



Message from the Principal

Welcome to the November installment of our monthly Sundown Mountain Monthly Newsletter! I have finished my first two weeks at Sundown and am happy to be back!

It is our goal to provide our students with rich academic opportunities, to find success and eventually earn their diploma in a supportive, safe and nurturing learning environment. We strive to prepare our graduates to be career, college and life ready once leaving the Dysart Unified School District. Sundown Mountain continues to implement the PBIS program (Positive Behaviors Interventions and Support) as a vehicle to promote positive student academic and behavioral outcomes. In addition, we emphasize the 3 R's as part of the PBIS program. The 3 R's are Respect, Responsibilities and Readiness. They are the guiding principles that each student and staff member adheres to each and every day.

Sundown Mountain has reestablished partnerships with our four high schools and will work closely with each home school to ensure academic success for each of our students.

Our current focuses are on maximizing instructional time. We have asked our students to be here, every day, on time; to focus on their coursework during their assigned class time and to take care of their personal business during passing periods to ensure they are in class, learning!

Again, we look forward to continuing a very positive and successful year here at Sundown Mountain. If I can be of assistance, please reach out!

Sincerely, Bobbie Lockhart, Principal



PBIS School

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

READINESS

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MONTHLY CALENDAR

November 2020

Wednesday Nov 11

NO SCHOOL-Veteran's Day

Wed.-Fri Nov 25-27

NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break

Mondays, Oct. 7 & 21

Mandatory Mondays

Monday, Oct. 28

Orange Monday



Mrs. Kiecana

The month of October has been super busy for all students in Algebra 3/4 and Geometry 1/2 classes. They have finished the first Quarter by successfully completing their Final Exams. We have entered into the second quarter, while it was also nice to enjoy the Fall Break.

Students in Algebra 4 are currently learning about the Systems of Equations and Inequalities. Next, we will be moving on into Exponential and Logarithmic Functions. Geometry 2 students are exploring the Coordinate Geometry topics and will move into work related to Right Triangles and Trigonometry. Most of the assignments are completed in Schoology while we supplement with additional technology through Desmos.com

Overall, I am seeing a great deal of progress and I love it! I am also available for additional tutoring by prior arrangements during the morning or afternoon hours. Students need to simply ask me if they want to meet with me before or after school.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ewa.kiecana@dysart.org

Ms. Miller

Things feel like we are gaining some sort of normalcy as we, students and teachers, are all back in the classroom. I can only speak for me when I say that I am so glad we are all back, but I also have had many students tell me they are glad to be back as well.

In Algebra 2, we are working on Statistics. Terms like mean, median, mode, standard deviation, interquartile range have been a part of our class vocabulary and students have been learning how to find all of this information using a graphing calculator as well. After statistics, we will be looking at polynomials, a very important concept with Algebra.

In Financial Math 2, we are in our unit on housing. We have looked at what it takes to estimate a fair price for an apartment, how to take measurements for things such as laying new carpet and building gazebos in the backyard as well as determining the size of the air conditioner we would need for our home. We are calculating closing costs on home loans and determining monthly payments, as we are looking at fixed and adjustable rate loans. Finally we will look at condos and co-ops and how they work differently than single-family home ownership. Once we are done with this, we will jump into our favorite thing, TAXES.

Parents/Guardians!- you too can [access our Schoology course](#) using these access codes:

- 1st Period Algebra 2: DXMV-P383-RQD2H
- 2nd Period Financial Math 2: 38Q8-FD4C-GXPPD
- 3rd Period Financial Math 2: SGDM-JV6C-28MJ6
- 4th Period Financial Math 2: 73M7-6S27-9632D

Again, I am very glad to be back in the classroom and I am making sure that it remains a safe area for the students. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at cathi.miller@dysart.org.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. England

I hope everyone had a restful Fall Break!

We are really getting into the swing of things in our Social Studies classes!

American Government students are examining the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. We are also, of course, closely following election 2020. World History students are examining the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment. Up next- the French Revolution!

A few things to note: ALL work is submitted via Schoology. Nearly all work is accepted LATE and for FULL CREDIT. Most assignments have more than one attempt- so if you do poorly on an assignment- make sure that you REVIEW & REDO the work for a higher grade!

I have created notebooks for the students to take notes in, complete practice tests, look at printouts of timelines and vocabulary words, etc. There will be some points for these- but overall they are to help students focus on the important information for the Modules for the course. I will NOT give out additional copies- but the notebook can be found in **SCHOOLGY** of course.

Parents/Guardians!- you too can [access our Schoology course](#) using these access codes:

- 2nd Period American Government: 8WDP-MWMK-4WQ2G
- 3rd Period American Government: 84RP-KQDV-89B6D
- 4th Period World History 2: MD7C-RCG8-22ZV3

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Wilfong's Classroom News

It is wonderful to be back to in-person school. What an interesting time in the world we live in. As a history teacher it is so thought provoking to live through 2020. So much is happening politically, socially and economically. In my classes we address current events as well as the past century. Economics is intended to help students understand the basic concepts of our market economy and personal finance.

