

**VOORHEESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PURPLE NEWSLETTER**



**Volume 16**

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**Jan. 30- Feb. 3, 2012**

**Announcements**

It's that time of year; students may need to replenish their supplies, especially pens and pencils!

There will be a ski club trip either February 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>.

Builders Club members who have handed in their permission slips will be taking a field trip to the PICU at Albany Medical Center on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. There will not be a Builders Club meeting for the remaining students.

**Grade Level Updates**

**Grade 6**

All sixth grade math periods will have the long answer part (Part 2) of their midyear test on Tuesday. Then, Math 6 will begin Mean, Median, Mode and Range. Math 6X will begin geometry with circles. In English 6, we will begin our persuasive essay unit in Writing Workshop. We will begin by identifying the essential components of a well developed paragraph and practice writing them. We will then examine and read mentor persuasive writing articles. The students will practice identifying the issue, viewpoint, thesis statements, and arguments of a persuasive article. They will practice active reading by coding the article with information that interests them, questions they have, words they do not understand, and important information or facts. We will identify pros and cons of persuasive articles and decide whether the arguments are facts or opinions. Through a careful examination of mentor persuasive articles, the students will learn the essential components of a strong persuasive essay. We will begin our sixth vocabulary unit on persuasive vocabulary. There will not be a NEW quiz this week. In science class, we will finally put the finishing touches on our exoplanet project. After it is finished, we will review stars, galaxies, light years, and, in brief, what we know of the universe as a whole. There will probably be a small quiz late in the week. In Social Studies 6, we will continue our study of the classics: Greece and Rome. Our study will continue to focus on the impact that Greece and Rome had on Western Civilization. Welcome new Home & Career Skills 6 students! We'll be learning about problem solving and making decisions this week. The introductory letter sent home on the first day of class needs to be filled out, signed and returned by Tuesday. Art 6 will be starting the line sampler project this week. Students will need to bring a pencil to class every day. Projects from last quarter may be picked up in the art room after the displays have been taken down.

**Grade 7**

In English 7, students will continue working on their multi-genre memoir writing unit. At this point, students should have a topic selected and are beginning to draft their ideas. This week we will discuss various topics including: creative non-fiction, the art of the interview, and using adjectives for descriptive writing. By the end of the week students are expected to complete their rough draft and complete any drawings or illustrations to go with their writing. Also, as we begin the third marking period we will begin our third quarter independent reading requirements. Students are expected to read an outside reading book this quarter. Students are also expected to have their book chosen and approved by Mrs. Gaspary by Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Book selection will count as a quiz grade for the

third marking period. Science students will take the UBER Body Test on Tuesday and Wednesday. This test covers all of the Human Body and is very much like a midterm. On Thursday, we will begin our unit on the Frog which will end with the frog dissection. Starting February 1, Team SpadeShaw (Mrs. Spadinger and Mrs. Bradshaw) will challenge the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Page Smack Down! Students can team up or work individually to try to read more book pages than us during the month of February. Students will record their pages after the completion of a book in the science classroom. All students involved can earn extra credit based on how many pages they read. Extra bonus points will be awarded to those students that beat Team SpadeShaw! Math 7 will be working on their coordinate picture projects and then will be starting to graph in the coordinate plane. Math 7/8 will continue their investigations of slope and linear equations and will be completing 2 labs that relate these to real world situations. We will have a quiz on graphing linear equations and slope on Friday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Seventh grade Spanish will continue with their food unit this week. The students will create their own restaurant at the beginning of the week and design a personal menu for the restaurant. They will design their own meals using the different foods we learned how to say. They will publish a creative final copy with a personal name for their restaurant. At the end of the week they will have a mini vocabulary quiz based on their food terms. Welcome new Home & Career Skills 7 students! We'll be learning about problem solving and making decisions this week. The introductory letter sent home on the first day of class needs to be filled out, signed and returned by Tuesday.

### Grade 8

***Reminder to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents: The HW hotline will stop carrying daily homework announcements as of the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (Jan. 30). It is our expectation that after 2½ years of its availability, and in preparation for high school, 8<sup>th</sup> graders should have a working system for tracking their homework. It is advised that students exchange phone numbers with a classmate in each class so that assignments may be obtained from this “homework buddy” in the event of an absence. The hotline (765-3314 ext. 508) will be updated weekly with announcements regarding long term assignments, important dates and other information relevant to parents. Please check the line weekly, especially if you do not regularly receive the purple newsletter via your child. To access the Purple Newsletter online, go to [vcsdk12.org](http://vcsdk12.org) and click on the Middle School link! Parents of students who are absent more than one day can call the guidance office in the AM for homework.***

In Science 8, we'll start the week off making silly puddy as we learn more about chemical bonding and polymers. We then shift gears as we leave Chemistry and enter into our study of Physics for the remainder of the year. Our first unit will be on Force and Motion (Chapter 9 in our textbook). Math 8 students will continue their study of graphing. Algebra 1 students will be studying transformations. In English, students will use a variety of methods to develop the main character of their historical fiction short story. At the end of the week, students will begin the first draft. In Social Studies 8, we will be doing a learning station's activity as we continue our study of WWI. Eighth grade Spanish will learn the past tense this week! This is exciting because they have only been able to speak in the present tense before this. We will talk about things that happened to them in the past and recently. We will dissect different songs that use a lot of past tense as well! Home & Career Skills 8 students will be learning about careers this week. Introductory letters need to be filled out, signed, and returned by Tuesday. Sewing project choices need to be made by Feb. 6; money (cash or a check payable to the school) needs to be submitted by Feb. 10.