

Freedom Middle School



FROM THE MIDDLE

Mr. Ken Fisher, Principal

Phone 788-7945

November, 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 1 Fundraiser product pick up
Nov. 4 1st Quarter ends
Nov. 7 No school
Nov. 8 Principal Pen Breakfast
Nov. 9 1st Quarter report cards home
Nov. 10 Irish Best assembly
Nov. 11 Veterans Day assembly
Nov. 10-13 "The Wiz" Performances
Nov. 14 MAPSS meeting
Nov. 21 Board meeting
Nov. 23 – 25 No school

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MR. FISHER

MIDDLE YEARS/TEEN FOOD & FITNESS

The monthly articles in these two publications are always age appropriate and useful to the middle school students and the entire family. Middle Years talks about some of the daily challenges facing adolescent students related to academic, social, and emotional health. Teen Food & Fitness promotes a healthy lifestyle during the developmental years in middle school. This publication offers advice on good nutrition and healthy physical activity for the entire family.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Wednesday, October 19th and Thursday, October 20th in the cafeteria. We are always trying to do the best job we can with these sessions so that parents are well informed and the experience is productive. The cafeteria style process of meeting with available teachers seems to work well in the middle school. Please contact me if you have any feedback regarding the recent conferences, good or bad!



PRINCIPAL'S PEN AWARD

Four times each year students at Freedom Middle School are recognized for their special contributions to our positive school climate. Each student recognized will receive an award certificate with their special contributions listed, breakfast with the Principal, and a special Principal's Pen. Mr. Kevin Kilstofte will be our guest speaker for the 1st quarter ceremony. Mr. Kilstofte will share his perspective on the importance of giving your best effort in

school. The first quarter ceremony will be held in the cafeteria on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Congratulations to all students that have been selected for this special recognition.



FASD WEBSITE

The Technology Department continues to enhance and improve the district web site and event calendar. When you are on the Middle School home page, a calendar will appear on the upper right hand side of the page and selected options will be listed under this calendar. Check out the FASD Facilities Calendar to find out what is happening each month. The web site address is www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us. I encourage parents and students to visit our newly improved and enhanced website.

SKYWARD STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Skyward gives parents and students direct access to student progress on a daily basis. You can check on completed assignments, current grade in each class, upcoming tests, projects, etc. The skyward site also provides personal information regarding school attendance and lunch account balance. I encourage all students and their parents to view this site together; it shows you each have a vested interest in academic achievement. If you need any assistance connecting to the site or navigating once you have arrived, please give the MS office a call and we will assist you 920-788-7945.

SCHOOL THEME

Our school theme for the 2016-2017 school year is REACH and we are now changing our focus to the second letter in the theme. During the months of November and December Freedom Middle School students and staff will focus on the letter E for Enthusiasm. I would like students, staff, and parents to be enthusiastic regarding all that we do. Enthusiasm brings out the best in people and that can be connected with many aspects of school life. Enthusiasm in the classroom inspires learning at a higher level, enthusiastic test preparation will bring higher test results, and enthusiasm on the athletic field or court will enhance individual and team performance. Please send me photos of students being enthusiastic over the next two months; with your permission I will put them on the district website. You can email me at kfisher@freedomschools.k12.wi.us and attach your photos!



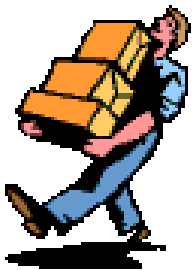
VETERANS' DAY 2016

On Friday, November 11, 2016 the FASD will hold a special event to honor our local Veterans. Our guests will arrive in the MS lobby at 11:15am to visit with students and staff while sharing stories of their service to our country. The Veterans will have lunch with us and be our guests of honor at a general assembly in the field house starting at 12:45pm. I encourage community members to attend this event to show your appreciation for all the Veterans have done to protect us from harm and grant us our freedom, please join us!

FUNDRAISER PICK UP

The fundraiser items will be delivered at 12:45pm on Tuesday, November 1, 2016. If parents are available to help unload the truck please stop in and help! **The items will be organized in the cafeteria** and ready for parent pick up from 2:30pm-6:30pm.

