



# 8 Central Newsletter

Issue #11

February 22nd, 2020

Hello 8 Central families! Hope you had a restful February vacation! We are excited about the news from the Waltham School Committee about the return of in-person learning to McDevitt. 8th Grade is set to return on Monday March 15th and we could not be more excited. You will receive more information about this from the school administration.

One more additional update is a new bell schedule for class start/stop times starting this Monday. We expect some mistakes in the early going but hopefully everyone can adjust to the new schedule. See below for updates from the 8 Central teachers, important McDevitt announcements, technology support and supply pick-ups!

## Class Updates

[Click here for 8 Central Task Calendar](#)

Math with Ms. Adams

- Students are continuing to build understanding of systems of equations through word problems. We will focus on graphing and building visual representations to solve problems.

Science with Mrs. DiMarco

- Before the break students finished learning about evolution. Over the next few weeks, we will begin an in depth study of heredity and genetics. Students will learn about DNA, genes, chromosomes, punnett squares and genetic variation.

Civics with Mr. Kennedy

- In Civics, students learned about key protests and Supreme Court cases of the Civil Rights Movement. Coming up students will close read the US Constitution to learn more about the founding and structure of our government.

ELA with Ms. Whipple

- This week in ELA, students will complete their third common assessment. Next week, we will dive into the historical context surrounding our next text, *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

ESL with Ms. Garcia

- We have continued to work on our Personal Narrative Unit. Students started brainstorming ideas before break and will continue to work on their personal narratives this week.

---

## McDevitt Announcements

**Third Quarter Academic Schedules:** Grades close for the second quarter on February 5, with report cards going home on February 12. New classes for the third quarter (Art, Music, Drama, Technology) will start on Monday, February 8. Students and families will receive the new schedules on Friday, February 5.

- [8th Grade New Schedule](#)

**Grade 8-9 Transition Letter:** We are starting the transition process to the high school soon. Please make sure to read this Grade 8 Transition Letter, attached in English and Spanish, which spells out the meetings, opportunities and deadlines involved in this process.

- [Grade 8 Transition Letter](#)

**Supply Pick-Up Schedule:** You can come to McDevitt to get your 8th grade ELA book! Students begin reading To Kill a Mockingbird soon and the hardcopies are ready for pickup along with some other (optional) supplies. McDevitt supply pick-up occurs on the first and third Friday of each month, as well as the following Tuesdays.

- Friday 2/26 12:00 – 1:00 PM
- Friday 3/12 12:00 – 1:00 PM
- Tuesday 3/2 3:00 – 4:00 PM
- Tuesday 3/16 3:00 – 4:00 PM

**McDevitt Activities:** Information on school activities can be found at the [McDevitt Website](#) and new clubs will be mentioned here. Your child can find information and register for here for our newest club - [McDevitt Productions](#), a movie club being started by Mr. Freehing.

**Registration for Meal Kit Pick-Up:** You can still register for food distribution on Thursday afternoons at McDevitt, Kennedy and Whittemore schools: [Thursday Meal Kit Pick-up Registration](#)

**McDevitt Website:** This is the online website where you can find information about McDevitt, the 8 Central cluster and the Task Calendar. We have highlighted some examples of awesome student work this semester.

- [McDevitt Learning Hub](#)

---

## Cluster Expectations

On 8 Central, we expect all students to strive for their best. We aim for progress, not perfection.

### Grading

On 8 Central, you can expect teachers to grade you on the following categories:

- **Participation:** Daily grade for class participation in online google meets. A student can earn up to 3 pts a class for participation.
- **Classwork:** A grade for any task assigned during class. These assignments are usually completed during class time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Assessments:</b> Longer assignment like tests, essays and projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplies</b>	<p>Due to the remote learning to start the year, the normal school supply list is not quite necessary just yet. We ask that all students attend their remote classes with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A charged chromebook (and/or charger)</li> <li>● Notebook</li> <li>● Pen/Pencil</li> </ul> <p>Once the district returns to in-person learning, we will update the school supply list.</p>
<b>Class Google Meets</b>	<p>We expect 8 Central students to attend all their class Google Meets for the day (7:55 to 2:30).</p> <p>Students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arrive to Google Meets on time with cameras on</li> <li>● Participate in class activity, discussion or assignment to earn the participation grades. Here is the <a href="#">rubric</a> for 8 Central's daily participation grade.</li> <li>● <a href="#">Google Meet Norms</a> include finding a quiet spot for meets, muting the mic until it's time to speak, and turning cameras on when working in breakout groups.</li> <li>● Need tech help? Here is a helpful <a href="#">website</a> created by McDevitt students that answers many chromebook and technology questions.</li> </ul>

## Contact Us

<b>McDevitt Main Office:</b> (781) 314-5590	<b>Contact 8 Central Teachers:</b>
<p>Mike Sabin, Principal  <a href="mailto:michaelsabin@walthampublicschools.org">michaelsabin@walthampublicschools.org</a>            Jaime Wakefield, Assistant Principal  <a href="mailto:jaimewakefield@walthampublicschools.org">jaimewakefield@walthampublicschools.org</a>            Jeanne Bell, Guidance Counselor  <a href="mailto:jeannebell@walthampublicschools.org">jeannebell@walthampublicschools.org</a></p>	<p><b>Math</b> - <a href="#">Ms. Adams</a>  <b>Science</b> - <a href="#">Mrs. DiMarco</a>  <b>Social Studies</b> - <a href="#">Mr. Kennedy</a>  <b>ELA</b> - <a href="#">Ms. Whipple</a>  <b>Special Ed.</b> - <a href="#">Mr. Freehling</a>  <b>ESL</b> - <a href="#">Ms. Garcia</a>  <b>ESL</b> - <a href="#">Mr. Sims</a></p>