



AUX SABLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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www.psd202.org/auxsable

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

We welcome our Aux Sable families and new students to the 2009-10 school year. We hope that you enjoyed a relaxing summer vacation and are ready for an amazing year. Behind the scenes, office staff worked on new textbooks and preparing schedules and registration materials in order to start the year off well. We thank **Mrs. Garon, Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. Crabb, and Mrs. Rzaza** for additional time and work this summer to support our families.

We appreciated seeing many of you at the *Welcome Open House* on *Saturday, August 22*. This event is a voluntary day for our staff, so we thank those individuals who were able to attend and meet and greet returning and new families. We enjoy offering this day each year for working families to have a chance to come in on a Saturday and spend some time preparing your student for a successful start for the school year. It was great seeing you and we send a special thanks to **Eich's Sports** for joining us this year to sell PE uniforms to families at the event and the **Wiet family** for their efforts to help us purchase Dippin Dots for the *6th grade Welcome Day*. We hope the day allowed you time to locate new classrooms, get into new lockers and better understand the room utilization in place due to a larger enrollment. Our 8th graders will be asked to step in a new role with the new configurations in the hallway. As servant leaders, they will be asked to serve as big brothers and sisters to assist younger learners through their actions, leadership, and decision-making. We no longer will be just grade level teams, but multi-levels grade level families and communities that will work together to support stronger student involvement and trust at all grade levels.

We have so much to celebrate as we open our doors for the fourth time. Schools are judged and measured as effective when students take the *Illinois Standards Achievement Test* in **March** annually. For the first two years, ASMS did not meet *Adequate Yearly Progress* in one subgroup in the area of reading. With an increased goal of students meeting and exceeding standards in 2009 at 70%, we added another subgroup this year and met AYP for all areas! We contribute this success to the efforts of our **School Improvement Team, Enrichment and Enhancement teachers, and our PBIS/RTI Team**. The goal for 2010 will increase to 77.5%, but with the efforts extended by our staff, we are confident that our students will continue to meet and exceed learning expectations.

As we enter September, we will again ask families to support our *Annual Magazine Fundraiser*. Our school only completes one fundraiser which is used to create dollars to support families in need, student activities, teacher supports, and other school-wide efforts. We ask families to consider this one-time effort to help all ASMS students and teachers. Although, we continue to face economic challenges, we ask families to consider this drive to continue to help our students and families. A good book or magazine offers a chance to escape, read good information that might help through difficult struggles. I admit *People* magazine is my guilty pleasure and it allows me to forget about the troubles at school, my own family concerns, and come back with a fresh perspective after reading the magazine. My husband likes the car magazines and again it offers his opportunity to relax and then reconnect to the world. We hope that you will purchase magazines this year and get extended family involved with all proceeds going back to support the activities we do here at ASMS for our students, families, and teachers.

We plan to place newsletters on line quarterly. The next newsletter will be available in **October**. If you have any additional questions or needs, please let us know by contacting deans, secretaries, teachers or administrators at (815) 439-7092.

Sharon Y. Alexander, MA. EdS
Aux Sable Middle School, Principal

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OFFICE UPDATES

Message from Mr. Merritt- Assistant Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Hello and welcome to another exciting year at Aux Sable Middle School in what we know will be a very successful year for all individuals involved in the educational process! For those of you who do not know much about me, I am proud to serve the community as *Aux Sable's Assistant Principal*. Prior to taking on the responsibilities of Assistant Principal, I served the Aux Sable community as the *Dean of Students* during the first two years we were open.

Our **School Picture Day** occurred on **August 26th** and was a success. If your child was absent on Picture Day, please plan for your child to take a picture on our picture retake day, which is scheduled for **Monday, November 2nd**.

