

Dear 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Below is an update and summary of 8th grade activities and curriculum. If you have general 8th grade questions, contact the team leader. If you have subject specific questions, contact your child's subject area teacher. Email is the best way to reach teachers.

Sincerely, 8th Grade BMS Teachers

Subject Area	Update Details
General 8th Grade Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All Students have attended or will attend a field trip to the Westport Historical Society in October● 1st installment of payment for the NYC field trip in June is due November 1st. It is \$50 and checks can be made out to BMS. Here are more details.● The annual Veterans Day celebration will be Tuesday 11/13 9 am - 12 PM. If you know of any Veterans who would like to share their stories, please contact Courtney Ruggiero at cruggiero@westportps.org● Students should check Schoology nightly for assignments and PowerSchool weekly for grades● 1st Quarter Ends 11/7● Contacting teachers - these days, email is best! If you'd like a return phone call, send an email with the number and best times during the school day to reach you. Teacher contact info is here.● 8th Grade Coin War - 11/12-16; Department of Human Services fundraiser for their "Tis the Season" initiative<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Please supervise students' activities and signage outside of school for this event
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students learned about cell division, heredity, and genetics in September and October.● Current Events discussions occur once a week - students summarize an article and present to small groups.● Upcoming units include natural selection and astronomy. Astronomy specifically focuses on the motion of celestial objects that produces what we see. Key topics include tides, moon phases, eclipses and orbits.
Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Finished dystopian reading unit that had students tracking archetypes, personal and systemic character problems, different ways characters react to power, and how understanding a book's symbolism can lead to deeper reading.● Currently reading an outside reading book of their choice

	<p>(Kids should be reading 30 to 40 pages a night.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Starting dystopian creative writing that focuses on students writing fiction that allows the reader to reflect upon social issues, government and power, or issues surrounding ecology and or science ● Finished their first vocab root study ● Teaching verbals in grammar and writing and examining how they can be used to vary syntax in writing
<p>Math</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Algebra 1+: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foundations Unit cumulative assessment went well ○ Wrapping up unit on geometric and arithmetic sequences ○ Will be kicking off unit on functions ● Math 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed and assessed Foundations Unit ○ Currently engaged in statistics unit ● Geometry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed an area and perimeter unit ○ Currently working on surface area and volume of solids ● Algebra 2 (Red and Purple) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wrapping up an in depth study of the quadratic function with real solutions. ○ We will be moving to non-real solutions and applications in the coming days.
<p>Social Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finishing our first unit which focused on America's foundation as well as principles of our government ● Next unit focuses on the political, social, economic and ideological impact that Manifest Destiny had on the development of American identity ● We will focus on the impact that the expansion of America had on different groups in the country ● Highlighting the impact slavery had on this expansion and how this led to a Civil War