

Hello Hale Families.

This newsletter is a lengthy one. There is a lot of very important information included in this edition. Thanks for your continued support of Hale Middle School.

Sincerely,
Kyle Grady

Middle Years Publication:

[Here](#) is the October publication of the newsletter Middle Years. This edition addresses items such as discipline that works, speaking up in class, why nonfiction reading is important in life, three steps for good note taking, and helping kids be gritty. Check it out!

Update on After School Activities:

After School Activities are in full swing. We have added some exciting new options: Yoga, Martial Arts, and Math Club (back by popular demand). I hope you encourage your child to participate in one of the many offerings that are available this fall. [Here](#) is the link to our full listings along with dates and times.

Parent University - Informational Night about Chromebooks at NRSD:

Please join us for a Chromebook Parent Information Night on October 18, 2018 from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Sawyer School Cafeteria! This Information session will review our 1:1 Technology Chromebook Program and provide useful information on our Chromebook guidelines and procedures as well as provide parents and community members a chance to ask questions and learn more about the district's 1:1 Technology Program.

At the information session, we will discuss proper care for Chromebooks, guidelines for student use and expectations moving forward for our work around digital literacy. There will also be time after our information session for parents and community members to learn more about the Google platform and how to further engage with your students in the work they are doing in their classes. Please feel free to bring a Chromebook or device, but one is not necessary for this information session.

Supervision at NRHS Football Games:

Support for our Nashoba Chieftain football team is high and school spirit is strong. This school spirit makes us very proud of Nashoba. Many of our district middle school students attend our home football games to share in this spirit and join the fun. Most recently, it has come to my attention that while attending home football games, some of our district middle school students, who have attended unaccompanied by an adult, have been leaving the bleacher area for a period of time and then re-entering the game or watching the game from an alternate location outside of the bleacher area. The high school grounds and facility are large and there are a many number of spectators in attendance. The high school has administrative staff and police officers who monitor the bleacher area and area immediate adjacent to the bleachers, but anything outside of the

gated area is not actively monitored. Next Friday, October 12th, marks our next home game. Should your middle school child be attending this game unaccompanied by an adult, please have a conversation with him/her about safety and the importance of staying within the gated areas during the game. Thank you, in advance, for your timely support with this matter.

6th Grade Update:

During the next few weeks, a large focus for science class will be on moon phases, eclipses and how the moon causes tides on Earth from its gravitational pull. We will be completing a Moon Phase Lab- one of my favorites! Number Theory will be the focus in Math over the next several weeks. Students will be exploring properties of numbers including; prime vs.composite, divisibility rules, factors and multiples. Finally, they will apply these properties and determine whether to find the greatest common factor or least common multiple to solve real world problems! In Plus we will begin working on our executive functioning! Students will define and practice organization, planning, perseverance, and many other skills that will help them to become better learners. The fun part is that executive functioning can be improved through board or card games! Consider planning a family game night in order to work on these skills at home. In ELA, we have completed a Newsela reading comprehension assessment which will allow a student to access Newsela nonfiction content at his or her own reading level. The upcoming weeks of ELA will be filled with grammar review and study, short stories (some slightly ghoulish), and writing in response to our reading. Students are working together to problem solve through the tasks of of 5-A-Day language review. What is a civilization? That will be our question for the next few weeks in Social Studies. Whether we are talking about ancient civilizations or today's modern ones, they all have similar characteristics. Ask your student to name a characteristic and give you an example.

7th Grade Update:

In ELA, we have wrapped up our Newscast Unit, and are diving deeper into short stories. In math, we have conquered the world of integers and have moved on to their big brother: rational numbers! Everything that we love about fractions and everything that we love about negatives comes together in perfect harmony! In Science, we are finishing our subunit on how oceans influence climate and are moving onto a study of ecosystems. In Digital Literacy and Computer Science, students were introduced to the term Word Processing, as they reviewed and practiced basic formatting skills in Google Docs. Students also used the Chromebook cameras to take selfies, and applied formatting tools to write letters to their future selves. Students later researched and evaluated the advantages and disadvantages of new technologies and learned to create and format tables to present these findings in Google Docs.

8th Grade Update:

In the eighth grade, students are continuing to pursue new challenges daily. In math, students are acting as Equation Ninja Warriors, battling increasingly complex equation

"obstacle" courses - aka, practice quizzes. In this self-paced unit, students are boosting their algebra skills while also increasing independence. Social studies is exploring the roots of our democracy using sections of primary source documents from the Mayflower Compact, the English Bill of Rights, the Stamp Act Congress, the First Continental Congress and the Second Continental Congress to study our progress towards independence. Following their Declaration of Independence, they will evaluate the Articles of Confederation as our first form of national government. Students are wrapping up their work with short stories in English Language Arts, having recently finished "Flowers for Algernon". They will then begin reading Orwell's classic novel "Animal Farm." In Science, students will be starting their projects on selective and artificial selection. They will examine the pros and cons of selective breeding by taking a closer look at the breeding of dogs. They will then be moving on to the topic of artificial selection and how humans have artificially selected animals and food for our benefit. With the school year well underway, 8th grade Spanish is continuing to understand basic vocabulary such as the days of the week, months of the year, what the weather is like, and how to tell time. With the help of Total Physical Response activities, the 8th graders have now almost fully completed and acquired the Preliminary Chapter. They have their first test on Friday, October 12th!

RAS Update:

In Health classes the 6th grade has been practicing finding reliable health websites on their chromebooks, the 7th grade has just started their Mental/Emotional Health unit, and the 8th grade is making headway on their Infectious Disease projects. The 6th grade art class is finishing their illuminated letters project, the 7th grade is learning how to mix tints and shades for their color wheels and the 8th grade is close to completing the construction of their Clay On Words project. In Engineering the 6th grade is finishing up their Mag-Lev cars. 7th graders are finishing their Skimmer Car build and 8th graders are hoping for good weather to launch their water rockets. In General Music, students are wrapping up their units on treble and bass clef notes, studying the Broadway musical "Wicked", and Pop Music History of the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Band students are preparing their music for the Winter Concert. In PE students are finishing up their soccer unit with full game play for 7th and 8th grade and small sided game play with 6th grade students.

Nursing Update:

[Here](#) is the October Nursing Update