

Gold Team

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017



Featured is a photo of some of our team members who won the “Make an ad” Competition

We would like to remind parents and guardians that 7th graders will be completing SBA testing during the first week of May. We would also like to remind you to send in TWO signed permission slips. The two slips are due by the end of the first week in May. The first field trip is visiting the Technology Department at SHS on Wednesday, May 10th. The second field trip is Gold Team’s trip to Mystic Seaport on Monday, May 22nd. Please send in the signed forms with payment for Mystic, SHS does not require any money. Thank you and we look forward to a great end to the school year!

Classroom Updates

Math

Students have been working very hard and will be completing our unit on equations shortly. We will then be beginning our unit on inequalities. This unit will focus on solving inequalities and graphing their solutions sets.

Advanced Math

Students will be completing our unit on functions very soon. We will then begin our geometry unit. This unit will focus on identifying and determining the measure of various angles, determining the area and volume of various three dimensional shapes, finding the circumference and area of circles and transformations.

Science

Give the students a hand! The students finished their bioengineering project on building a prosthetic hand. What amazing products were produced! Forward and onward to the rest of the human body. We will study the cardiovascular system, respiratory system and digestive system. We will finish the year with ecosystems. Many hands on activities are planned! Thank you for all your support you have given to the study of life science this year!

Social Studies

Students just finished their trek across America, studying the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Students are studying how our nation developed a sense of national pride and identity. Students will learn about President Jackson, Indians of North America and Indian Removal.

Language Arts

We just closed up our poetry unit with a Poetry Coffeehouse. All members of the team shared the best piece they wrote this unit, and the work was high caliber. The Gold Team is filled with amazing poets! We will be moving into the second book club of the year mid-May, and students will have the opportunity to read a high-interest fiction book with a small group. Be on the lookout for a book club permission slip at the start of the unit to acknowledge your student's selection. Students will engage

in rich discussions, activities, and projects with their book club. The team enjoyed the first book club unit and the students are looking forward to another chance to discuss and enjoy literature together.

Spanish

We are working in our Guatemala unit to compare and contrast its traditional and modern characteristics. We are exploring this aspect of the country through the study of shopping and clothing vocabulary. We are also practicing how to express our likes and dislikes with regards to shopping and clothing. We will end the unit with a culminating activity of practicing the art of bargaining which is the main form of sales exchange in Guatemala. The students will all have the opportunity to act as sales vendors as well as shoppers!

French

Students have expanded their French vocabulary by learning to identify their favorite sports, activities, and hobbies. They can hold a conversation with their peers in French by asking questions and exchanging opinions. Students have been engaging their skills in real-world situations, including interpreting and responding to a French website about summer camps. They are now practicing communicating about the near future using the verb "*aller*" ("to go").

Please read the following notice from the Math Department regarding Algebra Placement for 2017-2018:

Students considered for advanced math and algebra have the following characteristics:

- exhibits excellent problem solving skills including perseverance and learns math easily
- demonstrates consistent superior performance on all work and assessments
- understands relationships and connections in mathematics
- applies skills to demonstrate mathematics conceptual understanding
- works independently and looks for challenges
- is highly motivated with excellent study skills and has a strong work ethic

There are several criteria used for placement in advanced math or algebra:

- current grade level work

-
- district assessments
 - standardized assessments
 - problem solving abilities
 - prognosis assessment

Grade 6 students will take a prognosis assessment the first week in May and grade 7 students will take a prognosis assessment the second week in May. There is no review or studying for this assessment similar to any standardized assessment.

Only parents of students accepted into either Advanced Math in grade 7 or Algebra in Grade 8 will be notified by letter in early June. If you have any further questions, please contact the district math coordinator at driedinger@southingtonschools.org.

