

October

# Friendly Hills Middle School

Hello Friendly Hills Families-

Our school year at Friendly Hills is off to an excellent start. We had an excellent first week of school that ended with a hot dog lunch for our new 5th Grade students and WEB leaders. Our WEB leaders did an excellent job at all of our welcome back events, and really made a difference in our new students getting off to a great beginning at their new school!



Some upcoming events to be aware of as they approach are parent/teacher conferences on Thursday October 12, Monday, October 16, and Tuesday, October 17. Conferences will run from 3:30-7:30 pm each night. Our 5th and 6th Grade conferences will consist of a 15-minute conference with the student's homeroom teacher, and our 7th and 8th Grade conferences will be arena (drop-in). If you are in need of speaking with your student's teachers in all subject areas or in a specific subject area, please let the teachers know and they will work with you to set a time that works for you. Our school book fair (October 11-17) will also be available during conferences. Please check it out as they have all of the current titles and materials that our students are interested in, and it is an excellent way to promote reading for our students and get them interested in a good book! The Big Friendly Fundraiser (BFF) will take place on Saturday, November 4, at Mauer Chevrolet. There will be many auction items available to bid on, and it is all on-line which makes it fast, easy and convenient for you to seek your treasure, and support our school!

Our main building goal this year is to improve our reading scores. As a staff, we will be working with students to provide them opportunities to increase vocabulary skills, raise lexile scores, and learn how to mark text in order to pull out key information that is relevant to their assignments. We have also purchased a program that is downloaded on each ipad called vocabulary.com. Students will be able to work on increasing their vocabulary knowledge via the program and it will expose them to words that will help them decode and understand text they read. You can help at home by making sure your student has time set aside to read. One of my favorite ways to engage students in reading and comprehension is to have them read newspaper articles, and then discuss what they read. These are quick, easy and can provide some interesting discussion that will expose students to new vocabulary, as well as develop an understanding for the context they have just read.

I hope to see you at one of our many upcoming events! This is a wonderful school and I love working with your students each day!

Chris

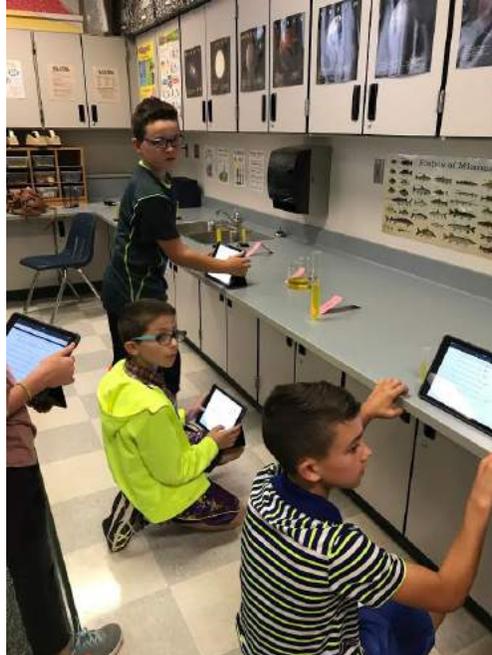
# 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE



Social Studies - Students are mastering writing checks, completing deposit tickets, and maintaining a check register in preparation for our visit to BizTown. Students in the Upper Blue House are going on Tuesday, October 17 and students in the Upper Green House on Monday, October 16.

Writing - Students are in The Writing Process Unit where they will learn about the writing process by working with pieces of writing from their first drafts through publication. Meanwhile, they will learn about a professional author's writing process and continue to confer about their writing in a caring and responsible way.

Science - We have started our year off with group work and cooperative learning fundamentals that will pay dividends throughout the year in our lab groups. We have also introduced the scientific method, started experimenting, and completed our first lab reports. We will continue working with the scientific method in our upcoming FOSS Variables unit. We are introducing the variables unit and will begin our first investigation experimenting with pendulums this week.

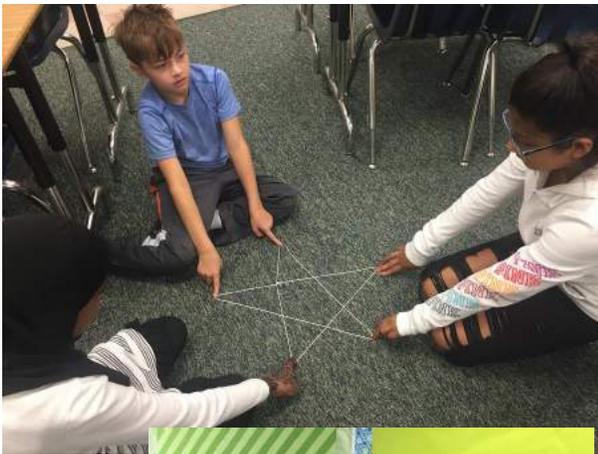


# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Math

The 6th Graders have been working on developing flexible problem solving strategies and collaborative skills by engaging in problem solving activities. They worked to build 2D and 3D shapes with a length of string, developed number models to equal various totals using only four 4s, and explored numbers and patterns using toothpicks. Additionally they have spent time exploring what it means to have a growth mindset in math. Throughout the year we will continue to develop our growth mindset and strategies to help when we get "stuck" in math (ask your 6th Grader about the escalator video).

