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Events

- * 1/2 First Day of School
After Winter Break
- * 1/16 Martin Luther King
Day (*No School*)
- * 1/18 OLPA Math 2 Begins
Grades 3-8
- * 1/26 OLPA Math 2 Ends
Grades 3-8
- * 1/31 WiDA Window Begins
Kindergarten
- OLPA Reading Begins
Grades 3-8

*"USDA is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer."*

Kindergarten

Dear Kindergarten Families,

We hope you all had wonderful winter break! We are excited to be back at school to finish out the rest of the school year! As a reminder, it is very important to still send your children to school in warm winter gear (winter coat, snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves). We will continue to go outside throughout the winter, and children who are not dressed for the weather will have to stay inside.

We will be taking the NWEA test during the second and third weeks of January. These are computer based standardized tests. It is really important for your student to get enough sleep at night and eat healthy meals so that they can do their best! We will not have school on Monday January 16th since it is Martin Luther King Day.

In literacy, we will be meeting two new Superkids named Fritz and Ettabetta. They will help us learn about the letters Ff and Ee and teach us more about decoding words. In math, we will continue to learn about teen numbers, shapes, patterns, and addition number stories.

Please make sure to check your child's homework each night and sign their calendar when it is completed. It is important to practice every single night so that your child can be successful in school!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

1st Grade

Hello parents, welcome back to Noble after the long needed break!

We hope everyone enjoyed their time off and are ready to get back to school. Just a reminder we will have a non-school day on Monday January 16th, 2017. Also please remember to have your children bring coats, mittens, hats, boots, and snow pants. We will be going outside everyday unless the weather is below 10 degrees.

In math we will be introducing place value, which are the hundreds, tens, and ones. We will also be comparing numbers using greater than, less than, and equal symbols. Remember that the alligator likes to eat the larger number! Another topic we will be focusing on is two digit adding. Please help your child to remember to complete their homelinks and any extra review we give to them for math.

In reading we will be working on long vowel sounds which include the super e or also known as the bossy e. The bossy e tells the first vowel what to say. For example; kite, vote, cake, bike, etc. We will also be working on beginning, middle, and end of a story. Please remember to help your child practice their spelling words.

Please contact your child's first grade teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Sincerely,

First Grade Teachers

2nd Grade

Dear Second Grade Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a spectacular break! We had a wonderful December learning about 'Christmas Around the World' and the country Kenya. We are ready to get back into our regular schedules.

Our reading level should be a 2.4. This means your child is reading at a second grade level in the fourth month of school. We have seen a lot of growth in our students and we are very proud of them for working so hard! We are also thankful to all of you who help them at home. Whether you read to them or listen to them read, it is so important to your child's reading ability. Studies show that even five minutes of listening to someone read improves their learning.

We have spent the last couple months learning about our government, citizenship, and Native Americans. We are now going to go back to science. We will be diving deep into the seasons, water cycle, and weather.

We will learn about telling time, place value, and measurement in math. Our second graders love math and the growth we see is exciting!

Remember, they can do Xtramath, IXL, and take AR at home using the Noble Academy website links on the computer or hand-held device.

We want to remind all families that wearing dress shoes is expected. Also, they need to have warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and boots. We do not have any trees around our playground and it can get very cold!

Have a wonderful January!

The Second Grade Team

3rd Grade

Dear 3rd Grade Parents,

Welcome back from winter break! We trust you enjoyed some extra time with your children and loved ones.

This month, will be finishing up our unit on Sun, Moon, and Stars in science and ELA. The next science unit is plants and animals.

Our next ELA unit will be on poetry. We will be working on common and proper nouns, pronouns, plurals, verbs, phonics, adverbs, and adjectives.

We will be starting unit 5 in math, which will cover fractions and multiplication strategies. Students will continue to work on mastering multiplication facts.

There will be no school on January 16 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Sincerely,

3rd Grade Team

4th Grade

Happy New Year 4th Grade Families!

We hope you all had a wonderful break. We are so excited to be back, and we're ready to start the new year off strong. In math, we are continuing our unit on multi-digit multiplication. In reading, we will be working with text evidence, main idea, and fact and opinion. We will be wrapping up our science unit on electricity and magnetism this month, and begin our first social studies unit shortly after! Thank you for all of your support. As always, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ferber, Ms. Hsu, Ms. Jobe, and Ms. Krall

5th Grade

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful holiday winter break!

In December, students learned and focused on a country and its New Year celebration. They worked hard on researching facts about Canada, Italy, Brazil, and Liberia. They created a class poster on their country. It was displayed during the Noble New Year for families to see.

