

# Grade 8 Purple Team

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*November 2, 2023 Open Pod Meeting*

# Counseling

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- Georgia Orlando:
  - [gorlando@westportps.org](mailto:gorlando@westportps.org)
  - 203-341-2494
- Luana Fernandes:
  - [lfernandes@westportps.org](mailto:lfernandes@westportps.org)
  - 203-341-2468
- Michelle Friedman:
  - [mfriedman@westportps.org](mailto:mfriedman@westportps.org)
  - 203-341-2468

# Counseling

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- Met with all students in small groups; acclimating well
- Alternative HS Expo - 10/16
  - Wright Tech, RCA, Ctr. for Global Studies, Sound School
- Nov - lesson re: Social and Environmental Factors related to Bullying
- HS Transition Process - January

# Snack

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**Snack time is mid-morning daily. They should be:**

- ☐ Individually sized
- ☐ Peanut/tree nut free
- ☐ Healthy (suggestions: fruit, whole grain chips/crackers, popcorn, etc)

**Students can purchase cafeteria snacks before homeroom but not during snack time.**



# Online Platform Use

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**Schoology and Google Classroom - daily check by students**

- ❑ Calendar
- ❑ Each course's Materials page
- ❑ Recent Activity feed

**PowerSchool - 3 x per week by students, 1 x per week by parents**

- ❑ Missing Assignments- '0' or 'F' means we don't have it. Sometimes a student was absent (they can make it up), sometimes they forgot to do it
- ❑ Assignment Scores, Quarter Averages

**STUDENTS should contact teachers to resolve issues**

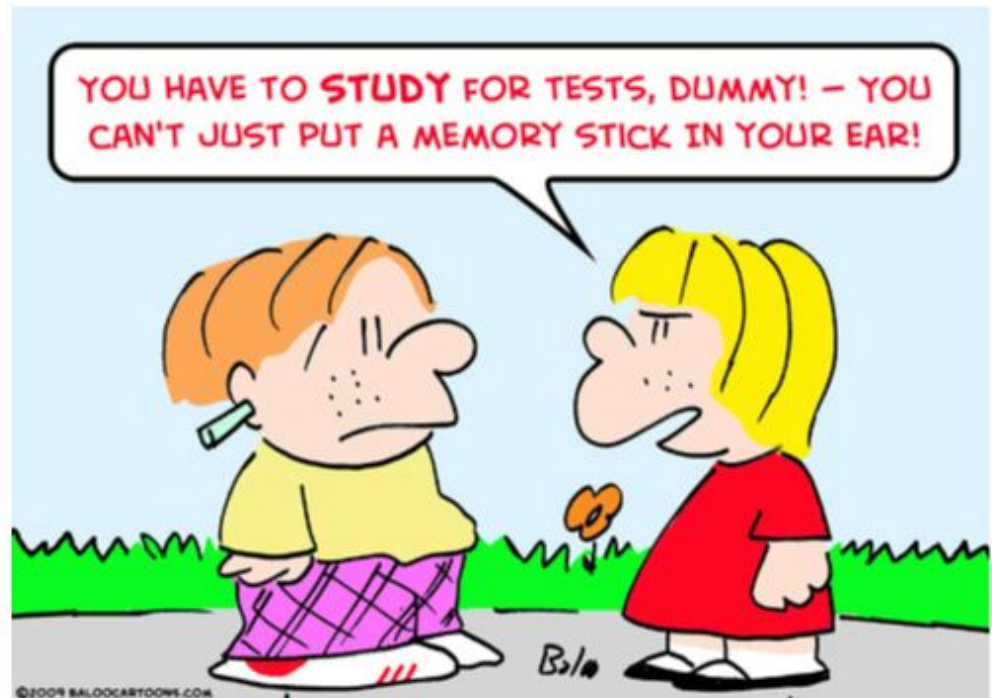
# Technology Update

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- ★ Student Chromebooks:
  - ❑ Bring Chromebook **fully charged** every day
  - ❑ Always adhere to the **Acceptable Use Policy**.
  - ❑ Comply with ***teachers' instructions*** regarding class use.
- ★ Phones
  - ❑ Students are doing really well with keeping their devices away

# Study Skills

- ★ **Be Ready to Learn**
  - Come to class prepared to learn
  - Engage in classroom activities
- ★ **Actively study**
  - Review previous assessments and re-do any mistakes
  - Complete relevant problems in book and study guides
- ★ **Attend Extra Help**
  - Bring questions



# How to get there?

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## **Habits and Routines**

- ❑ Plan on having at least an hour of schoolwork per night
  - ❑ Allot a nightly time with no phones or TV
  - ❑ Extra Time? Read a book
- ❑ Checklist of daily tasks - HW, plug in CB, lay out clothes, pack a lunch, etc.

