



8th Grade Newsletter

September 2017

Dear Class of 2018 Families,

We are extremely excited to begin a new school year with you and your scholars! In this month’s newsletter, you will find the following sections: 1) **Classroom News**, 3) **Coming Up This Month**, 4) **Paperwork & Permission Slips** and 5) **From the School Counselors**. Please be sure to check for **important high school deadlines** in the **From the School Counselors** section below. We have some exciting news for you both inside and outside of the classroom so keep reading below and please check in with your scholars about important paperwork, which we will also do our best to share with you electronically! This year, our eighth-grade teachers will have Office Hours either during lunch or after school. Each teacher’s Office Hours are listed along with their subjects below.

Classroom News:

<p>ELA Ms. Julien-Ndjiki Email: Mjulien-ndjiki@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: High School Resume Upcoming Assessments: Star Reader Independent Reading Book Quiz October 11 How to Support Your Scholar: Over the course of the high school resume unit, families are encouraged to help their scholars highlight specific achievements, honors, and extracurricular activities that they wrote about on their brag sheet. Office Hours: Mondays from 1:15 - 2:00 in room 415 or by appointment</p>
<p>Math Ms. Stassfurth Email: Mstassfurth@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Exponents (8th Grade Math: focus on negative exponents. Regents Algebra I: focus on negative and rational (<i>fractional</i>) exponents.) Upcoming Assessments: Stay tuned - check class calendar and Engrade for dates! Students will always be told of assessments ahead of time in class. How to Support Your Scholar: Please encourage your scholar, each night that homework is assigned, to choose one problem and briefly explain to you their steps in completing the problem. This will help get them comfortable in talking about mathematics, and it gives them a feeling of pride and ownership to “teach” a friend or family member about their work. It also allows families to stay on top of the homework being assigned and to know whether or not their scholar is doing this work! Office Hours: There is math extra-help after school every Wednesday from 2:45-3:30 in room 409 with Ms. Stassfurth (<i>formerly Ms. Giuliano</i>).</p>
<p>Science Mr. Shetia Email: Sshetia@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Basic Skills and The Scientific Methods (scholars will learn how to use different tools in the science lab and how to collect data using accurate measurements. In addition scholars will conduct investigation on water turbidity and write a full lab report.) Upcoming Assessments: Basic skills quiz on Monday, September 18 and unit test at the end of this month(check class calendar and Engrade for the exact date! A unit study guide will be given to the scholars 5 day ahead and</p>

	<p>sent to the parents by e-mail.</p> <p>How to Support Your Scholar: review the lesson topics with your scholars by using the attached PowerPoints files and worksheet files attached to each assignments on Engrade and the class calendar. As well as review the study guide that will be posted on Class calender and sent by e-mail to you.</p> <p>Office Hours: Every Wednesday during lunchtime in room 407</p>
<p>Social Studies Ms. Fletcher Email: lfletcher@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Gilded Age</p> <p>In this unit, the students address the essential question: <i>How do people, policies, and technology shape a nation?</i> Students will examine how the United States developed into an industrial power and the individuals and groups that helped to modernize the nation. Our topics for this unit include: the closing of the frontier, industrialization, immigration, and urbanization.</p> <p>Upcoming Assessments: Sioux Talk Show; Unit test</p> <p>How to Support Your Scholar: Discuss current events and looks for connections between our modern world and history. For example, what are modern issues facing Native Americans and how do those issues relate to events in the 19th century?</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesday at lunch in room 405</p>
<p>Dance Ms. Stampoulis Email: Cstampolis@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Current Unit of Study: Thriller</p> <p>Students in 8th grade dance will learn how to dance as part of an ensemble by learning the famous choreography from Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” music video.</p> <p>How to Support Your Scholar: Please review and sign Mott Hall II Dance Scholar guides with your scholar. Familiarizing yourself with dance class expectations will help you to discuss their progress throughout the year!</p> <p>Office Hours: Tuesdays during lunch</p>
<p>Music Ms. Feder Email: Sfeder@motthall2.org</p>	<p>Students in 8th grade music are returning to the piano keyboard. We are reviewing rhythms, fingerings, notes and hand/finger independence. We will begin learning to play the djembe and all classes have begun vocal warm-ups.</p> <p>Lunchtime chorus has started up again!</p> <p>Office Hours: Fridays during lunch</p>
<p>ICT Support Ms. Chao Email: Achao@motthall2.org</p>	<p>If your scholar needs support in classwork, homework or organization, feel free to see me during.</p> <p>Office Hours: Wednesdays during lunch and by appointment in Room 409</p>
<p>8th Grade General Engrade Update:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year we will be transitioning the posting of HW assignments to Engrade. Stay tuned for more information as we begin to roll this out! • As we are just beginning the school year and you and your scholars are checking Engrade Pro accounts, please note that only if there is an “M” indicated, then the assignment is missing. If there is a blank for an assignment, the grade hasn’t been entered yet.

Coming Up This Month:

- **Curriculum Night: Tuesday, September 26th! 5pm-8pm.** Please see the letter backpacked home on Tuesday, September 12 for more details.
- **Rosh Hashanah (No School):** September 21-22
- **8th Grade Walkathon Friday, Oct. 6th!** Please wear comfortable sneakers/shoes, we will be walking about 4 miles.
 - (Rain date Thursday, Oct. 12th)

Paperwork & Permission Slips:

- **Walkathon Pledge Sheets** - Go out there and get SPONSORS! We need to raise money for 8th grade dues and the Walkathon is a great way to raise funds. Keep an eye out for the pledge sheets from your scholars and they will also be emailed.
- **Parent Email Changes** - please inform Ms. Herrera if you need your Mott Hall II parent email preferences to be updated. Many important notices will be sent out via email regarding school events and high school admissions. Email jherrera@motthall2.org to address these issues.

From the School Counselors

Community Service:

The devastation left by hurricane Harvey and Irma, has been felt and seen all around the country, and for many, it has affected us personally. In the coming days, Mott Hall II scholars, will be working together, as a community, to raise money for families that have experienced severe loss to their belongings.

If there are any parents/guardians/families, who would like to support our endeavors, please feel free to contact Ms. Robbins - jrobbins@motthall2.org

High School:

- **All Bragsheets are due tomorrow, Friday, 9/15**
- **List of 12 schools due Friday, 9/15**
- **SHATS and La Guardia registration surveys due 9/29**
- **Performing Arts School audition surveys due 9/29**
- **Check websites and emails for open house dates and times**

Any questions, please email at bgorman@motthall2.org or see Mrs. Gorman in room 420A

8th Grade Action Shots:

Stay tuned for action shots of your scholars, they're coming soon!

