



# HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Volume 3, Issue 1

September 2008

## Hille Middle School

Mrs. Courtney Orzel,  
Principal

Mr. John Orth,  
Assistant Principal

## From the Principal...



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2008-09 school year! We are excited to begin another wonderful year full of opportunities for your children.

We have already begun many programs, clubs and sports. Please check out our newsletter for additional information and don't forget to check out the school's website.

As a reminder, we will be having report card pick up for parents during our Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. Parents will be able to sign up for conferences online this year. We will be sending home infor-

mation by the end of the month. Please contact us with any questions.

I look forward to working with you and your children during this upcoming school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Courtney Orzel

JHMS Principal



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Library News
- Catch Up Club
- Hille Book Club
- FACS and Courtyard Clubs

## Hille Book Club— Join Today!

### Hille Book Club

Do you like to read? Wouldn't you like to read a book and then have the opportunity to talk about it with your fellow classmates? If so, then the Hille Book Club is for you!

In book club the students will decide what books we read and they will run a discussion about the book in a relaxed and comfortable

setting. **There will be a brief meeting for any 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grader interested in participating in the Hille Book Club on Thursday, September 11th in Mrs. Ciesiun's room, A2.** The meeting for 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be held during lunch and the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade meeting will be held immediately after school. I hope to see you there!



## Hille Library News

Hille Library is officially opening its doors on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>! We are inviting all students to utilize “the hub of the school”. We encourage students to stop in the library often to check out books, use the many resources for research, utilize computers, and most importantly... READ!

Students along with their teachers can get acquainted with our library by attending a power point presentation offered by our librarian, Mrs. Cook. The presentation introduces students to our library and its wide variety of books, as well as discussing Hille library rules and etiquette.

During the month of September, students are invited to drop by the library to enter the “Summer Read Critique” contest. Three students will be the lucky winners of “movie

## Read to Succeed

ticket packages” awarded at the end of the month.

Welcome to a new school year! We are off to a great start. The Read to Succeed Class was designed to give students an extra dose of reading support during the course of their day. The class is a structured framework of research-based reading interventions.

For the month of September we will be focusing on previewing material and predicting. We will also start using the Six Minute Solution intervention to increase fluency and the Wild Side Series to increase comprehension.

Students will also be participating in individual goal setting to improve their overall reading abil-

## Attention 6th Grade Parents!

ity. This should prove to be a fantastic year.

Dear Sixth Grade parents,



In the State of Illinois all children in 6th grade are required to have an oral health examination. Each child needs to present proof of examination by a dentist. Our nurse's office has a dental examination form that needs to be filled out by a dentist. Please contact Mrs. Kirkton, Health Clerk, if you have not received a dental form for your child.

If you have any questions please call the Hille Health Office at 535-4764.

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## 6th Grade Team News



### Math with Mrs. Reilly, Ms. Leahy, Mrs. Stalla, and Mr. Squibb:

Students worked hard to start the year on the right "foot" by organizing binders. The first unit explores problem solving steps and strategies. Students also began the process of journaling in math class. MAP Testing begins September 16th.

### Advanced Math with Mrs. Reilly:

Students took on the challenge of getting organized and were excited to jump right into problem solving. The process of keeping a math journal began positively and the class will get a chance to experiment with TI83 graphing calculators. MAP Testing begins September 16th.

### Science with Mrs. Mamich, Mr. Squibb, and Mrs. Voris:

This month in science class, students will be introduced to basic science skills such as safety in the lab, making observations, and the scientific method. Our lab safety unit should last about a week, and students will become familiar with the safety symbols found in their textbooks. Following the completion of our safety unit, students will be introduced to the terms "observation" and "inference." Throughout the unit, students will make observations of their own both inside and outside of the classroom, as well as complete a few experiments relating to this skill. By the end of the observations unit, students will be able to define the terms "observation" and "inference" as well as compare the two. Our introduction to the scientific method will be somewhat brief but will allow students to experience different steps that need to be taken while conducting an experiment. This unit is exciting for both teachers and students for it involves a great deal of hands-on and collaborative work. This month is all about setting a foundation for the rest of the year; let's make it a great one!

