



# Urban Update

Urban Update is published quarterly for the parents and students of Urban Middle School.

**January 2025**

Urban Middle School  
1226 North Avenue  
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Dr. Ted DiStefano, Principal  
459-3681

Judy Kapellen, Substitute Asst Principal  
459-3682

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Dear Urban Middle School Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are excited to share the many exciting events from our vibrant school community.

## Winter Celebrations:

This past December, we were thrilled to celebrate the diverse holidays and traditions that our students and families observe. We began the month with a Hmong New Year celebration where we honored the Hmong heritage with students wearing their traditional clothes to school. It is a chance for our students to showcase part of their heritage with their classmates and our school community.

In the middle of the month our school hosted a Band and Orchestra Concert, where students showcased their talents through performances. The Choir concert for Urban was held at North High School. As the month came to an end we held a week of dress of days as a way to show our school spirit. We encourage parents and guardians to join us in celebrating the joy and unity that this season brings.

## Student Achievements:

We are proud to highlight the achievements of our students both inside and outside the classroom.

- Cross Country
- School Musical - 'Willie Wonka Jr.'
- Lakeland Math Meet
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys Basketball



*Bee the Change*



From academic accomplishments to extracurricular successes, our students continue to impress us with their dedication and hard work. Please take a moment to celebrate your child's achievements and encourage their passion for learning.

#### Safety Reminders:

With winter weather comes colder temperatures, and it's crucial to ensure that our students are dressed appropriately for outdoor activities. Please make sure your child is equipped with warm clothing, including coats, hats, and gloves, to stay comfortable during recess and outdoor activities. If they are in need of a coat, hat or gloves please email the school counselors and we will be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in creating a positive and enriching learning environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our dedicated staff or myself.

Check out all of the Clubs and Activities at: <https://www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us/urban/activities>

A couple of reminders for parents.

- Each teacher shares the plan for the week under the [Daily Assignments link](#).
- [Daily Announcements](#) are linked on our website
- [Sheboygan Middle School Athletic/Extracurricular Events](#)
- Remember to check our [Urban Calendar](#) regularly.

Wishing you all a wonderful winter season and a Happy New Year!

Dr. Ted DiStefano  
Principal, Urban Middle School

## ***Metro Bus Service - Free to All Students***

*The district continues to partner with Shoreline Metro Bus Service to provide free transportation to all SASD students. Routes and Schedules are available [HERE](#).*

## ***Mornings at Urban Middle School***

*Students will be outside of the building until the 7:30 A.M. bell unless the temperature or wind chill is below zero or it is raining/snowing. Due to a lack of staff and supervision, we are unable to open the building before 7:15 regardless of the weather.*

## **Notes from the Substitute Assistant Principal**

Welcome back Urban families,

We're excited to have our students return from the holiday break, refreshed and ready to jump back into learning. My name is Judy Kapellen and I will be the acting substitute assistant principal until a new assistant is hired. When I am not able to be here, Vicki Ritchie, former retired principal from Horace Mann, will be filling the role. I have worked in the Sheboygan Schools for many years at the elementary, middle and high school levels as well as supporting technology instruction. I feel very fortunate to be part of Urban to support the Urban staff, students, and families.

As we return, students will be participating in the STAR exam. This exam will be used to provide us with a snapshot of where your student is academically and will be one of many tools used to identify which students require additional academic support. Middle school is the last opportunity to prepare our students for the rigors of high school, so it is vital that students do their best on these exams so we know what supports, if any, your child may need to continue to progress in their academic career. Please encourage your child to do their best, get plenty of sleep prior to the exam, and to eat a healthy breakfast the morning prior to testing.

Our next middle school mixer is coming up. The requirement to attend this event on April 4th is to have positive school attendance and to have no suspensions since December 16th. Please remind your students that negative behaviors and school attendance could prevent students from participating in co-curricular activities such as this. I am proud to say that thus far in the year that well over 90% of our students were eligible to attend the mixer, and we want to maintain those positive behaviors!

February 14 will be our second Urban Middle activity night. More information will follow in regards to this event.