## **Coaching**

- ❑ Ask your child for their plan for a task - studying for a quiz, writing a paper, etc.

# Missing School

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- ❑ When your child is sick they should focus on getting better so they can return to school
- ❑ Students should check Google Classroom and Schoology, to figure out what was done in class BUT
- ★ **STUDENTS** need to come in **early** the day they return to school in order to check in with their teachers **IN PERSON**

# Supply Check

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- ❑ Please help your students organize their backpacks and binders
  
- ❑ They need:
  - ❑ Paper- Notebook or lined paper in binder
  - ❑ Writing Utensils
  - ❑ Index Cards
  - ❑ Algebra- Graphing Calculator

# Language Arts

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- ❑ Completed: *The Outsiders* (whole class novel)  
Focus: character development and literary analysis
- ❑ Conclusion: The Rumble. . .  
“*We always get spruced up before a rumble.*”



# Rumble Costume Contest Winners

## Best Greaser and Best Soc







# Language Arts

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- ❑ Completed: *The Outsiders* (whole class novel)  
Focus: character development and literary analysis
- ❑ Currently: Coming of Age in Contemporary Fiction  
Focus: perspective, speaking and listening
- ❑ Up next: Narrative nonfiction, *Left for Dead* and 2nd text  
Focus: central idea and nonfiction craft
- ❑ After December break: *Night*  
Focus: Literary analysis and craft

# Language Arts

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- ★ Began vocabulary (100 words total)
  - ❑ First 20: adj that describe characters
  - ❑ Second 20: *Left for Dead* content vs sophistication
  - ❑ Third 20: words from *Night*
  
- ★ Grammar
  - ❑ Nouns and Verbs
  - ❑ Subjects and Predicates
  - ❑ Complete Sentences v Fragments

# Social Studies

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## **Current Unit:** *Shaping America's Identity:*

- ★ **Content:** Westward Expansion- How we acquired land, how the land became states, who moved there and how we ended up in a Civil War
- ★ What was the impact of the concept of Manifest Destiny?
- ★ What is the impact of slavery on America?
- ★ How have different groups of people shaped America's identity?

Veterans Day next Friday!

# Social Studies

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## Pequot Museum

As part of the social studies curriculum, we incorporate learning about local Native American groups' experience

On December 4th we will be going to the Pequot Museum

This will complement our study on different experiences of groups in the United States which will be supplemented by reading excerpts from *A Different Mirror*



