



HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Hille Middle School

Mrs. Courtney Orzel,
Principal

Mr. John Orth,
Assistant Principal

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From the Principal...



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year! As the halls and classrooms fill with students, we continue to strive for excellence as we provide equitable opportunities and challenging curricula for all students.

As you know, we are in the midst of MAP (Measurement of Academic Progress) testing. All students are tested in the areas of reading, language usage, mathematics, and science. Students' instructional levels are measured and teachers and students work collaboratively to set and monitor learning goals throughout the school year.

You will also be receiving your child's ISAT (Illinois State Achievement Test) on September 18th with the midterm report. Please review these results with your child as teachers have already analyzed this data in preparation for their classes this year.

We will continue to provide challenging curriculum this year, and at the same time, we will strive to provide after school activities that interest our students. Please review all of our opportunities on the school website at www.d142.org (click Hille, and go to Extra-Curricular Activities).

On a final note, I encourage you to keep in close communication with our faculty this year, and know that we will do the same. At Hille, we truly believe that education is a partnership among staff, students, and parents. With that said, you are always welcome in our building; we welcome your insights and feedback as to how we can improve our learning community for each and every student.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Courtney Orzel, JHMS Principal

Jack Hille Middle School Motto...

Hille Huskies: Preparing Future Leaders of the Pack!

Q: What's special about our motto?

A: It was chosen by our student body!



Welcome New Hille Staff!

Mrs. Michaelson, French and Foreign Language Survey: Mrs. Michaelson graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Education in Teaching and Learning, with middle school endorsements in French and Social Science. Mrs. Michaelson brings an inclusive philosophy to the foreign language department and has a passion for working with middle school students. Mrs. Michaelson will sponsor French Club for students this year as well!

Ms. Polen, Spanish: Ms. Polen is a graduate of the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Language teaching; she has experience teaching middle school and high school levels of Spanish. Like Mrs. Michaelson, Ms. Polen also brings an inclusive philosophy to foreign language and an enthusiasm for teaching middle school students. She will sponsor a Spanish Club this year!

Mr. Nendza, Band: We also welcome a new band director to District 142. Mr. Nendza joins our Music department and will teach Band for Hille Middle School and 5th grade band at the elementary buildings. With ten years of experience from Deer Path Middle School in Lake Forest, Mr. Nendza brings a wealth of experience in teaching 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band. Mr. Nendza holds a Bachelor's and Master's from VanderCook College of Music.

Mrs. Hernandez, General Music: Also new to our Hille music department is Mrs. Hernandez who will be teaching two sections of General Music during the day at Hille. Mrs. Hernandez also works with the children at Ridge. She will be a great asset to our music department at Hille and will provide our 6th graders with a solid foundation in the area of music.

Mrs. Palandri, 8th grade Pre-Algebra: Next, we welcome two members to our Math Department. Mrs. Palandri earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Minnesota and recently graduated from National-Louis University with a Master of Arts in teaching. Mrs. Palandri has previous experience in teaching Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Advanced Algebra, Language Arts, and Sign Language.

Ms. Yurchak, 6th/7th grade Math: A graduate of Illinois State University, Ms. Yurchak earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with endorsements in middle school mathematics and language arts. Ms. Yurchak will be facilitating a math lab during Catch Up Club on Wednesdays...

Mrs. Wengert, 6th/7th grade English: Mrs. Wengert is a graduate of Governor's State University with a concentration in English, and has prior experience as an 8th grade Lit/LA teacher. Mrs. Wengert also has experience working with English Language Learners at Hille.

Ms. Travers, 6th Grade English: A graduate of Ohio State University, Ms. Travers obtained her Bachelor's in Human Development and Family Science with a focus on middle childhood education in the areas of Language Arts and Math. Additionally, Ms. Travers recently obtained her Master's degree in Elementary Education from Lewis University.

Ms. Kenski, English Language Learners: Ms. Kenski is a Northern Illinois University graduate in Spanish with Language and Literature and is endorsed in both English and Social Science. Ms. Kenski has ESL/ Bilingual Approval and is currently working on her Masters in Curriculum & Instruction.