Recently, we have seen a few bags in the hallways. Just a reminder, backpacks, handbags, purses, and fanny packs are not allowed to be carried in the halls during passing times. Thanks for your help.

Finally, as we enter the second semester, please encourage your students to participate in co-curriculars. Students who are more involved tend to perform better academically in school and have stronger relationships within the school. For our 8th graders, this is your last opportunity to try something new and discover new potential pathways prior to going to high school.

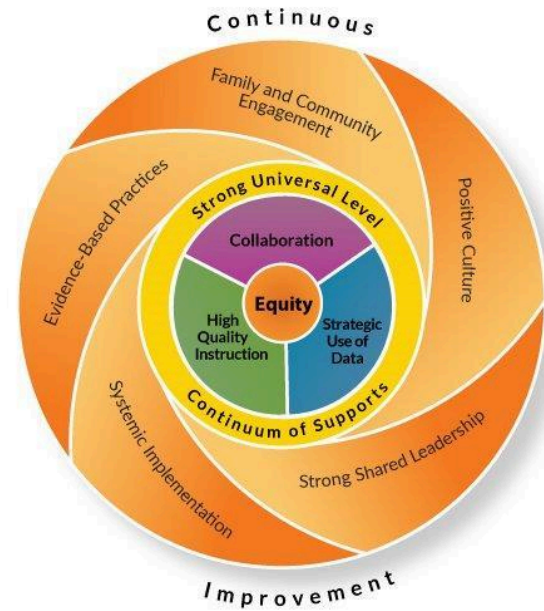
Let's continue to have a great year and GO KNIGHTS!

Judy Kapellen, Substitute Assistant Principal  
jkapellen@sasd.net  
(920) 459-3682

# Response to Intervention and Universal Instruction

Wisconsin's Equitable Multi-level Systems of Supports was introduced in the 2017-2018 school year. This includes **Rtl** (Response to Intervention) and **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports).

Schools provide varying types of support at differing levels of **intensity** to proactively and responsively adjust to the needs of the whole child (intervention or additional challenges). These include the knowledge, skills, and habits learners need for success beyond high school, including developmental, academic, behavioral, social, and emotional skills.



## WIN (What I Need) Class

The purpose of WIN class is to provide additional practice in math and/or literacy skills. As part of our commitment to every learner, you received the following communication from the district last April.

**Remediation:** *At the start of the school year your child will be assessed in a variety of ways. This is to ensure any learning gaps resulting from the school closure are both identified and addressed in a manner that makes certain that your child's instruction meets their needs and readiness levels.*

All students were identified for WIN class based on STAR Reading and Math assessments from past and present school years along with teacher recommendations, grades, participation, and behavior to determine what academic supports will best meet the needs of each student in the area of reading or math. Academic supports may include but are not limited to: Reading Plus, Lexia PowerUp, ALEKS Math, myOn, Newsela, NoRedInk, independent reading, and the reteaching of essential skills. In Skyward, this pass/fail class is labeled as WIN which occurs in the middle of the academic support block. Students are expected to meet their goals by midnight on Sunday as our digital platforms reset with a fresh start each week. All students will need to work on their goals beyond the "physical/virtual" academic support time due to our COVID-19 school schedule.

Goal setting is used during WIN class to help students monitor and reflect on their progress over time. Teachers will review with students STAR assessments in both math and reading, grades, and common assessments to help students set goals and reflect on: How do I know I'm progressing?

## Reminder to Parents:

When calling your child(ren) in absent, tardy, or for an appointment, please call the main Urban line, 920-459-3680, and press #1. This line is available 24 hours a day. You can leave a message with your child's name and grade/team. For homework, students may go to their teachers' Powerschool or Google Classroom pages to find out their assignments.

## School Closing Information:

If early morning weather conditions warrant the possibility of closing schools for the day or delaying the start of school, please tune into any of the following radio or television stations for information on delays or closings.

