



North Ridge Middle School

December 2021

Newsletter



Dates to remember:

Friday, December 17, 2021

Early dismissal 2:45pm

Winter Break

December 20th - January 2, 2022



Vision:

To engage, Educate, Empower, Every Student, Every Day!

Mission:

North Ridge Middle School will:

Engage students by encouraging life long learning.

Educate them for success in college and careers, and

Empower them with acceptance and support to be true to who they are.



www.CreativeCertificates.com

Yearbooks are now available for order!

Students can return the order form with cash or check payable to North Ridge Middle School, or they can order online. Go to inter-state.com/order and enter the school code: **62640C**. Orders are due April 4, 2022 and books are \$35.

7th Grade Math

We have started our unit on integers (positive and negative numbers). It is important for your child to study these outside of class. There are many websites to use for practice that are fun and easy to use.

Some resources are posted in your child's math google classroom. Integers will be used for this unit as well as many of our following units so understanding them is vital to their success in math class. Please remember how important it is for your child to come prepared to class. This will include pencils, math notebooks, and a charged Chromebook. Please continue to check [teacherease.com](https://www.teacherease.com) for your child's grades regularly. If your child is quarantined or absent for any reason, please have them check the google classroom every day for their posted work. If you have any questions, please contact your child's math teacher.

7th Grade Science

Hello December! December is a busy month for 7th grade Science. We will finish our chemistry unit and experience how old things can become new things on a molecular basis. We will also be taking our second unit test. Students must bring their chromebooks to school everyday and have them charged. It is very important that students try to spend a little bit of time reviewing notes every night so that the vocabulary and concepts we are learning are reinforced. Remember if you are gone from school for an extended period of time you need to check Google Classroom for your school work and complete what you can at home. If you have any questions please feel free to contact your students teacher via phone, email, or through TeacherEase:

Dawn Brock 444 -3460

Shayla Briggs 444- 3430

Latana Lillard 444-3458

Adam Weidner 444-3453

7th Grade ELA

The 7th grade English Language Arts (ELA) department would like to thank all of the students that are engaged in lessons, participating in class, and turning in assignments. We are so proud of your efforts, patience, and persistence to obtaining a wonderful education.

The academic focus for the remainder of the second quarter will be research and expository writing. Also, students will continue to practice answering extended response prompts using Smeckens Writing Strategies and reading comprehension skill mastery through passages from the Study Sync textbook.

Furthermore, we want to say thank you to all the parents and guardians for supporting and encouraging the students. We appreciate you!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email or call your student's teacher (s). Thank you!

In conclusion, we hope that everyone has a safe, relaxing, wonderful, healthy, and enjoyable winter break.

Mrs. Bergeron (217) 444-3450
bergerone@danville118.org

Ms. Collins (217) 444-3427
CollinsM@danville118.org

Mrs. Cross (217) 444-3441
crossj@danville118.org

Mrs. McDermott (217) 444-3437
mcdermottl@danville118.org

Ms. Mourer (217) 444-3491
mourerm@danville118.org



Guidance Office

Navigating Extra-Curricular Eligibility

Students who participate in extracurricular activities at North Ridge Middle School must meet academic standards set by the IE-SA and Danville District 118 Board Policy. Students must be passing all classes in order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Eligibility grades are checked every Thursday and determine whether a student is eligible for the upcoming week (Monday to Sunday). For example, if a student is failing a class on Thursday they are ineligible to participate starting on the next Monday and running through Sunday. More information can be found on the IESA website and within Danville Board Policy 6:190. Here are some helpful tips for parents to help your child stay eligible for extracurricular activities.

1. Sign up for a TeacherEase Parent Account. TeacherEase is the grading software currently used by North Ridge Middle School and parents can access their child's grades at their convenience through www.teacherease.com or the TeacherEase application for smartphones. If your child is ever ineligible, you will be notified by email the day it is determined.
2. Talk to your child about their grade. Work with them to set goals and a plan for improving their grade.
3. Check your child's grades early in the week through TeacherEase. A grade of 60% or greater is considered passing. Checking it on Tuesday gives you two days to talk to teachers and/or complete assignments to improve the child's grades. All students are given opportunities to improve their grade between eligibility checks.
4. Communicate with your child's teacher by phone or email through the TeacherEase app. Failed classroom assessments can be retaken by students and teachers will work with students to improve their grades on assessments.
5. Check for missing assignments. Missing grades can drop your child's grades considerably.
6. Sign your child up for Project Success. Project Success is our afterschool program that is available for all North Ridge students. It is free of charge and academic tutoring is scheduled into the program Monday – Thursday before and after school.