Our annual **Magazine Sales Fundraiser** will be starting on **September 14**. A representative from the fundraising company will be here on that day to conduct an assembly with the purpose of encouraging students to sell magazines. After receiving the magazine sales packet on September 14th, there will be 4 collection dates. Those turn-in dates are listed below:

Sept. 15 - Post Card Booklet Collection

Sept. 17 - Turn-In Day #1

Sept. 23 - Turn-In Day #2

Sept. 29 - Final Turn-In Day

Our annual **Curriculum Night** will take place on **Thursday, September 10th** starting at 6:30 p.m. We hope that all parents and guardians will be able to attend this special event. You will have an opportunity to meet your child's team of teachers, gain insight about what your child will be learning throughout the year, and be provided with valuable information that will assist you with ensuring your child's academic and social success in middle school.

One of my responsibilities as the Assistant Principal here at Aux Sable is student attendance. In order to receive the most amount of financial benefit from the State and Federal government, it is vitally important that we have ALL of our students in attendance at school each and every day. In the event that your child begins to accumulate numerous absences, you will be contacted by your child's teachers and Social Worker. For additional attendance concerns you may also be contacted by the District's truancy officer and me to work with you and your family to improve your child's attendance rate.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding your child's academic success, please contact me at 815-439-7092 Ext. 5810.

Sincerely,
Michael Merritt
Assistant Principal,
Aux Sable Middle School





OFFICE UPDATES

A Note from the Deans Office

Dear Parents and Guardians

Mr. O'Hara and **Mrs. Desiderio** would like to welcome you to a new school year. Mr. O'Hara is returning for his second year as a Dean at Aux Sable, eleventh year as a dean in Plainfield, and Mrs. Desiderio is our new Dean of Students. This is her seventh year in education formerly from the Oswego School District. She is very excited to be joining the Bulldog team and looks forward to working with this school community.

We have some very exciting things happening this year that we are looking forward to. We are starting the year with our **PBIS Assembly**, where students will be introduced to the *3 B's of Aux Sable; Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Involved*. Positive recognition will be practiced throughout the building as students are provided *Bulldog Bucks* when staff "catches" them practicing the 3 B's. The more they continually practice the 3 B's, the more opportunity they have to earn Bulldog Bucks. It is that simple!!

As those alarms are ringing at a time that may seem earlier than ever, we would like to take this opportunity and remind our students to get a good night sleep in order to be at top performance levels every day. Students, this may mean shutting down the computer and turning off the cell phone, but in the long run it will ensure you are more alert for the days to follow. Please remember to eat breakfast every day, as this is your fuel for the body and mind until lunch.

With the weather still inconsistently warm, we would like to remind students and parents of our dress code policy. Shorts must be below the middle pointer finger with arms at sides and tops must have straps that are at least three fingers wide. Hats are not to be worn in the building at any time. Please be sure to follow the dress code policy and ask if you have any questions. The alternate solution is students being required to either change into their P.E. uniform or calling home for another outfit. Dressing for success upon leaving home will eliminate both these potential outcomes.

A few other very important topics are bus safety and electronic devices. PLEASE be safe at your bus stops, remain seated on the bus, and get off the bus one at a time, without pushing. Be sure to say "Good Morning" to your bus driver as well, it will brighten both your days! Electronics, including cell phones, must be turned off and stored in your locker during the school day. There are no exceptions to this policy. The first offense will be a phone call home and confiscation for the day. Second and subsequent will require a parent to come to the office for phone pick-up.

Last, but not least, we are going to have an exciting presentation on **September 25th** from *Rachel's Challenge*. This presentation will spread the news about how being positive and recognizing individualism can start a chain reaction of optimism. Additional information about this organization can be obtained by their website at www.rachelschallenge.org. Funds for this presentation were raised last year and Aux Sable is very excited to have this powerful presentation to share with our community. Further information will be provided at a later date.

Again, we are so excited to be here and look forward to working with you to ensure your child has a positive experience here at Aux Sable Middle School. We hope to help make this the best year yet!