WBAY-TV 2 WTMJ-TV 4 WFRV-TV 5 WITI-TV 6

WXER-104.5 WJUB-1420 AM WHBL-1003 AM

WJTT-98.1

Visit our district website at [www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us](http://www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us)



## Box Tops for Education

Once again, Urban Middle School will be participating in the Box Tops for Education Program. Money earned goes to help students who are unable to purchase necessary school supplies, pay for field trips, pay for allied arts projects, etc.

Here is how it works:

First, load the Box Tops APP

Second, Buy Box Top products

Third, Scan your receipt. Submit your receipt within fourteen days of the purchase.

Thank you in advance for helping our school earn free money by participating in this program.

Kim Preder

Box Tops for Education Coordinator

## SASD CELLULAR TELEPHONE POLICY

Parent permission is no longer required for a student to possess a cell phone at school. However, the only time they are allowed to be used is with teacher or staff permission. ***For that reason, the telephone needs to be turned off or silenced and then put away from the time students enter the building to the end of the day, including all breaks.*** After school, at dismissal time, cell phones can be used to arrange for rides home. If students stay after school for a planned activity, phones again must be turned off and put away. Phones may not be loaned to others unless teacher permission is secured. If a student is observed using a cell phone in class, during lunch, or in the hallway during the school day, the phone will be taken away, a bottom-line referral will be written, and a parent will need to pick up the phone in the school office. Additionally, if the phone becomes disruptive to the school environment or the rules above are violated, permission may be terminated.

## LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Lunch applications will be available during registration at all schools starting August 1, online at [www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us](http://www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us) and at School Nutrition at South High in Room 138. Online applications are also available.

A reminder that the schools have drop boxes for payments. Call your school for the exact locations. Payments dropped at the schools will be deposited within 2-3 business days OR online payments can be made at [www.MySchoolBucks](http://www.MySchoolBucks) using your child's i.d. #. This is an online payment service that provides parents the ability to securely pay for meals, monitor student cafeteria purchases, and receive email notifications for low account balances for a fee. If you need assistance with the enrollment process, please call MySchoolBucks Customer Support at [1-855-832-5226](tel:1-855-832-5226). **Please be aware that there is a \$2.75 fee for every online deposit made into your child's account, regardless of deposit amount.**

**\*Remember that breakfast and lunch are free for all students for the 2024-2025 school year.**



# EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

The Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earnings online.

LOOK  
FOR THE  
LABEL:

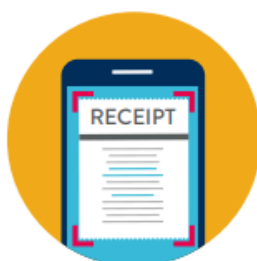


## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



### BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



### SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



### EARN CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

## SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt!

See how at [BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts](https://www.btfe.com/emailgroceryreceipts)



## BOX TOPS CLIPS



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## School Connectedness and School Activities

Michelle Perronne  
Athletic Coordinator

Research has shown that having a strong school connectedness has several positive attributes. One way to develop a strong school connectedness is through participation in extracurricular activities. Students who participate in extracurricular activities develop a stronger connection to their school, peers and adults. In addition, they have been shown to have higher grades, test scores, and decreased school dropout (Martinez and et al, 2016).

During the back-to-school assembly, students are introduced to Urban's extracurricular activities that they can take part in outside of the school day. Students are highly encouraged to not make this just a building that they come to every day because they have to, but rather to make the most of their years at Urban by joining in these activities. These extracurricular activities will allow them to make friends with other students who have similar interests, discover things that they did not know they enjoyed, and become a larger part of the Urban community.

Here at Urban, we offer a wide variety of extracurricular activities that students can participate in. Please review the list below with your child and choose at least one activity that they would like to try. As stated earlier, students are encouraged to do at least one activity that they may be interested in. Trying does not mean that they are stuck with the activity all year but it gives them the chance to see if they like it or not. Most of these activities are coached or are advised by our own staff allowing students and staff to build a relationship outside of the normal school day and get to know each other on a teacher/student basis. As a school, we strive to build a community for our students where they feel connected to Urban in hopes of making them more successful in the classroom.

Please take a look at the following list and if you have any questions feel free to contact me at [mperronne@sasd.net](mailto:mperronne@sasd.net) for athletics.

