



8th Grade Newsletter

March 2017

Dear 8th Grade Families,

Please check out this edition for important updates about **8th grade dues** and what your scholars are achieving in their classrooms! This month, highschool letters will be distributed, and we also have ELA state testing at the end of the month. Please also note that due dates for 8th grade dues are gradually being moved up to the beginning of the month. See below for details!

Classroom News:

ELA	<p>We are journeying into the world of argumentative writing as we have just passed through the literary essay process. Students are learning to not just take one side on an issue in their thinking and subsequent writing but to place themselves on the “adversarial side” as well. Expect to hear about the merits of a role playing game as students navigate the issues involved in a popularized game involving squirt guns.</p> <p>Office Hours: Scholars should feel free to come the official ELA office hours on Mondays from 1:15 - 2:00 in room 415. Otherwise, scholars should feel free to come during other lunch days by appointment.</p> <p>Email: mjulien-ndjiki@motthall2.org</p>
Math	<p>Students in eighth-grade mathematics are beginning their geometry unit with transformations in the coordinate plane. We are using TenMarks, an online math program, to use videos to help differentiate and allow students to work on this new material at their own speeds. Ask your scholars to identify a reflection or rotation in the natural world around us! Students in Regents Algebra are mid-unit on quadratic functions. After doing work with factoring and the quadratic formula, students are learning how to graph parabolas and how to solve quadratics application problems. Look at the McDonald’s arches or the path of a ball for example of parabolas in the world around us.</p> <p>Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch with Ms. G. and Ms. Benowitz, Ms. G.’s student teacher.</p> <p>Email: mgiuliano@motthall2.org</p>
Science	<p>In 8th grade science, we are finishing review for the genetic unit as a preparation for the Unit test. Then, we are going to start the fifth unit “evolution”. Scholars are going to study Darwin and the different theories that explain evolution topic in order to be able to debate the reliability of evolution theories.</p> <p>Also, we are going to start the science fair project this month. You can help your scholar by reviewing the genetic unit with them and track the science fair project tasks every week. Please remember that the Living Environment Regents Exam will be on Wednesday June, 14th. Each scholar has a packet of “Barron’s Review Book” to review from it and prepare for the Regents exam.</p> <p>Assessment: Test 1/3rd Marking period on Thursday, March 09, 2017. Science Extra help: Every Monday during lunchtime in room 407.</p>

	<p>Office Hours: Every Thursday during lunchtime in room 407. Email: sshetia@motthall2.org</p>
Social Studies	<p>Thanks you to those of you who attended our annual stock market simulation! Our scholars did a great job and I hope you enjoyed seeing them in action! We are now launching our study of the Great Depression. Students will learn about the causes of the Great Depression and its impact on Americans. We will study how Roosevelt's New Deal transformed the country and changed the role of the Federal government. At home, you can talk with your child about the different ways the country's economy impacts their daily lives.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesday at lunch Email: lfletcher@motthall2.org</p>
Dance	<p>Dancers in 8th grade are exploring the history of Harriet Tubman and the underground railroad by creating dances inspired by the artwork of Jacob Lawrence. We are developing our dance making skills by learning how to place emotion behind action, creating dance phrases from gestures, and exploring communication and physics through beginning partnering technique.</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesdays during lunch Email: cstampolis@motthall2.org</p>
Music	<p>Students in 8th grade music have explored the music of the 1920's and have begun to examine the swing and big band era of the '30's and 40's. We have discussed dance marathons, Woody Guthrie's folk songs and the vocal brilliance of Ella Fitzgerald. Students continue to progress at the piano keyboard, focusing on Major and Minor chords.</p> <p>Office Hours: Friday during lunch in room 412 or by appointment. Email: sfeder@motthall2.org</p>
Latin	<p>Students in Latin wrote dialogues to practice conjugating verbs and declining nouns. Since finishing those composition exercises, they are continuing their study of the different Latin cases, including learning to express possession in Latin. In honor of the Lupercalia (an ancient Roman festival), they read Latin love poetry and religious poetry in translation. You can support your scholar by encouraging her to look for 'Latin in the wild': Latin words and sayings in everyday contexts.</p> <p>Office Hours: During lunch in Room 412 or by appointment Email: mbuturovic@motthall2.org</p>
ICT Support	<p>Ms. Chao (8th Grade ICT teacher) - If your scholar needs support in classwork, homework or organization, feel free to see me during the specified times listed below. Also, if you have specific needs regarding your scholar, please reach out to me via e-mail.</p> <p>Science Regents Extra Help: Mondays during lunch in Room 407. Math Extra Help: Wednesdays during lunch in Room 409. Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch or by appointment. Email: achao@motthall2.org</p>
School Counselor	<p>*Last call for St Jude's Mathathon! The deadline for handing in the workbook and raising money will be Friday March 3rd. <u>Scholars have surpassed our \$500 fundraising goal!!</u></p> <p>*An email with summer camp information will be sent out in the next week</p>

or so. Please keep your eyes open for this. There are tons of FREE options for your scholars!

*Just a reminder if your scholar has turned 14, or is turning 14 before the end of school, they are eligible to work in NYC. Please have your scholar see me regarding the application to obtain working papers. There was also an email that was sent out with the form.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jrobbins@motthall2.org

Jodi Robbins

Coming Up This Month:

- Third marking period progress reports: Thursday, March 2
- **High School letters to be distributed, Wednesday, March 8.**
- PTA Mardi Gras School Dance: Friday, March 17
- **ELA State Testing: Tuesday, March 28 - Thursday, March 30.**

Paperwork & Permission Slips:

- **March Dues payments will be due on Wednesday, March 15.**
- **April Dues payments will be due on Wednesday, April 5.**
- **FINAL DUES PAYMENT DATE: Friday, May 5th.**
- **Look out for letters being backpacked home with current dues balances - 3/8/17**

8th Grade Action Shots! Winterfest 2017

