

Northview Middle School's

NOTES AND NEWS

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION



I would like to **thank** everyone for the wonderful start to the school year at Northview Middle School. All of the students, staff, and parents have made me feel very welcome. This is already such a great school, and I look forward to working with everyone here to make a great school even greater!

A special thank you is extended to all parents and teachers who joined the Cougar Club this year. Our goal is to provide the best possible education to our students. It is only with the cooperation of parents, teachers, and staff working together as a team that we can accomplish this goal.

October 7, 2009
First Six Weeks

Volume 1, Issue 1

I want to thank all of the students and parents for their efforts with this year's **fund-raiser**. A lot of work went into the fundraiser, but unfortunately, it was not as successful as we had hoped. We raised about \$7,000.00, which is down about \$3,000.00 from last year's profits. The downturn in the economy is difficult for all of us, but we are certainly grateful for the amount that was raised.

We are doing a **basket auction** in combination with the elementary school this year. The money made on the baskets that the middle school contributes will go to the middle school. Teachers have sent home information previously about their themes, but if any parent would like to donate additional items or create a completed basket to donate to our cause, that would be great! We hope that the money made on this auction will help offset the loss from our catalogue sales. This auction will be held October 16th at the elementary school.

Be sure to check out our **school's website**. It is an excellent source of a lot of school information designed to keep parents informed. New this year, teachers will be posting homework assignments on their classroom websites! This is an excellent resource for parents who often hear, "Really, I don't have any homework" or "We never do anything in class." Sound familiar?

www.nvm.sevier.org

Upcoming Events:

- ✓ October 13th—Parent/Teacher Conferences
4:00 to 7:00
- ✓ October 16th—Basket Auction with the Elementary School
- ✓ October 21st—Progress Reports
- ✓ October 23rd—Vacation Day
- ✓ October 27th—Make-up Day for Fall Pictures
- ✓ October 28th—8th graders take the EXPLORE test
- ✓ November 11th—Inservice Day for Teachers, no school for students
- ✓ November 20th—next grade card distribution

More Rigorous Standards Are Now in Place

The state of Tennessee has put in place new performance standards for this school year that will be tested on the TCAP tests this spring. What that means is different and often times harder subject matter and expectations have been put in place in classrooms, and because of this, there may be a drop in student grades in some areas. This does not necessarily mean your child has not worked hard, it just means that the work is harder and more challenging. Our teachers are already working hard to ensure that each of our students will be ready for the testing this spring. Please help us help your child by making sure your child is here every day and on time. If your child is sick (as many have been with the recent flu outbreak) please be sure your child completes any work missed while they were absent. By working together, we can ensure your child has a successful school year!

The State constitution and State statutes—as interpreted by the Tennessee Attorney General—prohibit schools from requiring any student, regardless of income, from being charged a fee "as a condition to attending the public school, or using its equipment while receiving educational training." Tenn. Code Ann. 49-2-110(c).



FIFTH GRADE

We're off to a great start for the new school year. Please remember to send in items/donations for our basket auction, with your help we can make this a successful event. Cougar Cash updates will be sent home will be sent home with progress reports. Please check www.nvm.sevier.org for links to teacher websites. Science fair project information will be sent out in the upcoming days. Please continue to send in germ-x and disinfectant wipes, as the flu season is on the rise.



SIXTH GRADE

Team 3 Newsletter Items (Brandon, Davis, & Stache)

We've been off to a busy start so far and there seems to be no signs of slowing down either.

In English this 2nd six weeks we plan on going over punctuation, best ways to combine sentences, verbs/nouns/pronouns, and the writing process- personal and descriptive.

In reading we'll be busy using dictionaries and thesauruses, making inferences, drawing conclusions, using context clues, and identifying causes/effects, main ideas/supporting details as well as the purposes for writing.

In math we'll be working on fractions of all kinds. We'll also be finding ratios and percents.

SIXTH GRADE

Wow, the first six weeks has flown by! We have been very busy in Science and Social Studies. In Science, we learned about scientific methods, thermal energy, gravitational potential energy, elastic potential energy, kinetic energy, energy conversions, and we even did some fun experiments in class. Be sure to ask your child about our in-class experiments. I hope you were not alarmed if your child came home with a story of Mrs. Lucas wielding a torch. Yes, I did wield a torch, but it was aimed at a metal ball and not any of my students. In the upcoming six weeks we will begin working on Interdependence. We will be examining ecosystems, biospheres, food chains, and many

other interesting items. Also, check my webpage for information regarding the upcoming Science Fair.

Social Studies class has also been a very interesting adventure. We began our journey in East Africa where students discovered the first tools ever used by humans. Many misconceptions were addressed when students began to realize just how intelligent the "cave men" really were. Be sure to ask your child how difficult it was for him to communicate to his classmates when no language was involved. We then migrated with the nomadic people into Mesopotamia where we discovered the first ancient civili-

zations of the Sumerians. We have many more interesting journeys ahead, and we will definitely put more mileage on our brain odometers as we travel into Egypt, India and China. **Mrs. Lynn Lucas**

Sixth grade Math classes will begin adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions. Please encourage your child to bring spiral-bound notebooks, textbooks, and pencils to class daily. Also, please have your child keep his or her agenda up to date in all classes. Thank you, **Mrs. Stutzman**

SEVENTH GRADE

The first six weeks in seventh grade have been very busy. During the second six weeks in Mr. Loy's regular math classes, we will be covering integers and beginning some basic Algebra. In Accelerated Math we will be covering decimals, equations, and fractions. Remember, in all math classes homework grades can be corrected to raise your grade. Many of you are not taking advantage of this. In Geography during

the second six weeks, we will be studying North America, Central America, and South America. Students will create and draw a map of their own country, make a paper mache' globe, and create a newscast for an assigned country. In Literature, we will be studying character, character traits, and analogies. We will also be continuing The Wednesday Wars and starting a novel entitled The Wat-

sons Go to Birmingham-1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis.