Athletics	Fall Activities	Clubs & Organizations
Cross Country	Drama: Musical/Play	Student Council
Girls Volleyball	Lakeland Math Meet	Best Buddies
Boys Basketball	Winter Activities	F.I.S.H Club
Girls Basketball	Actors Club	Horticulture
Wrestling	Art Club	Jr. Red Raider Manufacturing
Tennis	Spring Activities	Math League
Track	Dance	Photography Club
	Kickball	Robotics
	A Knight of Talent	Stage Crew
		Weight Room

Works Cited

Martinez, Andrew, et al. "Involvement in Extracurricular Activities: Identifying Differences in Perceptions of School Climate." *Educational and Developmental Psychologists*, June 2016, pp. 70–83.

# Team 6-1



*Does your child have earbuds?*

*Is your child remembering to charge their Chromebook every night?*

*Does your child have all the needed supplies for each class? (pencils, notebook, folder)*

Mrs. McAndrews **ELA/Social Studies** [kmcandrews@sasd.net](mailto:kmcandrews@sasd.net)  
920.459.3168

Mr. Londre' **Math/Social Studies** [blondre@sasd.net](mailto:blondre@sasd.net)  
920.459.3169

Ms. Strysick **Science/Social Studies** [sstrysick@sasd.net](mailto:sstrysick@sasd.net)  
920.459.3166

## Ms. McAndrews - ELA

**HOMEWORK = 20 minutes of reading, 5 days a week!**



We are reading the book Esperanza Rising during 2nd qtr. and working on the reading

strategies of monitoring our comprehension, summarizing, and using evidence to support our answers.

**Please check Google Classroom and Skyward for daily assignments & grades.**

**Social Studies** - Our focus of study for the second quarter is continuing with the 5 Themes of Geography along with how Earth's processes influence the way in which people adapt to and alter their environments.



## Mr. Londre' - Math

We are continuing our study using the Reveal book as well as the online Presentations. If your child is missing classroom time, please have them log into Google Classroom to check the lesson and homework. We typically will have a small amount of homework 2-3 nights a week. We have finished up Module 5 and will move on to Module 6- Equations and Inequalities followed by Module 2- Fractions, Decimals and Percents.

**Social Studies** - The main areas of study, and their relationship to humans are: water and its usage, energy resources, climate and its effect on humans, and population patterns.

## Ms. Strysick- Science

**Science-** We will finish up the 2nd quarter by writing a research paper about Invertebrates! The 3rd quarter will usher in our Biomes Unit where we study our beautiful planet and how it works. In addition, students will understand the biotic and abiotic factors unique to these biomes. Students will have the opportunity to create their very own Bio-rama to showcase all they have learned! Students are encouraged to bring items from home that can be used for their Bio-rama projects. A 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner will be announced once our projects have been completed.

**Please send a shoe box to school with your child if they have not brought one already. \*Extras are welcome!**

**Social Studies-** The main areas of study, and their relationship to humans are: water and its usage, energy resources, climate and its effect on humans, and population patterns.



Bee the Change



## Team 6-2



Mrs. Pfister  
ELA / Social Studies  
[kpffister@sasd.net](mailto:kpffister@sasd.net)



Mrs. Leonard  
Math / Social Studies  
[cleonard@sasd.net](mailto:cleonard@sasd.net)



Mr. Berthiaume  
Science / Social Studies  
[rberthiaume@sasd.net](mailto:rberthiaume@sasd.net)

### ELA

In ELA, we continue to read Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan. This historical fiction novel is about a young girl named Esperanza who grows up very wealthy in Mexico. However, her life is uprooted after the murder of her father. As a result of some unforeseen circumstances, her family ends up immigrating to the United States to become migrant farm workers.

While reading this novel, there are various focus skills we are working on. Characterization, providing text evidence, foreshadowing, identifying signposts, figurative language, and symbolism are just a few of those skills.

### Science

During the 2nd quarter, we've been learning about what the science processes of what matter is, what Abiotic/Biotic are, and how the foods we eat provide us with the necessary energy we need to live. Included in this, the students learned about photosynthesis, how the food chain and web work, along with all forms of energy that we may see in our daily lives that we take for granted.

