

TEAM KUTZTOWN

Nitschmann Middle School

1002 W. Union Blvd

Bethlehem, Pa 18108

<http://basdwpweb.beth.k12.pa.us/nitschmann/>

610-866-5781



"Nitschmann is committed to cultivating a respectful community of innovative learners who are socially competent citizens ready to meet the challenges of their future."

Team Kutztown Parents,

This week your children began their 7th grade year. They are now part of Team Kutztown! The teachers listed below are the teachers on this team, and we will be collaborating throughout the next few months to make it a great school year for your child. The following pages list pertinent information such as teacher contact information, 7th grade curriculum information, grading policies, classroom expectations, behavior interventions, and more. Please take some time to read over this information; sign the final page; detach the appropriate section, and send it back to school with your child. Thank you for your prompt attention. We are looking forward to a great year with your child!

Sincerely,

Team Kutztown Teachers

Team Contact Information

- Charles Falteich - Language Arts
Email: cfalteich@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41542
- Norma Gomez - Reading
Email: ngomez@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41544
- Jeremy Hess - World Geography and Team Leader
Email: jhess@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41543
- Gayle McLaughlin - Learning Support
Email: gmclaughlin@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41548
- Trinidad Sierra - Language Arts and Literacy/Read 180
Email: tsierra@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41556
- Bob Pearson - Science
Email: rpearson@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41546
- Lory Van Woert - Math
Email: Ivanwoert@basdschools.org
Phone Ext: 41545

CURRICULUM AND GRADING POLICY

SCIENCE (MR. PEARSON)

Seventh grade Life Science includes topics such as the scientific method, metric system, laboratory equipment & safety, characteristics of living things, cell theory, cell division, genetics, classification, ecology and a major emphasis on diversity of organisms and their adaptations to a variety of environments. In order to meet the various standards, students will interpret data, formulate hypotheses, and design and perform experiments. Students will also produce reports which are organized, present ideas thoughtfully, and use appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure. The books used are mini-books from the Life Science series by Prentice Hall.

Grading Policy:

Tests/Quizzes - 50%
Homework - 25%
Classwork/Labs - 25%

Late assignments will lose 10% of the total points per day late. No assignment will be accepted after they are ten days late. There will be one formal lab report assigned per semester. The grade for this assignment will be equal to one test grade for that particular marking period.

MATH (MRS. VAN WOERT)

Text/Workbook EnVision 2.0

Students are required to complete homework daily. It is expected that these assignments will be completed each day. Homework will be checked everyday. NO LATE homework will be accepted for full credit. Late homework will be accepted up to 2 days late. Maximum grade will be 70%. Tests and Quizzes must be made up within 5 school days of an absence. (Exceptions are excused absences and family emergencies.) Students will be required to supply their **own calculators** to use during class. We will spend time learning how to use calculators and their functions. Extra calculators are not available in the classroom.

Sections Covered in Math

Decimals and Integers
Exponents, Factors, and Fractions
Operations With Fractions
Algebra: Equations and Inequalities
Ratios, Rates, and Proportions
Percents
Geometry
Measurement (Area and Volume)
Right Triangles in Algebra

Grading Policy:

Homework - about 20%
Quizzes - about 30%
Tests - about 50%

All classes are graded on a total points system. The points values above are approximate. Students can expect a weekly quiz and/or assessment.

Expectations for our math classroom are part of the student notebook, and will be provided on the first day of class.

LANGUAGE ARTS (MR. FALTEICH)

- Standards in: Writing, Speaking & Listening, Grammar, Literature, and Vocabulary
- Readings:
 - Novel, Short Stories, Drama, Poetry, Fiction and Nonfiction
- Writing:
 - Narrative Elements, Informational (Letter Writing), Responding to Literature
- Speaking & Listening:
 - Oral Report(s) - Persuasive Speech, Poetry Recitation & Interpretation Project
- Grammar Instruction
 - Grammar unit instruction with emphasis on improving grammar for speaking and writing
- Vocabulary
 - Grade level appropriate vocabulary
 - Weekly word lists and quizzes
- Grading Policy:
 - Homework/Participation/notebook 20%
 - Quiz average 25%
 - Unit Tests 25%
 - Major Writing Assignments/ Projects 30%

A more specific breakdown of grading and class requirements will be sent home with Mr. Falteich's class syllabus.

READING (MRS. GOMEZ)

Teaching students the strategies they need to improve their reading skills

Teaching and modeling reading that can be enjoyable and educational

Meet and master the district's standards in reading and writing

Teach the students to be confident in their reading, which will help them succeed in school and in real life situations

Textbooks which will be used for this class include:

The Language of Literature (All Students)

Published by McDougal Littell, 1997

Junior Great Books (A and B Tracks)

Published by The Great Books Foundation, 1992

Students will be required to do outside reading for this class. They will be responsible for completing two novel overview forms per quarter.

Grading Policy:

A. Test-Points will vary according to length of story

Tests will be administered at the end of each story

Students will also be given vocabulary tests for each story

B. Homework- Points will vary according to assignment but will not exceed 15 points. Students will be expected to read about 30-40 minutes a night in addition to homework assignments.

Novel Overview Forms-Completion of this form is worth a total of 40 points.

Note: Students are required to have a spiral notebook, a pocket folder for handouts, and post-it notes to mark new words, ideas, or questions throughout the reading process.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Mr. Hess)

The course of study for 7th grade Social Studies is World Geography. We will explore and analyze the continents of North America, South America, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica. The class will begin with the mastering of map skills. We will then move on to the Five Themes of Geography, which are Location, Place, Human-Environment Interactions, Movement, and Regions. This sets the tone for how we will explore and analyze each of the previously mentioned continents. Throughout the year we will discuss current events. The benchmarks I will be using are found in the Pennsylvania State Standards for Geography. My website is <https://sites.google.com/a/basdschools.org/hess/>

Grading Policy:

40% - Quizzes and Tests

25% - Projects

25% - Assignments

10% - Warm Up/Notebook/Being Prepared

Late assignments will not receive full credit.

