

Summit Academy-Middletown Secondary School Newsletter

November 2011
Volume 2, Issue 3



Beth Varley, Secondary Director
Rachel Reynolds, Performance Coach
Lauren Allen, IEP Differentiated Specialist
Tiffany Newman, Behavior Specialist
Scott Melaragno, IEP Coordinator
Amy Coors, Administrative Assistant

Director's News

Dear Parents/Guardians -

I received a letter from the Ohio Department of Education this week congratulating our school "for the exemplary performance of Summit Academy Secondary School - Middletown during the 2010-2011 school year". We were recognized for improving our Local Report Card by "10 points or more" over the last two years. I'm very proud of all the efforts by the staff and students for making this happen. Well done!

I want to remind parents that the door to the school does not open until 7:30am. Students arriving before that time are required to wait outside. Please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather - it's been rather chilly in the morning lately.

Mr. Carnes will be organizing our annual food drive this year. We will be working with the food pantry at the Vineyard Church in Franklin. More information will be coming home soon.

Conferences will be held on November 21st all day. Please notify the office if you want to talk with the staff about your child's progress.

Have an enjoyable Thanksgiving break if I don't see you before then!

Mrs. Varley
beth.varley@summitacademies.org

Upcoming Events ...

- Nov 15th - PTST Meeting 3:00pm
- Nov 19th - 27th - No School for students
- Nov 21st - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Dec 17th - Jan 2 - Christmas Break
- Food Drive dates - TBA

Contents

Director's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Language Arts News	2
Math News	2
History News	2
Science News	2
Extracurricular News	3
Summer Reading List	3

Please visit our
newly revised
webpage:

http://www.summitacademies.com/school_websites/summit_academy_secondary_school_middletown/index.php



Busy bees!

Our school year is getting better by the day!!!

Language Arts News

Our school year is getting better by the day! The first quarter has been a great success due to the students' hard work, positive attitudes, and personal accountability. Students have adjusted well to the change in their schedules from summer to autumn, play time to school time.

The Language Arts Department wants to remind students and parents to check their planners every evening to make sure that they are staying on the path towards success.

As we begin a new quarter it is especially important that students are reading silently every

evening after school. Students are responsible for calculating the number of pages they need to read each night in order to be successful with the quarterly Book Talk PowerPoint Presentation. If students would like to read ahead that is always encouraged. Students may present their PowerPoint any time during the quarter. If they complete their PowerPoint early they will be rewarded with administrative/leadership duties, free time to read anything (within reason) they wish, or something of equal or greater value.

As always, please feel free to email, call, or stop by the classroom if you have any questions, comments, or concerns! ☺

Math News

The Math classes have been working hard on Linear Equations which is somewhat frustrating for the students. The Math classes are divided into calculator time for higher Math calculations and non-calculator time which helps the students improve basic Math skills.

Mrs Frayer worked hard on the Halloween Party which was a great success.

Science News

Hello again. Our first quarter is over already, can you believe it?

I have been very pleased with the work our students have done in the introduction to Science. Now we start the specific curriculum designed for each area of study. The ninth grade will start their study of Cellular Biology, tenth graders will begin their Introduction to Chemistry, eleventh graders will be studying Physics, and our seniors will examine Earth Science.

The first round of NWEA testing was completed as well as the fall Ohio Graduation Test retakes. Both of these tests have Science Methodology and Technology questions and are very heavy on charts, tables and graphs; we really focused on these areas the first nine weeks.

Social Studies News

Wow, time flies! It's already time for the end of the grading period and report cards! Not to mention Christmas is right around the corner!!

I was very impressed with the students this first quarter. They have shown huge gains in being able to think critically, and not only know the answer, but are beginning to support their answers with facts. As a teacher I am seeing gains in myself in that I am beginning to learn what works best for each one of our grow academically. **American History** - We are tying up the exciting time of The Industrial Revolution and moving into The Turn of the Century and The Gilded Age. **World History** - The students did a great job understanding The Age of Exploration and are now moving into the New Asian Empires (a challenging chapter.) **Government** - We took our time understanding the foundation of government in chapter 1 and now are moving into American Revolution. That's all for now, I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Living things, atoms and molecules, Laws of Motion, Plate Tectonics and more are in store for us as we dig into our specific classes.

As always, Mrs. Wilson is an invaluable assistant in all that I try to accomplish. Please feel free to contact us here at school if you have any questions. We hope to see you at conferences if you can possibly make it in on Monday November 21.

Art and Music News

ART:

11th grade- In Drawing and Painting class we are learning about the art form called graphic design. Students are studying how graphic designers create works of art which are dynamic and grab your attention. We will be creating imaginative advertisements which incorporate the elements of art and principles of design in a creative way.

12th grade- In Advanced Art class we are practicing the art form called painting. Students are exploring color theory, painting techniques and perspective and applying this knowledge into their landscape paintings.

MUSIC:

The ninth and tenth grade students are still working on their basic guitar skills. They have learned to play the twelve bar blues. They are starting to learn about improvisation. Students are starting to work on a piece they have picked out themselves.



Business time!

Senior Spotlight

Wade Clark first came to Summit Academy in the 4th grade and has attended Summit Academy consistently since middle school. He and his older sister, Grace, live in Springboro with his Aunt Sharon and Uncle Jim. His mom is an over-the-road truck driver and Wade has seen many states riding along with her. Vacationing with his aunt and uncle, he has also travelled to the Bahamas and Mexico.

Wade has earned the privilege of driving himself to school. He lists his hobbies as hanging out with friends, playing video games and shooting airsoft rifles. He says his girlfriend, Kaitlin, who he has dated for a couple years, is also his best friend.

Math is Wade's favorite school subject. When asked why, he replied, "Because it's the easiest." He admits that Language Arts is his most challenging subject and has put off looking for work to focus on school this year. Upon graduation, Wade will continue to live at home in order to attend Miami-Jacobs College for an 18-week course in Massage Therapy. Then he plans to work and save before moving out on his own.

Headin' down Progress Road...