Sincerely,

Mr. Sean O'Hara
Mrs. Autumn Desiderio





OFFICE UPDATES

Message from Marie McMenamini- Special Education Admin.



Dear Aux Sable families,

Although I am a new face to Aux Sable, I have worked in Plainfield schools since 1999. This is my third year as a middle school special education administrator in the district. I am honored to work with the staff, students, and parents at Aux Sable.

Transitioning back to a school schedule takes time. I am still adjusting to the earlier wake-up time, as are my children. Setting a schedule that allows a time and place to organize materials has helped us quite a bit. Consider designating a set area for bookbags, papers to be signed, and extracurricular equipment. Mornings can be hectic, especially with a 7:30 school start time, so making sure all materials are in their place the night before can relieve anxiety in the morning. Starting the day with completed homework and necessary materials helps the school day run smoother and allows students to focus on learning.

Marie McMenamini, *Special Education Administrator*

Message from the Social Worker



Welcome Back to School! With the new school year there have been a couple of changes within the social work department. We are pleased to have **Angie Pellegrini** joining our staff and **Jessica Andrews** returning. Ms. Pellegrini will be working predominately with the SilverTeam and 6th grade Green Team; she can be reached at extension 5891. Ms. Andrews will be working predominately with the Black Team and 7th & 8th grade Green Teams; she can be reached at extension 5890. The role of the social worker encompasses efforts to serve as an advocate and liaison for students, families and staff to create an environment of effective problem-solving and learning in attempts to remove barriers to student achievement. While crisis and special education students have a priority, the social workers are here for all of our students. Referrals to the social worker can be made by staff, parents or the student themselves.

Do you remember when you were in middle school or junior high? What was the experience like for you? Are there things you would have done differently? We have all “survived” this experience and by working together we trust that you and your child(ren) will as well, so that when they look back they have positive recollections of Aux Sable Middle School. This will be a team effort. As parents/guardians we encourage you to review the ten tips below which are adapted from the *National Parent Teacher Association*:

1. **Be involved.** Parent involvement helps students learn, improves schools and helps teachers work with you to help your child(ren) succeed.
2. **Provide resources at home for learning.** Utilize your local library, have books and/or magazines available. Read with your child(ren) daily.
3. **Set a good example.** Show your child(ren) by your own actions that you believe reading is enjoyable and useful. Monitor television viewing and use of video/game systems.
4. **Encourage students to do their best in school.** Show your children that you believe education is important and that you want them to do their best.
5. **Value education and seek a balance between school work and outside activities.** Emphasize your child(ren)'s progress in developing the knowledge and skills they need to be successful both in school and in life.
6. **Recognize factors that take a toll on students' classroom performance.** Work with your child(ren) to help them maintain a balance between school responsibilities and outside responsibilities.
7. **Support school rules and goals.** Take care not to undermine school rules, discipline or goals.
8. **Use pressure positively.** Encourage your child(ren) to do their best, but don't pressure them by setting goals to high (unattainable) or by scheduling too many activities.
9. **Call staff early if you think there is a problem while there is still time to solve it.** Don't wait for staff to call you.
10. **Accept your responsibility as parents/guardians.** Don't expect the school and staff to take over your obligations as parents. Teach your child(ren) self-discipline and respect for others-don't rely on school staff to teach these basic behaviors and attitude.



OFFICE UPDATES

District 202 Equity Advisory Council

District 202 is looking for staff, parents, community members and secondary aged students to participate on a *district advisory council* focused on looking at the issue of diversity and meeting the needs of all students in our district. Those individuals interested are asked to submit an application and the *DEAT (District 202 Equity Advisory Team)* will review the applications and choose a council to represent the diversity of our district. Applications are available at all schools and on the district website. These applications will also be available at *Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 10*. Hope to see a member from the ASMS community. If you have any additional questions, please contact **Mrs. Alexander** or **Dr. Kellie Sanders**, *Principal at Walker's Grove Elementary School*.