ITEMS MUST BE PICKED UP ON THE DELIVERY DATE!
FUNDRAISER ITEM DELIVERY
FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL
CAFETERIA



2:30PM-6:30PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016
PAYMENT DUE WHEN ITEMS ARE PICKED UP (if not already paid)
CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FREEDOM MIDDLE SCHOOL

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mr. Fellingner

We just finished learning about the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages. The students learned how people went from being hunters and gatherers to herders and farmers. Now we are learning about the early river valley civilizations such as Mesopotamia and Babylon. We will learn about how people of that time lived, their family life, their system of government, and their great achievements that impacted people for hundreds of years, such as the system of writing known as cuneiform and Hammurabi's Code. The next stop ahead will be Egypt! In our unit on Egypt, the students will create a project that will demonstrate their knowledge of the different aspects of the Egyptian culture. More details will be sent out later.

6TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Wruck



Sixth Graders began Word Investigation. Word Investigation in 6th Grade consists of learning the meaning and spelling of words by knowing word parts. Your son or daughter completed several activities in October for this. Students practiced using context (the sentences surrounding an unknown word) to solve the meaning of an unknown word. They studied key vocabulary in our Shared Read, Escaping the Giant Wave. They studied 6 Greek and Latin roots and applied their knowledge to solve the meaning of new words containing these roots.

Exciting news! ELA students started our first class novel Escaping the Giant Wave. We will start reading this together as a class, then move into Book Clubs. It is in Book Clubs that effective collaborative conversation needs to be taking place. Students learned what this should look like and practiced collaborative discussion to prepare for this moment. Soon, your child will be reading some of this novel at home. You can help your child by making sure he/she does the assigned reading and tracks his or her thinking in the Thought Log. This will be something we will continue using throughout the year with several different texts. Sharing thoughts through effective discussion increases comprehension.

We sincerely thank you for encouraging your son or daughter to read at least 20 minutes each night. This is a requirement in Sixth Grade.

6TH GRADE MATH

Mr. Reed



In 6th grade math we have wrapped up our first unit about rates, ratios, and proportions and have begun our second unit regarding finding the area and perimeter of two-dimensional shapes. As the 1st quarter comes to a close on November 4th please keep an eye out for report cards being sent home. Feel free to touch base with me about any 6th grade math questions or concerns.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Runyon



It's hard to believe that the first quarter is already wrapping up. We've built rockets, studied the importance of accuracy and precision in science, and most recently we've begun our study of matter. We have taken a particularly in depth look at density. This has provided us with a number of real world challenges. We combined some social studies and science lessons as we delved into the Neolithic period to take a close look at Otzi the iceman. Moving forward we will continue our study of matter as we begin our study of chemistry. We will focus on: mixtures, solutions, and how and why certain substances dissolve.

6TH GRADE CAMP U-NAH-LI-YAH FIELDTRIP PICTURES

This fieldtrip took place on September 15.





7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Juelich and Mrs. Lingnofski

We've got one quarter of the school year in already! As we begin quarter two in the language half of the block, we will move from narrative writing to informative writing. We will begin using some materials our school district is piloting known as Collections. This makes our first informative writing about how the Burmese python is affecting the Everglades. We will do some prep work for writing informative pieces before we look at four sources together as a class and plan out what we will write by organizing the information into main ideas. After planning transitions, an introduction, and a conclusion together as a class, we'll begin writing together as well. We will write half of this piece together as a class, and students will then use the planning we did

together to complete writing the second half on their own. This same process will be used twice more throughout the year with different topics leading students to be able to independently write an informative essay being provided sources.

In literature, we will use the beginning of November to do some additional work with The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963. We will begin by comparing it to the movie version via a Venn Diagram. Then will be analyzing a poem the book was based on as well as diving into an article about the Sixteenth Street Church bombing which also inspired the novel.

After our work with the novel, we'll be moving on to using the Collections materials in literature as well. We'll be delving into a unit including a multitude of literary genres connected by the same overlying topic.

