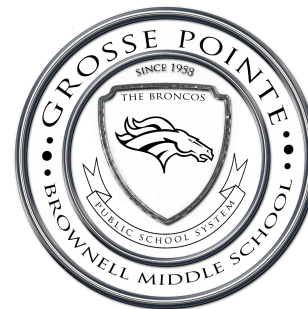


# BROWNELL REPORTER



## A NEWSLETTER FROM SAMUEL MILLER BROWNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

<http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/gpbrownell>

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Volume 52

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Issue 3

Mr. Rodger W. Hunwick, Principal

Mrs. Holli McNally, Assistant Principal

### PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

#### Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences

The first report card will be sent home with students prior to conferences. Please bring your child's report card with you to Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Conferences will be held in the gym on:

November 16, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

November 21, 12:30-3 p.m. and 4:30-7 p.m.

An open area style format will be in place in the Brownell gym. Individual teachers will be seated at tables throughout the gym. Prior sign up for teachers will not be available. Parents will conference with teachers on a first-come, first-served basis.

Conferences will be limited to no more than 5 to 7 minutes per teacher. Cooperation from everyone is needed so parents and teachers can maximize the number of possible contacts. If additional discussion time is needed, a conference can be scheduled with the specific teacher during the school day. Contact the specific teacher or your child's counselor if an additional conference is needed.

Use your child's report card to help make decisions on which teachers you would like to conference. Due to the high number of students each teacher has in class and the number of teachers each student has, it is suggested you prioritize which teachers you choose to visit. The high volume of parents may

make it difficult to conference with all your child's teachers. If you choose to bring your son/daughter, please include him/her in the discussion about academic progress.

#### Picture Retakes

Pictures retakes will occur Friday, November 3 from 9:00-11:00 in room B28. If your child did not have his/her picture taken during registration, please bring the completed Life Touch photography envelope with you that was mailed to your home in August. If you are dissatisfied with the pictures you purchased, please have your child return the photography package to the photographer on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Mindfulness Initiative

Brownell Middle School is fortunate to have been selected to participate in the *Mindfulness Initiative*. This is an initiative and research study to help students be more focused as learners as well as less stressed socially and emotionally. The goal is to provide students with the skills necessary to be more calm, aware, and attentive adolescents. The seventh and eighth grade English Language Arts (ELA) teachers at Brownell are currently being trained as mindful educators. In the second card marking, we will begin to implement these strategies with students in the ELA classes with the assistance of the research team. **There will be an**

**informational meeting on the *Mindfulness Initiative* for all parents on Thursday, November 2 in the Multi-Purpose Room at 6:30 p.m.**

**Early Dismissal Procedures**

The entire Brownell Middle School Staff would appreciate your help when picking up your child early from school so that the sanctity of learning may continue without interruption to classroom instruction.

- Please send a note in with your child identifying the time and date of dismissal. Advise your child to present the note to the office before school and he/she will receive an early dismissal pass permitting him/her to leave class at the designated time.

**OR**

- Call the 24 hour attendance line at (313) 432-3901 and leave a message as early as possible regarding the early dismissal. **Advise your child to pick up the early dismissal pass from the office** if they know they are leaving or as soon as they see their name on the dry erase board in the main office hallway.
  - o Child will meet the parent or person designated on the note or phone message in the office and sign the child out. Please provide photo identification.

Reminder: Except at lunchtime, students are to keep their cell phone off and put away. If your child contacts you via their cell phone because he/she is not feeling well, please ask your child to proceed to the Brownell Office.

**Parent Group Email Notifications**

Brownell Middle School is using parent group emails to remind you of important, upcoming meetings and events. So, if your email address has changed, then please update it in the MISTAR ParentPortal. If you forgot your PIN and password or you do not have an email address registered with the district, you can email [parentconnect@gpschools.org](mailto:parentconnect@gpschools.org). Please provide your name, child's name, school name, and your email address.

**Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser: A Great Success**

On Friday, September 29th, the Brownell Community gathered for its second Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser held every other year. Students, parent volunteers, and staff members enjoyed exercising, socializing with each other, eating popsicles, winning prizes, and participating in games such as Choreographed Dance, Cornhole Toss, Elimination Basketball and Kickball, and walking/running laps around the playfield. As a result of the efforts of the Parent Teacher Organization led by its president, Mrs. Kim Monts, and the fundraiser organizer, Mrs. Karen Lawrence, the school was able to gross almost \$7,000. There's still time to donate by visiting the school website. Thank you to all who participated; especially the Brownell PTO and Staff who donated their time organizing and running this event. The Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser was a great success because of your efforts.

**Grosse Pointe Parents for Unity in Diversity Council**

All parents and community members in the Grosse Pointe Public School District are welcome to participate in the meetings led by the Diversity Council. Quarterly meetings are part of this learning community's outreach program that works together with our school community to help ensure all of our students experience success. The group is led by Ms. Ginni Winters, a consultant from Wayne County RESA. All meetings are held at predetermined Grosse Pointe Public School locations at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is November 30, 2017 at Defer Elementary. Future meeting dates for the 2017-18 school year are January 18, 2018; March 22, 2018; April 26, 2018; and May 24, 2018.