### Social Science with Mr. Clark, Mr. Squibb, Mr. Raleigh, and Ms. Zamora:

Welcome to the start of the 2008/09 school year. We have had a great start to 6<sup>th</sup> grade so far this year in Social Science. This first week has been busy. We have spent the majority of our time getting to know each other and learning our procedures and expectations. We have spent some time learning about maps and the 5 themes of geography, and we will start our study of Ancient Civilizations and Current Events this coming week. Once we have gotten a grip on these, the first step in the textbook will be looking at the geography of Mesopotamia and Sumer. From there we will build our knowledge of Ancient cultures, artifacts, governments, and human interactions.

### Language Arts/Literature with Ms. Beirich, Mrs. Ciesiun, Ms. Leahy, Mr. Myrmingos, and Mr. Squibb:

We have had a great start to the 2008/2009 school year in Literature and Language Arts! Having the students for a two period block has been very beneficial in getting to know each other better. The Literature curriculum is broken into quarterly themes, with the first theme being courage. We have introduced the students to this theme and will be working with the elements of fiction during the month of September as we read various short stories from our textbook. Towards the end of September/early October we will begin reading the novel *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick as an entire class. In the area of writing, we are brushing up on forming strong sentences and solid paragraphs before we dive into writing our first essay. Throughout the year the students will be exposed to the 6+1 Traits of writing, beginning with the trait of Ideas in the next few weeks.

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Well, that wraps up our news for this month; don't forget to check for current class updates on [schoolnotes.com](http://schoolnotes.com) and/or power school.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

# 7th Grade Team News

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable

confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy. --Norman Vincent Peale

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team would like to welcome everyone back to the start of another great year!**

## Social Science with Mr. Raleigh, Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Tselepis

Welcome to the start of the 2008/09 school year. We have had a great start to 7th grade so far this year in Social Science. The first week has been devoted to getting to know each other and learning procedures and expectations. The students have also been working on a pre-test that will determine what they already know about Geography, Federal, and State Governments. This test will also be given at the end of the school year to see the amount of progress made since the beginning of the school year. The upcoming weeks will focus on the five themes of Geography which will eventually lead us to the study of the continent of Asia. The study of Asia should take us through October. Current events has always been a huge part of this class, but now with the upcoming Presidential Election, the focus will concentrate more on the politics and platforms of both candidates. Students will gain an understanding of the election process and eventually be well informed voters in a school-wide mock-election.

## Literature/ Language Arts with Mrs. Carney, Mr. Kantor, Mrs. Moisan, Mrs. Lewandowski, Miss Beirich

In Lit/L.A. classes we will be working on a variety of fiction and non-fiction short stories. We are exploring different novel options for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, and will have more information available soon.

Our Six trait writing focus for this month is Ideas as well as Content. Through the writing process we will focus on sentence structure, capitalization, and end punctuation. All Lit./L.A. classes will be attending library orientation, and will encourage independent reading in and out of the classroom.

## Math with Mrs. Stalla, Mrs. Moisan and Ms. Bonk

Welcome back to a new school year! We are excited to start off the school year with problem solving, encouraging our students to utilize the mathematical knowledge they have already acquired and justifying their solution processes. We have seen some creative and unique methods, and this creativity aids to the understanding of the mathematics involved in the problem. We will also be reviewing some of the basics, including order of operations and using variables. We have also been playing card games to learn about integers.

In 7th grade pre-algebra, we are also starting off the year discussing integers. We will be briefly reviewing the four main operations and graphing in the coordinate system. Afterwards we will be exploring the various properties that make up our wonderful number system, and then we move on to variables and equations. Remember to show all your work! A year-long focus for this class is also problem solving, and we are starting to work with the various strategies. The students use some inventive methods to work through these problems; now it's time to get those thoughts down on paper so that you can explain your solution method to others!

## Science with Mr. Krol, Mrs. Bruce and Mrs. Voris

As we begin another school year our students have been learning about general safety rules and guidelines in a science laboratory. Students have also been learning basic safety symbols used in science class. Over the next few weeks, students will be brushing up on their basic science skills, which include observing, making predictions and inferences, graphing, data collection and analysis as well as how to set up an experiment. We will continue examining the experimental design process and the influence that variables have on various data collection methods and data analysis. Several experiments and projects will be done in class to put all of these skills into action. If any questions or concerns arise please feel free to contact us via e-mail: [JKrol@d142.org](mailto:JKrol@d142.org) or [EVoris@d142.org](mailto:EVoris@d142.org) Have a great year!