6th Grade Team News

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

Students are all powered up this month learning some basic concepts involving number sense, algebra, and problem solving. One day each week is dedicated to improving the students' journal writing. Students will work through a variety of word problems in which they will not only find the correct answer but also explain the process and reasoning behind their solution. The math teachers are very impressed with how organized the students have begun this school year. Next up...fractions and decimals.

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

Welcome to a great year of exploration in science on the 6th grade team! We hope that all the students are learning to adjust to middle school life and are enjoying their classes. In science, we are currently learning about being safe in a school laboratory environment. There are special safety rules to consider when the students are in a science lab. Students are learning about how to be safe, preventing accidents, learning about precautions, putting action plans together so that the "what ifs" can be addressed. Students have also been learning about common safety symbols to be recognized in a science lab. Later this month, we will be learning about the difference between making observations and inferences. Students will be learning about the different ways to gather data through qualitative and quantitative observations. Finally, we will be reviewing basic graphing skills with the students.

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

Welcome to the new school year! In Social Science we are reviewing a wide variety of geographical terms. We are learning map skills and the essential components of a map. Students will become familiar with locations of continents and oceans. The topic of ethnic diversity will also be discussed and displayed through an assigned project. Students will revisit their personal history by bringing in an artifact from their past and sharing the sentimental meaning behind it. We will finish September with a look at our early ancestors of the Stone Age.

Language Arts/Literature with Mrs. Ciesiun, Ms. Leahy, Ms. Travers, and Mrs. Wengert:

All of the 6th grade Language Arts/Literature classes started off the year by discussing the required summer reading and by completing various projects to go along with their selected novels. The students did a great job on their projects and are now starting to read their first independent novel for the school year. Students must bring their independent novels to class everyday and should also be reading at home. The reading curriculum for the next few weeks has the students reviewing the elements of fiction while reading various short stories from our literature textbook. By the end of our short story unit the students will be able to define each literary term and identify them in a piece of fiction. On the writing front the students are reviewing the eight parts of speech and brushing up on their writing skills by composing various paragraphs in the different modes of writing. Students will be working with the 6+1 traits of writing as they compose their paragraphs.

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

The 6th 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 7th Grade Team would like to welcome everyone back to the start of another great year!

Social Science with Mr. Raleigh, Mr. Tselepis, Mr. Squibb

Welcome to the start of the 2009/2010 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, and we will continue to stay on top of the news with classroom discussions and activities.

7th Grade Math with Ms. Yurchak, Mrs. Moisan, Ms. Angone, and Mrs. Trojan

Welcome back! Students are off to a great start developing number sense by representing mathematical relationships in numerical, geometric, verbal, and symbolic form. They have freshened their problem-solving approach by applying the four-step plan to solving real world problems. We are looking forward to operations with integers, and writing and solving one and two-step equations. Math MAP testing will take place the week of September 14th. There is a plethora of resources online at www.glencoe.com. Please make sure your student has covered their math textbook.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra with Mrs. Trojan

Welcome to advanced math! To develop algebraic tools students have begun the school year by developing vocabulary note-taking skills, translating verbal phrases into numerical expressions, identifying and using properties of addition and multiplication, and using words, tables, and graphs to represent relations and functions. We look forward to studying and becoming proficient at doing operations involving integers and graphing in four quadrants. Math MAP testing is the week of September 14th. All students are required to cover their math textbook, please make sure your student's is covered. Check out www.glencoe.com for the many student resources our textbook publisher has to offer!

Literature/Language Arts with Mrs. Carney, Mrs. Lewandowski, Mrs. Moisan, Mr. Myrmingos, and Mrs. Wengert.

The 7th grade classes are off to a great start this year. In Literature we will be working on a variety of fiction and non-fiction short stories from the Language of Literature textbook. Starting in the next few weeks, all classes will be reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Also, there will be a yearlong focus on all students engaging in independent reading in and out of the classroom.

In Language Arts our 6-Trait writing focus for this month is Ideas and Content. In our writer's workshop, we will be focusing on persuasive writing. All classes will be M.A.P. testing in both Reading and Language Usage the next few weeks.

Science with Mr. Krol, Mrs. Mamich, Mr. Squibb

Welcome back! We are excited to begin another outstanding school year. 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, KMamich@d142.org, PSquibb@d142.org. Have a great year!

