

GETTING READY FOR SPRING FORUM CALENDAR FOR EIGHTH GRADE TEACHERS

Thursday, March 22 – Pass out Spring Forum packets.

Note: It's essential that we get information regarding students' special needs to Kimiko ASAP so that she can start working on a schedule. All presentation rooms come with a computer, DVD, and TV. If students need a piano or some other piece of equipment in order to present, that is what Kimiko needs to know.

Week of March 26-March 30

- Collect Special Needs forms and give them to Kimiko.
- Review the concepts/themes of our Spring Forum.
 - You may want to use Barbara's power point (Ann might have one; anyone else? Some of us showed this for Open House), which is on the server (or will be by 2:30 p.m. today).
 - Themes/Concepts include:
 - 1) reflection of one's middle school years and one's growth in various subjects over time;
 - 2) knowing that both academics and extra-curricular activities make one a more rounded person;
 - 3) how to present one's self in an organized, confident manner;
 - 4) giving evidence (samples of work) of one's growth over time
- Proctor students' sorting through their portfolios. Students should cull evidence to show growth over time. Unwanted material should be taken home.
 - Their portfolios should not go home lest students "forget" them or lose them as an excuse not to do the presentations.
 - I highly recommend that you keep their packets and their portfolios in a special file or box in your classroom.
- Remind students (via the letter home) to have their parents write a letter to them about the growth that they've seen in them. ("Dear Johnny, I have seen you grow from an awkward, shy bookworm into a budding scientist who is also the fastest miler in the school!")

Week of April 2-April 6

- Review elements of the Spring Forum Presentation using the "General Outline Instructions..." Do this over Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri of this week.
 - Take one day to go over Parts I & II, another day to go over Parts III & IV and another day to go over Parts V-VII (note the two V's – sorry!)

- As you progress through the parts, students should cull items from their portfolios (6th & 7th as well as 8th grade work) that might fit those areas.
- Also, mention that they should plan to place graded school work that they get back in March, April, and May into those areas. Thus, preparation for Spring Forum from now on is on-going.

Week of April 9th-13 –SPRING BREAK!! (Party, Rest, Clean House, Take a Trip...)

WASL WEEKS – April 16-20 & April 23-27:

- Monday, April 16 & Monday April 23 – Students work on their Introduction Letters.

Week of April 30-May 4

- Students finish Introduction Letters, type them up, place them in their portfolios, and both you and they check it off on the tracking sheet.
- Students remind their parents to finish their “Parent Input Letter.” Both you and they mark it off on the tracking sheet when you see it. Place in portfolio.
- Students begin their outlines based on the Roman Numerals of the “General Outline Instruction...” sheet (I, II, III....)

Week of May 7-11

Students continue to create a detailed outline of their presentations based on the “General Outline Instructions...” sheet. Their own outlines should note the evidence/example of work and the commentary they plan to make to their validators. Here’s an example:

I. Mrs. Galler’s three essays and research papers. _____

A. First Essay: Personal/Anecdotal – “The Place I Love; the Geography I Cannot Forget” was easy for me to write about New Jersey, I thought, but I needed to work on Organization and Word Choice. My strengths were Voice, as in “New Jersey is a state of contradictions” and in Content because here Mrs. Galler wrote – “Wow, you really showed me some insights about NJ that I never knew!”

B. Second Essay: Persuasive – “Here I finally got Organization down. Mrs. Galler notes that my decision to argue my points from weakest to strongest really helped prove my thesis.” I still need to work on Word Choice, though. I keep using the word “nice” too much.

C. Third Essay: Expository –

D. Research Paper –

II. Ms. Moore’s Labs and Science Project

A. Lab 1 – Why the Oceans Are Blue

Students include Enlightening Experiences – can be academic or co-curricular...

TEACHERS CONTINUE TO CHECK OFF STUDENTS’ COMPLETED ELEMENTS FOR THEIR PRESENTATIONS

Week of May 14-18

- All is due May 17th. Day of Grace: Friday, May 18th.
- Everything is neatly organized and in a folder in their portfolios.
- Portfolios are at school
- Now the students practice: handshakes, reading aloud their Introduction Letters, going through their pieces of evidence, and closure.
- Practice, practice, practice.
- We tell them about dressing to present themselves – nothing fancy, but a bit special.

That’s it.