Students should continue to work on independent reading outside of class. Students are to read 20 minutes outside of class per day. For November, students will need to complete an AR test on their minimum-three-point book by November 22. On that day, students will pick a new book for December as we visit the library as a class. Since second quarter is a bit longer due to breaks, students will be required to read a book for each month: November, December, and January. Between these three books, they will again choose one to do a project on that will be due near quarter's end in January.

As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.



7TH GRADE LIFE SCIENCE

Mr. Atwater



We are currently starting our cell unit. Students are discussing cell structure and function/learning the different parts of cells and what their jobs do. Along with this, we are learning how to work a compound light microscope and have been looking at some cells under the scopes. We will be moving in to cell reproduction (Mitosis) next and follow up with a unit on DNA.

BIRD OF THE MONTH: White-throated Sparrow. Yes there are several different kinds of sparrows and none of them are actually called “Sputzies” or “Little Brown Jobs”. This bird is migrating through Wisconsin right now after breeding in the Nicolet National Forest and further north to the tundra. Watch for a small brown bird with a white throat patch. Sometimes you can make out a small amount of yellow above each eye. It is most often seen on the ground around bird feeders. It has a very distinctive call. Some people think it is trying to sing “Oh, Canada, Canada, Canada”. Others hear, “Oh Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody”. Get outside and enjoy our wildlife!!!



7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Mr. LeBrun

Wow!! Where did that first quarter go? In 7th grade Social studies, students have been learning about the first Americans and European exploration. Students are being exposed to early American History from different points of view. For example, how do Native Americans view Columbus and how do they feel about the first Thanksgiving? Many times there are two sides to a story and many times we fail to see or hear the other side. We will be studying early American settlement and colonization though much of November and December.

A major project coming up is the National History Day Project and paper. We will kick off National History Day (NHD) in November. We will be working on picking a topic and focus on writing a research paper before Christmas break. Students will be bringing home a packet of information and a calendar explaining the whole process in early November. The NHD project portion work will actually take place after the Holiday break.

If you have any questions about NHD or any other matter relating to your son/daughters progress don't hesitate to call or email.

7TH GRADE MATH

Mrs. Runyon

We have just completed chapter 2 focusing on percents. This chapter was such an eye-opener for many students. Students should now be able to find tax, tip, and discounts when they are out shopping. They also saw the difference in the amount a savings account can earn in interest in one year versus eighteen years.

The next chapter will be chapter 3 dealing

with integers. By the time we are finished with this chapter, students should be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide negative and positive numbers. This can be a very abstract concept for some students. Remind students that if they are struggling with math these are some options: watch the YouTube videos that I uploaded every day we learn a new lesson, come in during guided study on Tuesdays or Thursday to get some additional help from me, and use the book's online tutors and/or additional worksheets for extra practice.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at

srunyon@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

Pre-Algebra

In Pre-Algebra we are in the middle of chapter 3 on "Operations with Rational Numbers". At the end of this chapter student should be able to determine what happens when you add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers. The students have been working very hard in class. I am impressed with their desire to know and understand the concepts deeper. The next chapter we will be "Power and Roots".

As previously mentioned, please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or concerns at srunyon@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

Below are some pictures of an activity called "Capture Recapture". Students were able to predict the amount of fish in their pond by using proportions. This is similar to a real world technique that biologist use.





Workshop method for the novel. Along with the novel, students will watch video, engage in discussion, and write an article about our unit on bullying.

To give students additional ownership of nonfiction and current events, each one of them is to find an article regarding the topic of bullying that is relevant to class, school, or our local community and share it for reading minute. After they present the information, each student needs to pose a thoughtful or connection-referencing question to their peers as a reflection response in their reader's notebooks.

Please continue to encourage your child to read each night! By reading 20 minutes a day, literacy skills increase, as well as future outcomes. The November AR reading requirement is non-fiction. We will give book recommendations, but welcome any parent recommendations as well. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns.

Another way you can help your child is to talk to him/her about the Parts of Speech objective that needs to be met by Tuesday, November 22. The objective is to be able to identify the part of speech of any word in a sentence. Students have to earn a 16/20 on a quiz that they may retake as many times as they need before Tuesday, November 22.