8th Grade Team News

Literature/Language Arts (Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Lewandowski)

Independent Reading: Students will be starting their independent reading requirement this month. Always check in with your child to see if he/she is reading and keeping up with the class activities associated with this book. The focus will be on reading strategies, coding, Bloom Taxonomy questions, and literary elements.

Writing Workshop: Discussing a memorable childhood event that has had a true affect is the topic of the students' first narrative in class.

Dailies: This aspect of class is off and running. Students are learning all about tone, comma placement, implicit and explicit metaphors, and hyphenated modifiers!

Stems: Mega, Poly, Semi, Hemi, and Multi are all prefixes your child knows already from our stem lessons!

Class Novels: The THERE ARE NO CHILDREN here unit is underway, allowing students to get a peek inside the lives of those who inhabited our former Henry Horner Homes in Chicago.

Grammar: Memorizing prepositions and applying prepositions to enhance thier writing are keeping our students busy in grammar!

Article of the Week: Students have begun exploring articles from newspapers and magazines using the reading strategies and Bloom Taxonomy questions. They should be sifting through your periodicals at home for articles of interest to them for class.

Poetry/Genres: Students allowed us as teachers to get to know them better through their "I Am" poems.

Algebra (Mrs. Trojan)

Welcome to 8th grade advanced math. Students are off to a great start with their enthusiastic attitudes! We have just completed a review of prerequisite knowledge and skills needed for their successful study of algebra. We look forward to translating verbal phrases into algebraic expressions, solving equations, representing relations as functions, and using conditional statements and counterexamples. Adding skills to our tool boxes and expanding our conceptual understanding will help all students be better problem-solvers, which is what mathematics is all about! Math MAP testing is the week of September 14th. Check out www.glencoe.com for the many student resources our textbook publisher has to offer.

Pre-algebra (Mrs. Palandri)

Welcome back 8th graders! In Pre-Algebra, we kicked off the year with a review of expressions and the order of operations. In the following weeks to come we will continue to learn different mathematical properties as well as the proper ways of graphing.

Science (Mrs. Ryan, Mr. Krol)

The 8th grade science classes have started off the year by learning how to use the tools of scientific measurement. We are also learning the language common to scientists all over the world: the Metric System. As we progress, we will begin to study the elements of experimentation.

Social Science (Mr. Tsoukalas, Mr. Tselepis)

The Social Science Department will be starting the year with the Civil War. While covering this content area the students will be going over the different reasons the Civil War took place, the many significant battles that happened, and how our nation bounced back during Reconstruction.

Encore Team News

Physical Education

The PE teachers are excited to start off the 2009-2010 school year. We have added some new equipment this year and can't wait to put it to use. We added a bowling unit that will be played in the spring. The fitness room was changed around a little bit to accommodate the Wii systems. We will be finding great ways to put these systems to use. The students will enjoy this.

The Volleyball and Cross country seasons are about to get underway. The Cross Country season opens on September 3rd. The Volleyball season will open on September 8th. Both teams are looking to bring home championships. Good luck! We are looking to have our best year yet! Have fun and stay fit!

Computer Science <http://hillecomputer.wikispaces.com/>

6th Grade - Students have been introduced to the typing program called Roller Typing. Our first project, in Microsoft Word, is a descriptive story. Students will write a story describing their physical appearance, as well as character traits.

7th Grade - Seventh grade students have been working on typing skills. Students who have been in Computer Science in 6th grade are beginning the typing program at their comfort level. Some students have opted to start at level one. Students will try to complete 7 levels the first quarter. Students are also working on a creative writing assignment on a vacation (or day in the life of). Vacations may be real or a "dream vacation". Students will work on good writing skills, as well as computer competency.

8th Grade - Eighth graders are working on typing skills. Students who are able to type at Level 20 of our typing program using the keyboard cover will type from daily writing prompts. Our first class project, creating a fictitious person (or creature), will require students to create and write about a make-believe character. Good and bad character traits will be discussed and analyzed.

Visual Art

Welcome everyone to visual art! We started off the year looking at famous works of art through different lenses. Through discussions, activities, and group work we are expanding our skills in visual observation. All art classes are working with the element of line in different capacities. Sixth Grade Art is practicing the techniques of hatching, cross-hatching and stippling and will complete a scratch art bookmark. We will start color theory using beading and patterning next week.

