

GRADE 8 ELA UPDATE

"Today a reader; tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

May/June 2017

MAY AND JUNE CLASSROOM FOCUS

Eighth graders have been putting forth a great deal of effort on completing their MCAS in ELA, math, and science this month. Both fourth and eighth grade students are the first in Westfield to take this exam on-line, and feedback has been positive for the writing portion of the ELA assessment.

Our eighth grade students have also been preparing for the high school transition, choosing schools and selecting classes for their

freshmen year. Teachers and administrators from both high schools were involved in the process and provided helpful information to all of our students when making their choices.

Along with these important decisions, students continue to research their topics for their final informational writing. They will also hone their speaking and listening skills through presentations. All year long, we have been

learning and practicing techniques to partake in academic discussion using our accountable talk charts, so it is the next logical step to present more formally to an audience.

Why we speak?????



- ✓ To inform
- ✓ To communicate
- ✓ To educate
- ✓ To entertain

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Transitions can be an exciting, but sometimes difficult time in life. As an eighth grader preparing for high school, there are some things that your student can do to keep sharp and better prepared for the change.

1. Read. Yes, we hear it all the time, but years of research demonstrate time and time

again that reading for pleasure has a direct correlation to success in academic achievement. By exercising the mind over the summer months, it will be kept sharp.

2. Stay informed. Students will be taking U.S. History as freshmen, so understanding our political, social, and economic landscape

will provide an advantage to the learning. Staying informed about current events will also be crucial in making future college and career decisions as well.

As students head off to high school, they will need parental support more than ever. Thanks for being there!

Reading Recommendations

<i>Fablehaven</i> by Brandon Mull	Gr 6
<i>The Breadwinner</i> by Deborah Ellis	Gr 7
<i>The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens</i> by Sean Covey	Gr 8

*May/June: MA ELA State Standards

- W.8.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- W.8.7. Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- SL.8.2. Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.
- *Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the months of May and June as well.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

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