LITERACY/ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS: READ 180 (Ms. SIERZA)

READ 180 is a multimedia program that blends teacher instruction with innovative technology to help students become better readers. This course combines both Literacy and Language Arts classes. *Note there are some students who are not in both classes due to their schedule.

Student Textbooks & Materials

Read 180 R-book, various classroom independent literature books and audio books (r-180), R-180 software program.

Major Course Objectives

Standards in: Writing, Listening, Grammar, technology, and Literature

Readings: Short stories, R-180 library books, Poetry, Nonfiction

Skills: Effective verbal and written communication that entails proficiency in literacy comprehension, target vocabulary, and reading accuracy and fluency.

Major Projects

Monthly log of at home reading **

Book presentations (to instructor)

Write personal Narratives

Write a nonfiction report

Teacher Homework Policy

There is not a lot of homework assigned since the class is designed to have teacher support as well as computer-designed instruction.

****Reading 20 minutes is a major homework assignment in this class.** Students are to read at least 5 days a week. They must write the **dates** they read and the **pages** that they have read. They must also write a complete sentence using the correct punctuation and grammar telling about what they read. The assignment will be checked prior to the due date to support on-task work ethics.

Teacher Grading Policy

Points are based on classwork, projects, writing assignments, responsibility, notebook, homework, tests, and quizzes. Most tasks are worth 100 points. Homework, responsibility, and project points are assigned according to the complexity of the task. Points available will be divided into points earned to determine a percent: $923/1000 = 92.3\%$ 90% and higher = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 69% and below = F

STUDENT PLANNERS

Students are expected to carry their planner with them and record all tests and homework assignments. Student planners are filled out on a daily basis here at school to assist in improving academic

CLASS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Expected Classroom Behavior

Be Here...Be Ready

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Actively Engaged in Learning

Follow Instructions the First Time

INTERVENTIONS

Verbal Warning

Teacher Detention

Code of Conduct Referral

HOMEWORK

Homework is designed to be meaningful and reinforce classroom concepts. Homework will be given as the teacher feels necessary. Some core subjects need constant reinforcement, and therefore, homework will be given almost every night. Points will be deducted from a student's homework average if an assignment is late or incomplete. The student is responsible for obtaining and completing any missed assignments. Up to one six day cycle will be given to students to make up assignments missed during absences. In the case of an extended absence, arrangements between the student and teacher can be made.

STUDENT PLANNERS

On the first day of school, each student was provided with a spiral homework planner. Students are expected to keep their planners with them and record all homework assignments, quizzes, tests, projects, and other important information. Students have time during each class to copy assignments into their planners. These planners, when used effectively, will improve a student's academic performance, organizational skills, and also encourage responsibility. Please take time to review your child's planner on a daily basis.

EXTRA HELP

After school tutoring with academic subject teachers is available for any student who is interested. Most teachers are available Tuesday - Friday. Tutoring takes place from 3:05 to 3:25 P.M. in the teacher's assigned classroom. Due to Mrs. Van Woert's coaching schedule in the Fall and Winter, she will be holding extra times in the morning before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

COUNSELOR CORNER

Hello Team Kutztown Parents and Guardians! Welcome back. As many of you know, the school counseling staff loop with their grade level students. This means that I am working with the 7th grade this year and will be your child's school counselor throughout his/her time here at Nitschmann.

As a school counselor, it is my job to advocate for students, as well as function as a member of the educational team. This year I will be consulting and collaborating with teachers, administrators, and families to help students be successful in academics, work on social and personal issues, and to help to get students thinking about their futures.

Seventh grade is truly the middle of the middle! Time management becomes more of a priority with the new level of academics, sports, and activities. As new opportunities open up that were not available in 6th grade, students will have more independence and more responsibility. You are welcome to email or call if you need to reach me.

Marcie Litak
7th Grade School Counselor
Room 103K
Student Services Office
mlitak@basdschools.org
610-866-5781

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a key element to your child's success this year. If you have any concerns, questions, or problems, please contact us through phone or e-mail. Email is the easiest way to contact us. You do have access to your child's records and performance on the district "Parent Portal." Also, teachers publish their grades on this portal. This is an excellent way to quickly obtain information on your child's current academic performance. Several teachers have class websites that are updated daily. The easiest way to find these is to go to Nitschmann's website, click on "Staff Directory," locate the teacher's name, and click on the word "Website."

Of course, parents play an equally important role in a child's school success. Encourage your son/daughter to come to class prepared to work. Provide them with support at home and a place to study. Remind them of what is acceptable behavior and what is not. Please check your child's planner, and assist with assignments and study if necessary. All of these things will help to maintain a good learning environment and help us all to have a great year! By working together, we can make this a better year for your child. Thank you for your cooperation!

TEAM IDENTITY

Throughout the year, we will be doing many team activities as a large group and in smaller groups. We even have a team field trip to Kutztown University planned.

Our first whole group activity is focused on our team identity. We are going to be tie-dyeing T-shirts. We will be using the Kutztown University colors of maroon and gold. Students will be asked to wear these shirts for different activities throughout the school year. Students will be provided the opportunity to purchase a Team Kutztown tee-shirt for our project or to bring one of their own from home. Look for more information about that coming soon!

Thank you for your time! We are excited for the year with your child(ren)!!