Seventh Grade will be completing scratch art name designs using various 5" x 7" scratch paper in colors such as neon, sparkle, white & black multi-color, silver & gold. After completing a mask-making project, they will start black and white pattern designs using 2 and 3 dimensional space. Eighth Grade will be introduced to inking with color as they create a piece of art demonstrating the technique of Pointillism. We will create group line sculptures and move into shading for dimension.

As a reminder, all students need Sharpie Markers and a sketchbook. 6th & 7th Grade (Black Fine Point & Ultra-Fine Point) 8th Grade (Colored Sharpies)

Applied Technology

We are excited to be starting the school year with a new Applied Technology Lab. The Applied Tech class will utilize Synergistic Modules which are student directed, giving students control of their own learning experiences. All students will work with a partner to complete each Module. The experiences they share in common will promote positive communication, teamwork, inquiry, learning and social skills. A sample of some of the Modules in the lab include Audio Broadcasting, Careers, Computer Graphics & Animation, Early Childhood, Electronics, Food Science, Forensic Science, Home Makeover, Interior Design, Robots, Rocketry & Space, Sports Statistics and many more. Students are currently completing the Orientation Module, learning how to navigate through 7 sessions and preparing them for their first Module rotation. They are anxiously awaiting their first Module assignment and are ready to get their hands involved in the learning experience.

Choir

It has been an amazing start to the school year as I was able to greet nearly 300 members in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs. I am excited to continue working where we left off with the 7th, and 8th graders, and eager to get started with the new 6th grade choir members. The Hille Middle School "Highlights" show choir has been assembled from a long audition process and rehearsals have begun before school everyday at 7:15am.

Many new and thrilling things are happening this year in the choir classroom so I have created a website <https://hillechoir.wikispaces.com> to help parents and students keep track of news and events specific to the choir classes. Please visit and check out some new pages that include what music we are working on, events and performances, and even a couple music downloads for your iPod.

Encore Team News

Spanish

Spanish 7 - The seventh grade Spanish students have been forming a foundation in Spanish by practicing greetings and common phrases in Spanish. They are learning how to ask and answer questions about themselves in Spanish.

Spanish 8 – The eighth grade Spanish students have been reviewing what they already know by communicating orally in partners and small groups in order to reinforce their previous knowledge. Students are also going over yearly calendar vocabulary and talking about the weather.

French/Foreign Language Survey-News from Madame Michaelson

FLS – The sixth graders have begun the quarter studying French! Already by now I am sure you have heard your son or daughter practicing the French alphabet at home and they may have also started to greet you in French! We will stick with the study of French for the next several weeks before we turn to the study of Spanish. This is a really great course offering for the sixth grade since the students will have a thorough introduction to both languages so that by the end of the year they will know which language they would like to continue studying.

French 7 - The seventh graders are off to a great start in French class! Just in the first week of school, the students are already speaking and singing in French and are showing great enthusiasm for Francophone language and culture. I am looking forward to a positive and productive year with them!

French 8 – The eighth graders have returned to French ready to get back into the swing of things. To begin, we are reviewing last year's content before we can jump into new parts of the language. I am confident that with hard work, the eighth grade class will be speaking French again in no time. As you may already know, your son or daughter will have the opportunity to take a French test at the high school level for high school credit. Let's work together to make sure that your child is focusing in class and studying at home so that they will be ready when it is time to take the test!

Public Speaking

Our Public Speaking class is in the process of creating a skit demonstrating Interpretive Communication. A scene from a favorite film, book, nursery rhyme, or an original writing will be brought to life and presented by the students. Our focus in this presentation is body language, tone of voice, projection, eye contact, and acting out the skit without any written notes. The use of props, whether hand made or brought from home, is encouraged. This is our first presentation and enthusiasm is running very high as we select and give our own original twist to our performances.

Band News!!!!

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the Summer Band. Each student made great progress and Mr. Nendza really enjoyed working with you.

All of the students in band are off to a great start and Mr. Nendza is very impressed with the students work in class. We're currently working on how to make a great sound on our instrument and the importance of working as a team.

