

C.S. Charter Academy Middle-School Newsletter

ISSUE #01-2019: SEPTEMBER 1, 2019



Important Dates

- 9-2-2019: Labor Day (No School)
- 9-13-2019: Progress Reports Sent Home
- 9-19-2019: CSCA Board Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 9-27-2019: Progress Reports Sent Home

Social Studies

With Mrs. Ross

kross@cscharter.org

7th grade is continuing its study on America's emergence on to the World Stage circa 1900. Here we will examine the contributions of Teddy Roosevelt, Yellow Journalism, and imperialism in the effort to make America an internationally recognized power.

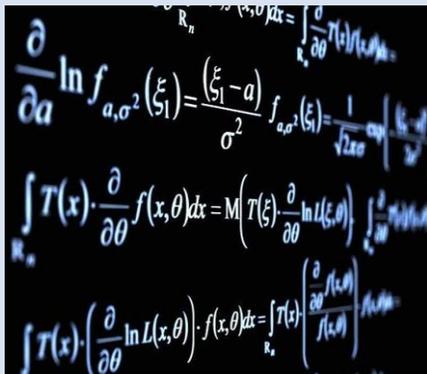
8th grade is continuing its study of the United States' neighbors Canada and Mexico. After diving in to information about Canada's political, cultural, and geographic landscape we will turn our attention to those aspects in our southern neighbor, Mexico.

Kristen Ross

Advanced Math

With Mrs. Welsch

cwelsch@cscharter.org



7th Grade Advanced Math – Pre-algebra

For the month of September, we will continue a short review of material covered in Course 2. Then we will work on evaluating expressions, working with roots and irrational numbers, order of operations, and the distributive property. We will also explore some Geometry, working with polygons, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, and transformations. Students will do short labs with the graphing calculator in class, as it relates to topics in the curriculum. This will help students learn how to operate a graphing calculator in preparation for using them in high school math courses. Please encourage your student to attempt all homework problems, make corrections to homework in class, and ask questions when they don't understand!

8th Grade Advanced Math - Algebra

For the month of September, we will continue a short review of material covered in Course 3. Then we will work on simplifying and evaluating expressions, solving multiple-step equations, and graphing functions. We will also be doing some probability and analyzing real-world data as displayed in graphs. Students will do short labs in class with the graphing calculator, as it relates to topics in the curriculum. This will help them be prepared to use the graphing calculator in high school math courses. Please encourage your student to attempt all homework problems, make corrections to homework in class, and ask questions when they don't understand!

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Math

With Mrs. Volanti

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We have been working on building our math notebooks daily in class in 7th and 8th grade. Students are required to copy the notes given to them daily into math notebook along with examples of the concepts addressed in each day.

Homework assignments and tests should be logged daily into their CSCA agenda. All 7th and 8th grade students are required to have a CSCA agenda this year.

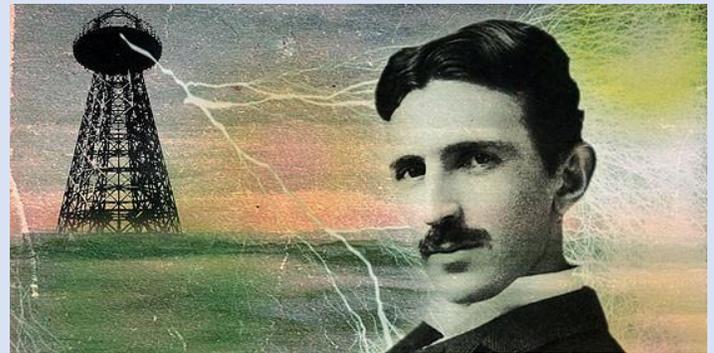
Math homework is assigned from Monday night to Thursday night each week. Please check with your student to make sure that they are logging all assignments for class and completing them on time.

All homework assignments and tests for each day are written on our objective white board in the classroom. The assignments are there for the entire week. This is so any student that is not in attendance can see what math lesson they missed during their absence.



