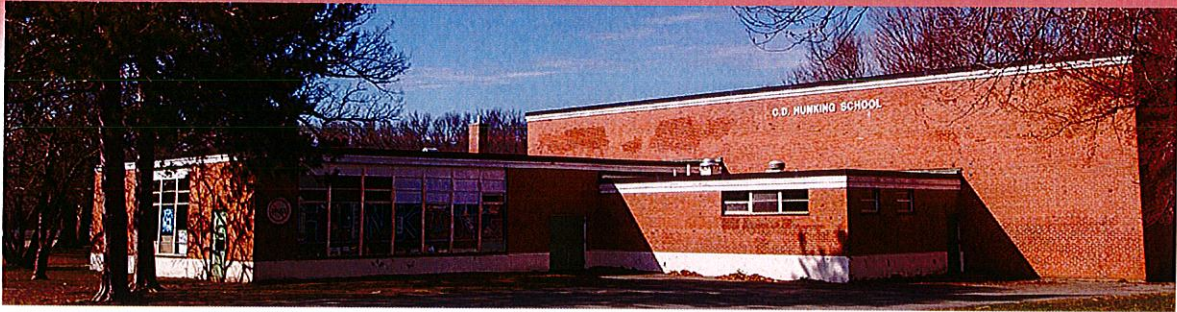


Hunking News



A Message from Mr. Fulgoni

As the weather gets cooler, and the days get shorter, I find it harder and harder to get out of bed in the morning. Just weeks ago I was being woken up by the sharp pierce of the sun's rays in my eyes, and now it's the piercing buzz of the alarm in my ears that causes me to wake. Is it just me or does the cooler air of autumn somehow manage to make the bed warmer while making the bathroom floor colder? I have now gone so far as to mathematically figuring out that I can hit the "snooze" button 3 times and still make it to work on time. All this lends me to the question that I ask myself most mornings as I stumble to the shower; "do I really have to go to work today?" C'mon admit it, we have all asked ourselves that question. Would it really matter if I missed a day a two? Its only middle school after all, it's not like its high school or something. Well I am now able to say with all certainty that indeed it does matter. I have obviously had my own personal bias regarding the importance of middle school, but now I have the research to prove it.

A research report entitled "*The Forgotten Middle*" published by ACT Research Reports, concluded that: "*The level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school.*"

The research also concluded that: "*Improvement in Eighth-Grade Academic Achievement and Being on Target for College and Career Readiness in Eighth Grade Are More Beneficial Than Any High School-Level Academic Enhancement*".

Is it any wonder then that the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Middle Schools Association (NMSA) joined together to publish a statement endorsing this research on the day of its release stating: "*The Forgotten Middle provides strong evidence of the critical role middle level schools play in college and career readiness, and ACT's research makes a significant contribution by identifying the most important factors for student success: academic achievement and academic discipline*".

In a nutshell: Yes it absolutely matters. The research suggests that middle school may matter more than any other level. This is why I, and the rest of the Middle School Faculty/Staff, get out of bed every day.

Our eyes may be bleary, the floor may be cold, and the bed maybe warm, but we will continue to get up every day to ensure that all students are ready to be successful at high school, college, their careers, and beyond. As for my sleeping in.... I guess that's what weekends are for.

-Mr. Fulgoni
Principal

Updates from the faculty

I am happy to everyone that students in Mrs. Corcoran's math classes will be using a new online supplemental math program - TenMarks, which will provide my students with additional math practice.

TenMarks is an online program that enables students to practice and master math concepts - one topic at a time. They can work on direction from myself, or choose to practice on their own, anytime. While they are practicing, TenMarks helps them with hints on every problem if they get stuck, and gives them short video tutorials to view if they need an explanation - really helping them grasp the concept they are working on.

There is also a reward zone for some extra motivation where they earn certificates to print out when they master a concept, and some educational computer games they can play after they complete work.

Check out the Jam Sessions!

I just wanted to let you know that we're using this new program, which I believe will really help students improve their math skills and confidence.

Take care,
Mrs. Tiffany Corcoran

A new math program has been implemented in all of the city's middle schools this year. The program is Big Ideas Math. Every student is able to access his or her textbook online, without the need of a user name or password. The website is www.bigideasmath.com.