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## 8th Grade Team News

### Algebra with Mrs. Trojan:

8th grade Algebra classes are off and running! Students began the school year by refreshing their memories with a necessary introduction to algebra. Students applied the concept of variables when they wrote and simplified algebraic expressions. They connected relevant patterns, sequences, number rules, and properties to the organization and structure of algebra. Students will soon embark on a deep exploration of rational numbers to strengthen their problem-solving skills.

### Pre-Algebra with Mrs. Trojan, Ms. Angone and Ms. Bonk:

Welcome back to school! In their final year in middle school, the students will be learning some more 'formal' algebra. The year starts reviewing some basics in algebra such as properties, variables, and translating expressions. We especially will focus on the distributive property, since it is used in various algebraic situations. After reviewing the rules for integer operations, we will be moving into solving equations.

### SOCIAL SCIENCE with Mr. Tsoukalas and Mr. Tselepis:

The 8th grade Social Science classes will begin the year by covering the Civil War. The activities that they will include various map activities, a writing of their own Proclamation, and the students in small groups the students will teach a section from the book to their classmates. This being an election year their will be days set aside to discuss presidential candidates.



### Literature/Language Arts with Mrs. Carlson, Ms. Angone, Mrs. McCormick, and Mrs. Lewandowski:



Shakespeare

In our 8th grade Lit/La classes we will be teaching Shakespeare this year. In the advanced Lit. class, Mrs. McCormick will teach King Lear, while the regular education students will be reading A Midsummer Night's Dream. Another focus will be on nonfiction. We are reading editorials, newspaper articles, biographies, and other works of nonfiction, and then responding to what we are reading. Additionally, we will be building on our 6-trait writing model this year as we work, to expand our students' writing capabilities.

### SCIENCE with Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Hoffman, and Mr. Krol:

The 8th grade science classes have started off by reviewing the Science Process Skills. We have talked about Observations, Inferences, Predictions, graphing, and Data Analysis. Next we will be learning about the tools of scientific measurement.

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# Encore Team News

## Notes from Mrs. Barron

**FLS** – (Foreign Language Survey) The sixth graders are settling into the routine and adjusting to their new building. By now they should be comfortable addressing adults and using basic greetings in Spanish. Perhaps you have heard them practicing their new vocabulary. We will continue with numbers up to twenty and progress from there to telling time.

**French 7** – It is wonderful to see the students mature so much from last year. If you had the chance to come to Open House, you probably heard me brag about how great these two classes are. We are beginning to explore the fundamentals of French grammar as the students focus on noun / adjective agreement. Remember it is important to study nightly to reinforce concepts taught in class.

**French 8** – This class has been reviewing concepts taught last year. Students had the opportunity to submit note cards expressing their areas of weakness, and I have been focusing on those particular concepts as we practice them in our daily warm-ups. Please encourage your child to review last year's spiral to help refresh his/her memory.

## Computer Science



The first week of school, students in computer science class were directed on how to login to computers, electronically locate the server where documents are saved, and use the Windows XP operating system. Students have been introduced to a typing program called Roller Typing. Roller Typing eases students from basic typing skills to a more advanced level. Typing is a very small segment of the computer science program; however, students will work on typing skills regularly when class assignments are complete. Throughout the eighteen-week course, most classroom assignments will be in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access and Publisher. An important segment of the curriculum will be on Internet usage. Students will be instructed on appropriate applications of the Internet and learn important “search” skills.

## Visual Art

A great big welcome to all 7th Grade Art Students!

Students are working on Inspirational Posters as they apply lettering and design principles to their works of art. Ongoing discussion is taking place regarding the Elements and Principles of Design-which helps to serve as the foundation of our discussions. Ongoing problem-solving techniques and critical thinking skills are applied to all projects as students conceptually work through visual solutions. Following this poster project, I will introduce carving and etching skills and techniques to create soft sculptures and printing blocks.