EIGHTH GRADE



From Mrs. Henderson;

1. Thanks for the donations of class supplies. We appreciate tissues, hand sanitizers, markers, paper and pencils throughout the year.
2. Central Office has determined that Spelling and English will be two separate grades on the report cards. With Spelling as a stand-alone grade, students are advised to study as homework the unit assigned weekly.
3. Spelling Bee participants were selected from among those with strong spelling grades and interest. A written test was given to narrow the selection and as an extra credit opportunity for

all students. The students selected to represent 8th grade in the year's school-wide Spelling Bee are Miranda Maples and Ashley New.

During the 2nd 6 Weeks, **Mrs. Simmons'** Literature class will be completing "The Outsiders" and beginning a unit on Poetry and Drama.

Mr. Lawson's Literature class will be working on beginning "The Outsiders", creating "wanted posters" for their favorite characters, and creating a non-traditional book project (puppet show). Each student must reach 25 points for AR each six weeks. They will also con-

tinue working on graphic organizers for cause and effect, main idea, and story elements.

Mrs. McCarty's Math class will be doing measurement, ratios, decimals, fractions and percents, and percent of change. Her Accelerated Math II class will be working on data analysis and measures of central tendencies, and probability.

Mr. Underwood's Science class will be working on Biodiversity and Change (Chapter 2), and Begin Matter. They will also continue with Technology and Engineering.

Mr. Helton's class will be

SPECIAL AREA CLASSES



Computer — Be sure to check out our school website @ www.nvm.sevier.org for Announcements, Teacher Websites, Cafeteria Menu, Schedules, Educational Links, etc.
~Mrs. Strange

Library classes are working on research projects and talking about reliable sources of information. We also learned to cite sources.

Art -The 7th grade will be taking a field trip to Gatlinburg on Thursday, November 19th in order to participate in the Arrowmont Art Reach program. Mark your calendars. Permission forms will be sent home soon.

5th grade art students are studying the elements and principles of design. 6th grade is concentrating on incorporating the human face into their artwork. 7th grade is working on correct usage of a variety of

media. And, the 8th grade is working on a unit about weaving.

P.E. Remember to bring tennis shoes to P.E. class!

Guidance classes are covering internet safety

FASTT Math

We thank you all for your patience and understanding during the start-up process of this new math program. We hope to help our students here at Northview adjust to the new math standards put in place by the state of Tennessee. We are going to be using hands-on instruction along with the FASTT Math software program to make improve-

ments in math skills. Games students can use at home for extra practice can be found at <http://www.mathplayground.com/games.html> Thanks again!



NMS has old science textbooks for sale for all grade levels for \$.25; they will be available during the parent/teacher conferences or students may turn money in to homeroom teacher any time.

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
CHECK IT OUT FOR DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, HOMEWORK UPDATES AND MUCH, MUCH, MORE!
www.nvm.sevier.org

JR. BETA CLUB

BETA will be participating in the State Convention November 22-24, 2009 in Nashville at the Opryland Hotel. Be sure to encourage BETA members when you see them!

Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31, 2009. We will have special dress-up days to later be announced. Please encourage everyone to participate!

BETA members are selling candy bars as a fundraiser to help raise money for the convention. They are \$1.00 each!

CHORUS Chorus has had a very strong start this year. The singers sound and act great. What great attitudes!! We are already working hard on Christmas songs. Can you believe it? The holidays are right around the corner. We are going to have solo try-outs in the mornings starting next Thursday the 8th. I can't wait to hear some of these singers by themselves. I look forward to our Christmas concert, and the rest of the year in chorus.



Enrichment news and Opportunities to enter competitions:

1. www.vfw.org/patriot'spen

This essay is for students in 6, 7 and 8th grade. It is to be 300-400 words. The theme is "When is it right to honor our veterans?"

Due November 1, 2009

2. www.lettersaboutliterature.org

Students in grades 5 through 8 are to select a fiction or nonfiction book, a short story, poem, essay or speech about which he/she has strong feelings. Write a personal letter as if you are having a conversation with the author.

Due Dec. 12, 2009

See Ms. Terrell or Ms. McCullough on Fridays to learn more.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Purpose of Student Council at NMS is to:

Act as an intermediate representative between the student body and the administration.

Provide leadership.

Be self-supporting.

Promote the general welfare of the student body through advising administration in matters concerning curriculum and student privileges.

To serve as liaison for class activities.

Student Council is in the process of having elections for officers and representatives. Meetings will begin as soon as elections have taken place.

COUGAR CONNECTION

Cougar Connection is off to a great start. We are very excited to be offering both morning and afternoon tutoring. Morning tutoring is Monday through Friday. It begins at 7:10 and ends at 8:10. Registered students may in come whenever they arrive at school. Students may still sign up for morning tutoring. Afternoon tutoring is Monday through Thursdays, but is currently filled to capacity. Friday afternoons are reserved for ZAP (Zeros Aren't Permitted). ZAP offers students who are behind in their work a chance to get their assignments made up and turned in. ZAP runs from 3:10 to 5:10. Bus service home is available for most students. If you would like more information on any of these services, contact the NMS office or Dr. Rene' Walker at 933-7985. Applications are available in the school office for you or your child to pick up at your convenience.