Big Ideas Math Program: Overview

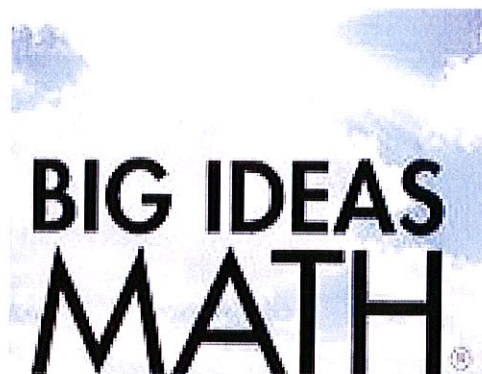
Renowned mathematician and professor Dr. Ron Larson and award-winning master educator Dr. Laurie Boswell wrote the Big Ideas Math program. The program's pedagogy and design are research-based and the content coherently follows the mathematical progressions through the lessons and grades. The Big Ideas Math program also offers an innovative technology package that enhances the learning experience. The Big Ideas Math program is a complete Common Core mathematics curriculum for middle school and high school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sciuto



Building stronger foundations...
one click at a time.



The Hunking Jr. VIP (Violence Intervention and Prevention) Team kicked off the new school year with its first meeting on Sept. 11. Fifty students from grades 6 - 8 showed up for that meeting. Lori Curry, Health Specialist for the middle schools has been running this program for the last seven years at Hunking. Joining her this year is Melissa Adam, a new 8th grade teacher. Ms. Adam is very excited about the opportunity to work with students in an after school program that has had such a strong involvement of students through the years. The VIP Team hopes to create students who will serve as good role models for their peers while helping to promote peace and respect throughout their school and community. Students engage in activities that help build leadership skills and increases awareness about the negative consequences of violence. Meetings are typically held on Thursdays from 2:45 - 4:00 in the library. However, the next meeting is on Tues. Sept. 30. Students have been provided with a calendar of the meeting dates as well as a parent letter explaining the program.



In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month 7th graders completed Mexican Sun Designs and 8th graders worked with abstraction in the completion of Cubist Picasso Portraits



Garden Harvest: Last year our 6th graders started our 1st Hunking Garden. We are still harvesting tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers! We are looking for volunteers to start a garden club after school to clean up the garden for winter and get it ready for spring! If interested please email MGodfrey@haverhill-ps.org. **Science Labs** have started and we will need some supplies!

Supplies needed for October: Tin foil or tin foil squares, pennies, marbles... and if anyone has access to any triple beam balances for the Technology and Engineering Unit in Science, we would greatly appreciate it!

SS and Science- Guest Speakers are always welcome to come for a visit to speak about your career that relates to Geography or Science (especially relating to Engineering, Technology, Weather and Climate, Human Biology and Environmental Science) Please email MGodfrey@haverhill-ps.org or amyscuito@haverhill-ps.org

Mrs. Briggs- 7th Grade update

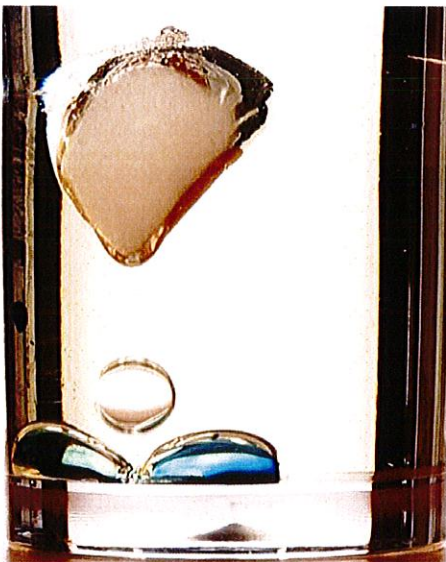
ELA/Reading: Our Romans are using short stories to identify key elements in fiction/nonfiction as well as applying good vocabulary to our narratives. Students are expected to complete their weekly packets (vocab or grammar) as well as journal consistently every night for homework.

SS: We have completed our preliminary skill sets of chronological order placement (timelines), categorizing history into SCREP characteristics and learning how to ask questions like an historian. Using the book, we are diving into the ancient world, learning about early humans and how they begin to form societies.

8th Grade Science:

So far we have had a great start to the school year. Students used their engineering skills to see if they can build a tower out of straws and a small amount of tape to hold a tennis ball. It was quite a challenge.

We then moved on to density where they observed making a density tower using common household items, and then did a density lab where students had to observe what would happen to ice when put in a solution of vegetable oil and baby oil. The results were pretty cool! We will be moving on to our chemistry unit in the next week. Students will be assigned their first project: The Element Baby Book.