**Open House at Brownell**

On Sunday, November 12 from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Brownell and all other K12 schools in the district will be hosting an Open House. The purpose of this Open House is to encourage students and parents who live in the district but are not currently enrolled in one of our schools to visit and receive an up-close view of our school, students, staff, facilities, programs, and curriculum. If you have a neighbor or a friend who is a resident in the school district and is currently homeschooling or has a children at a

parochial or private school, please encourage them to visit us on this date. Thank you.

### **Eighth Graders Visiting North and South H.S.**

On Tuesday, November 21, eighth grade students will be visiting the high school of their home residence. The purpose of this visitation is to acquaint students with the high school, visit classrooms, acquire an overview of opportunities in high school, and help ease the transition from middle school to high school.

Students do not attend school at Brownell. Instead, all students will report directly to either Grosse Pointe North or Grosse Pointe South at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 21. The program will end at 10:30 a.m. If your child is unable to acquire transportation to the high school, please call several days in advance to either Mr. Hunwick or Mrs. McNally to arrange for student transportation.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please call my direct line at (313) 432-3904 or email me at [hunwicr@gpschools.org](mailto:hunwicr@gpschools.org).

Sincerely,



Rodger W. Hunwick

### **FROM THE DESK OF MRS. MCNALLY**

#### **First Card Marking and PBIS: Time to Reflect and Reset**

Friday, November 3rd marks the end of the first card marking period. It also marks the reset for

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Plan) "signatures." The second marking begins on Monday, November 6 with a new signature space. The staff at Brownell utilizes the signature space (the white card stock pages beginning on page 5 of the planner book) to communicate home as we ask students to record minor infractions such as: unpreparedness to class, incomplete homework, disruptive behavior, off-task behavior, tardiness to hours 2-6, and unauthorized use of cell phones. As indicated in previous *Brownell Reporter* articles, in an effort to continue making positive strides forward we'd ask for your commitment to look the planner over with your child(ren). Take time to briefly discuss with them PBIS as described on pages 4-14. Furthermore, on page 5 of the white card stock, you will find the section for Positive Stamp Rewards. Your child has earned stamps for upstander behaviors such as: going above and beyond, helping another student or staff member out, random acts of kindness, or continuously meeting Bronco expectations. Students will be able to redeem stamps for a variety of prizes: free pizza, Stable coupons, gym time with friends, private lunchroom, raffle prizes, erase a signature, and many others.

This year, we have empowered our Student Life student leadership team to be in charge of student rewards. They have created a new reward room, discussed reward ideas, and are ready to make some positive impacts on our overall PBIS program. Thank you to the following students for stepping up and helping us out with Student Life:

Eleanor B., Morgan B., Linnea B., Bryan C., Blake D., Alec E., Sean F., Grace F., Maxwell F., Fiona L., Jackson R., Ethan V., and Honor W.

Bronco PBIS data (as of 10/26)		
Students with 0 signatures	Students with 1-7 signatures	Students with 8+ signatures
46%	51%	3%

#### **Unexcused Tardiness**

While the vast majority of students will not be tardy often enough to result in the assigning of a consequence, this is typically the time of the year

when those issues begin to arise. Attendance concerns as it relates to the arrival to 1st hour this year, particularly on late start Mondays, are heightened. Any time a student arrives late to class,

this impacts the learning process. It is the expectation that students arrive to class on time and prepared to learn. Excessive unexcused tardiness to class will result in a recorded tardy to the main office and a signature on the student responsibility card (hours 2-6 and Advisory only). In addition, any student tardy five times to their first hour class will earn an after school detention. Any subsequent infractions to the tardy policy beyond five will result in progressive consequences and intervention strategies.

### **Athletic Physical Forms and Tryouts**

Please remember that students may not participate in tryouts/practices for athletic teams unless they have a current physical on file. Physical forms dated on or after **April 15, 2017** are considered to be current. If your son or daughter plans on participating in winter/spring athletics, it's our suggestion that you take your child in for a physical well before the start of the season.

## **COUNSELORS' CORNER**

We will be providing career exploration lessons to the sixth and seventh graders this month through our new program, Naviance. Naviance is a college and career readiness program that helps students explore their strengths and interests.

Students will be participating in the Naviance Career Program on the following days:  
Sixth grade - November 8th and 9th  
Seventh grade - November 15th and 16th

With the completion of the first quarter, this is an ideal time to reflect on your son/daughter's work

habits. If your son/daughter is struggling, take time to understand why and put a plan in place to help your child improve.

Here are some suggestions to help monitor your child's progress:

- Check Pinnacle once or twice a week. Sign up for parent email alerts to make you aware of important information.
- Be familiar with individual teacher expectations regarding technology (webpages, Google Classroom, calendars and assignments that are posted weekly).
- The student planner should be filled out and brought home daily. Make sure to check the Second Quarter Responsibility Card on page 6 for updates on your son/daughter's work habits and behavior.
- Monitor how much time your son/daughter is spending on homework.
- Plan on attending Parent/Teacher Conferences, even if your child is doing well.
- If your child struggles with organization, help create a system to organize all papers.

Overall, it is important to encourage your child's independence. Create an environment that allows your child to take care of matters on his/her own. When appropriate, step in to assist. If there continues to be a problem, please contact your child's counselor.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions. See you at conferences.