As teachers, we have and will continue to supply our students with many resources to accomplish this objective. One aid that you can purchase for your child to meet the objective is the app Grammar POP.

Unfortunately, the app is only available for iOS devices. The app is an excellent help and pretty fun, too.

As you can see, we have a busy November planned, and we are looking forward to it!

8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Fogarty and Mr. VanRossum

It's shocking that we have reached the end of the first quarter already. Students have been engaged in quite a bit of reading and writing in class so far this year. In addition to independent reading, students will be engaging in some non-fiction reading with newspapers and other articles of the week throughout November. November will be intensive with non-fiction in class, and an independent read. The goal is to understand the purpose, components, uses, qualities, and benefits of non-fiction.

Students will be engaging in reading *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio during the month of November. This novel ties into our non-fiction and current events topic of bullying. We will continue to utilize the Reader's

8th GRADE SCIENCE

Mr. Bins



Over the past two months, it has been a true pleasure to work with the class of 2021 in Eighth Grade Earth Science. They have demonstrated the ability to think abstractly, question the world around them, and have fun along the way!

Our previous unit took us into an exploration of Earth, Sun, and Moon Systems. As we learned in this unit, we discovered the big picture items that will guide the function of our Earth as we narrow down on our focus topics.

As we enter our next unit, we will discuss rocks, minerals, and the internal processes of Earth. In my opinion this unit “rocks.” In this unit, we will discuss how these processes impact our daily live and we will make connections to previous topics.

I am looking forward to seeing what the seven months have in store for our eighth grade students as they develop both scientifically and as leaders of our school!

8TH GRADE MATH

Ms. VanEperen



The first quarter is coming to an end quite quickly! Algebra is finishing up Chapter 2, which had them solving one-step, multi-step, absolute value, and literal equations, as well as reviewing ratios/proportions and percents of change. Finding weighted

averages was completely new material that was introduced to these students in this chapter. Quarter two will start with a focus on our first of many functions, the linear function.

Math 8 recently finished up Chapter 1, which ended with material on scientific notation and roots. Students were even shown how to enter this information into their calculator so that they do not always have to compute by hand, which of course they loved! After Chapter 1, we closed up our Volume 1 workbook and switched over to the geometry unit. We are working on finishing up Chapter 5, which focuses on lines, angles, triangles, polygons, and the Pythagorean Theorem, which is a concept that they will use over and over again in all of their math classes!

Students have been doing a great job keeping up with their daily work and are encouraged to continue doing so. I am always available before school, after school (as of right now until the basketball season starts), and during RtI/Guided Study time on Tuesdays and Thursdays to answer any questions. I am always open to their questions and encourage students to come in for that extra help! They are, however, reminded to utilize their resources first, especially their notesheets that we complete every single day for their benefit. Other resources are available as well such as teachertube.com and khanacademy.com, where they can search for videos on their topic, and connected.mcgraw-hill.com, which is the amazing website directly connected to their workbook that has tutorial videos, step-by-step solutions, and extra practice problems.

Thank you for your support and involvement in your student’s education these first couple months. I enjoyed seeing those of you that

came to parent teacher conferences. I hope you continue to contact me with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or even stories that you may have about your student and math class!

SPANISH

Mrs. Drammeh

Our first pentemester (7 weeks) of 6th grade Spanish has come to an end, and we are starting to get into basic conversation with the new group of 6th graders. 7th and 8th grade Spanish will be ending on November 4th when quarter 1 ends. We are finishing up our last units. 7th grade is working on a body unit and 8th grade is working on a clothing unit. Ms. Hayes (student teacher) and I have truly been enjoying our classes filled with fun students. Sadly, we have to say “adios” to Ms. Hayes when the quarter ends as well, as she will be moving on to student teach at Seymour High School. I look forward to working with my next group of students for quarter 2!

UPDATE FROM MR. MAVE’S CLASS

Mr. Maves and Mrs. Stingle

Continuous progress in both social skills and academic skills are taking place for all students. A very important learning technique used to reinforce this positive progress toward continuous improvement is to empower students to relate their behaviors to real life situations.