Photography Club

Interested in photography? Enjoy making friends? Photography Club has begun! We meet on Tuesdays from 2:45 to 3:10. Check out our student work at <http://cvandoren.blogspot.com> . Permission slips are on the Hunking website under Photography Club. See Mrs. Van Doren for more information. All are welcome!



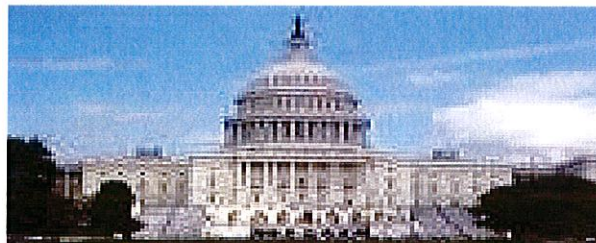
Guidance News

During the weeks of September 15-19th and September 22nd-26th, Mrs. DeLuca, guidance counselor of Hunking worked with all 7th and 8th grade students to cover the topic of high school planning. Each student received a packet during the second week that covered high school options and detailed information of Haverhill High School, Whittier Regional Vocational and Technical High School, and Essex Agricultural and Technical High School. Included in the packet were a great deal of private high school options with their entrance exams dates and application deadline dates. At this time parents/guardians should be signing your son/daughter up for SSAT's and or high school placement test if you are having your child apply to a private school.

Mrs. DeLuca will be taking the entire 8th grade student body as well as all the staff members on two field trips this school year: 1. Haverhill High School, date has not been set as of yet, and 2. Whittier Vo Tech, which will be November 18th. A field trip form is required for your son/daughter to attend. This form will be sent out in the beginning of October. On October 3rd, Essex Tech will be presenting to the entire 8th grade to discuss their high school option. This presentation will take place during their special area time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me. Phone number is 978.374.5787
Email: hdeluca@haverhill-ps.org

Washington DC Information

Washington DC informational packet was sent home on September 26th. Please Contact Mrs. Briggs at ebriggs@haverhill-ps.org in your child did not receive one.



Math in Room 7!

All our 8th grade students now have new books and the best part about this is the online access for all students, which means the kids don't have to be lugging the big text home every evening. The book is accessed through the

<https://www.bigideasmath.com/students/?free=1>

link. Grade 8 Common Core groups will choose the blue book, while the algebra students will find the Algebra book. I highly recommend students checking in to this website on a regular basis - there are self-check quizzes, videos, vocabulary cards, and other helpful resources online.

In addition all students have logins for the Tenmarks online website. This website is great because it allows me to set lessons for the students, as a group and/or individually. When I see a student is struggling with a particular topic, I am able to assign further skill review for that child, as well as assign additional work to a student who has mastered the skill and is ready to move on. The website models the PARCC assessment units, which will replace MCAS in Haverhill in the spring. Computer time at school is limited so the students will be using this resource at home weekly.

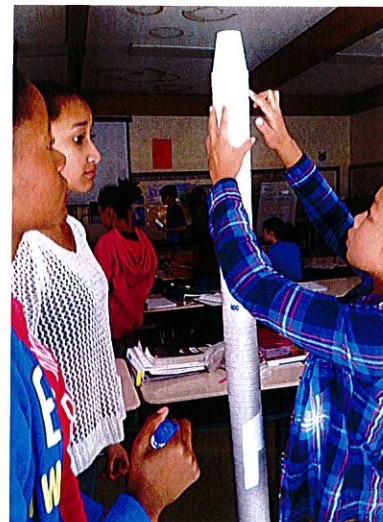
We have started working on Open Response type questions in class and will continue to do so throughout the year. We will be focusing on Problem Solving this year. My goal is to give your child the problem solving skills he or she may need to be successful in math. Confidence is key.

Class time is spent on a variety of activities: warm up, homework discussion, problem of the day, daily lesson, math centers, puzzles, bingo, jeopardy, whiteboard interaction (the kids love this!) I also am very hands on when possible. For example, today one of my classes used styrofoam cups to answer the question - How tall is Mrs. Tomasz? I gave them my height in feet and inches, and the students first had to convert that to centimeters. Then their task was not to actually measure me in cups, but to use mathematics to answer the question. They approached this task with enthusiasm but quickly realized their initial guesses were incorrect. My goal was to get them thinking in terms of "slope" and "rate of change." They were able to do this with very little prompting. By the end of class the kids were walking around comparing their answers with other groups. We quickly agreed, that despite my short height, I was more than 21 cups tall! The homework tonight for those students was to reflect on this activity and to create a graph using the data from the lesson. I do believe we are off to a great start. Extra help is available when needed.