Marie Fachini-Kurily (A-F)	Angie Niforos (G-Z)
(313) 432-3914	(313) 432-3915

## KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

### November

- 1 Principals' Roundtable Meeting @ library, 6:00 pm
- 2 Mindfulness Initiative Parent Meeting @ Multi-Purpose Room, 6:30 pm
- 3 Picture Retake Day, @ Room B28, 9:00-11:00 am
- 3 End of first quarter
- 7 No School, Professional Development Day
- 9 The Family Center Multi-Presentation Night @ Brownell Middle School, flyer: <https://goo.gl/ZT4Yj9>
- 12 Grosse Pointe Public School System Open House, 1:00-3:00 pm
- 15 Instrumental Music Concert @ Multi-Purpose Room, 7:00 pm
- 16 Grade 6 Adolescent Health Education Instruction, 8:20-11:11:18 am
- 16 Parent/Teacher Conferences @ gyms, 4:30-7:00 pm
- 16 Deadline to submit articles for the December newsletter
- 17 Grade 6 field trip to Meadowbrook Theatre, 8:30 am-2:00 pm
- 20 PTO meeting @ library, 6:00 pm
- 21 Grade 7 Adolescent Health Education Instruction, 8:20-11:33 am
- 21 Grade 8 Visits Grosse Pointe North or South High School, 8:30-10:30 am  
Students report directly to high school according to home residence
- 21 ½ Day for Students - Students Dismissed at 11:33 am for Thanksgiving Vacation
- 21 Parent/Teacher Conferences @ gyms, 12:30-3:00 pm and 4:30-7:00 pm
- 21 American Red Cross Blood Drive @ cafeteria, 1:30-7:30 pm
- 27 School Reopens after Thanksgiving Vacation, 9:05 am
- 28 Grades 7/8 Boys' Basketball vs. Kelly Middle School @ Brownell, 4:00 pm
- 29 Vocal Music Concert @ Multi-Purpose Room, 7:00 pm
- 30 Grades 7/8 Boys' Basketball vs. Jefferson Middle School @ Brownell, 4:00 pm



## SIXTH GRADE

### All Sixth Grade Parents:

Thank you for the many parents who have volunteered to drive to Meadow Brook Theatre on Friday, November 17, to see *A Christmas Carol*. Students will sign up for carpools in Narrative classes. Students will meet their parent drivers in the Multi-Purpose Room at 8:30 on November 17, check out with their teacher, and sit as a group at the theater. Students will need to bring \$10 for lunch money. Each carpool will stop to eat on the return trip to Brownell, meeting in the Multi-Purpose Room between **1:30-2:00 pm**.

### Informational ELA

#### Mrs. Garland and Mrs. Lovelace

**Grade level** students have been developing their sentence-writing skills by focusing on requirements of a complete sentence. Building on that, they're also advancing their essay-writing skills using SEEK (statement, examples, explanation,

K(c)onclusion) as a strategy for writing a solid paragraph.

In **Honors Informational**, students have been practicing their research and essay-writing strategies as they participate in the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest about WWI. The process has been supported by lessons with the media center specialist based on effective online searches and using the reference sources available through the media center website.

### Narrative ELA

#### Mrs. Garland and Mrs. Lovelace

**Grade level** classes have been reading *A Christmas Carol* in class and writing paragraphs about Scrooge's transformation using SEEK (statement, examples, explanation, K(c)onclusion) as a strategy for writing a solid paragraph.

**Honors classes** have been reading *A Christmas Carol* in class and writing paragraphs about



Scrooge's transformation using SEEK (statement, examples, explanation, K(c)onclusion) as a strategy for writing a solid paragraph. The rich vocabulary in the unabridged version has given us opportunity to explore strategies to use when encountering unfamiliar words.

### **Informational Reading**

#### **Mrs. Shellnut**

Students have been developing their sentence-writing skills by focusing on requirements of a complete sentence. Building on that, they're also advancing their essay-writing skills using SEEK (statement, examples, explanation, K(c)onclusion) as a strategy for writing a solid paragraph.

### **Math**

#### **Mrs. Berschback-Moyer**

Greetings! It's hard to believe your child's sixth grade year is 25% / one-fourth / twenty-five hundredths completed. I have continued enjoying learning about your child both academically and personally. I have witnessed so many students reaching and often exceeding their academic and personal goals. Most importantly, I have witnessed many smiles in the classroom. ☺ Looking forward to seeing you at Parent/Teacher Conferences!

**Grade level:** During the month of October, students successfully finished understanding the differences between Greatest Common Factor vs. Least Common Multiple and their real-world connections.

During the month of November, investigations will move into *Chapter 2: Introduction to Algebra*. Students will be writing and translating many algebraic expressions, exploring the distributive property using Algebra, analyzing tables, determining whether a number is a solution to an equation, solving equations, and exploring inequalities. In addition, classes will begin to accurately calculate decimals.

**Honors:** During the month of October, students finished their investigations of integer computation, absolute values, decimal relationships and computation, divisibility rules, prime numbers, and fraction theory. I was very impressed with many of

the student's mastery of decimal computation with negative numbers. In November, students will apply positive and negative integer computation skills into *Fraction City* and begin to tackle algebraic relationships too. Go math!

### **Science**

#### **Ms. Jordan**

Time is flying! The end of the first quarter is Friday, November 3. The final acceptance date for late work is always one week prior to the end of the quarter (Friday, October 27) as documented in the green sheet you received at the beginning of the year.