October 5 began the second quarter and new students in United States history 2. We began with the last days of the Great Depression and the world gearing up for World War 2. Our country attempted to stay neutral as we watched Hitler take over Europe. Our Allies in the UK needed our help but Congress would not allocate funds so the Lend Lease Act came into place. We were finally drawn into the action after Japan attacked the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Economics class started with the basic principles of econ, the study of how people interact with things they value. We focused on the principles of supply and demand. We practiced a cost/benefits analysis T chart on decision making. Our agenda includes learning the history of money and currency. Module One will end with students recognizing ways in which economics impacts their lives.

ENGLISH

Mrs. Santacasa's English Classes

Kids are adjusting well to being in person. Masks have not been an issue and they are learning much better with an instructor face to face. My English 8 students are working on poetry this quarter analyzing structure, tone, and word choice. My English 4 students are working on a unit about fear, which seems appropriate. We have discussed if fear is just worrying about the past and future, or if it is reality and only felt in the moment. Good discussions!

Overall, I am pleased with the students and their efforts and they have transitioned well. Proud of them all.

Mrs. Kuettel

Congratulations to the students for their strong finish of the 1st quarter. The virtual learning/in person instruction hybrid presented a unique challenge. I am proud of the students' diligence, with the majority of students gaining momentum and increasing test scores in the final stretch. We are beginning the second quarter in English 6 with a poetry unit. In English 2, our focus is on the process of comparison and contrast within our survey of liter-

Mrs. Saeed

English 8-We are off to such a great start this quarter! The transition to in person classes has been quite a success! Students have enthusiastically dove into our units of Poetry where we have been analyzing tone, mood and imagery. As we examine the use of figurative language and its effectiveness in both speech, texts and poetry, students have explored its impact and have a greater appreciation of some of their favorite poets! This week we will be identifying archetypes and discussing their representations in literature, poetry and drama!

Electives courses- Remember to continue to work towards the weekly goals established! O period is a great opportunity to earn additional elective credits if needed. Be sure to monitor your progress and keep your eye on the prize!

Mrs. Gorosics

Our second quarter has begun at Sunday. Students will be completing semester 2 for each Science class. Anatomy students will begin with the Cardiovascular System and work inward to the Reproductive System. Labs will be completed for each class with modifications to accommodate Social Distancing.

Zoology students will also be completing labs with modifications. We will begin with a Roundworm and work our way to the Dogfish shark for the final.

All curriculum and assignments can be found in Schoology. If you would like to see what your student is working on each day, there is a calendar in the upper right corner that will have the daily assignment listed.

SCIENCE

ELECTIVES

Mrs. Skok

Welcome Fall and 2nd quarter! I am excited to be here and working with students at Sundown Mountain this year. This is my 20th year in public education, where I have primarily worked as a middle school reading & math intervention specialist. I have been in the district since 2012, and have experience working with most grade levels. My specialty is math in the 5th - 9th grades. I have worked with high school students in various summer programs, including educational travel across America & Europe. I will be teaching middle school Math/STEM and numerous Elective Courses here at SDM.

Starting Oct 21st, I am offering weekly core academic assistance and work time in my classroom, from 8:30 am - 9:15 am (during zero hour). The session will be every Wednesday morning, and students must have their own transportation to school each Wednesday. If I need to cancel a Wed morning, I will send out a Remind message and try to reschedule another day that week. If you would like to be alerted/updated about this extra work time, please join my Remind thread by texting "**workingwed**" to 81010.

Skok's Expectations for Elective Coursework:

- *Students are expected to copy the lab/text questions into their Google doc (or they may restate the question in their answers).
- *Students should SKIP a line after the question before they start answering, and all answers should be in complete sentences.
- *Answers should be in the students' own words, using citations when necessary
- *ALL work should be done in Google (Docs/Slides/Sheets) and submitted via Schoology.
- *Students are expected to complete one unit per week at a minimum
- *Students who submit work more than a week late are to complete the "**I Finished It**" slip and turn in for grading.

Most of the coursework for Electives is accepted LATE and for FULL CREDIT. Most assignments & quizzes have more than one attempt; so, if you do poorly on an assignment, make sure that you REVIEW & REDO the work or test for an improved grade!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast, or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them.

Brené Brown

Welcome to Quarter 2, I hope all of the new students are transiting well to Sundown Mountain. As we know the quarters here at Sundown moves quickly and for some it may be challenging to keep up. However, the good news is we have a great group of teachers who's here to help. Just remember to do your part and the teacher will meet you somewhere in the middle. Our goal is to support and promote student success.

Students' reminder:

Seniors please remember to look at your home school's web page. It is very important to keep up with senior meeting while preparing for graduation. As the Counselor of Sundown I will do my best to keep you up to date with dates and deadlines as I receive the information from each homeschool. If at any time you have questions please feel free to come to my office (with teacher permission).

Do you want to graduate on time? Stop by Ms. Jones office to discuss your graduation plan. Many of you need to add elective classes to your schedule to meet your graduation requirements by May 2021. If this is you come to see Ms. Jones to discuss your options.

Reminder: Seniors if you need money for college stop by Ms. Jones's office to get FASFA and scholarship information.

Seniors: Now is the time to start working on College Applications, FASFA, and looking for Scholarships!

Mrs. Jones
Mrs. Jones