This month, students will be learning about Earth and Space science. Students will be exploring non-fiction text that relates to our theme which includes books such as "Our Solar System", "Space Exploration", and "Rocks and Minerals". Some important skills that students will be focusing on are author's point of view, figurative language, synonyms and antonyms, and parts of speech.

In math, students will be learning adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers, and solving number stories. In science, students will be creating projects that will help them to understand how the earth functions.

Please continue to encourage your child to read and complete IXL skills at home!!

Sincerely,

Noble 5th Grade Team

6th Grade

Dear 6th Grade Parents,

We are currently studying literary elements within literature and poetry. This will set them up for our four week unit about poetry. Students will be reading and writing to have a better understanding of structure, sensory detail, and composition.

After Christmas break, we will continue our algebra unit and then move into ratios. Make sure they are practicing the skills we have learned through their homework and past due IXL topics.

In science, we will focus on energy and energy resources. The students will also be introduced to chemistry. They will use their knowledge of algebra to balance equations. Furthermore, 6th graders will be learning about treaties, wars, and newcomers of Minnesota in Social Studies. Both content areas will be learned through projects and labs!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to call or email!

All the best,

Hannah Schrempp, Elizabeth Morton, and Stephanie Hendrickson

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Middle School (7th and 8th Grade)

Greetings Families!

We hope everyone had a relaxing two weeks off and were able to spend a lot of time with family. We are excited for school to be in session again because we have so many exciting things coming up. This month, students will be taking the practice MCA reading and math test. We know our students will show us all that they have learned this year. Remind the students to get a lot of sleep, eat a good breakfast, take a shower, and come ready to test on those days.

7th grade: In math, students just completed their "Dream House Project" where they used a scale of their choice and designed their dream house. They then converted all their measurements using the steps we talked about in class. In US history, students are studying the US Civil War and researching their own topic for National History Day. Students should be researching their topics at home and are encouraged to go to local libraries to continue their research. In science students are learning about how organism adapt to our changing environment. In ELA we will begin our poetry unit! Your student should have saw a preview of this in their winter break homework.

Middle School (7th and 8th Grade) continued...

8th Grade: In math, students have been working on algebraic equations, learning to graph a line, as well as the rules of exponents. In world history, we are beginning to study South America! This is a fun continent to study because often times it is left out of curriculum. We will be studying the physical geography of the region, along with the culture and current events that are happening there. In science students will be learning about weather, what drives it, and how heat is transferred through different mini projects, labs, and reading. In ELA we will begin our poetry unit! Your student should have saw a preview of this in their winter break homework.

During intervention, all students have been working on using context clues to create meaning for unknown vocabulary as well as finding and using elements of text structure to comprehend nonfiction text.

Sincerely,
The Middle School Teachers

Physical Education

Hello Noble Academy Students and Families,

In January, our K – 3 students will continue to work on basic fundamental movements and playground games with an emphasis on safety. Our main focus this month will be striking implementations. Students will be learning the 4 steps to a proper baseball swing and use it in many different activities. For example, they will be swinging at a ball on a tee in a modified version of baseball. We will also use different striking implements such as a badminton racquet. Using a variety of implements still require very fundamental movements that are consistent. As always, our goal is to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for everyone. Safety is our main concern so students are taught to understand personal space and general space and how to navigate with safety in mind. We are taking every step to ensure safety in the gym and wherever students choose to be active.

In January, the 4th – 8th grade students will be developing and enriching their Badminton. During badminton we will be focusing on the two different types of serves, the forward and the backhand, and the smash and lob. This is always a fan favorites as well as a teacher's favorite, so I look forward to this unit every year. At the end of the unit students will take their badminton skills to the next level and play a badminton match against their fellow classmates. It's always a great unit to show off your skills against your peers. As always, our goal is to showcase the many different ways and opportunities students can lead active and healthy lifestyles. All students in grades 4 – 8 are now wearing pedometers which keep track of their daily steps. Our goal is for all students to get more than 1,000 steps in every class period. In grades 4 – 8, students also work on improving their personal fitness level through their daily warm up.

Reminder: All K – 8 students are expected to wear tennis shoes during gym class. It is very important our 4th – 8th graders are remembering their Noble Academy Gym Uniforms during physical education. Thank you for your cooperation!

With the bone chilling temperatures, it is hard to get outside, but Minnesota weather always allows us some days to get outside. Make sure to use those beautiful winter days to get outside and enjoy the wonderful weather. Whether it's a walk around the neighborhood, a sledding day, or making a snow fort, let's get outside. Keep living an active and healthy lifestyle!