During the month of October, classes continued learning how to create a graph. This will be an ongoing theme for the school year. Students also learned about properties of water through exploring items such as phase changes and density. In November, classes will look at how the water cycle affects living things.

#### **As a reminder:**

Are you signed up for *Remind*? If not, I highly encourage you and your child to do so. Directions for signing up can be found in our Google Classroom "About" section under "handbook."

Are you and your child checking **Pinnacle** at *least* once a week? Students check Pinnacle every Friday at the start of class, but it's also a good habit to have them perform this at home to make sure they are up-to-date on all assignments and that all grades have been entered correctly (yes, I've been known to record a 1 instead of a 10). A "Z" on Pinnacle means I do not have a grade for your child on that assignment (it still needs to be turned in for partial, late credit). An "X" on Pinnacle means your child was excused from that assignment (it will not count against their grade).

Has your child shown you how to log in and navigate **Google Classroom**? If not, now is a great time to learn. This will allow both you and your child to make sure you know what is "going on" in the classroom. Each week (usually on Sunday), I post a weekly agenda (including attachments of the assignments for the week). This is where you would find an assignment in case of an absence.



Homework is also posted, which is a great feature during busy weeks (get ahead of the game).

Is your child completing nightly (5-15 minutes) **homework**? Each night, especially when an actual assignment is not given, your child should be reviewing what was done that day (and on prior days) in class. The best way to learn (not memorize) is to review nightly. Practice makes permanent! Remember, I can teach your child a great deal, but if they are not practicing what they are learning in class, it's like showing up for the "big game" without attending any practices -- it just doesn't work! I suggest students use highlighters to go over their notes -- highlighting important ideas/concepts. I also suggest diagramming or asking additional questions on material they are unsure of in the margins of their notes. Check out our Quia (<https://www.quia.com/web>) page for learning games and quizzes of current content; and don't forget Quizlet, a working science vocabulary is essential!

**Supplies and Materials:** Please make sure your child is equipped with the materials and supplies they need to be successful in class. If assistance is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me. Each child should make a list of what they need for each class and post that inside their locker door. Then, they can perform a quick check before going to each class.

**Extra Help:** I am available Tuesday-Friday starting at 7:45 a.m. for any assistance you or your child may need. Consider it as 30 minutes of FREE tutoring! NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY! I am available after school by appointment only.

## **Social Studies**

### **Mrs. Callaway Burke**

Yay! Hip-hip-hooray! Students made it through the first marking period of sixth grade. Classes have wrapped up Core Democratic Values, moved through a study of economics, and soon will be working on map skills and the Five Themes of Geography. After students gain a thorough understanding of the Five Themes of Geography, they will study earth's general physical geography, which includes land, water, natural resources, climates, and its effects on us as well as our effects

on it. Culture, population, why people live where they do, government, and economy will be covered as earth's general human geography is studied. As classes move through November, December, and January, students will discover what culture is, what social groups are, and look at language, religion, and economic and political systems along with the roles they play in various cultures and societies. Students then apply all that knowledge as we move through Canada, Latin America (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America), and Europe. Stay tuned for an exciting year of fun and learning!

## **Social Studies**

### **Mr. Dettlinger**

Classes continue to study geography using the five themes learned at the beginning of the year. Students have been preparing and presenting numerous local, national, and world events each Friday. Class discussions have been eye opening. It is fantastic to see students gain confidence as the year progresses.

Students recently discussed the relationship between the earth and the sun. Classes learned what variables cause the seasons and what contributes to longer and shorter days throughout the year. Then they discussed what impact seasons and length of days have upon humans and animals alike.

Did you know that 1.3 million earths could fit inside the sun?

Classes are off to a great start! I'm looking forward to working with your sons and daughters throughout the year.

## **SEVENTH GRADE**

### **English**

#### **Mrs. Dempsey**

**Honors:** Classes have completed our novel, completed a group project, and taken the test for The Lemming Condition. Students will be exploring suspense while reading a short story called "Three Skeleton Key" and then begin an exploration of Edgar Allen Poe. Students will be visiting an interactive website, research and gather



background information on Poe, and utilize the information to compose a FAKE-BOOK page for Poe. Classes will also begin Literature Circles leading discussions and encouraging participation amongst the group members while remaining class members observe.

**Grade level:** Classes have completed our novel, completed a group project, and taken the test for The Lemming Condition. Students will be exploring suspense while reading a short story called “Three Skeleton Key” and then begin the novel The Outsiders with a research jigsaw project to set the tone and the background information necessary to understand the novel. An essay-writing project will complete the work for the text.

## English

### Mrs. Duffield

*"A sailor chooses the wind that takes the ship from a safe port. But once abroad, winds have a mind of their own. Be careful of the wind you choose."*  
Avi-The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Classes have begun the novel study, The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi. This award-winning, historical fiction story takes us on a 19th century tall ship and a high-seas adventure. It is a murder mystery filled with suspense and beautifully-crafted literary elements. Students will complete a reading log on Google Classroom, write several pieces related to the book, and conclude the unit with a Socratic Seminar. Grammar, and thinking and writing lessons continue daily. Students must read a minimum of 20 minutes in the evenings to prepare for their monthly Oral Book Review. OBR #3 is due by Friday, December 1st. Have a joyful Thanksgiving!

