This is very important so that we ensure that all students are participating and paying attention. Cell phones are not allowed during instructional time. Students should always enter their class meetings on mute and not unmute themselves without permission from the teacher. There is a "raise your hand" feature in teams or students can type their question in the chat. The chat is to ask class/content-based questions or answer questions from the teacher, not to text/chat with classmates. Asynchronous days are for review work, help, independent work or catching up on missed material. Students must still login and join the class meeting for attendance and directions. This time is usually not used for synchronous instruction or "live teaching". Our goal is to minimize screen time so that they have a variety of learning activities. Students should follow the virtual behavior matrix during all classes.



What's New in ELA

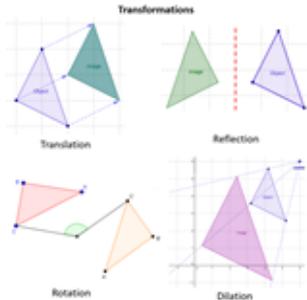


In ELA for 7th grade, we have begun reading our first novel, *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park. We have also started a novel in 8th grade ELA called *Inside Out and Back Again*, by Thannhha Lai. Be sure to check Schoology updates and weekly folders for information, assignments, and announcements.

We also encourage you to visit your local libraries and sign your children up for free library cards. Encouraging daily reading habits at home will help students achieve at school.

Math Minutes

In 7th grade math, students began learning about proportional relationships, unit rates, the constant of proportionality, and ratios. We will continue this until almost the end of October when we will move into Module 2, which is about rational numbers.



Students in 8th grade math are just finishing up with Exponents and Scientific Notation. We will be moving into Transformational Geometry for the remainder of the month. Students will be doing a great deal of graphing on the coordinate plane. Once their objects are graphed they will be

'transforming' them by sliding, flipping, turning, and dilating them. Students will continue to access materials in Schoology and complete their assignments there. We will also start utilizing Khan Academy as we need to get creative with graphing without having as many paper/pencil activities. For this new unit students will need to have their class materials readily available, such as their Finish Line book, Module 2 book, ruler and a pencil. Students are always able to go on MobyMax to help fill in any gaps they may have, the more practice they get there the better prepared they will be for upcoming content!

News in Social Studies

Welcome back to school! In 7th grade, we have already learned about some geography and are studying Native Americans. Our next topic we will be discussing is European explorers.

In 8th grade, the students have been acquiring information about the causes of the Civil War. Next, we will be moving into Reconstruction. Homework and classwork will be given out two times per week with a quiz or test on each Friday. Please be reminded that students should be checking Schoology and Infinite Campus for grades and assignments each day.

October's Character Counts Word

Trustworthiness

The ability to be relied on as honest or truthful.

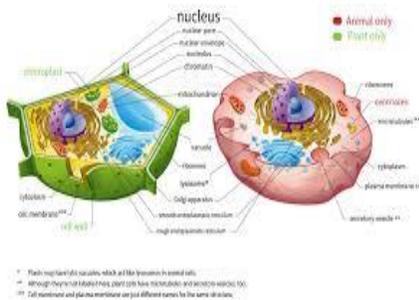
“Trust is rebuilt by focusing not on what the other person did or did not do but on critiquing one's own behavior, improving one's trustworthiness, and focusing attention not on words and promises but on actions, attitudes, and ways of being.”

– Kenneth Cloke

Trustworthiness Words

- honesty
- integrity
- loyalty
- reliability
- promise
- trust
- reputation
- commitment
- obligation
- truth
- candor
- confidence

Studies in Science



In 7th grade science, we are learning about cells. We are working to get the students comfortable with downloading word documents, typing into them, saving, and then submitting them through Schoology. We are also using a couple of apps in Clever: Castle Learning for assessment and reviewing content using notes, Pearson for virtual activities, and MobyMax for reinforcement.

In 8th grade science, we are in our chemistry unit. The topics include: phases of matter, elements, the periodic table, mixtures and compounds, chemical reactions and chemical equations. Students are completing assignments in a variety of ways. They are submitting word documents of notes using Nearpod presentations, answering discussion questions in Schoology, doing interactive virtual assignments in Pearson, and using Castle Learning.

Spectacular Spanish

¡Hola! Spanish class for 8th graders is off to a great start. So far this year, we have learned our classroom procedures, the benefits of language learning, and geography. Prior student knowledge will be assessed as students are introduced to everyday vocabulary and expressions dealing with greetings, farewells, dates, time, weather, numbers, and school supplies. They will be exposed to formal and informal speech within these situations to begin establishing their proficiency in the target language as they develop their speaking and communicative competence in the second language. Please be reminded that class attendance and participation are essential for success!

Character Counts

Character Counts is the program at our school that will be used in conjunction with PBIS, which is our program for positive behavior interventions. Each month, we will be focusing on one of the six pillars of Character Counts. The pillars use the acronym TRRFCC (pronounced terrific), which stand for Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. The Character Counts word for the month of October is Trustworthiness and the color is blue.



Virtual High School Ahead Showcase

Have you considered which High School is best for your child? Do you have questions about the Buffalo Public School's many unique high school programs? We have just the solution for you...while sitting in the comfort of your own home.

Please join us for the Buffalo Public School's Virtual High School Showcase. This year's showcase will feature a weeklong of informative presentations including details regarding individual High Schools, the HS Application Process, Differentiated Programs and English Language Learners. The event may be viewed on the BPS Community Schools Facebook page, Tuesday, October 13th through the Friday, October 16th, 5:30pm – 7pm, and also Saturday, October 17th from 10:00am-12:00pm.

All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and their families are strongly encouraged to view this event. Please help spread the word. For more information, please contact your child's school counselor.