Our first math module in our new Go Math curriculum focused on Integers. Students learned what an integer is, how to find its opposite and strategies to order and compare integers. Next we will move onto finding and using greatest common factor (GCF) and least common multiple (LCM).



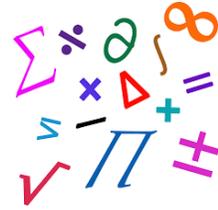
## 6th Grade cont.



The students started off the year with their Independent Reading Unit "Read Like a Warrior" and studying genre. "Read Like a Warrior" is each quarter and students self-select their books, respond to questions or posts in an app called Seesaw, and will participate in Book Talks at the end of each quarter. Students can also recommend books to their classmates by filling out a form and adding it to the Book Recommendation board. All 6th Grade Reading classes participated in a "Book Tasting" (see pictures) where they were able to explore books of different genres. The classroom was transferred into a restaurant, their menus were used for recording the books they previewed, and they were able to create "to be read" lists. Additionally, we've started our Short Story unit by reviewing how plot evolves throughout a story and other literary elements like theme, point of view, and conflict.

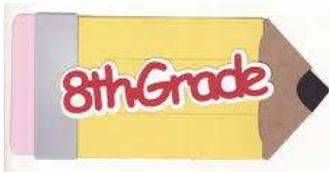


# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



## Math

Seventh Grade math students are working on integers and will soon move on to rational numbers. Students have started to use their IXL app to improve their skills as well. Our new curriculum, Go Math, has interactive videos and online practice, which gives students immediate feedback about their progress. The Algebra students, using Big Ideas, also have this feature available. In this class we are finishing equations and will begin Inequalities soon. All students will be taking their Fall MAP Math test next week. Math help is available every morning in Mrs. Alger's classroom during homeroom. (Students have been using this regularly to receive help with homework or to review concepts that have been challenging for them).



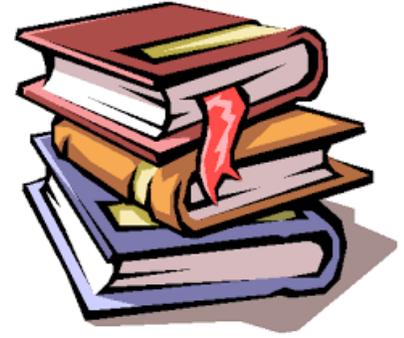
## Linear Algebra

Eighth Graders have worked diligently to complete module one in our new Go Math curriculum. They have reviewed real numbers and learned how to order rational and irrational numbers. By the time you read this newsletter, students will have taken their first module assessment and will have begun a new module on scientific notation.

Go Math Online and HMH Player  
Login: school email address  
Password: isd197

## **Battle of the Books**

Call for volunteers! Battle of the Books has room for more parents on our committee. We need more parents willing to plan supplementary events for Battle of the Books and to attend committee meetings a few times during the year to help with other Battle needs. Email [melissa.maas@isd197.org](mailto:melissa.maas@isd197.org) if you are interested. Keep an eye on announcements and newsletters for info about this year's Battle of the Books and how students can participate.



## **Music Department**



Fifth Grade instrumentalists are excited to be learning a brand new instrument! They've been set up with their instruments and have been learning how to hold and make a sound on them. Instrumentalists in 6th-8th Grade are reviewing content from last year and will be starting to work on concert music. Vocalists in 5th and 6th grade are learning new warm-ups and have started practicing their concert music. Vocalists in 7th and 8th Grade are working on concert music, learning new rhythms through beat boxing, and listening to other styles of music. The music department is excited to announce that all music students will be wearing Friendly Hills music polos for all their concerts this year! Information and order forms will be coming out soon!

# LifeSkills

Please join me at this important informational event about what you might see in your student's room and what it could mean about what's happening in their lives. I look forward to seeing you there.



## What is The Top Secret Project?

The Top Secret Project is a unique traveling exhibit designed to help parents recognize unfamiliar hazards that are often in plain sight. Using a simulated teenager's bedroom, the interactive exhibit includes hundreds of items that when seen through an educated lens, could be a signal that there's a problem.

