



PANTHER PRESS

Isabelle M. Pearson Middle School



November 2009

Volume 9
Issue 2

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

- Clay Krevolin

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bailey Campbell and Roger Aiudi for receiving the Litchfield Area Superintendent's Award for their scholastic achievement, citizenship and leadership abilities. I was honored to present Bailey and Roger with their awards at a recognition dinner held at the Cornucopia Banquet Hall on November 19, 2009.

Parents may find that the workbook "*Middle School Study Skills*" by John Ernst from Teacher Created Resources, Inc. would be beneficial in helping early adolescents improve how they study, organize time, prioritize work, and prepare for tests. Parents can be helpful in assisting their children in having a place to study that has sufficient light, a place to work that is free from distractions and that has the needed supplies to support learning. Hopefully, you will find these tips from the *Middle School Study Skills* book helpful.

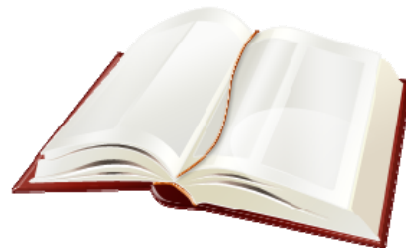
A student's work is very much like that of a business professional. You have papers to keep up with, a schedule to maintain, and projects to work on. Like any business person, you need an office or a work area where you can store your materials and do your studying. Having a good place to study can save you time on homework and help you make the most of your study sessions.

The following survey is designed to help you evaluate your child's work/study area:

1. Do you have your study sessions in the same place every time?
2. In what room of the house do you have your study sessions?

3. In what part of the room do you study? (on the floor, on a bed, at a table?)
4. Is your study area a comfortable place to work?
5. Is your study area set up like a work station or a miniature office with a place for your supplies an area for you to do your work?
6. Is your study area a quiet place?
7. What distractions exist in your study area?
8. Can you concentrate while you are working there?
9. Is there plenty of light in your study area?
10. Do you think your study area is a good place to study? Why?
11. Do you like studying there? Why?
12. What are some other things that are important to think about when it comes to a study area?
13. What can you do to make your study area better?
14. What are some things your parents can do to help you make your study area better?

It is helpful if your study area does not have things that distract you, such as a radio, a television, video games, or a telephone. The following are some basic supplies that a student will utilize in a work area: paper, pens, pencils, colored pencils, markers, ruler, pencil sharpener, folders, scissors, tape, glue, stapler, paper clips, a calculator, dictionary, and thesaurus.



PANTHER PRESS

TEACHERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES:

In an effort to improve communications with parents and staff, here is a list of our teacher emails:

Ms. Attella 8th Grade Language Arts
lynnattella@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Baker 8th Grade Language Arts
kimberly.baker@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Bartus Unified Arts - Art
anatasia.bartus@winchesterschools.org

Ms. Brooks 8th Grade Science
nancy.brooks@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. V Brooks Unified Arts – Health / PE
vicki.kircher@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Caldwell Unified Arts - Computers
mark.caldwell@winchesterschools.org

Ms. Caneschi 7th & 8th Grade Spanish
cheryl.caneschi@winchesterschools.org

Ms. Colosimo Unified Arts – Chorus & Gen. Music
danielle.colosimo@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Culver 7th Grade History
scott.culver@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Czaja Support Staff – Guidance Counselor
james.czaja@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Dalton 7th Grade Language Arts
nancy.dalton@winchesterschools.org

Ms. DeFeo 7th Grade Mathematics
sandra.defeo@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Ditz 8th Grade Special Education
lorraine.ditz@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Echentile Unified Arts – Physical Education
martin.echentile@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Elliott 8th Grade Mathematics
barbara.elliott@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Harbach 8th Grade History
charles.harbach@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Hogle Unified Arts – Technology Education
mhogle@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Joy Support Staff - Nurse
ann.joy@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Krevolin Administration - Principal
clay.krevolin@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Peck Support Staff – Social Worker
susan.peck@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Schroeder Unified Arts – Band & Gen. Music
jennifer.schroeder@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Snyder 7th Grade Science
lori.snyder@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Weeks 7th Grade Special Education
tweeks@winchesterschools.org

Mr. Weretelnik 7th Grade Language Arts
john.weretelnik@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Werner Support Staff – School Psychologist
amy.werner@winchesterschools.org