Happy Fall.

Laurel Tomasz
Grade 8 Math



Notes from the Health Office:

Colds and Flu:

To help minimize the spread of colds and flu viruses please send hand wipes, or hand sanitizer to school with your child in the backpack. The students are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer to wash their hands before eating lunch, and periodically throughout the day. We have been reminding students to avoid touching their nose, eyes and mouth, and to sneeze in their elbow, as this is the way viruses travel from one person to another. Please send tissues to your child's classroom teacher. The health office is not able to provide tissues to all the classrooms.

Breakfast and water bottles:

Make sure that your child has a healthy breakfast before coming to school. It is nearly impossible for students to make it to lunch without becoming hungry. Even if they say they are not hungry in the morning try and encourage them to eat something healthy. When students are hungry they are unable to focus in class and they often times end up in the health office. Your student should also bring a water bottle to school. Often times when a student isn't feeling well and has a headache it is because they haven't had enough water to drink, the water bottle is a convenient way to hydrate throughout the day.

Mindfulness:

Mindfulness, a particular way of paying attention to what is happening in the present moment, is a time honored practice that is now taught in schools around the country. These mindful practices have been proven to help students, improve attention, increase executive function, decrease hyperactivity and impulsivity, improve anger management, increase emotional regulation, increase self-calming, increase social skills and social compliance, increase care for others, decrease anxiety in general and test anxiety in particular, decrease depression, increase sense of calmness, relaxation and self-acceptance, increase self-esteem and increase quality of sleep. The school nurse is currently teaching mindfulness to the sixth grade health class.

Cough drop and Crackers:

There will be no cough drops or crackers at the health office this year. Last year there were too many visitors to the health office requesting cough drops and crackers. If your child needs a snack or a cough drop, please send it along in his or her back pack. The more time your child spends in the classroom learning, the better his or her academic year will be.

Ms. Michele O'Toole, RN, BSN
Hunking School Nurse

Teacher Wish List

Grade Six

Mrs. Godfrey

Hand sanitizer
paper towels
magic erasers
Tissues
Broom
ipad connector cord for ELMO
Laminator!!!!
Brain Pop subscription
ipad connector for ELMO
(\$65.00)

Ms. Murphy

hand sanitizer
tissues
paper towels

Mrs. Murray

Tissue
Skinny Expo Markers
Clorox/Lysol Wipes

Mrs. Paquette

Clipboards
Tissues

Grade Seven

Amazon link:

<http://amzn.com/s1/LV8GE>

U81VRV6

Mrs. Briggs

Eco friendly cleaners
Manila folders

Ms. Carter

Classroom set/ one copy of
Flipped by Wendelin Van
Draanen

Mrs. Corcoran

White board markers\ erasers
electric pencil sharpeners
pencils, eraser caps
glue sticks
Highlighters
Crayons/colored
pencils/markers
xlarge (27" by 32") chart paper
tissues
cleaning supplies (GermX,
disinfecting wipes, paper
towels,...)

Mrs. McLaughlin

potting soil
medium sized plastic cups
colored pencils
white vinegar (any bottle size)
ziploc sandwich bags

Mrs. Surette

Dry Erase Markers
Tissue
Poster paper
Construction Paper
Art Supplies
Staplers
Glue Sticks
Clorox Disinfecting Wipes

Grade Eight

Mrs. Tomasz

poster paper
gluesticks
whiteboard markers

Mrs. VanDoren

Tissues
hand sanitizer

Nurses Office

Tissues

Save The Date

- 10/01- Early Release day for students
- 10/02- Nettle @ Hunking Soccer at 3:30
- 10/07- Hill View @ Hunking soccer at 3:30
- 10/08- Progress Reports Issued
- 10/08- Cross Country Practice Meet at Winnikinni Park- 3:30
- 10/13- Columbus Day, No School
- 10/14- Whittier @ Hunking soccer at 3:30
- 10/14- Cross country championship meet at Winnikinni park- 3:30
- 10/16- Hunking @ Consentino soccer at 3:30
- 10/20- PTO meeting at 6:30
- 10/31- School dance from 5:00-7:00