North Ridge Counseling and Social Work Services

Parents, have you noticed changes in your child's behavior that concern you? The student support team at North Ridge Middle School want you to know that we are here for you and your child. We are available to talk to you and/or your child about life's challenges, point you to helpful resources, and provide weekly counseling to North Ridge students. For more information or to reach out for help, please contact us.

Tyler Ferber
7th Gr. School Counselor
217-444-3495
ferbert@danville118.org

Amre Pataki
School Social Worker
217-444-3495
patakia@danville118.org

Jo'Brea Mason
Home Interventionist
217-444-3482
masonj@danville118.org

Cory Jones
8th Gr. School Counselor
217-444-3418
jonesc@danville118.org

Sarah Funk
Home Interventionist
217-444-3483
funks@danville118.org



8th Grade Language Arts

It was great talking with so many of our parents/guardians at parent/teacher conferences. As some of you already know, the results of our StudySync Unit 1 Test were not good. Most of our students struggled with this assessment. We have determined as an 8th grade ELA team that it was the difficulty of the test itself. We feel as though most of our students understand the concept of making an inference and supporting it with evidence from the text. We also decided to add 10% to all of our students' scores when we posted it in Teacher Ease. Since this is the first "Test" grade for the semester, you may see that your child's grade has dramatically gone up or down. This is because "Test" grades are 40% of the overall grade. We will also be reinforcing this skill throughout the entire school year. Making an inference and citing text evidence is not something we do once and move on. This is a lifelong skill that our students will need. Because of the low scores on this test, we also decided to give our students a quiz over plot structure to help bring their grade back up. This quiz will be counted as a "Test" grade not a "Quiz" grade. We are continuing with academic vocabulary and working on sentence structure. We have begun Unit 2 which focuses on fictional stories. The standards we are working on include: RL.8.1, RL.8.2, RL.8.3, L.8.1 and L.8.4. The library is now open for students to check books out. We strongly encourage our students to check books out and read them. If you need to get a hold of your language arts teacher, you may do so by the following:

Mrs. Carter (217) 444-3452 or cartert@danville118.org

Mrs. Crawley (217) 444-3424 or crawleyr@danville118.org

Mrs. Martin (217) 444-3439 or martinc@danville118.org

Mr. Brooks (217) 444-3415 or brooksd@danville118.org

8th grade science

Classes will be starting a new unit where the students start to understand why organisms look the way that they look. This unit uses investigations of organisms (including people) to raise questions about how similarities and differences between individuals and populations are influenced by the inheritance of traits. Students investigate inheritance in plants they grow in class and investigate pedigrees that document inheritance of human traits, developing a Mendelian model of inheritance to account for the patterns they uncover. Students use this model to explain the source of variation within a population, and why organisms of the same species exhibit many common characteristics. Students examine how changing environmental conditions can influence variation in a population. Through investigations of several data-rich scenarios of population change, students develop a model of how changing environmental conditions can lead to organisms with some variations of traits being more likely to survive and produce offspring, resulting in shifted distributions of those traits in future generations. Students generalize their explanations to develop a model of natural selection as defined by naturally occurring variation in inherited traits, changing environmental conditions and differential survival, addressing most notably the crosscutting concepts of patterns, and of stability and change in systems.

Biology students will continue their work in Africa seeing how the interaction of animals can affect the whole ecosystem and how every animal interacts with every other animal. They will continue to see how energy is transferred through the ecosystem and behavior can also affect genetics and nutrients in the ecosystem. As always remind the students to come to class with all their materials and their Chromebooks charged.

8th Grade Math

December will be a short month so please make sure your student is attending class every day and completing their assignments. If students have missing assignments, they need to get those made up before the end of the semester. All teachers are willing to work with students outside of class time before or after school as long as the student communicates he/she will be coming.

Pre-Algebra will be solving equations using geometry. Solving equations is an extremely important 8th grade skill. If your student is struggling encourage them to login to clever and IXL has equation solving topics to choose from for additional practice.

Algebra students will be working graphing linear functions using tables and intercepts. As we approach the second semester, the curriculum will move a little faster. If your student needs help, please encourage them to seek help as soon as they get stuck.



