

8/17/18

Dear Parents of Honors Students,

Welcome to my first of many “email newsletters”. I will try to send a newsletter every so often to give you insight into what is going on in Honors but be sure to be checking Bloomz as I will post updates and other communications there as well. A version of these email newsletters will also be posted on my website.

What a great first week! We spent this week getting to know each other, hearing about our summers, learning the procedures of Honors, and taking district benchmarks. These district benchmarks are important because they give me valuable information as to the skills your student still needs to work on as well as what they have mastered at grade level. I use this data in my lesson planning.

Webpage- My website is a valuable tool that your student should have bookmarked for reference. Here is the link: <https://sites.google.com/a/pvlearners.net/wilhelm-wizards/>

Assignment Calendar- On my website is an assignment calendar for your student to utilize should they need to. It will always be updated with the current assignments and due dates.

Classroom Support Fund- If you haven't paid your HONORS Classroom Support Funds, I would greatly appreciate you making this payment as soon as possible. These funds go directly to the Honors classroom and pay for activities such as literature books, Pi Day supplies, The Stock Market Game, Math Olympiad Competitions, Scholastic Math subscriptions, protractors, and much more. Additionally, there are many programs throughout our school that are supported by our PTO, so please consider making a voluntary donation to the PTO and becoming part of “Team Thunderbird”.

Parent Orientation- Thank you to those who were able to attend Curriculum Night last week. I have posted my presentation on my website if you were unable to attend.

Google Classroom-In Honors, we actively use Google Classroom. Google Classroom is a learning platform for schools that simplifies creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. It can also be used as a communication tool between students similar to a blog. I recognize that Google Classroom may be new to you; however,

your student will slowly become an expert over the next few weeks. I encourage you to sit down with them and have them show you what it looks like and how it works. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Honors Directory- Please be sure to add your info to the Honors Directory. The honors directory is used by room parents throughout the year to coordinate special activities for the class – including but not limited to teacher appreciation opportunities. The goal is for every family to be included in communications from room parents so no child feels left out if there are special events going on inside the classroom or for the teacher. The directory is published only to families in the honors programs. Each family receives a “link” to the share drive on Google drive. To access the file you must have a link (emailed by the teacher).

The directory is also a resource to contact other families for connecting for peer to peer coordination on projects, homework questions, or general information about the class.

Here is the link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vu9VHwtOtZEVjilGmIEyRNNuglYzRoronhkq9X9ggns/edit?usp=sharing>

READING for the Week of 8/20, we will be jumping into our regularly scheduled classes. This means, that I will be introducing many new concepts such as 4 Level, Latin/Greek Roots, Caesar’s English, ReadTheory, Genres, literary elements, and the rules of Socratic seminars. We will even have our first Socratic seminar to practice! I will also be assigning the first Independent Literature Requirement project, The Wax Museum! More info to come.

Reading Technology- Students are encouraged to use technology to review concepts. Students can use ReadTheory to practice skills. All of the links can be found on my website.

MATH for the Week of 8/13, we have been learning about or reviewing the 8 Mathematical Practices, learning/reviewing Math Olympiad problems, and taking our district assessments.

MATH for the Week of 8/20, we will be jumping into our first units. 4th and 5th grades' first units are covering measurement. 6th grade will be jumping into Scale Drawings. Lastly, the first quarterly project will be assigned. See below but more information to come.

Math Quarterly Projects- The best way to apply concepts and solidify learning is to TEACH! Therefore, every 4th-6th grade Math Only students will be required to complete a

quarterly math project and present it to their classmates. I will be assigning their first quarterly project the week of 8/20, and all projects are due October 11th. Detailed explanations and rubrics have been distributed to all students, but can also be found on my website.

Math Olympiads- We will be participating in Math Olympiad competitions this year. Periodically, we will be using our knowledge of the 8 Mathematical Practices to solve these challenging problems. The students generally LOVE these challenges as well as the collaboration with their teammates. We will always do one problem a week in class so as to learn and practice the problem-solving strategies. These problems and competitions are never graded.

Math Technology- Students are encouraged to use technology to review concepts. Students can use Freckle, iXL, Khan Academy, or XtraMath to practice skills. All of the links can be found on my website.

Looking forward to a fantastic year!

Warm regards,
Anna M. Wilhelm
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[Wilhelm Website](#)

[Gifted Resource Site](#) (A great resource for students, parents, and teachers)