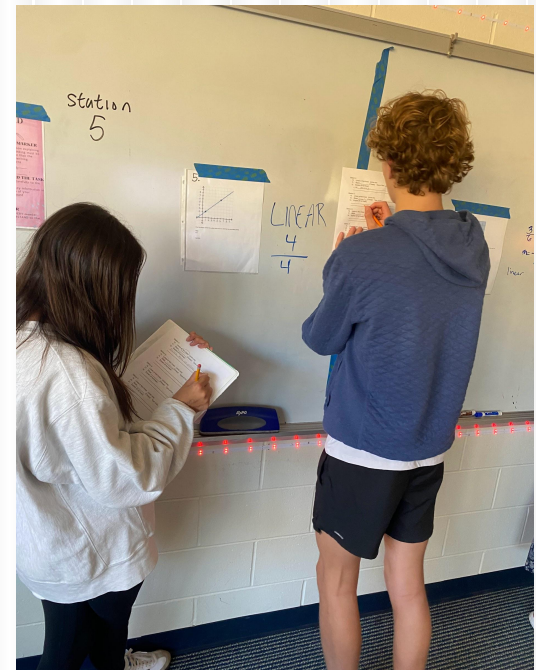
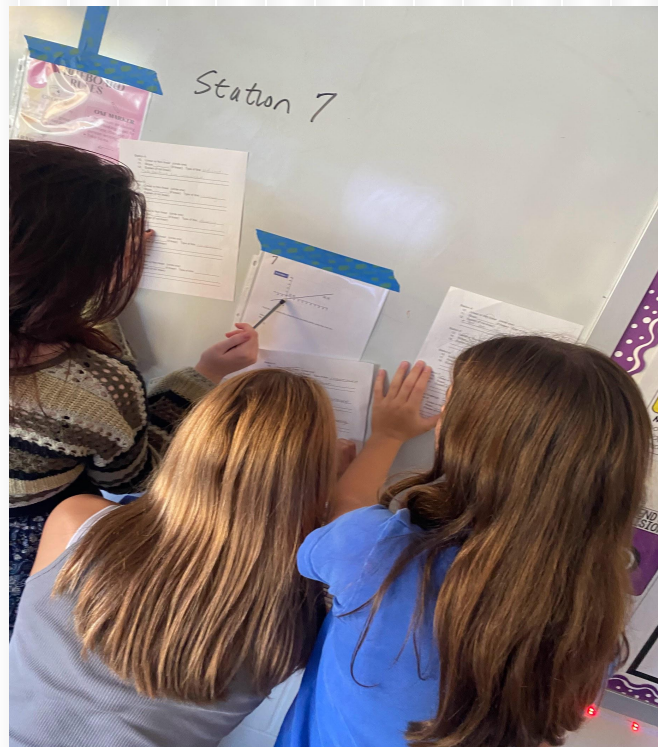
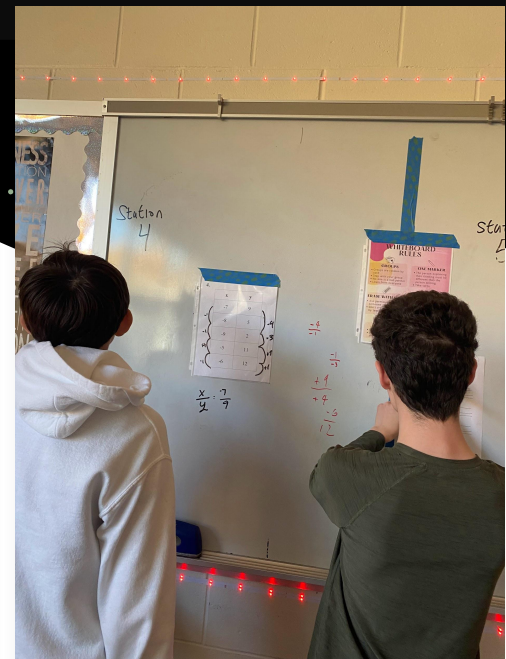


# Math

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- ★ **Algebra 1:**
  - Completed Patterns Unit
  - Currently learning about Relations and Functions
- ★ **Math 8:**
  - Completed Foundations Unit
  - Currently starting Linear Relations
- ★ Extra Help available in the mornings(drop in) and afternoons (by appointment)
- ★ All assignments and notes on Schoology