Morning math tutoring will begin after we return from the Labor Day holiday. If you are interested in having your student attend tutoring please contact me at dvolanti@cscharter.org. Students will be given a permission slip that needs to be signed and returned for them to attend tutoring. The hours will be from 7:15 am to 7:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Once the permission slip is returned, the student will be given

a pass to be let into the Middle School building in the morning. Space is limited so please reply early. Students do not need to attend each day and can pick the day they want to attend.



Science

With Mr. Mazzone

amazzone@cscharter.org

My name is Andrew "Mack" Mazzone (outside of teaching I go by Mack, which is short for my middle name), and I am the middle school science teacher. I am originally from Reno, NV, and moved here to Colorado Springs last year to start graduate school at UCCS and pursue my Masters and PhD in Physics, and my hope is to one day be an Astrophysicist and study the physics of the universe once I obtain my PhD in Physics.

I was born and raised in Reno, where I obtained my Bachelor's Degree in Physics with a double minor in both Math and Astronomy from the University of Nevada Reno.

This is my first year teaching at CSCA, and I am grateful for the wonderful opportunity to teach science at this fantastic school. I have always had a passion for science, and I love being able to share that passion with my students, and inspire them the same way I was inspired by my teachers to love science. It is a privilege and honor to have your children in my class, and standing there in front of the class teaching science everyday reminds me why I love science, and for that, I am blessed. I am excited to make this a great year!

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Literature

With Ms. Sheppard

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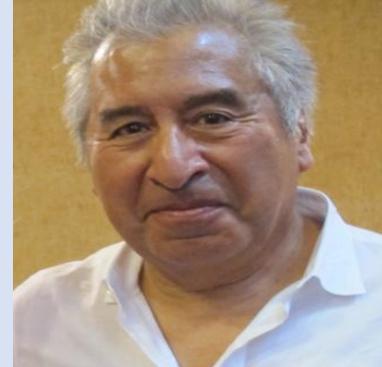
My name is Bronwyn Sheppard, and I am the new Literature and Spelling teacher for the Middle School at CSCA. I recently graduated magna cum laude from the University of Colorado: Colorado Springs with my Bachelors in English Literature. This my first year here, and I want you to know that I am very excited! I have always loved literature, and I'm so looking forward to helping the kids here love it too. We've had a blast so far!

August was Poetry month, and the kids seemed to really enjoy getting to learn about the poets and analyze the poems we read. Both grades will begin reading Prose and nonfiction from here on out, and we'll be working on our abilities to identify literary elements, address how and why they are used, and hopefully expand our empathy and love of reading! All grades will also have weekly spelling quizzes and monthly spelling tests.

September will be the first novel for the seventh graders – we will be reading *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. There will be lots of intellectual discussions, reading quizzes, debates, and a final unit test.

The eighth graders will be beginning a unit of autobiographies in September. They will read excerpts from Maya Angelou, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Rodriguez, and Ronald Reagan. During this unit, we'll not only be looking at different aspect of literature and non-fiction, but also the various cultural perspectives of the authors. There will be reading quizzes, many discussions, a unit essay, and a unit test.

It'll be a great month of reading!



Richard Rodriguez
An American writer

Grammar and Writing

With Mrs. Walker

pwalker@cscharter.org

We have been reviewing the six traits of good writing; i.e., rich ideas, well-prepared organization, writer's voice, stunning word choices, sentence fluency, and grammatical conventions. The students have been learning these skills within the context of various smaller writings, and they are currently working on their first attempt to write a personal memoir.

In the coming month, we will be completing the first memoir, and move on to write one more. A lot more will be expected of this second memoir. The students will need to rely on the lessons from the month of August, and to improve upon them. This improvement will come from several sources. In grammar, we will continue to grow our speaking and writing vocabulary. We will also review nouns, verbs, prepositions, pronouns, and possessives.

My main concern will be to improve our students' writing by helping them to **show their story by painting a picture with words.**