## Math

### Ms. Bubeck

**Honors:** Students are currently working on solving and checking multi-step equations. The methods or processes will extend the work students have already applied when doing the simpler equations in Chapter 3. As always, **showing all work** will be heavily emphasized in the classroom and during homework assignments. Creating those good daily habits will show up as good results on exams.

Credit is not earned when work is not shown or problems are not checked as assigned.

## Science

### Ms. Jordan

Time is flying! The end of the first quarter is Friday, November 3. The final acceptance date for late work is always one week prior to the end of the quarter (Friday, October 27) as documented in the green sheet you received at the beginning of the year.

During the month of October, students learned about elements, mixtures, and compounds. Classes wrapped up the unit exploring the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. As studies continue, they will delve into chemical and physical changes of matter.

### As a reminder:

Are you signed up for **Remind**? If not, I highly encourage you and your child to do so. Directions for signing up can be found in our Google Classroom “About” section under “handbook.”

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**Extra Help:** I am available Tuesday-Friday starting at 7:45 a.m. for any assistance you or your child may need. Consider it as 30 minutes of FREE tutoring! NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY! I am available after school by appointment only.

## Science

### Mr. Sonnenberg

**Grade level and Honors:** The first quarter is in the rearview mirror and students are headed into the second marking period. Wow, has time flown!

After classes finish the chemistry-focused concepts (atomic structure and The Periodic Table), they will begin to transition to the Biological Sciences: from sub-atomic particles, atoms, molecules...to the much bigger (but still awfully small) CELL, the building block of all living things. Students will use microscopes, unveiling the world unseen by the naked eye, focusing on the structure and function of the living cell. Students will use this new

knowledge to analogize the cell to a real-life concept (e.g., a car, a supermarket, a restaurant, etc.). Just remember to look at their science notebook or the Google Classroom stream at any time for a quick update – there's always plenty to see!

If you would like to contact me, you may do so via email at [sonnenm@gpschools.org](mailto:sonnenm@gpschools.org) or voicemail at (313) 432-5805. Remember that the Google Classroom stream shows many things including weekly assignment plans, homework files, and a science binder "table of contents." Your son or daughter's Google Classroom page remains the #1 way to stay in the loop, so if you would like to receive Google Classroom "Guardian Email Summaries," please send me a request and I will add you to the account.

Finally, to be included in my *REMINd* app text updates send a text to 81010 with the message "@sonic99" OR please visit this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/sonic99>.

## Social Studies

### Mrs. Corden

Students in both **grade level** and **honors** social studies classes have completed their *Create-A Country Projects*. It was an excellent opportunity for them to actively engage with each other every day, to learn to budget their time and delegate duties, while gaining knowledge of key geography themes, economic principles, government systems, and multiple historic and cultural aspects of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Classes are currently involved in the *Russia Unit*, which provides MANY learning opportunities. As the largest country in the world, with varied decades of political uprisings and civil war, the rise and fall of communism, huge varieties of physical features, as well as the current, daily influx of Russia in the news of our country, we have much to tackle.

I am looking forward to meeting with many of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences this month, but should you have questions or concerns before then, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation. It is truly a pleasure working with your children everyday.

## Social Studies

### Mr. Dettlinger

After pondering the mystery of the Romanov curse and whether Anastasia survived it, classes discussed the pitfalls of communist Russia and the decline of the Soviet Empire. This month, students will continue studying Eastern Europe. The focus will be on the transformation that many of these countries went through after the fall of the Soviet Union, as well as the role that the United States played. Students will learn how difficult it has been to adjust to a free enterprise economy and compare life in these countries to our own experiences. In addition, students will discuss the importance of certain freedoms associated with democratic nations. Students will reflect upon the significance of the Core Democratic Values as they relate to our lives in the United States. Classes will also continue to discuss current affairs on a consistent basis. I've been extremely impressed with the level of discussion and the amount of thought that students have contributed to current affairs. Please encourage as much discussion of world and local issues at home as you are able. There certainly are plenty of interesting topics to kick around!

## EIGHTH GRADE



### English

#### Mrs. Currier

Report cards, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and Thanksgiving – what could be better than November? I hope you are able to make time in your schedule to come to Parent/Teacher Conferences.

By now, all students should have joined Google Classroom. This site allows students to find materials related to class assignments and keeps them up-to-date when they are absent. Please ask your child to log on to our classroom to show you what's available there. If your child hasn't joined yet, the code is available in my classroom.

Students will read and study Laurie Halse Anderson's historical fiction novel Chains, set during the Revolutionary War. Isabel, the main character, and her younger sister, Ruth, are slaves who were supposed to be freed after the death of

their owner. However, a corrupt man sells them back into slavery to the Locktons - a powerful couple with many secrets that Isabel discovers. Students will find plenty of suspense in this novel as they read to find out if Isabel, along with the help of another slave Curzon, will be able to reclaim freedom for herself and Ruth. Chains is the first novel in a trilogy by Anderson and many students will want to read the other books in the series.

