



8th Grade Newsletter

October 2017

Dear Class of 2018 Families,

Happy October! We hope your scholars enjoyed the 8th Grade Walkathon and their day off today! In this month's newsletter, you will find the following sections: 1) Classroom News, 3) Coming Up This Month, 4) Paperwork & Permission Slips and 5) From the School Counselors. Please be sure to check for **important high school deadlines** in the **From the School Counselors** section below.

Classroom News:

<p>ELA Ms. Julien-Ndjiki Email: mjulien-ndjiki@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Investigative Journalism Upcoming Assessments: Star Reader Independent Reading Book Quiz Wednesday, October 11 How to Support Your Scholar: We just began our journey into investigative journalism where we jot down the 5ws to capture a story in short order. Watching and reading the news - even just one story can go along way to help your scholar see and hear what news stories are about. Office Hours: Mondays from 1:15 - 2:00 in room 415 or by appointment</p>
<p>Math Ms. Stassfurth Email: mstassfurth@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: 8th Grade Math: Solving Equations in One Variable Regents Algebra I: Operations with Polynomials. Upcoming Assessments: Quiz in 8th Grade Math on equation next week, and quiz in Regents Algebra on adding, subtracting, multiplying polynomials also next week. Please check class calendar on Engrade for exact dates! Students will always be told of assessments ahead of time in class. How to Support Your Scholar: Please check in with your scholar to see if they have done, or should do, any of the three available homework redos this quarter. Please read all comments provided on the first marking per progress reports, coming next week! Also, note that students may complete quiz/test corrections on any assessment on which they score $\leq 65\%$. There are templates available in our math room. Please ask your scholar to explain one homework problem each night that they have homework - this will help them absorb the material better and improve their mathematical discussion skills! Office Hours: There is math extra-help after school every Wednesday from 2:45-3:30 in room 409 with Ms. Stassfurth.</p>
<p>Science Mr. Shetia/Ms. Chao Email: Sshetia@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Ecology / Chemistry Upcoming Assessments: TBD. How to Support Your Scholar: review the lesson topics with your scholars by using the attached PowerPoints files and worksheet files attached to e assignments on Engrade and the class calendar. As well as review the student guide that will be posted on Class calendar and sent by e-mail to you. Office Hours: Every Wednesday during lunchtime in room 407</p>

<p>Social Studies Ms. Fletcher Email: lfletcher@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Gilded Age In this unit, the students address the essential question: <i>How do people, policies, and technology shape a nation?</i> Students will examine how the United States developed into an industrial power and the individuals and groups that helped to modernize the nation. Our topics for this unit include the closing of the frontier, industrialization, immigration, and urbanization. Upcoming Assessments: Sioux Talk Show; Unit test How to Support Your Scholar: Discuss current events and look for connections between our modern world and history. For example, what are modern issues facing Native Americans and how do those issues relate to events in the 19th century? Office Hours: Tuesday at lunch in room 405</p>
<p>Dance Ms. Stampoulis Email: cstampolis@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Thriller Students in 8th grade dance will learn how to dance as part of an ensemble by learning the famous choreography from Michael Jackson's "Thriller" music video. How to Support Your Scholar: Please review and sign Mott Hall II Dance Scholar guides with your scholar. Familiarizing yourself with dance class expectations will help you to discuss their progress throughout the year! Office Hours: Tuesdays during lunch</p>
<p>Music Ms. Feder Email: sfeder@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Students in 8th grade music are continuing to progress at the piano keyboard. We are reviewing rhythms, fingerings, notes and hand/finger independence. We have begun playing the djembe in drum circle and all classes have begun singing "Alexander Hamilton". Lunchtime chorus has started up again! Office Hours: Fridays during lunch</p>
<p>ICT Support Ms. Chao Email: achao@motthall2.org</p>	<p>I co-teach all four of the core content subjects: Math, Science, ELA and Social Studies. If your scholar needs support in classwork, homework or organization, they can drop in during my office hours or make an appointment to see me another day of the week. Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch and by appointment in Room 405</p>
<p>8th Grade General Engrade Update:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year we will be transitioning the posting of HW assignments to Engrade. All homework is posted there daily, as well as study resources, and a calendar of class and school-wide events. • Reminder for Engrade: only if there is an "M" indicated is the assignment missing. If there is a blank for an assignment, the grade has not yet been entered by the teacher.

Coming Up This Month:

- First Marking Period Progress Reports: distributed on Thursday, October 12
- PTA Halloween Dance: Friday, October 27

Paperwork & Permission Slips:

- **Walkathon Funds: Please submit all funds raised to homeroom teachers by Friday, October 13. Checks can be made out to Mott Hall II.**
- **Parent Email Changes - please inform Ms. Herrera if you need your Mott Hall II parent email preferences to be updated. Many important notices will be sent out via email regarding school events and high school admissions. Email jherrera@motthall2.org to address these issues.**

From the School Counselors

Community Service:

The devastation left by hurricane Harvey and Irma, has been felt and seen all around the country and for many, it has affected us personally. In the coming days, Mott Hall II scholars, will be working together, as a community, to raise money for families that have experienced severe losses to their belongings.

If there are any parents/guardians/families, who would like to support our endeavors, please feel free to contact Ms. Robbins - jrobbins@motthall2.org

High School:

- **Check websites and emails for open house dates and times**
- **High School Applications will be distributed around the second week of October TBA**
- **High School Applications will be due on or before December 1st**
- **Please put all high school documents, letters of recommendation requests in the high school folder located in your homeroom**
- **Please make an appointment with Mrs Gorman for high school advisement as soon as possible**
- **10/23 Frank Mc Court High School Presentation in Assembly-prepare questions for Q and A session**
- **10/30 Academy of Software Engineering Presentation in Assembly-prepare questions for Q and A session**

Any questions, please email at bgorman@motthall2.org or see Mrs. Gorman in room 420A

8th Grade Action Shots:

Stay tuned for action shots of your scholars, they're coming soon!