For the remaining half of the 2nd Quarter, the students will be learning about the Classifications of Vertebrates/Invertebrates, along with the groups lie in each classification. The students will create a Vertebrate/ Invertebrate report on one of the animals listed in each. They can choose to make a Bio-Rama, a Google Slide Presentation, or an Animal group mobile. The students last topics of discussion for the quarter will be on Ecosystems/ Biomes and how they have to have symbiotic relationships to coexist with certain amount of adaptations for survival.

Please remember that if your child wants to create a Bio-rama or a mobile, your child will need to provide a shoe box or coat hanger with all the supplies that they'll need.

### Math

We are continuing our study using the Reveal book as well as the online Presentations. If your child is missing classroom time, please have them log into Google Classroom to check the lesson and homework. We typically will have a small amount of homework 3-4 nights a week. We are finishing up Module 5 and will move on to Module 6 "Equations and Inequalities".

### Social Studies

In social studies, we worked extensively on map skills and identifying landforms around the world. Most recently we have been working on the Five Themes of Geography: location, place, region, movement, and human- environment interaction. We used Sheboygan to explore the physical and human factors that make the place we call home so unique. Students also researched the different regions of the United States to create travel brochures.

# Team 7-1

**Mrs. Jones: Social Studies, Mrs. Bohman: Math, Mrs. Matczak: Science, Mrs. Scharenbroch: ELA**

## Language Arts

We have a lot of fun activities planned in the second half of the year in ELA. We will begin with Unit 3 of our textbook, which is titled "The Terror and Wonder of Space." Students will be learning about space exploration and using pieces of text to create an argument about if space travel is necessary or a dangerous risk. After this, we will continue our argument writing work with a fun story and video called "The Landlady." This is always a favorite among the students! We will then be preparing for Forward testing, before moving into book clubs later in the spring.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email me at [jscharenbroch@sasd.net](mailto:jscharenbroch@sasd.net)

## Social Studies

Currently, we are in the middle of our unit on Ancient Rome. Thus far we have learned about the Republic and how our government is very similar to theirs. The unit will conclude at the end of the 2nd quarter January 16th.

Third quarter we move from Ancient Rome into the Medieval time period. We will be looking at the crusades, knights, daily life as well as the black plague.

Please be sure to check in with your students that they have the necessary supplies for classes - notebook, pencils, markers or colored pencils, and a charged chromebook.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns feel free to email me at [sjones@sasd.net](mailto:sjones@sasd.net)

## Science



[amatczak@sasd.net](mailto:amatczak@sasd.net)

Science has ROCKED! We will be wrapping up our geology unit in January and then moving to the

units of Energy, Forces, and Motion.

Supplies for science that are required every day- science notebook, folder, charged Chromebook, earbuds, and pencil. As we start the second semester please check in with your student in case any new or replacement supplies are needed.

The upcoming unit on Types of Energy will lead to understanding how to identify various forms of energy, how energy is transferred, and how we can use potential and kinetic energy to complete tasks.

Google Classroom will have all digital assignments and paper copies will be provided in class.

If you need anything please let Mrs. Matczak know.

## Math

Course 2 students just finished Module 5, which focused on all things linear expressions. Up next, the wonderful equations!

Accelerated students just finished Module 4, which focused on Exponent Properties and Scientific Notation. We will be entering the land of linear expressions and equations very soon.

Remember to check out Google Classroom! Agendas are posted every Sunday for the week. Everything your child needs for math class is included in these agendas.