### English

#### Mrs. Duffield

*"If an entire nation could seek its freedom, why not a girl?"*

Laurie Halse Anderson-Chains

Classes have begun the novel study, Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson. This award-winning, historical fiction story takes us to New York during the American Revolutionary War. Readers follow the life of Isabel, a young and courageous slave girl. Filled with suspense and beautifully-crafted literary elements, the book is one of my personal favorites. Students will complete a reading log on Google Classroom, write several pieces related to the book, and conclude the unit with a Socratic Seminar. Grammar, and thinking and writing lessons continue daily. The optional, *America & Me* essay contest requires papers be submitted to me by Friday, November 3rd. Students must read a minimum of 20 minutes in the evenings to prepare for their monthly Oral Book Review. OBR #3 is due by Friday, December 1st. Have a joyful Thanksgiving!

### Math

#### Ms. Bubeck

Students are currently working on solving and checking multi-step equations. The methods or processes will extend the work students have already applied when doing the simpler equations in Chapter 3. As always, **showing all work** will be heavily emphasized in the classroom and during homework assignments. Creating those good daily habits will show up as good results on exams. Credit is not earned when work is not shown or problems are not checked as assigned.

## **Math**

### **Mrs. Miller**

**Grade level:** The class is wrapping up the study of *Chapter 8 – Linear Equations*. Students have been working hard on solving multi-step equations with variables on both sides. They have also been writing equations to model problems in context. Students have worked hard applying the CUBES problem solving strategy to tackle these word problems. Soon, the class will begin to look at relationships between two quantities. This will include studying functions, direct variation, and linear relationships. Please remind your child to check Google Classroom if they are absent.

### **Honors Algebra I**

In Honors Algebra I, classes are studying linear functions. In October, they began by graphing linear functions and analyzing their major features – slope and intercepts. Classes will complete several activities to build their understanding of these concepts. This includes the “On Line” activity where students use graphing calculators to analyze equations and their graphs. Classes will complete a “Stacking Cups” activity that helps students interpret slope and y-intercept in a real-life context. This month, the focus will be on writing linear equations in different forms and determining which form is best with the information given. Please remind your child to check Google Classroom if they are absent.

## **Science**

### **Mrs. Brennan**

Students will continue to explore the *Force and Motion Unit* with an emphasis on the Laws of Motion. This unit involves many labs and activities on the subjects of Newton’s three laws identifying forces, velocity, and momentum. Please make sure to check science binders frequently and visit Mrs. Brennan’s webpage to find a weekly assignments calendar and other class announcements. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

## **Science**

### **Mrs. D’Angelo**

During November, classes will continue the unit on reducing the impacts of natural hazards. The focus areas for November will be: 1. What are the impacts of a natural hazard? 2. How does a natural

hazard cause negative impacts? and 3. Which natural hazards are likely to cause the worst impacts in each state? I look forward to meeting everyone at Parent/Teacher Conferences. To learn about classroom activities with links to classroom handouts and homework, please go to the Brownell homepage (<https://mi01000971.schoolwires.net/gpbrownell>) click on “Staff Websites,” next click on “D’Angelo, Maggie,” click on the [blue link](#) which will take you to the daily classroom calendar. After locating the date, click on “Classroom Happenings,” next click on “more details” which will open the calendar window allowing you to see the day’s activity, ELO/homework assignment, and printable handouts. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to call me at (313) 432-5319 or email me at [dangelm@gpschools.org](mailto:dangelm@gpschools.org). I’m available daily during 4th hour **Monday:** 12:00-12:45 and **Tuesday – Friday:** 11:30 to 12:15.

## **Social Studies**

### **Mrs. Cooper**

Students did a great job sharing their *Colonial Job Projects* in October. Their wonderful, creative projects helped us learn about skills people had during the colonial era and how they compare to jobs today. This month, the eighth graders will be on the road to Revolution. They will be studying the tensions between Britain and the colonies and how they led to the Revolutionary War and the Declaration of Independence. Classes will look at the ways colonists protested and resisted the laws Britain imposed. Students will also learn about the problems each side faced during war, as well as, the strategies they used to fight. They will analyze the reasons the Americans won and the ideals upon which the new nation was created.

Students enjoyed the trip to the Henry Ford Rouge Plant, IMAX theatre, and The Henry Ford Museum. Thank you to parent chaperones Mrs. Frost, Mrs. Auld, Mr. Catrett, and Mrs. Kraus for helping us out.

Please continue to check your child’s binder for information about what students are learning and accomplishing in class. I look forward to seeing you at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

## **Social Studies**

**Mrs. Shellnut**

**Grade level and Honors** social studies classes have learned about the events that led to the Revolutionary War. They are translating the Declaration of Independence into a children's book. Classes are looking at the events and individuals that were significant in the Declaration of Independence and the beginnings of a new nation. Students try to resolve issues peacefully in a town meeting. Spoiler alert: the town meeting didn't work, so we are going to war with Great Britain.

## **ART**

**Mrs. Rose**

**Art 2D** students are moving from color using chalk pastels to painting with color! Knowledge of the color wheel and color relationships are paramount in the success of their pieces. They are also using alternative tools to paint with such as palette knives and the bottom of pencil erasers. Using these tools helps them to paint as Impressionists and Post Impressionists painted. Make room on the wall for these masterpieces!

**Art 2D/3D** students are flipping from working in clay and wire to pencil and charcoal! Having learned how to use negative space to draw positive space, the students are now drawing a still life. Using values to shade and create form will bring these still lifes to life!

