

Welcome to Team Newton



Orefield Middle School

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READING/LANGUAGE ARTS: (Mrs. Boltz)

- ✓ Study Sync – focusing on vocabulary development, reading strategies, grammar, critical thinking, writing and literary development
- ✓ Vocabulary Workshop – 10 Units; Two weeks per unit
- ✓ Novels – at least two
- ✓ Short Stories – from Study Sync
- ✓ SSR/Accelerated Reading Program
 - ✓ Students must have a book to read with them daily

SCIENCE: (Mr. McGinniss)

- ✓ McGraw-Hill – Earth & Space iScience
 - ✓ Units of Study: Water & Other Resources, Exploring the Universe, Weather & Climate, and Exploring Earth
 - ✓ Extension Activities/Lab

SOCIAL STUDIES: TEAM TAUGHT (Mrs. Boltz & Mr. McGinniss)

- ✓ McGraw-Hill – Discovering Our Past: A History of the World
 - ✓ Units of Study: Ancient Civilizations of China, India, Egypt, Mesopotamia & the Americas
 - ✓ Emphasis on Civics & Government, Economics, Cultures, Geography, History and Current Events
 - ✓ Online Book accessed through the Clever Portal

MATHEMATICS: (Mr. McGinniss)

- ✓ Go Math Series
 - ✓ Units of Study: Ratios/Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions & Equations, Geometry, and Statistics & Probability – all of which are based on the PA Core Standards
 - ✓ Emphasis on Problem Solving

Additional information regarding the curriculum can be found on Parkland School District's website.
www.parklandsd.org/curriculum/k-12-curriculum

MISCELLANEOUS:

- ✓ Agenda Books should be filled out daily. This is the primary resource to log assignments and record due dates.
- ✓ Home Access Center - This is a great resource and should be checked weekly! This will allow you to keep track of grades! <http://pldhomeaccess.spihost.com> Are you having trouble? Email hac@parklandsd.org and someone will return your email.
- ✓ Student Details – students with a 70% average or a sudden drop in grades will receive a Student Detail. Parents are asked to review their student's grade on Home Access Center, sign the sheet, and return it within three days. A follow up email will be sent for any Student Detail not returned.
- ✓ Assessments – Any assessment is posted on our back boards and students are asked to record their assessments in their agenda books. Assessments are announced, posted on the Schoology Calendar and reviewed well in advance to allow an ample amount of time to prepare for them.
- ✓ Schoology –A learning management system that will be used in all subjects. Students are encouraged to communicate with us using this tool. Homework, Assignments, and, at times, Assessments will be accessible through this program.
- ✓ Absences – It is extremely important that students learn to use their resources when absent. Very often, students will have what is necessary to complete the missed day's work with them already or by using their chrome books. Students are encouraged to check Schoology or contact a friend when absent.
- ✓ Homework requests - If a student has been absent for two or more days, a request can be made through the Guidance Office. All requests must be received prior to 9:00 AM!
- ✓ Emergency Permit – If a student will be missing school and the date(s) and time are already known, students can submit an Emergency Permit to notify the school of their absence. We encourage students to do this so that missed assignments can be prepared for them in advance. We kindly ask that students do their best to complete the missed assignments prepared for them. Doing so definitely helps students return to school with minimal amounts of work to compete upon their return.
- ✓ Study Island - will be utilized in both Reading and Math throughout the school year. Students will earn up to 5 points per Study Island topic in each subject. Each session is independently scored and rewarded. Students demonstrating mastery with a 70% or above will earn a blue ribbon. The following is a breakdown of how points will be earned:

5 points- 70% or above
4 points-65%
3 points-60%
2 points-55%
1 point-50%
0 points- No attempt made

Students will be given a time frame in which to complete topics. The best session score will be reflected in our grade book. Students having difficulty are encouraged to stop and seek assistance. Study Island will be one component of Period X.

Team Newton's Classroom Supply List

The following is a list of suggested items in order to help you succeed throughout your sixth grade school year. Please think about what is best for you in order to stay organized and prepared for each class.

- ✓ **Notebooks:** Students are required to have a color-coded notebook for each core course
 - **ELA-** Red notebook
 - **Math-** Blue notebook
 - **Science-** Green notebook
 - **Social Studies-** Yellow notebook
- ✓ **Binder:** 1 inch or 1 ½ inch binder is plenty big enough. Include a divider for each CORE subject. You may also want space for your Exploratory classes.
- ✓ **Earbuds:** Often earbuds are lost or broken. Students should keep earbuds in a Ziploc bag inside of their chrome book case or pencil case. Additional earbuds can be purchased in the school store.
- ✓ **Pencils: LOTS OF THEM!** The type of pencil is up to you. Either a traditional pencil or a lead pencil is fine. Please have extra lead for your pencils if that is what you choose to use.
- ✓ **Pens/Fine tip black marker:** Students will be required to use either black or blue pen to create final drafts of their writing. The fine tip marker will be used for maps and other projects.
- ✓ **Colored Pencils**
- ✓ **Pencil case:** The ones that go in a binder seem to work the best.
- ✓ **Dividers with the pocket:** Labeled for each core subject; different colors work best.
- ✓ **Calculator:** We utilize a Texas Instrument (TI-30X IIS) in Math class. It is a good idea to have one at home to complete math homework.
- ✓ **Tissues:** Please bring in two to three boxes of tissues for the classroom.
- ✓ **Clorox Wipes:** Please consider donating some to the classroom. We use them a lot especially during the winter months.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

All students will exhibit the following behaviors...

- ✓ Enter the classroom quietly and report directly to their seat
- ✓ Remain seated during class instruction
- ✓ Have class materials ready
- ✓ Bring all books, materials and other supplies necessary for class
- ✓ Follow directions the first time they are given
- ✓ Keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves
- ✓ Raise their hand and wait to be called upon
- ✓ Adjust voice level according to the activity
- ✓ Respect people, equipment, and furnishings of the classroom
- ✓ Complete homework assignments on time
- ✓ Complete classwork in a timely manner

- ✓ Submit only original work, not work copied or borrowed from another student or resource
- ✓ Obtain parent signatures when necessary

HOMEWORK POLICY

This homework policy is developed for Team Newton and is designed to promote student success and accountability. It is the student's responsibility to complete their homework accurately and to put in the effort required to be successful. Assignments not fully completed at the time the assignment is checked will not receive credit for the assignment. Students will not be permitted to access their lockers to get assignments left behind.

GRADES

Team Newton follows the grading scale set forth by the Parkland School District. Grades are calculated through a point system. They are determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible. All assessments, with the exception of quizzes, are kept at school. Assessments are reviewed in class. Students are asked to discuss their grades to share with parents/guardians. If a parent would like to view an assessment, a student may request to take an assessment home. We ask that you kindly return the assessment the following school day. Viewing Home Access Center will provide students and parents/guardians with a complete record of their grades in each subject. If a student believes that an error has been made, we ask that the student speaks to us directly.

CONFERENCES

Conferences are scheduled following the first marking period. Although the district reserves time prior to Thanksgiving holiday, we are already well within the second marking period by that point. We prefer to offer parents/guardians an opportunity to meet sooner rather than later. Conferences are not required. However, a parent/guardian may request a conference or a phone conference. Teachers also will request a conference if we will it is necessary. Conference/meetings may also be scheduled throughout the school year if necessary. It is our goal to help your son/daughter be successful in their 6th grade school year!

PSSA TESTING DATES:

ELA: April 25th-29th

Mathematics: May 2nd-6th