# Wipe Boards in Math class



# Science

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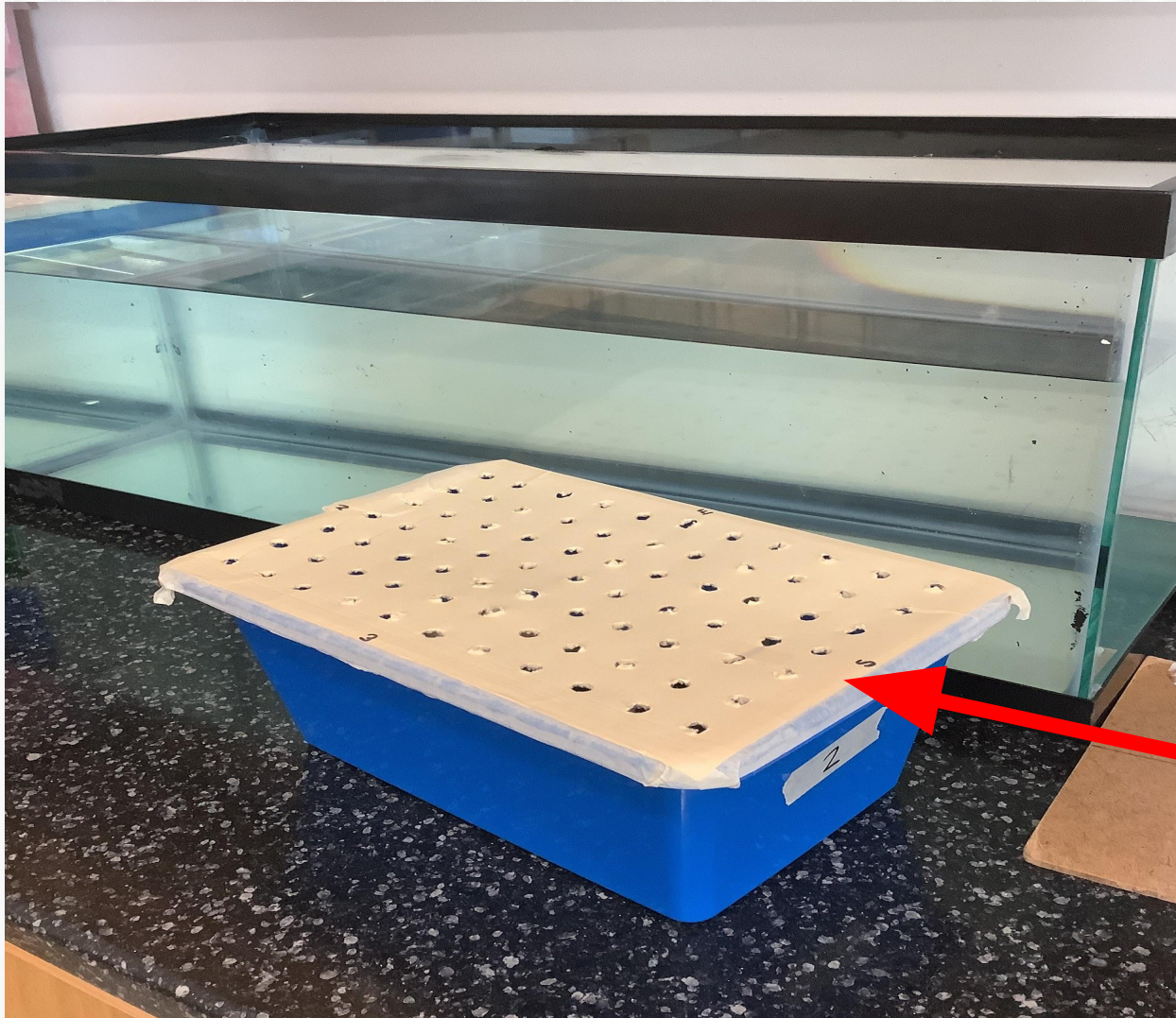
## September-November:

- ★ Reviewed Lab Skills/Scientific Method
- ★ Heat
  - ☐ Endo- and Exothermic Reactions
  - ☐ Types of Heat Transfer
  - ☐ Thermal Insulator Challenge
- ★ Next Up: Earth's Geologic History
  - ☐ Mariana Trench
  - ☐ Grand Canyon



# Earth's Surface: Ocean Floor

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How do we understand the SHAPE of Earth's surface under the ocean?

Student-centered,  
Hands-on  
Exploration using  
“Ocean Boxes”

# Earth's Surface: Ocean Floor

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Students compare depth data collected in a grid search pattern with actual “ocean floor.”

**Next up:**  
Student-centered,  
hands-on  
exploration with  
SONAR!





# Hydroponic Produce Garden

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Demonstration garden located outside 8 Purple science classroom.

Opportunity to see the requirements for plant growth.

Tended by students from around the building.

Feeds our staff, especially our cafeteria team.



*Strike up some 8th grade fun*

# BOWLING

## *Bash Social*

**SUNDAY  
NOV 10**  
—  
**4:30-6PM**

**PIZZA, TOKENS &  
SHOES  
INCLUDED**  
—  
**\$42  
ENTRY**

**BOWLERO**  
(FORMER BOLMOR)  
—  
701 CONNECTICUT AVE  
NORWALK, CT 06854

*Brought to you by the BMS PTA  
\*This is NOT a drop off event so  
all participants should have one  
responsible adult available*

# CEA Holiday Bear Initiative

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- Sponsoring 4 students from CT
  - Ages 11-13
- Priority - “Needs”
  - Gloves, Hats, Coats, Socks, etc.
- Additional - “Wants”
  - Games, Books, Earbuds,
- Signups start approx. Mon. Nov. 11th
- Wrapping Day: Fri, Nov. 22nd
- Optional!
- Thank you for your support and generosity.

# Next Meeting

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- Thursday, 1/9/25, 10:30-11 am in the LMC