**Art Club** will be meeting on November 13 and 27. They will finish glazing and will start working on a piece that is donated to our Brownell Community. Come and join the fun!

## **COMPUTER EDUCATION**

**Mr. Whitefleet**

### **Digital Presentation and Design &**

**Advanced Computer Skills** created a variety of projects utilizing digital photo manipulation with PhotoShop CS6. In this course, students develop creative products focusing on design elements. Google Calendar for the class is on my website.

**Sixth Grade Computer Skills** is a semester class.

Students have been working with Google Docs, Google Drawing, and Google Classroom. Currently, classes are working with Audacity Sound Editor, Google Slides, and MS Movie Maker. Have your child show you the cool projects we've done! Google Calendar for the class is on my website.

**Programming** students got their feet wet learning some basics of HTML5 and JavaScript; helping them think in terms of using syntax, logic operators, and algebraic equations. Currently, they are designing, prototyping, and modifying Mindstorm Robots for a variety of challenges mimicking real-world usage. Google Calendar for the class is on my website

**Academic Assistance** continues to focus on organization, work completion, and relearning. Parents, please keep checking their planners and sign them over the weekend.

## **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

**Mr. Abel**

### **Sixth Grade Technology**

At the beginning of November, students will be building virtual bridges online. After students successfully cross the river at a low cost, they will be taking out drafting boards and produce multi-view drawings to represent a 3D object. This is an important skill when students want to design their own projects when taking Woods and Metals in seventh and eighth grade.

### **Woods and Metals – Grades 7 & 8**

At the beginning of November, students will complete their first woodworking project. The projects are impressive and constructed out of a variety of wood including willow, mahogany, and cherry. In November, Introductory students will begin working on CO2 cars. Advanced students are working on larger projects, which might require the entire semester to complete.

If you happen to have furniture grade lumber collecting dust, the department would be delighted to take donations. Please note that we are currently

NOT looking for construction grade lumber such as 2x4s or 4x4s.

## **JOURNALISM**

**Mr. Abel**



### **Broadcast Journalism**

Broadcast Journalism students continue to produce daily video products, which include a WBBC introduction, the Pledge of Allegiance, daily announcements, promotions of school activities, the weather, variety segments, and an “outro,” which is the concluding section of our WBBC production. If you would like to see some of the work, go to the Brownell Middle School page on YouTube.

### **Journalism**

The Journalism students write weekly stories and assist with video productions.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Mrs. Francis**

**Grades 7 & 8:** These classes will be entering the pool soon. There will be a review of stroke mechanics, safety, and build up to a cardiovascular swim assessment. The 10 minute swim assessment is differentiated to be fair to all the different levels of swimmers in the pool. All students are capable of being successful. I am able to accommodate and work with all levels of swimmers. If there is an issue with swim class, please let me know so a solution in the best interest of your child can be worked out. Seventh graders will also spend time in the pool working on water safety, which includes how to recognize and safely help a distressed swimmer as well as some “what should you do” scenarios while in the water.

## **VOCAL MUSIC**

**Mrs. Gross**

### **Grade 6 Choir**

The sixth graders have finished reviewing treble clef notes and started sight singing music from the board as a class. They will be working on the rhythmic elements of music including note values,

rest values, and time signatures this month, as well as continuing to learn the steps of sight singing music.

For the November 29th concert, the sixth graders should wear any combination of dressy clothes in black, white, or gray.

### **Grade 7 Choir**

Students have been reviewing sight singing and learning about expressive symbols within our music. In preparation for the November 29th concert, they have been learning songs in three part harmony. It is a challenge for students to consistently perform three and four part harmonies and they are making great progress. Concert dress for the gentlemen should be: black dress pants, black socks, black shoes, black belt, a white button up shirt, and any blue tie. The ladies should wear their choir dress, skin colored hose, and black character shoes.

### **Grade 8 Choir**

The first opportunity to sing was October 27 at Western Michigan University as a featured choir at the American Choral Director’s Michigan Fall Conference. It was a great honor to be selected to sing for the choral teachers from the State of Michigan.

Fifth grade choir members from Kerby, Montith, and Richard will be visiting the choir room. The eighth graders will sing for the elementary choirs in the Multi-Purpose Room and then visit with the younger students during a pizza lunch in the choir room on November 9.

The next performance will be the Fall Vocal Music Concert on November 29th. Students should wear their formal concert dress.

Chicago Choir Trip sign-up sheets and deposit is due November 1. It is always a great trip for the students and I hope every choir member will be able to participate.



## WORLD LANGUAGES

**Mr. Abel** - <http://tinyurl.com/bmsabel>

**Ms. Porvin** - <http://tinyurl.com/bmsporvin>

Please check our websites for the very latest news including daily homework information and weekly summaries of current activities.



### Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos

There are many events continuing through the middle of November celebrating and teaching about the Day of the Dead, including this outstanding show at the Detroit Institute of Arts. <https://www.dia.org/art/exhibitions/ofrendas-celebrating-el-d%C3%ADa-de-muertos-0>

### Noel Night is coming Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Midtown • Cultural Center area of Detroit.

This family-friendly, free event certainly has plenty of Santas and cocoa, but is also an opportunity to enjoy performances by international artists. See the full schedule here: <http://midtowndetroitinc.org/>

### French Introduction - Grade 6

**Ms. Porvin**

How much French can we use on a day-to-day basis in class? A variety of tools will be used in class from puppets to bookmarks (marque-page) to *Up Our Game* during this mini-unit.

