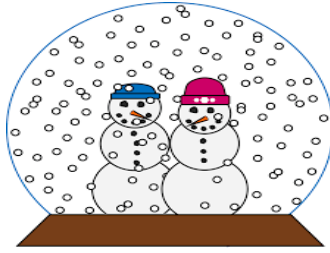


# January Newsletter



## Grades Seven & Eight

### RELIGION

**Grade 7:** During the month of January, we focus on the season of Christmas. As well we will begin Chapter 7: The Promise of Salvation in which we learn that God reaches out to help humankind, offers his people the hope of salvation, promises a Messiah, and that His promise of a Messiah comes to fulfillment.

**Grade 8:** During the month of January, the eighth grade class discussions will focus on building a strong relationship with God. Students will see that God reveals His love to us, and we are free to respond in faith by what we say and do.

### SOCIAL STUDIES

**Grade 7:** Students will examine the growing tensions over political power and economic issues that sparked the movement for independence from Great Britain and the challenges of starting a new nation.

**Grade 8:** Eighth grade students will finish their study of Expansion and Imperialism and how during the second half of the 19th century, economic, political, and cultural factors contributed to a push for westward expansion and more aggressive United States foreign policy and how those factors contributed to the first World War.

### MATHEMATICS

**MATH 7:** Students taking Math 7 will be studying solving equations and graphing inequalities during the month of January. Then, students will learn to graph equations on a coordinate plane. Students will graph inequalities on number lines. Topics covered will include: solving one step equations, solving two step equations, solving equations using the distributive property, using

addition or subtraction or multiplication to solve inequalities, and graphing equations and inequaities.

**MATH 8:** During the month of January, the students will continue their study of linear equations. We will begin the month with systems of equations and different methods to solve for a solution, infinitely many solutions, or no solutions. This will include solving equations with rational number coefficients, equations with variables on both sides, and equations whose solutions require expanding expressions using the distributive property and collecting like terms. To gain higher level thinking skills and a deeper understanding of this unit, students will graph a system of equations and solve a system using the substitution and the elimination method.

**MATH Algebra 1:** In January, students taking Algebra 1 will finish their study on graphing linear equations and functions. Then, we will begin the study of solving and graphing linear inequalities, absolute value, and piecewise functions on a coordinate plane. As we continue into the new year, students will learn about polynomials and factor polynomials using the greatest common factor. Other methods of factoring will include the foil method and the difference of two perfect squares.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**Grade 7:** The grammar focus for grade 7 will be on verbs and their principal parts of indicative, imperative, emphatic, and subjunctive mood; modal auxiliaries, and agreement. Student writing will focus on How-to articles. Students will learn what constitutes a good how-to article, how to use relevant details and detailed information in a how-to article, and how to use transitions effectively. Students will also begin the second book: *Lydie*.

**Grade 8:** The grammar focus for grade 8 will be on verbals: participles, gerunds, and infinitives. Student writing will focus on comparing and contrasting evidence in writing. Students will begin reading *Night* by Elie Weisel.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Grade 7 Life Science:**

In science, we will continue our study of *genetics*, the science of heredity. Topics will include the work of Gregor Mendel, Punnett Squares, DNA structure and replication. Additionally, Health classes will focus on human body systems. Lab experiences will support these lessons.

**Grade 8 Earth Science:**

As the month begins, science classes will complete their study of the rock cycle. By mid-month we will begin our study of seismic waves and Earth's changing surface. This will lead into our study of earthquakes and volcanoes throughout the world. Lab experiences will support these lessons.

**Regents Earth Science:** During the month of January, the Regents Earth Science students will begin their study of the *Dynamic Earth*. This will include plate tectonic theory and Earth's changing surface. Laboratory investigations will include analyzing seismic waves and earthquakes. To be successful in this course, a daily review of concepts is strongly recommended.

**SPANISH**

**Grade 7:** En Enero, we will study Subject pronouns and Present tense of -ar verbs.

**Grade 8:** En Enero, students will study the verb Ir and ask questions. Also, we will start with the cultural presentations.

Wishing you a joyful January!  
The Teachers of Grades Seven and Eight.