One example of a real life situation students relate to is called, “Keep it between the ditches”. The following is a short lesson used to help students be aware, comprehend, and apply continuous improvement to their social skills and academics.

“Keep it between the Ditches”

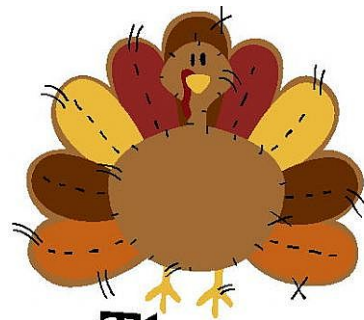
You are driving your car down the road and on either side of the road is a ditch. You are

very focused on doing a good job driving your car because you don’t want your car to go in either ditch. You know that going in the ditch is not good for your car and it is not good for you or anyone who happens to riding with you.

Either working individually or in a group, students work to answer the following questions:

1. While you are driving, you notice your car starting to go towards the ditch on the right. What should you do?
2. Later, you notice your car going toward the ditch on the left. What should you do?
3. What would happen to you, others riding with you, and your car if you went into the ditch?
4. What can you learn from this lesson on how you think and act each day regarding your behavior?

Understanding this concept and applying it daily helps students realize personal responsibility and accountability.



Happy Thanksgiving

ART NEWS

Mrs. Glynn



Hello once again! Wow, I can't believe that first pentemester is done for the 6th graders and the quarter is almost done for the 7th and 8th graders. We will be entering the second pentemester October 25th and the 2nd quarter November 8th.

The 6th, 7th and 8th graders are starting still life. We have talked about shading and highlighting, overlapping and how to make objects appear to seem real on a 2D surface. The next assignment will be clay. The 6th graders will make a "head" of something...a person, monster, etc. The 7th graders will make a plate of food. The 8th graders will make a container out of coils or slab. Next we will move on to working with contour line drawing and pastel drawings, 1, 2 and 3-point perspective and fantasy drawings.

So far, they all have been working hard and doing their best!

Please stop in at anytime to take a look at what your children are doing. If you ever need to contact me, please call the school at 788-7945 ext. 2277.

PYHSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Wehlage, Ms. Vandenberg and Mr. Springstroh

The 6th grade class recently started a new unit of badminton. Throughout this unit the students will learn the proper techniques of badminton and rules of the game and will get into playing games after the skills are taught. Along with badminton the students have been working hard in the cardio room. They learned how to properly use the

machines and they are building their endurance to help develop their cardiovascular system. The students continue to work hard with each other as well as individually during class.

During the past few weeks in physical education we have wrapped up our outdoor activities with the anticipation of cooler weather. We recently have started our indoor units with badminton in Ms. Vandenberg's 7th and 8th grade PE classes and nitro ball with Mrs. Wehlage's 7th and 8th grade PE classes. Many might wonder



what nitro ball is because it is relatively new to our PE curriculum within the past year. It is a game played on the volleyball court with the nets lowered to ground level; so similar to a tennis net. The same skills of volleyball

are used with serving underhand, passing, setting and hitting but the ball needs to bounce between hits. This game has become one of the new favorites in all PE classes and the students do a great job with including each other in the game by trying to get at least 3 hits on a side! The pictures below show the game in action with one of our PE classes. These will be the final units to wrap up the 1st quarter on November 4th.



COMPUTERS

Mrs. Helmila

In 6th Grade Computers, we just finished learning the entire alphabetic keyboard. We recently moved into the numeric keyboard. Students also took their fourth timed test this week (October 17 and 18). Their goal was 28 words per minute with at least 90% accuracy. Twenty out of 26 students are at or close to the goal of 28 words per minute. I have seen **AMAZING** progress in each student's keyboarding skills! I have 5 students who have increased their keyboarding speed by 10 - 18 words per minute! I have 18 students who have increased their keyboarding speed by 5 - 9 words per minute! **These are amazing results!** There is still one more keyboarding timed test left . . . so I will see even more increases!