Students, please remember to fill out your weekly practice records. When you're at home practicing, focus on making a great sound, correct notes and steady rhythm. Extra copies of practice records can be found in the band room or on the band web site. They are due on Monday each week. If you can't find time at home to practice or need some extra help the band room is open every day by 7:15AM and open after school every day until 3:50PM.

Jazz Band sign-up is under way!!! Jazz Band meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:15-7:50AM. Our first practice is on 9/10. Students who play sax, trumpet, trombone, percussion, bass, guitar, and piano are welcome to be part of this group. Interested students should sign up in the band room.

We have a new before school group starting up for band students, Woodwind Ensemble. This group meets on Friday mornings from 7:15-7:50AM. Interested students should sign up in the band room. Our first practice is on 9/11.

Visit the Hille band web site for more information about band <http://hilleband.wikispaces.com/>



National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

Welcome to the 2009\2010 year of our National Junior Honor Society. We have an exciting year planned both academically and out in our community. This past May we welcomed over 40 new members into our NJHS chapter and all are eager to begin the new year. We will work hard in the classroom as well as in the community with such service projects as Light Up the Holidays, Penny Wars, and a variety of others to help out in anyway we can. I look forward to working with such a great group of students.

Mr. Raleigh

Social and Emotional Learning at Hille

As a school district, we develop our curriculum based upon the Illinois state learning goals for the core subjects of school. Recently, the state of Illinois has created specific goals about the development of social and emotional learning as well. These standards, referred to as Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), are being regarded as equally important in the development of students as the core concepts of math, literature, language, science and social science.

At Hille Middle School, we have begun the process of striving to achieve these goals for every student. In doing so, we have been awarded a grant to help us in furthering the initiative. This grant will be used to improve our "Connections" character advisory program, provide learning opportunities for students in the form of speakers and performers that focus on character development in the middle school years, and educate parents and families about Social Emotional Learning goals.

Several staff members have attended trainings to learn about the SEL standards and how to best apply them here at school. As a result of this training, a team comprised of several teachers, a social worker, counselor, administrators, and several parents of Hille students was formed to continue the planning and implementation of these goals. These team members will work to exemplify SEL in their educational roles, as well as promoting and helping all school employees to learn and practice SEL skills. In the collective view of those involved, *Social Emotional Learning is not a program or task, but rather a way of educating students that enables them to reach their greatest potential.*

As we investigate these learning goals, we have realized that all Forest Ridge Schools are already practicing the SEL goals in many ways. We will continue to work towards the focus of building character skills in every student and looking for any opportunity to recognize students as they develop these skills. Our ultimate goal is to create an atmosphere where all students feel safe and encouraged to develop into their best selves not only academically, but within the social and emotional realms as well.

The Illinois state Social and Emotional Learning goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success.

Goal 2: Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.

Goal 3: Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.

Catch Up Club– What is it?

Catch-Up Club (CUC) began two years ago at Hille Middle School. This year, the program resumed on Tuesday, September 8th. 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, a 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!

**HILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
MRS. COURTNEY
ORZEL,
PRINCIPAL**

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**“CHILDREN ALWAYS
COME FIRST!”**

We're on the web!

www.d142.org



Hille Middle School

**The mission of Jack Hille Middle School
is to provide every student an
opportunity to master grade level skills
and achieve to his or her
highest potential.**

**It is our purpose to empower students to
become lifelong learners, while fostering
positive growth in social and emotional
behaviors and attitudes.**

**The entire staff pledges itself to these
student outcomes.**



Success Club and Rainbows

SUCCESS CLUB

Hille Middle School, in partnership with Aunt Martha's Youth Services, is offering an opportunity to participate in Success Club.

Success Club is a group that meets weekly during lunch-time and assists students in developing the social and emotional skills that are necessary to be a successful student. Students will have opportunities to increase their social and problem solving skills as well as participate in supervised recreational activities.

Please contact Deb Berry, social worker, if you would like your child to participate or would like further information.

RAINBOWS

If your child is part of a single-parent or a step or blended family, or has experienced the death of a parent, Rainbows is an opportunity for your child to share their feelings and concerns with a trained volunteer in the school setting. Your child will have an opportunity to put their feelings into words and begin to accept what has happened to their family.

The program is a structured twelve-week program that will meet during the school day beginning the week of November 17th.

Please contact Deb Berry, social worker, if you would like your child to participate or need further information.