Sincerely,
Your Physical Education Teachers

Hmong Art & Culture

Dear Families,

We have begun our new theme: Art in the Winter Time. Students have enjoyed using newspaper, construction paper, paint, and other supplies to create collages relating to winter. Some of our older students have also learned to cut symmetrical snowflakes and used it in their art collages too. We will continue our winter theme into the new year and incorporate other elements of art such as color, perspective, and texture. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Chang

Hmong Literacy/Culture

Nyob Zoo!

We are in January 2017 already! We hope that many of you enjoyed our New Year celebration at Noble! In Hmong Literacy/Culture this past month, in K-3, we worked on family and in 4-8, we worked on religion. For the month of January, we will continue to work on our Hmong culture unit along with language.

Again, please continue to encourage your child with their Hmong's fluency. Our goal is that K-3 students will master their single consonants and vowels by the end of this school year. Our goal for 4-8 students is to master their double consonants, vowels and tone markers by the end of this school year.

We hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday! Please do not hesitate and feel free to call us if you have any question or concern. Ua tsaug.

Sincerely,

Hmong Literacy/Culture Specialists

Mr. Phia Xiong K-3 and Mr. Lue Thao 4-8

Art

Happy New Year Noble Families!

The month of January has begun! This month, we are starting brand new units for the new year with all grades in art. Middle school is going to be taking a careful look at observational drawing. This means that we will be continuing to develop our skills at drawing what we see in an accurate way. Seventh grade will be drawing a still life, and Eighth grade will be drawing from a photo of their choosing. Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grades are going to be beginning their units on cultural artwork. We will be taking a close look at how artwork from different cultures reflects the people and traditions who make the art. Continue asking your student all about what they are working on in Art class. I am so proud of all of their hard work and successes in Tri 1, and I am looking forward to even more great things in Tri 2!

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda Wiser

Music

Hello Noble Families,

So much has gone on during the month of December that it would be impossible to write it all down but I will do my best.

Kindergarten and 1st grade have been learning about the Nutcracker Ballet. We've taken the song "March" and learned it has a pattern. To show the pattern we took large plastic candy canes and pretended they were horses. All the students had fun galloping and riding their candy cane horses.

Second and third grade did some drumming with another Nutcracker song called "Trepak." We also reviewed the F and C7 chords on the ukulele and played "Jingle Bells."

I want to congratulate all the elementary and middle school choirs on their excellent performances on December 8th. The music was beautiful and I look forward to the spring performance on May 25th!

Sincerely,

Alex Michenfelder

Music

Hello Parents and Guardians,

To start the New Year, 4th and 5th graders are starting a new instrument: the recorder! These instruments are great tools to teach important musical concepts. Playing together in recorder groups requires accurate note reading, rhythm reading, and a great deal of teamwork and patience. Just so you know, some students ordered a recorder through the school, but this was not a requirement. There will always be clean recorders for students to use in the classroom.

A special thanks to all who came to the band and choir concert on December 8th. It was a huge success and the students really had a blast! They will always remember their first concert! (I still remember what I played for mine!) Thanks for supporting music education.

Best,

Mr. Wightkin

Special Education

Greetings Noble Parents!

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. In the month of January the students will return to school on January 2, 2017. There will not be school on January 16th because it will be Martin Luther King Day. However, the students will be getting ready for OLPA math and reading testing. In Kindergarten, the students will be preparing for WIDA testing. Be sure to have your children get lots of rest and eat a good breakfast so they will do well on their assessments.

Currently in grades K-2, students are learning letter sounds as well as reading and writing sight words. They will also work on math fact fluency and complete 1 to 2 step word problems. As for the students in grades 3-5, the students will apply higher level reading strategies when reading non-fictional text. These strategies include: making inferences, using context clues to find the meaning of unknown words, identifying the main idea of a passage, comparing and contrasting, and writing summaries with the appropriate punctuation. Lastly, they will practice reading multi-syllable words in order to read their stories more fluently.

In grades 3-8 the students use higher level reading strategies such as identifying the main idea along with supporting details, making inferences, using context clues for unknown words, and writing summaries with additional details. Also, the students work on fluency with Read Naturally passages. Lastly, they also work on using correct punctuation and spelling words correctly when writing sentences. We are also working on writing a summary of a passage we have read, including a topic sentence, three supporting sentences, and conclusion sentence.

In math, students in grades 6-8 are working on a variety of math skills. The emphasis has continued to be on learning how to solve math story problems. Students are learning strategies and key words to look for, to help them complete these problems correctly. Students are also working on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators and finding the least common multiple

Your Special Education teachers,

Jenny Yang and Susan Welle