Parents can help by checking student study habits and organization at home. Please use the website to verify assignments and deadlines. Students may also wish to join the Quizlet class via the link on Ms. Porvin's website.

### Spanish Introduction - Grade 6

**Ms. Porvin**

Who speaks Spanish? And where? Classes will be working on geography using the alphabet as a guide. Along the way, students will play 20 questions in Spanish to expand their ability to ask questions.

Parents can help by checking student study habits and organization at home. Please use the website to verify assignments and deadlines. Students may also wish to join the Quizlet class via the link on Ms. Porvin's website.

## Spanish Introduction - Grades 7 & 8

**Mr. Abel**

In November, the class will finish a unit on *fruits and veggies* where students indicate what they like and don't like with variations of the expressions "Me gustan..." or "No me gustan...". Students will also learn a little grammar and definite articles for "the," which are: *el, la, los, & las*. Besides writing basic sentences, students will read definitions in Spanish and choose the corresponding fruit or vegetable from a word bank. After a full dose of health food, the class will move onto a unit about *Family*.

## Spanish Enrichment - Grades 7 & 8

**Ms. Porvin**

What animals!...we are studying. The *Animal Unit* allows us to integrate the description and verb conjugation activities that the class has been working on so far. After that comes a bit o' fashion.

## Spanish I

**Ms. Porvin**

What do you like to do with your time? This review unit from Introductory Spanish ups our Spanish game by adding sophistication to our ability to express ideas. The next unit, talking about our fabulous personalities, allows us to describe key figures in the Day of the Dead, before talking about our (ideal & real) selves.

## ATHLETICS

**Mrs. Francis**

The girls' volleyball teams finished in late October and we were pleased with the team's efforts.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball tryouts will begin Wednesday, November 1st. The 7th grade tryouts will begin Wednesday, November 8th. All tryouts run from 3:30-5:00. Tryouts will be a minimum of three days. Unless specified, plan on practices running each weekday after school. All students interested in trying out for the teams must have an up-to-date athletic physical form dated on or after April 15, 2017 turned in to Gina Francis.



## DRAMA CLUB

Brownell Middle School  
presents DISNEY'S  
***THE LITTLE  
MERMAID***

February 8-9, 2018



We are excited to present the classic "tail" of Ariel as the all-school musical this year. Most roles have been assigned and rehearsals have begun. There is a no-cut policy, so all committed students may be part of the production. A tentative calendar, scene-to-scene document, parent volunteer form, and more may be found on the Brownell webpage and Google Classroom. Questions should be directed to Mrs. Duffield, Mrs. Dempsey, or Mrs. Gross.

## BROWNELL BRAG

### Highlights from Student Life at Brownell

#### Grosse Pointe Schools Open House: Showing off the Broncommunity

We want to thank the many Brownell Middle School students who are volunteering to showcase our school during the district-wide Open House on Sunday, November 12th. We look forward to sharing your great work with the community. Thank you.

#### Book Club

##### Mrs. Shellnut

The 2017-2018 Book Club is off to a great start this year! The first book selection is the Heist Society, by Ally Carter. It is not too late for students to join. Parents, please encourage your readers to join us. You can also help by signing up your Kroger Card for Community Rewards. Kroger donates money to the Book Club when you shop!

## The Stable

The Brownell School Store is open every day after school. All profits go back to Brownell to fund programs and student needs. We recently purchased new outdoor tables and benches that are featured in the courtyard outside the Multi-Purpose Room. *The Stable* is currently collecting Box Tops for Education. Students may drop off Box Tops to *The Stable*. Box Tops are featured on the outside of many food products. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents, which adds up quickly. Your donations make a difference.

Our loose change drive to support local charities will continue throughout the year. We recently raised over \$200 for The Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. In November and December, we will be sponsoring Covenant House Michigan, which is a nonprofit organization that provides hope to homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth ages 18-24.

Cookie sales started after school on Fridays. Students can purchase two freshly baked cookies for a \$1.

Congratulations to the October Employees of the Month: Lily H. and Colin J.

Thank you for supporting the Brownell school store.

## STAND

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We are very grateful first to STAND students and their families for doing such a marvelously committed and frighteningly fabulous job at the Haunted House. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Monts, Mrs. Nearhood, Mrs. Edwards, and the PTO volunteers for helping make the night a success. Special thanks also to the BMS clubs and their sponsors for making the Broncommunity Pop Up a smashing success. A final *merci beaucoup* to Mr. Hunwick, Mrs. McNally, and our fabulous staff for their continuing support.

STAND is now accepting new students who may be interested in joining us. The next meeting is November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in the cafeteria. We will be carrying out a Thanksgiving project for Services for Older Citizens.



American  
Red Cross

ANNABELLE  
Future Blood Donor  
and her mother, Erica



FUTURE BLOOD DONOR

## **Blood Drive** **Brownell Middle School**

260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe

**Tuesday, November 21, 2017**  
**1:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

Appointments at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) sponsor code brownell.  
Questions? See a Student Council Representative.

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.**

HOPE begins with you.

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | Download the Blood Donor App | #FutureBloodDonor

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