# Encore Team News

## Industrial Arts

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade are working first quarter on setting Smart Goals for themselves, doing Career Exploration so they may see where their interests might lead them to in a career. We are also learning about the finer points of communication. What is communication, and is talking the only way we communicate? Students will complete activities and role-play different scenarios using speech, written word and the always popular, *body language*! We are working on “Making it Real” by identifying positive ways to communicate about our ideas, our abilities, and ourselves.

## *Physical Education*

The Physical Education department is off to a wonderful start in 2008! We would like to welcome Mr. Henninger and student teacher Mr. Kucharski. To kickoff the year we have started with our presidential fitness testing and track events to get the students ready for the year. We have added fitness records this year so the students can see where they stand among their classmates.

We will be starting health and flag football the second week of September. After flag football the PE department will be welcoming a new activity to class. Frisbee golf will be introduced. This will be an exciting addition for the students. The fitness center will be reintroduced and up and running as well. This year students will monitor their progress with exercise log sheets.

The cross-country team is “off and running” and have been working hard as they open their season at Martino Jr. High. The volleyball is also “set” to go as their team opens their season and Independence. Good luck to both teams.

## Drugs and Guidance

Sixth graders and eighth graders will have the opportunity to attend Robert Crown Center in Hinsdale at the end of the month. They will be presented with a Healthy Lifestyles education program that will empower them to make healthy lifestyle choices.

## FACS Club

Family and Consumer Science Club will meet on Wednesdays this year. We will have our first meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>. See Mrs. Nemec in A 17 for a permission slip and list of dates.

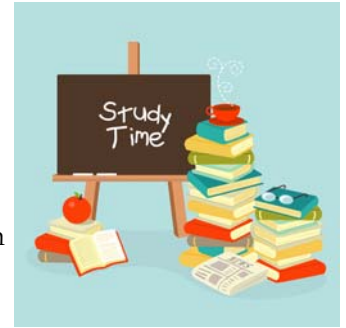
## Courtyard Club

The Courtyard Club will be getting underway in the next 2 weeks! Our first meeting will be Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup>. If you like to work outside with your hands and care about our environment you are welcome to join us! All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend!



## National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

National Junior Honor Society members have already begun helping out in our building. In addition to running the recent bake sale at Open House with Student Council members, they were eager and professional hosts/hostesses who guided parents to different locations in our building. Our Homework Helpers program will run in tandem with Hille's Catch-Up Club, and students will be available to assist others with their homework on a regular basis. In addition, we will soon be selling Super Suckers at lunch in order to raise money for our annual Light Up the Holidays program. This year's group of students is a hard-working one, and Mrs. Carlson is looking forward to a productive year with these helpful, energetic students.



## Gifted News

**GIFTED NEWS: Welcome back to a new year of learning!**

Be sure to check [hillegifted.wikispaces.com](http://hillegifted.wikispaces.com) for links & info on current projects.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade: Iliad book club starts this month:** "Rage, goddess sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles, murderous, doomed, who cost the Achaeans countless losses...." As a spin-off from their Lit/LA classes, a group of students will begin reading the Fagles translation of the classic epic poem, the Iliad. In this translation, we are able to read the words of Homer as they paint beautiful pictures of love, Greek mythology & the tragedy of war.

**7th graders:** At the end of this month we plan to study the anatomy of Rana pipiens, the local leopard frog. We will use dissection as a way to compare systems & organs to human anatomy as well as a connection to the Latin cognates that are discussed in foreign language classes.

**Beowulf Book Club:** In a spin-off from Mr. Kantor's Lit/LA class, we plan to read the Old English classic tale of Beowulf after MAP testing is complete. It will be interesting to compare & contrast the 1400-year-old epic poem to the new Hollywood version that came out last year.

**8th graders** have already begun a video production for the Beowulf text that our group read last year. (Check [hillegifted.wikispaces.com](http://hillegifted.wikispaces.com) for a "3minute Beowulf" video that the students made last year as a rough draft.) Students have also been working on Junkbox Bottle Blasters for the big competition next month.