Thanks for all you do 😊



# Team 7-2

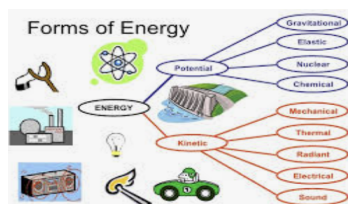
**Mrs. Buechel** Science/Social Studies [jbuechel@sasd.net](mailto:jbuechel@sasd.net) 920.459.3164

**Ms. Horzen** ELA/Social Studies [meganhorzen@sasd.net](mailto:meganhorzen@sasd.net) 920.459.3158

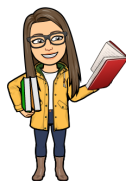
**Ms. Jedrzejewski** Math/Social Studies [cjdrzejewski@sasd.net](mailto:cjdrzejewski@sasd.net) 920.459.3159



**Social Studies** -We are working on our study of Ancient Rome. Once we complete our Ancient Rome unit, we will move on to Feudalism and the Crusades. Google Classroom will be our main meeting place that will house most of the materials and assignments we will use in class. **Essential Questions:** How has the legacy of Ancient Rome influenced the modern world? How is life different during Medieval Europe than life during the Roman Empire? Do you think the change is for the better? How did the Crusades affect the lives of Christians, Muslims, and Jews?



**Science** - 2nd semester...time is flying! Students will be learning about the various types of potential and kinetic energy associated with their daily activities. Also, science and social studies will be integrated with the students building their own Roman Aqueduct out of toilet paper rolls and a few other materials.



**Language Arts with Ms. Horzen** - We have a lot of fun activities planned in the second half of the year in ELA. We will begin with Unit 3 of our textbook, which is titled "The Terror and Wonder of Space." Students will be learning about space exploration and using pieces of text to create an argument about if space travel is necessary or a dangerous risk. After this we will be moving into book clubs! We will be reading the novel When Stars are Scattered. Students will be reading independently, then meeting in groups to discuss the book and complete activities. This is a great way to work on both reading and communication skills! As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please email me at [meganhorzen@sasd.net](mailto:meganhorzen@sasd.net).

## Math with Ms. Jedrzejewski

In Course 2, we have been exploring one-step and two-step equations. Students have been learning how to solve equations with a single operation as well as equations that require multiple steps. Encourage your child to practice solving equations at home using the strategies we have taught them in class. This will help build their confidence and fluency in solving mathematical problems.

In accelerated math, our students have been exploring the concept of exponents and learning various exponent rules. We are pleased to inform you that we have successfully finished this topic! Students will be testing on this topic when we return from winter break. As we transition into our next topic, we will be diving into equations and inequalities. This unit will focus on solving and graphing linear equations as well as solving and representing inequalities. We will explore the applications of these mathematical concepts in real-life situations. Students will engage in hands-on activities, group discussions, and problem-solving tasks to deepen their understanding of equations and inequalities. We encourage you to engage in math conversations with your child at home to reinforce their learning.

We would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued partnership in your child's education. Your support and involvement make a significant difference in their learning journey. We are thankful for the opportunity to work with such engaged and caring families. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. [cjdrzejewski@sasd.net](mailto:cjdrzejewski@sasd.net)



*Bee the Change*



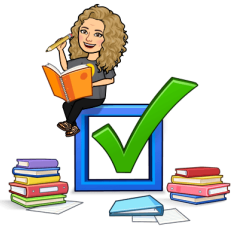
# Team 8-1

Mr. Berg: Science/Social Studies

Mr. Gierke: Math/Algebra/Social Studies

Mrs. Wenninger: ELA/Social Studies

**Science:** The second quarter ushered in DNA, Protein Synthesis, and Genetics. We have learned the process of protein synthesis and then applied that knowledge to create unique monsters based on the proteins. We also have looked at plant and animal cells and will see the introduction of Natural Selection at the end of the semester. Next quarter we will begin by learning how to complete Punnett squares, then proceed into Chemistry, and end the year with Astronomy.



**Language Arts:** As we continue through the year our unit of study focuses on the process of research. Students completed a mini-research project before the Christmas break and will continue to refine their skills as they begin an Argumentative Research Essay on a topic of their choice. We will continue to read and learn root words, grammar, and lessons in the library with Mrs. Kiel. Please encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes each day at home!

## **Math:**

**Course 3 Math:** In Module 4, students are graphing and writing equations to represent linear relationships. Proportional relationships and slope, similar triangles and slope, and direct variation are topics discussed and practiced. All are important to Forward Testing standards.

