

What's New on the Challengers' Team?

January 2010

Challengers' Team Lamoille Union Middle School

Interdisciplinary Unit

As Quarter 2 drew to a close, so too did our interdisciplinary unit. This project involved each student sending an elementary school student on a make believe trip to foreign cities throughout the world. This project was a great undertaking for many of our students, and it was the first time they were involved in something of this magnitude. We thank all of our students for putting their best efforts into the project.

The books will be returned to us from the publisher sometime in mid-March. Once we receive them, we will take a field trip to Cambridge Elementary School to present the books to their students.

Upcoming Events

- January 29th, Quarter 2 report cards mailed
- February 5th, Pizza pick-up and dance
- February 22nd- March 2nd, Winter recess
- March 12th, Ikidarod (all 8th graders)

Spotlight on Students

We have so many great students on our team who we would like to acknowledge for their incredible efforts.

Awesome IDUs

Laura Dunn, Chris Cheney, Dreanna Dolan-Godin, Michael Daley, Erin Hanley, Josh Brigham, Carrie Lanphear, Krystal Whitney, Michael LaBree, Riley Fitzgerald

Stellar GeoBee Participants

Sean McMurray, Austin Barrett, Josh Brigham, Michael Daley

Phenomenal Citizenship

Jacob Miller, Amber Cote, Morgan Putvain, Michael LaBree

Congratulations to all and thank you for your efforts and positive contributions to our team!

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Academic Academy

In our October newsletter we sent home tips on how to help your child complete their homework. Homework is an important habit which many of our students have successfully undertaken, and we are really proud of these students. Research on homework indicates that students in middle school who regularly complete homework have significant academic achievement over their peers who do not complete homework. Additionally, once students get to high school, this achievement gap almost doubles.

Unfortunately, we have noticed a trend with some of our students not completing their assignments. We recognize that some students may not have the necessary study skills and, perhaps, do not understand how to complete their work. To help students with these issues, the team has designed a new homework policy. When a student misses an assignment for any of their core subjects throughout the week, they will be required to spend Monday afternoon in a mandatory Academic Academy. This practice will help students avoid getting caught up in a cycle of being behind in their work. A team teacher will be available to help them with work and/or to develop the skills necessary to complete their work. The Academic Academy will run from 3:30-5:15. Students will be given a homework sheet on Friday requesting them to stay on Monday. If students do not stay for Academic Academy, they will receive a detention. Following Academic Academy, students will be able to ride the late bus home.

Other Steps We Have Taken to Promote Student Success

- Small group study halls are in place for students who need extra assistance with organization, study skills, and time management.
- Academic assistance is being provided by high school students.
- Literacy groups are designed to cater to different reading levels as determined by AimsWeb testing.
- Academic enhancement opportunities are beginning for students during 8th period.