Mrs. Wheelahan 7th & 8th Grade Special Education
barbara.wheelahan@winchesterschools.org

GUIDANCE NEWS

On November 4th a representative from Oliver Wolcott Technical School presented an orientation assembly for the 8th graders. Mrs. Simoncelli, guidance director, at Oliver Wolcott outlined the many opportunities available at the school and answered questions. Any 8th grader interested in attending Oliver Wolcott must officially apply and be accepted into the school. The application process is relatively simple, but gaining acceptance is not. Pearson students are competing with their classmates as well as other students throughout Litchfield County. Approximately 450 students apply for the 200 slots available! Acceptance into the school is based upon the following requirements:

- Academic grades (grades 7&8)
- CT. Mastery Test scores
- Attendance
- Behavior
- Recommendations
- Student Interest

Applications are currently available for interested students and must be returned to Mr. Czaja by Tuesday, **December 1st**. Acceptance decisions will be made early in January 2010. Acceptance letters are mailed by the end of January. If students or parents have any questions they are more than welcome to contact Mr. Czaja for assistance. There will also be an open house for interested parents and students at Oliver Wolcott on **Wednesday, December 2nd from 6:00 to 8:30 pm**. Admissions information will be discussed and tours will be given of the school.

Northwestern Regional #7 Vocational Agriculture Program

An informational presentation by staff and students from the Northwestern Regional #7 Vocational Agriculture Program was also held on November 6th for the 8th graders at Pearson. The program at Northwestern focuses mainly on animals, plants natural resources and mechanics.

PANTHER PRESS

Leadership development and technology are two other areas of emphasis. Students also have the opportunity to become involved in the FFA, a national leadership organization. Membership in the FFA helps to build on student strengths and provides opportunities for travel, scholarships, awards and friendships.

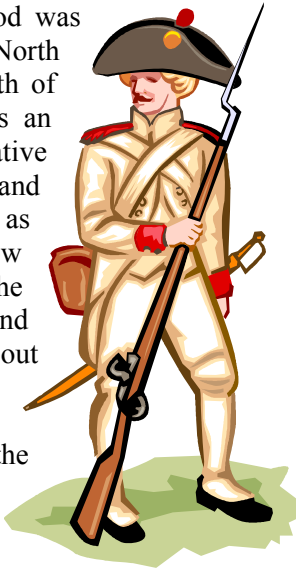
Applications are currently available for interested students and must be returned to Mr. Czaja by **November 20th**. All students who turn in applications must also submit three letters of recommendation. Letters are due back to Mr. Czaja no later than **Tuesday, December 1st**. All application materials are forwarded to Region 7 on **December 1st**. Any student who picks up an application will also receive directions outlining the application process. If students or parents have any question, please call Mr. Czaja.

An open house will be held for interested 8th graders and their families at the Vocational Agriculture Facility at Northwestern on Thursday, **November 12th at 7:00pm**. For additional information please call their office at **379-9013**.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

U.S. History – Mr. Culver

We are off to a successful start in U.S. History. The first marking period was spent studying North America before the birth of our nation. There was an emphasis on Native Americans, explorers and initial settlements such as Jamestown. Right now we are examining the colonial time period and will soon be learning about the American Revolution. That will be followed by the foundations of our government and the Constitution.



All students should have a book at home or online access to the text. We have a set of history books for the classroom so no student has to keep their book in school. Whenever possible, please check your child's agenda for homework and upcoming assignments. Starting the second marking period, unexcused late homework assignments equal a zero. Every student receives at least one Homework Coupon good for a one day homework extension in case they accidentally forget their work.

In History we have been practicing how to properly cite sources as well as how to write an outline. During the winter months we will be utilizing these skills more often. Both outlining and proper citations will be parts of an upcoming project on colonial culture and lifestyle. The project will also include a class presentation on each student's research. The first marking period projects on early explorers were colorful, creative and informative and I look forward to seeing what the 7th grade will present in the future.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

US History – Mr. Harbach

Your students are studying the Civil War at this time. We have been discussing many of the battles and key commanders as well as new roles that women filled during the war. Other discussions have been about social, political, and economic changes in people's lives, including people who were not fighting, that were caused by the war. The students also completed a project (some of which were very creative) of their choosing on various aspects and topics of the war. We will finish the Civil War by Thanksgiving and begin discussing Reconstruction of the Union and the South.