*Mr. Gierke*

**Algebra:** Module 7 focuses on systems of linear equations and inequalities. Students will solve systems using graphing, substitution, and elimination using adding, subtracting, and multiplication. Writing and solving systems of equations can help find unknown values in real-world situations.

*Mr. Gierke*

**Social Studies:** In Social Studies, students will continue their journey to learn about how the United States came to be. We begin with learning about how the 13 Colonies were created and their similarities and differences. This leads us next to how the United States gained its independence from Great Britain in the American Revolution. Students will also participate in a special presentation from the Sheboygan Museum about manufacturing in Sheboygan County.



## Team 8-2

Mrs. Bartzen: Social Studies – Ms. Eklund: Language Arts  
Mr. Fleuchaus: Math/Algebra – Ms. Zimmermann: Science

*You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. --Dr. Seuss*

### **Social Studies**

We are continuing our journey through American history by learning about the creation of the 13 colonies. Students have worked on the skill of comparing and contrasting similarities and differences as they look at the geography, politics, and economies of each colonial region.

This leads us into our study of how America gained its independence from Great Britain during the American Revolution. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to participate in a special presentation from the Sheboygan County Museum about manufacturing in Sheboygan County.



*-Mrs. Bartzen*

### **Course 3 - Math 8**

In Modules 1 & 2, students are learning rules of exponents, scientific notation, and valuable skills about rational numbers that are all tested on the state Forward Exam.

### **Algebra**

Modules 2 & 3 focus on solving equations as well as graphing both linear and nonlinear equations. Following Module 3, we will explore other types of functions used to model real-world situations.

*-Mr. Fleuchaus*

### **Science**

What is heredity? How do your traits pass from one generation to the next? We will investigate this through Punnett Squares and how we can predict the genes of offspring.

After heredity, we will look at the changes that nature and humans can make to genes through natural selection, artificial selection, and GMOs.

*-Ms. Zimmermann*

### **Language Arts**

We'll wrap up the first semester by examining argument writing. After that, students will choose their own argumentative topics to research and will write an essay. Our busy ELA class will continue to study word roots, grammar, and enjoy silent reading time.



*- Ms. Eklund*

# SHELF LIFE

A Newsletter from  
Urban's Library

## Craft Kits

Unleash your inner artist! The library's makerspace is now home to a selection of craft kits ready for checkout. Each kit comes with all the materials and equipment you need to dive into a new project – knitting, arm knitting, loom knitting, embroidery, cross stitch, or crocheting. Create something amazing and return the kit when you're finished!



## Digital Citizenship Lessons

Following winter break, students will participate in digital citizenship lessons during their library visits.

**6th grade** will dive into online safety with a focus on protecting your digital footprint, creating strong passwords, and recognizing and avoiding phishing scams.

**7th grade** will explore the world of copyright, understanding plagiarism and the power of Creative Commons.

**8th grade** will develop crucial media literacy skills, learning to evaluate information through lateral reading and finding a healthy balance in your media consumption.

## Coding Lessons

In celebration of Computer Science Education Week and the annual Hour of Code, students recently delved into the exciting world of coding! Through the unplugged coding lessons students were introduced to fundamental coding concepts like algorithms, loops, and conditionals. They also had the opportunity to spark their curiosity with STEAM stations.



## *Middle of the Year Events*

Dec 23rd - Jan 1st .....	No School - Winter Recess
January 2nd .....	School Resumes
January 16th/21st .....	End of 2nd/Beginning of 3rd Quarter
January 17th .....	No School - Teacher Records Day
January 20th .....	No School - MLK Jr Day
January 27th .....	No School - Professional Development
February 17th .....	No School - Professional Development
February 27th .....	Parent Teacher Conferences
February 28th .....	Parent Teacher Conferences - No School
March 21st - March 28th .....	No School - Spring Recess
March 31st .....	No School - Professional Development
April 4th/7th .....	End of 3rd/Beginning of 4th Quarter
April 18th .....	No School - Good Friday
April 21st .....	No School - Professional Development

**Stay tuned for our next issue of the Urban Update  
coming in May!**