Builders Club

The North Ridge Builders Club has two important projects taking place during the month of December. We are collecting toys for children at Your Family Resource Connection (Women's Shelter), also known as Crosspoint at the Y. Examples of toy ideas are small games, books for all ages, Barbies, handheld games, Hot Wheel type cars, action figures, coloring books, DVD's, puzzles, Bath and Body type items for older girls, or any small gift that you can think of. We had planned to have a school contest, but the school is collecting for Toys for Tots. We don't want to have a conflict with that program. **We are asking Builders Club members to bring a toy to our Wednesday, December 15th meeting. We will meet in the library at 8:05 for a little holiday party on that day.** We will also gladly accept toys from any student, staff, or family who is able to donate.

Our club will also be participating in the Wreaths Across America Day at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 18th at the Danville National Cemetery. Builders Club members will have an opportunity to help place the wreaths on the graves of veterans on this day. We were able to collect sponsorships for 129 wreaths this year amounting to \$1, 935.00. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a wreath or multiple wreaths this year. We sincerely appreciate your generosity! Permission slips for Wreaths Across America Day will be sent home during the second week of December. Parents will need to provide transportation for their child both to and from the cemetery.

Builders Club also continues to oversee our school's paper recycling. Also, please consider adding the General Mills Box Tops for Education App to your phone. You can scan your receipts on the Box Tops App to help our club earn funds to help with our community and school service projects

We sincerely appreciate all your support!! Happy Holidays from NRMS Builders Club!



Welcome December! This month in Mars Manifest Destiny, we will be finishing our Space stations and rovers for our Journey to Mars. We will also be creating domes to live in on Mars. In addition, we will calculate the amount of supplies and people we will need to be able to set up basecamp on Mars. This month we will be cutting a lot of different materials, so it would be helpful if your student had scissors. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Dawn Brock 217- 444-3460
Via email at brockd@danville118.org



From the Librarian

We are excited to announce that this year's Holiday Store begins December 6th and runs until winter break. If anyone would like to donate items it would be greatly appreciated. We have received some wonderful gifts, but we can still use more at this time. Please drop those items by the school by Friday, December 3rd or call to get those items picked up from your location. We would gladly take donations after that time as well.

Thanks and Happy Holidays!

Jennifer McGuire

LRC

North Ridge Middle School

(217) 444-3420



Athletics:

Lots of events coming up leading up to Christmas! The boys basketball team has one home game left for December on the 13th and a couple on the road. Volleyball has selected its 7th and 8th grade teams. Both sports have practices scheduled this month. When they return on the 3rd of January both sports will in full force with games so come out and support your students!



Dear Parent or Guardian,

ATTENDANCE

Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school. Our goal at North Ridge is to work with families to help our students have success in all areas of life. To be successful our students need to be here!

If we can be of assistance to you, please call (217)444-3404. If your child needs to be absent due to illness or injury, or for an appointment, please call (217)444-3404 to excuse them within 48 hours.

ATTENDANCE COUNTS



EVERY DAY, ALL DAY

Click here for the NCS Attendance Policy

If your child has any special health needs or problems, this should be communicated to me. This information is kept confidential, and it can be very important to a successful experience at school. Examples of such needs are:

1. Food Allergy
2. Bee sting allergy
3. Allergy to any other substance
4. Difficulty with vision, hearing or speech
5. Need for medication during the school day
6. Need for special aids such as crutches, walkers, or wheelchairs, either on a temporary or permanent basis
7. Need for inhaler at school due to Asthma
8. Need to take medication at school

If your student has any of the following symptoms, please keep your child at home and call the school right away for further instructions:

Sore throat, Moderate to Severe Headache, cough, fever, vomiting, diarrhea or nausea

Attention 8th grade parents

It is not too early to get the freshman physical

Completed and turned into Nurse Gabi.

Please feel free to contact the nurse with any

Questions at 217-444-3408 or email me at ingoldg@danville118.org



North Ridge Middle School is a collaborative school community focused on ensuring success for all learners.



Office: 444-3400
Report Absences/Dismissals: 444-3404

7th Grade Guidance: 444-3412
7th Guidance Fax: 444-3485
8th Grade Guidance: 444-3419
8th Guidance Fax: 444-3486

Request for homework should be directed to the guidance office

444-1725 School Closing

444-3493 Bullying Hotline

Website: northridge.danville118.org

Eliza Brooks, Principal

Robin Fluno, Associate Principal

Amber Davis, Assistant Principal