

# Nathan Hale Middle School



Nathan Hale Middle School - 5220 W. 135th Street - Crestwood, IL 60445

## From the Principal's Desk

by Mr. John Dudzik

Communication between the school and home plays a vital role in the success of students. At Nathan Hale Middle School, we use a variety of means to ensure that parents and students are informed.

- **School Website**

Our school website contains several links that are updated regularly to keep parents informed of important activities at Hale Middle. The "Activities" page provides you with information from our daily announcements, including events, practices, tryouts, games, club meetings and other important dates. There is also a calendar of events for each month. The "Homework" page contains daily homework assignments for all classes. This link can be used if your child is absent or if you just want to verify homework assignments for a given day.



- **PowerSchool Parent Portal**

Parents can check their child's grades and progress online by visiting the PowerSchool Parent Portal at the District website ([www.district130.org](http://www.district130.org)). Please contact the office if you have not received your username and log-in to access this information.

- **Frequent contact with Teachers/Administrators**

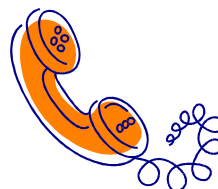
It is important to contact your child's teacher or principal if you have any questions or concerns. Staff can be contacted via email and phone. The "School Directory" page on the website provides you with each staff member's phone extension and/or email address.



**We are collecting  
Box Tops for  
Education labels to  
help raise money  
for our school!**



Help us raise funds for our school by sending in the Box Tops for Education labels found on many products. Look on the boxes of General Mills cereals, Totino's Pizza, Juicy Juice, Hamburger Helper, Progresso soups, Ziploc bags, Scott paper products, Hefty products and others for Box Tops. In addition, over 100 popular retailers give eBoxTops to our school when you start your online shopping trip at [btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace). Just click on your favorite retailer and eBoxTops will be donated directly to our school with your qualifying purchase. You can earn up to 15 eBoxTops per \$10 you spend. Some of the retailers include Target, Office Depot, Oriental Trading, Best Buy, JCPenny and Famous Footwear. Don't miss out on this easy way to earn even more for our school!



**Is your student  
going to be  
absent?**

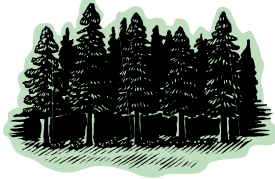
If your student will be absent, please call the attendance voice mail at 708-385-6690, extension 7203 before 8:00 a.m. Leave your name, your child's name, their grade and the reason for their absence.

## 7th Grade News.....

### Science Class—Ms. Keasler

The science classes completed their leaf projects and are currently studying plants and seeds. Seventh grade students took a field trip to Kankakee State Park on September 30th. It was a wonderful field trip and all had a great time. The students were able to identify the different types of leaves that they learned about in class.

While at Kankakee State Park, the students were introduced to three bridge types; covered, suspension, and step stone bridges. This experience will be very beneficial when the students begin their unit on bridges in the spring.



### Math Class—Mrs. Becker

Welcome to the start of a new school year. The seventh grade math classes have been working very hard. The students have completed a unit on Algebraic Reasoning and are currently working on Integers and Rational Numbers. The students are learning how to solve one-step equations containing integers.



We will be focusing on the Illinois State Goals for Mathematics: Number Sense, Measurement, Algebra, Geometry, Data Analysis, and Statistics and Probability. Together, we will learn the various tools of math and how to apply them to real life situations.

Students can access the math textbook on-line at [www.my.hrw.com](http://www.my.hrw.com). There are

many different resources on this website to help the students with their work. It is also very important that every student has the TI-30XIIS calculator.

### Social Studies—Mrs. Washack

In Social Studies, we've been working on the exploration of the Americas. We've learned about how Europeans explored and claimed land for their countries and set up colonies here in America. Currently, we're learning about how and why England made their claims in America, which will eventually lead us into the Revolutionary War. I am hoping to finish with the Revolutionary War by December, so that we can start the Federal and Illinois Constitutions after the Winter Break in January. I am finding that many of the students are enjoying reading and listening about how America came to be.



### Language Arts—Mr. Prokop

Students spent the first quarter of Language Arts learning the purposes of writing as well as how to write to specific audiences. They learned the plot map and wrote personal narratives based on a significant moment in their lives. The classes also practiced their descriptive writing and editing skills to create a polished final draft. Students were also taught how to write a proper business letter.

They chose a personal encounter with a company to write a business to compliment, complain, or request information from a major corporation. All student letters will be sent out to show the class the practical ways writing is used in everyday life.



### Reading—Ms. Evers-Walker

The 7th Grade reading classes have spent the first quarter learning about the elements of fiction and nonfiction writing. They have used various short stories and nonfiction passages to



explore such concepts as author's purpose, setting, theme, main idea, comparing and contrasting, point of view and perspective. We have also been exploring the idea of truth versus perception and how they affect our understanding of the world with our "Big Question", "What is the best way to

find the truth?"

Second quarter's big question will be "Does every conflict have a winner?" In unit 2 we will be continuing to explore how point of view affects a story as well as exploring the elements of short stories and how they interact with each other. Students will also be assigned their first book report of the year!

### **Dates to Remember**

- 11/3 8th Graders Only Explore Test and 1:00 Dismissal
- 11/7-10 Book Fair
- 11/8 PTO Meeting 6:00p.m.
- 11/9 Veterans Day Assembly 10:00  
Early Dismissal at 11:15  
Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:00—8:00
- 11/10 NO SCHOOL  
Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00—2:30
- 11/11 NO SCHOOL
- 11/22 Market Day Pick up 2:34—3:45
- 11/24 NO SCHOOL Happy Thanksgiving!
- 11/25 NO SCHOOL
- 11/29 8th Graders Only—Cap and Gown