



# J.T. Roberts Middle School

Quarterly Counselor Newsletter

## Classroom Connections

*Working Together for School Success*

### Grade 6

**ELA**-students are reading, *The Watson's Go to Birmingham*. The first Reading Unit 1 assessment will be on Oct. 24-25. Next unit is, Writing Unit 1 and will focus on Narrative Writing. **Social Studies**-students are working on, Habits of a Social Scientist. Students will gain an understanding of how historical events have shaped today's world by examining the study of early man and how historians have organized time. **Math**-students are learning Ratios and Unit Rate. They will take their unit assessment at the beginning of November. A helpful resource for students and parents to use is [learnzillion.com](http://learnzillion.com). **Science**-students are learning about the Earth's structure and will start a unit on Rocks and Minerals including class visits from Baltimore Woods. If your child reads about or watches some type of documentary or news special, encourage him/her to write a summary and hand it in for extra credit! Helpful website: *BrainPop* through the Library Links.

### Grade 7

**Math**-students are using their skills in ratio and proportional reasoning to create blue prints of their classroom! **Social Studies**-students are learning about Columbus and the Indigenous Peoples of North America. In November they will be studying the Haudenosaunee as part of the Historical Investigation unit. **Science**- Students are learning about atoms and the periodic table. Log onto [connected.McGraw-Hill.com](http://connected.McGraw-Hill.com). **ELA**- Students are finishing their reading of, *A Long Walk to Water*, which is about the Lost Boys of the Sudan. Students are required to read and log 30 minutes every night. Logs are frequently checked for a grade and book assessments are required every two weeks. It is expected at least 150 pages are read in this time frame. New unit will be, Narrative Writing with the unit test on November 12 and 13.

### Grade 8

**ELA**-students are reading *The House on Mango Street*. The next unit assessments will be Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. **Math**-homework is given every night. Check out [engageny.org](http://engageny.org) for help. **Science** classes are learning about cell structures. Log onto [connected.McGraw-Hill.com](http://connected.McGraw-Hill.com) for help. **Social Studies**-students are learning about Slavery and Emancipation, gearing up for November's topic of Civil War. Log onto [http://www.learntci.com/student/sign\\_up](http://www.learntci.com/student/sign_up)

### Special Areas

**Athletics**: sign ups for the Winter A season are coming up. This includes 7th & 8th Grade *Boys Basketball* which starts on 10/31/13 and 7th & 8th grade *Girls Volleyball* which begins on 10/28/13. Students may sign up in the gym. They must have an up to date physical. Contact Coach Ryan by calling 435-4635 or email at [Kryan2@scsd.us](mailto:Kryan2@scsd.us). **Art**- students have gotten off to an "artful" start. They are creating abstract art using the letters of their own names and learning techniques of overlapping and shading to create the illusion of 3D on a 2D surface. **Music**- "From Ragtime to Rap," 6th graders will be exploring music and musicians from the turn of the century to the present. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be working on programmatic music, specifically the works of Disney's *Fantasia* and "The Sorcerer's Apprentice."

## Guidance News

### Back to School News

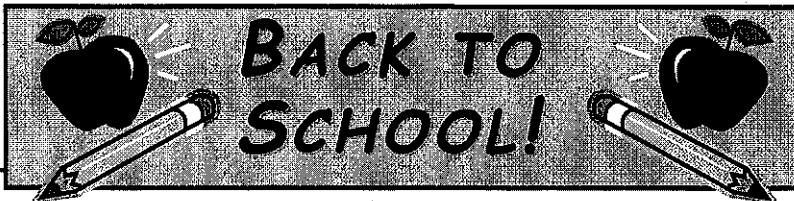
Welcome back to an exciting new year in middle school! This newsletter is the first of four newsletters that will go out to our middle school parents. I hope you find the information included in the newsletters to be useful as you support your child through this year.

Student Ambassador's groups have been meeting during lunch times. These groups serve to help our new students adjust to Roberts School. This year we have 35 new students to Roberts Middle School.

Upcoming lunch groups will include ART (Aggression Replacement Therapy) to help students learn self control strategies; and Study Skills group to help students learn and practice skills such as time management, study skills, and homework help.

## November

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
Mark your calendar for parent teacher conferences!! Contact the main office at 435-4635 to sign up for a parent teacher conference with your child's homeroom teacher.				1
4 Marking Period 1 Report Cards	5 Parent-teacher conferences	6	7 Curriculum Night 6-8 p.m.	8
11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14 Parent-teacher conferences	15
18	19	20 Honor Roll Award Assembly 8:15 a.m.	21	22
25	26	27 No School	28 Happy Thanksgiving	29 No School



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# Tips for Middle School Success

## E-School and Curriculum

Parents please remember to review your child's progress using our Home Access Center. Encourage your child to sign on too and review class schedules, weekly assignments and grades.

Syracusecityschools.com > Home Access Center  
>Enter your log in information

If you need assistance please contact:  
Home Access Help Desk at 435-4505 or  
[homeaccess@scsd.us](mailto:homeaccess@scsd.us).

## Homework, Homework, Homework!!

Help your child succeed by checking their planner daily to make sure they have written down their homework. Make homework time a part of their routine at home. Students are expected to read and log for at least 30 minutes every night!

Check out this informational website that includes a parent's back pack guide to the new

## Common Core Curriculum:

<http://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>

## Middle School Grading Policy

- Tests = 40%
- Homework = 20%
- Class work = 15%
- Quizzes = 15 %
- Participation = 10%

## Middle School After School Program

There is still space available for students to stay after school in our after school program. Monday-Thursday students can stay after school from 3-5 p.m. to receive homework assistance and participate in fun activities such as Gamestar Mechanics and a book and debate club.

## College and Career Readiness

Naviance is a web based career planning tool that I use with students in grades 6, 7 and 8 to help them set goals, complete learning style and career interest inventories, build a resume and research college and careers. Be sure to ask your child about this exciting career planning tool!

**Annual Career Fair** for students in grades 7 and 8 will be on **March 19<sup>th</sup>** this year. I am looking for parents and community members to participate by representing various careers so that our students can practice their interviewing skills and learn about local career opportunities.



A group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the Welch Allyn Manufacturing Careers Day on October 4, 2013.