## Student Council

Since our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade officer elections in the Spring, Hille students have been buzzing with great ideas for our student council this year. All students can be involved with student council by participating in our fundraisers, attending events and simply by being a leader at Hille through positive behavior choices. This year, the officer meetings will be held once per month, during lunches. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade officers will be deciding on monthly activities, and room representatives will be presenting that information in Connections classes each month. Our room reps are especially important in that they are going to be the primary influence for all students to participate in student council events.

One of the first ideas brought to surface, both this year and at the end of last year, is that students want to be more conscientious about the environment. Every student can participate in this initiative as we work to make Hille Middle School more "green". Another fun thing to look forward to this year is our new mascot. **Our "Hille Husky" will be making appearances at sporting events this year in order to help inspire our crowds to cheer on Hille teams with excitement!** He/she will need a name soon, so share your ideas and we will be having a vote during Connections classes to pick a winner. **Our Husky was purchased after a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student suggested it last year by writing a thoughtful letter. Follow his example! Share your ideas and you never know what can happen...!?**

Just as we always have, student council will do our best to make sure **every student** has an activity to be excited about this school year. There are so many opportunities to grow as a leader in middle school. Encourage your child to develop the skills we focus on every day during Connections: responsible decision-making, social awareness, self-awareness, self-management and relationship skills. We look forward to the best school year yet!

## Catch Up Club

Catch-Up Club (CUC) began last year at Hille Middle School. This year, the program resumed on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program was developed to address the needs of students and encourage the development of personal responsibility with regard to schoolwork. Students are encouraged to utilize CUC to complete homework assignments. If students choose to attend, they are responsible for letting a parent know that they have chosen to stay. They may do this before or after school, or during lunch.

Students that are missing several important assignments may be required to attend Catch-Up Club. If this happens, at teacher will issue the student a "ticket" to CUC. They should attend ***on the day they receive the ticket, and continue attending until all assignments are completed.*** Parents will be notified in this case by the student, the teacher that issued the ticket, or an office staff person. If a student is asked to attend CUC and chooses not to attend, they may be issued a lunch detention the following day. During this time, they can complete work while eating lunch.

The mission of Catch-Up Club is to provide a supervised opportunity to complete homework for students. At least two staff members will be available to help with assignments. If a student does not know how to complete an assignment, they should seek help from a teacher in order to get proper instruction, then proceed to CUC to complete the work.

We understand that there are many possible obstacles for students in completing work. Hopefully this program will address some of those obstacles, as well as helping all Hille students to develop the five core concepts of personal growth that we are working towards every day: responsible decision-making, social awareness, self-awareness, self-management and relationship skills.

Thank you for your support of this effort!

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**HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
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**“CHILDREN ALWAYS  
COME FIRST!”**

We're on the web!

[www.d142.org](http://www.d142.org)

Hille Middle School

Have you signed up for Mrs. Orzel's  
Parent E-Mail List?

If not, please e-mail her at  
[corzel@d142.org](mailto:corzel@d142.org)  
and request to be added!



## Welcome our new faculty!

Our first new Hille staff member is **Kim Beirich**, who will be joining our English department and will teach 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Literature and Language Arts. Ms. Beirich is a recent graduate of University of Missouri, Columbia and has a Bachelor of Science in Education with endorsements in English and Social Science. Last winter, Kim completed her student teaching experience at McClure Junior High School in Western Springs in a 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Science classroom.

Our second new staff member joins our Physical Education department. Please welcome **Mark Henninger**.

Mr. Henninger has recently obtained his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and a Minor in Health from Illinois State University. Last spring, Mark completed his student teaching experiences at Minooka High School and at Spencer Pointe Elementary School in New Lenox. Mark has a wealth of experience in various team sports and believes in promoting a healthy lifestyle for all of his students.

Our third new faculty member is **Kristen Mamich**. Mrs. Mamich is a graduate of St. Xavier University with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology and minoring in Secondary

Education. Kristen completed her student teaching experience in a 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science classroom here at Hille last fall; since then, she has worked as a 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Biology teacher at Munster High School in the spring.

Our final new faculty member joins our Social Science department. **Patrick Raleigh** is a graduate of Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor's of Science in Education. Mr. Raleigh will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Science at Hille; he completed his student teaching experience at Clinton-Rosette Middle School in DeKalb in a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Science and Math classroom.