The exhibit is interactive and accompanied by a presentation and a discussion with Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation staff.



*Please join this free event to learn more about potential hidden hazards in a teen's domain.*

**FOR ADULTS ONLY**



Where: **Henry Sibley High School - Warrior Hall**  
**(3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

**1897 Delaware Ave**

**Mendota Heights, Minnesota 55118**

When: **Wednesday, October 11, 2017**

Time: **6:30 pm**

Register: **[ann.lindberg@isd197.org](mailto:ann.lindberg@isd197.org)**

For more information contact: **[ann.lindberg@isd197.org](mailto:ann.lindberg@isd197.org)**

## **From the Counseling Office**



Greeting from the Counseling Office!

We are here for you and your students as we start an exciting new school year! Jessica Grochowski (Ms. G) will be here every week Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will work with students last name A-G. Lora Messer-Nilles will be here Monday -Friday and will serve students with last name H-Z. The month of September we will be helping students transition to the new school year and starting our college and career readiness activities with 7th and 8th Graders using our new Naviance program. If you are new to FHMS, rest assured we have already met your student during our new student groups that have met twice this month.

The counseling program offers lunch groups for students on a variety of topics such as Friendship, Academic Support, Family Change, etc. If you do NOT want your child to participate in a group, please contact us. As always, we are happy to answer your questions and concerns.

Lora Messer- Nilles  
Students H-Z  
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Jessica Grochowski  
Students A-G  
651-403-7706  
[jessica.grochowski@isd197.org](mailto:jessica.grochowski@isd197.org)

## From the Counseling Office cont.

NAMI-MN Parent Education Nights, Family Fun Night, Progressions Class for Teens

October 10, 2017	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Progression Mental Health Class for Teens. 6 Week Workshop, Burnsville Ridges Education Center
October 16, 2017	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Understanding Early Episode Psychosis, Hastings Pleasant Hills Library
October 17, 2017	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Smoking, Teens and Mental Health, Rosemount Middle School

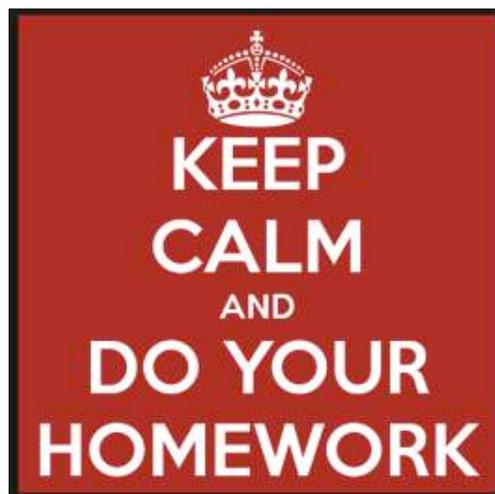


## **Message from the Dean**

Student iPads have been rolled out in each grade level. Teachers are implementing specific lessons for iPad use in their classrooms. We are reviewing expectations for student iPad use. When students turn on and update their iPad a Friendly Hills icon will appear. This is the "Acceptable Use" agreement. They are to open this with a parent or guardian. There is a video to review acceptable use, as well as an online agreement form. Please complete this activity with your student(s) as they bring their iPad home. If you are needing a paper copy of the Acceptable Use Agreement they are available in the school office. Thank you for your effort in completing this task. We will review submitted agreements and contact families that have not completed the task beginning Friday, Oct. 6, 2017. This needs to be completed for students to continue to use school issued iPads. Thank you.

### **Homework Help**

- Who?** Any student who would like support with assignments; has three or more missing assignments in a class; or has been asked to come to Homework Help by parent(s), teacher(s) or counselor(s).
- When?** Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 3:25-4:10
- Where?** Lower Red House, Room 163



## **360 Community**

My name is Alicia Perez and I am the 360 Communities Family Support Worker at Friendly Hills. I am available at the school Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-3 and Fridays 11-3. Please call or stop by the school if you need any information or referrals to community resources and programs, if your student is having difficulties with attendance, behavior or academics and you would like assistance with strategies that will work with your family, or if your family needs support in any other way. I also have some school supplies and winter gear if your student needs something. Students are welcome to stop by as well, I am located in Lower Red. I look forward to meeting Friendly Hills students and families! I speak Spanish also. 651-403-7751 alicia.perez@isd197.org



### **UPCOMING**

**October 9 - Coffee with the Principal 9 - 10 a.m.**

**October 12, 16 & 17 - Conferences 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

**October 13 - Picture Make-Up Day**

**October 18, 19 & 20 - No School**