If your child would like to practice keyboarding at home, they can log into EduTyping and work on the lessons we have covered in class. Students should know their username and password for EduTyping. However, if there is a problem logging in, you can always contact me for help. My email address is bhelmila@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

HEALTH

Mr. Springstroh

Here are some of the recent topics we have been discussing in the health classroom. In the 6th grade class we are about to finish working on the skeletal system. In the 7th grade, students are wrapping up talking about alcohol and next week we will begin talking about tobacco. The 8th grade class is almost done discussing the reproductive systems. Next week we will be shifting our focus and starting to discuss infectious diseases.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Mr. Rusch and Mrs. Seibert

In Middle School Programming we are continuing to develop the concepts of sprite, costume, script and backdrop, and have moved on to general programming concepts such as sequence, user events, iteration and debugging. At the end of October we will have put together an All About Me project that showcases all of our current abilities in programming. Moving into, and throughout, November we will work to expand our understanding of sprites as objects in programming and how they can interact with each other. Particular topics will include loops, events, parallelism, various control structures, and flip style animation work.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOTES

Mrs. Langner



As I write this newsletter on October 19, it is hard to believe that November will be here shortly. As we enter the end of the fall season and daylight savings time, I'm reminded that the holiday season will be here soon. November is a time to reflect and give thanks for our many blessings. We have much to be thankful for in our music program: Sincere thanks to administrators, as we continue to focus on the role of music as a critical part of a complete education. Thank you parents! Your interest, support, and participation are essential elements of our successful past, our exciting present, and our promising future. Thanks to all instrumental music students who spend hours learning, rehearsing, and performing music. It is an honor to work with you, the

music makers of today who are preparing to be tomorrow's leaders. Yes music does make a difference! The disciplines learned in music reinforce the theme of excellence required for positive growth along life's journey.

Irish Bands 7 and 8 members are busy working on the music for a concert at the Elementary school on October 31. They are also working on music for the Veterans' Day program on November 11. The Veterans' Day program will be at 12:45 in the field house and is open to the public.

Congratulations to Jadyn Feucht who was chosen to participate in the North Eastern Conference Middle Level Honors Band. She will rehearse with NEC Honors Band and perform a concert in January.

Cadet bands are practicing music for the winter concert. The concert is on Monday, December 5, at 7:00 P.M., in the field house. This concert is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there.

The quote for the month is: "Music Soothes the Soul".

EXPLORING MUSIC

Mrs. Seibert

The Sixth Grade Exploring Music Class has just started online guitar. There will be assignments given to them via google docs. The students will be able to log in at school and at home and play the guitar with a recording.

The Seventh Grade Exploring Music Class will also be starting guitar and reviewing the steps to tune and care for a guitar. Chords will be reviewed from last year and they will also have an online class.

The Eighth Grade Drama and Music Class is working on famous speeches and music that goes with the speech. Terms for stage are being practiced for this in-class performance and they will be able to practice and critique their own work. American songs will also be played on guitar.

THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Kielpikowski



As I write this, it is mid-October and the temperature is still pretty nice for this time of year. The leaves are starting to change, but it still in the mid 60's for temperature. The weeks have flown by and I am just about ready to say good-bye to my first group of 6th graders in my ACP class. They have been a great class and they have really worked hard. They recently created a power point sharing many items about their character: strengths, skills, learning styles and career aspirations to name a few. I invite you and your child in to come see me to do a career conference. This is something new this year the middle school is doing. It is an opportunity to share some of the great things about your child and learn about what they have learned through their career research. The students have also begun using a career website called www.careercruising.com. If you did not already do so, and would be interested in doing so, give me a call to set up a time to come in.

Seventh grade is in its last couple weeks of the quarter. We have spent a good portion of our time in the past couple weeks during career research. We are utilizing the website www.careercruising.com. Each student is building their own portfolio. That information will stay with them through

high school. If you have computer access at home, have your child share what they have learned. If you do not have a computer at home, you are welcome to come in and I can show you what your child is doing. One other item is 7th grade will be having a speaker on October 20th from the Sexual Assault Resource Center. This is part of the school counseling curriculum. Some of this speaker's focus will be about being smart when online.

Hope everyone is enjoying the school year so far! Do not hesitate to call if you should have any questions.

Happy
Thanksgiving

