

# Older Intermediate 7 & 8 Newsletter

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Mrs. Abercrombie, Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Kidwell, Mrs. Poleman

May 8, 2008

## Congratulations 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Older Intermediate teachers want to take this opportunity to congratulate our 2007-2008 graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We are very proud of your accomplishments at University School. Good luck at your new schools.

**REMEMBER:** You will always be part of the University School family.

### **Many, Many Thanks!!!!**

Bunches of thanks to our terrific homeroom mothers. You have planned events and created lots of fun for the OI 7/8 students. The year would not have been the same without you all!!!

### **Awards Ceremony**

At the end of each school year, students are honored for exceptional achievement in different aspects of school. This year our awards ceremony will start at noon, Thursday, May 15, in the University School library. Parents and friends are invited to attend.

### **Parent-Teacher Conference**

Be sure to sign up for a year-end conference scheduled for:  
after school Wednesday – Friday, May 14 -16  
Monday afternoon, May 19  
Tuesday, May 20

The sign-up sheet is posted on Mrs. Howard's and Mrs. Kidwell's classroom door. If you have a conflict, please call or email us for other arrangements. Grades and testing results will be mailed to any family who does not attend conferences.

### **Field Day**

OI 7/8 students are going to Chandler Park on Friday, May 16, for their field day outing. We will meet at school to attend a schoolwide assembly, and then we will leave around 10 a.m. Transportation will be the University School bus and TU vans and cost per student is \$3. Permission slips will go home soon.

Lunch will be a non-cooking potluck. Each student will be assigned a food item to share. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend. We will return to school by 1 p.m. when school will end for that day.

### **Bowling Field Trip**

We are planning a field trip to Riverlanes Bowling Center, 8711 S. Lewis, during part of Tuesday, May 13. Details and a permission slip will be going home to parents soon.

### **Language Arts**

Summer book reports are here again!!! "To-be 8<sup>th</sup> graders" will be assigned four summer book reports that will be due the first day of school in the fall semester. A list of suggested books is attached to the assignment and will be passed out to students next week.

**Please be sure that students read a lot this summer.** As a teacher, I can absolutely recognize in the fall which students read during the summer. It shows up in all of their language arts skills. Reading is so important! Have a lot of fun this summer!!!!

### **SAILS**

This week OI 7/8 students have focused on the Neoclassical and Romantic time periods. They have studied an overview of world history and Western Civilization so that these time periods can be placed within a context.

OI 7/8 teachers present this history across-the-curriculum by approaching each time period through the lens of their subjects. Social studies provides background factual information. Language arts looks at the literature of the time periods. Math studies famous people and mathematical concepts. Art looks at the art trends of the time. Spanish looks at the development of language across the continents.

Introduction of these time periods involves the “layered learning” theory of teaching. Each time a student covers material in an academic subject, a new “layer” is added to a frame of understanding. Future details can connect with this frame of understanding as mastery of the subject continues to grow. So, the next time our students are introduced to concepts related to Western civilization, they will be familiar with this subject.

### **Money-Finance**

This interdisciplinary class was taught during math, language arts, and computers. The team teachers were Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Abercrombie, Mrs. Poleman, and Mrs. O’Neil-Brown.

Economic literacy was the goal of this course. Students were introduced to a number of financial topics throughout the year. These included:

- credit card management
- the financial benefits of compound interest
- the advantages of saving early in adult life
- stock and bond investing
- bank accounts and how to write a check
- the Federal Reserve and fiscal vs. monetary policy

Our students participated in an on-line stock market competition this spring with other Oklahoma students, and one of our teams came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state! Yea!!! Congratulations!!!

This Stock Market Game was sponsored by the Center for Economic Education at the University of Central Oklahoma. Student teams picked a \$100,000 portfolio of stocks. This included individual investments and mutual funds. We learned how to research different industry sectors and companies in order to make informed decisions. Teams could buy and sell anytime during the game. Our winning team ended with \$111,000!!! Not bad for 10 weeks!!!

### **Math**

**Finals** - All OI 7/8 classes will have a comprehensive math final on Tuesday, May 13, during the afternoon. The tests will be problem-solving in nature and will cover the major concepts learned during the year. Review sessions will be on Monday, May 12, and all books must be turned in on Tuesday.

### **MATHCOUNTS**

This Friday, May 9, at 3:00 p.m. MDT (4:00 p.m. our time), there will be a live webcast on [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org) of this year’s National MATHCOUNTS Competition. Tune in and play along with the top students in the country as they compete with buzzers in the final round of this year’s competition.

Any students interested in MATHCOUNTS for next year, please reserve Monday afternoons from 3:00 – 4:30 for practice sessions. Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 will be optional. I have lots of material if anyone is interested in studying over the summer. You might also sign up on the MATHCOUNTS webpage (see above) for more problem solving opportunities. Have a great summer!!!