If there are any questions about what we are doing in school or about your child's progress, call me at school or email me at charles.harbach@winchesterschools.org.

PANTHER PRESS

ART NEWS

The Art Room is popping with glorious, gorgeous artwork! Students began the year with a children's storybook cover design. After imagining a children's story, the students designed a cover for their book and completed this design in a watercolor marker and wax crayon resist. The wax crayon is applied to the entire surface first. It is used both on its point and on its side, providing two distinct textures. Lastly, the entire surface is colored in contrasting watercolor marker. The wax crayon resists the watercolor marker and both layers are visible.



The second project in the Art Room was a recycled-packaging sculpture. This project employed roughly 70% recycled material: newspaper and packaging. Students were assigned to make a sculpture of a head with 3 variable appendages: horns, ears, nose mouth, mustache, etc. After completing the head in newspaper, tape, hot glue and recycled packaging, students decorated the surface with a mosaic technique of felt scraps.

The third project was a foil relief. An intricate mosaic design was traced onto colored craft foil while the foil was attached to a soft matte board. The soft matte board allowed the traced design to be deeply grooved onto the craft foil. Students then used a dull writing implement to deepen the grooves and broader areas into a 3-dimensional low relief. The deepened grooves and areas were highlighted with acrylic paint.

Fourthly, we studied the human figure in watercolors and oil pastel. Students began by choosing a positive word from an illustrated sign language dictionary. Students had a table partner model the sign language word. Emphasis was placed on realistic proportions of the face, upper body, and hands.

Lastly and presently, we are working on five paper craft techniques, which we have labeled the accordion fold, the fringe, quelling, beading, and triangle pucker. These paper craft techniques are all 3-dimensional and are being used to decorate hats using hot glue to attach them.

BAND & CHORUS NEWS

Dear 7th and 8th grader's Parents/Guardians,
Just a friendly reminder from the Music Department at Pearson! ☺

***Winter Concert:**

Tues. Dec. 15th, 2009 @ Gilbert HS 7pm

***Regionals auditions:**

Sat. Jan. 9th, 2010 @ King Philip MS, West Hartford 9am-2pm

***Regionals Festival:**

Fri. Mar. 5th, & Sat. Mar. 6th, 2010 @ Har Bur MS, Burlington

As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact Ms. Colosimo or Mrs. Schroeder at the school. Have a great month of November!! ☺

□ Ms. Colosimo & Mrs. Schroeder □

"Music... gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything."

Plato



PANTHER PRESS

DRAMA NEWS

- Mrs. Brooks

The Pearson Players Drama Club put on two performances of "The Vampire's Bride" on November 6th and 7th. The audiences laughed and applauded at the fast pace comedy. Extra chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the crowd. The cast had a small party after Saturday's performance; Mrs. Brooks's efforts were commendable and assured the success of the performance. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the performance very much. Stay tuned for the next play in April 2010. Hopefully, we will have a curtain for the stage by then.

OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Every month the 7th and 8th grade teams and the Unified Arts team nominate two students to be recognized as School Wide Students of the Month. In addition, each classroom teacher will select one student as Student of the Month for that particular class. All students of the month are awarded with a special certificate and a commemorative pen, as well as, a congratulatory luncheon with Mr. Krevolin. School Wide Students of the Month also received gift certificates to Cinerom. Gift certificates are provided by the Pearson PTO.



7th Graders celebrate winning Student of the Month honors!!

School Wide Student of the Month Winners Are:

7th grade – Pearl Gilley & Derek Fazioli
8th grade – Taylor Casey & Alec Royer
Unified Arts – Jasmine Perrault & Cody Fisher

Classroom Students of the Month

7th Grade

Math – Lauren Madsen
Science –Ileighana Deraleau
History –Henry Jordan Reilly
Language Arts – Mason Brennan
Language Arts – Anthony Gonzales
Spanish –Olivia Ortman
Mrs. Weeks –Tony Malarney

8th Grade

Math – Kevin Gomez
Science –Kaitlyn Howard
History –Cassidy Morneau
Language Arts – Dan LaChance
Language Arts –Logan Marchi
Spanish – Ashley Marshall
Mrs. Ditz – Phillips Garcia

Unified Arts

P.E. – Alec Goulet
Computers – Amanda Hoxie
Band – Ashley Marshall
Music – Melissa Marquis
Art – Kevin Gomez
Health – Rik Emery
Chorus –Kendra Schilkowski