Transportation News

Each and every day we work to make sure your student is getting to and from school safely. Our work starts with strong communication. If you are having a concern with a late bus or have driver issues, please contact **First Student** at 815-436-3700. Dispatchers can assist you with locations of busses or addressing driver concerns. For additional contacts, **Linda Brunner** is the *First Student Manager* and she can also assist you if a dispatcher is not available. The *Assistant Manager* is **Sean St. John** and he also assists with concerns with transportation. We remind all families that video tapes are located on most if not all buses and audio is very strong when video is viewed by school personnel. For privacy issues, those videos can only be viewed by school personnel, please see the board information below. Our deans of students will deal directly with discipline issues on busses, but additional concerns with drivers or late busses must be contacts to First Student.

If parents cannot get through to First Student or do not feel their problems are getting resolved, **Plainfield Transportation Department** encourages additional contact to their department at 815-436-7800.

Notes from the Learning Resource Center



Welcome back! My name is **Nikki Houston** and I am very excited to now be a part of the Aux Sable Learning Community. This is my fifth year in the district, but my first year as a Media Specialist. I look forward to getting to know you and your child in the coming year!

So far, **Mrs. Imburgia** and I have been very busy with checking out textbooks, creating ID's, laminating, and assisting the staff and students. Many classes have already come in to type papers, create Power Point presentations, and select books for leisure or research projects. In addition, each Language Arts teacher is scheduled to bring in his/her class for an orientation. During the orientation, I introduce myself, go over the LRC procedures we have at Aux Sable, send the students on a quick scavenger hunt, and allow them to browse and check out books.

This year, most of the procedures have stayed the same. We will still be open before and after school (7:15-3:00). Each student is still allowed to check out one book at a time for two weeks. If they need more time, they are welcome to renew the book. Please remind your child to turn their books in on time as there is still a 10 cent late charge for each day the book is late. And, finally, if a student loses his/her ID, there will be a \$5 charge for a replacement.

While there aren't any major changes, there are a few minor ones to note. The students now have an area to write down books they would like us to purchase for the LRC and they are now able to print material in color for free. In addition, if they are the first person to read one of our new books, they are invited to join the First Read Club. To participate, they fill out information on a blue "First Read Club" bookmark and let us know what they thought of the book. After each quarter, we will recognize all of the members from that quarter on the announcements and will honor their accomplishment with a small celebration. In addition, a sticker with their name will be placed on the inside cover of the book, commemorating their participation. And, finally, we will soon begin a lunch time book club called AS-FBI (Aux Sable Finds Books Intriguing). The students will be welcome to sign up and come down to the LRC to listen to us read a book for the last twenty-five minutes of their lunch time. We look forward to sharing some great literature with them!

Let's start the year off great!
Mrs. Houston, Media Specialist



OFFICE UPDATES

News from the Nurse



Join the District 202 Hand Washing movement in the fight against the H1N1 influenza.

Please remember to wash your hands and to use your sleeve when coughing or sneezing. To view a video on respiratory etiquette go to www.coughsafe.com

Aux Sable Middle School does not allow Energy Drinks (Monster, Red Bull, Jolt, etc.) to be consumed on school property.

Did you know?

Most energy drinks deliver a stiff dose of sugar and caffeine - sometimes as much caffeine as in 1 to 3 cups of coffee. Too much sugar can put you in the fast lane to the dentist's office and also contribute to weight gain. Excessive caffeine can negatively affect attention and concentration. Caffeine is a stimulant -and because kids are smaller than adults and haven't yet developed a tolerance to it, its effects on them may be more pronounced.

Too much caffeine can cause:

- jitteriness and nervousness
- upset stomach
- headaches
- difficulty concentrating
- difficulty sleeping
- frequent urination



Many of these drinks also contain additional ingredients whose safety or effectiveness has never been tested in kids - including herbal supplements, guarana (a source of caffeine), and taurine (an amino acid thought to enhance performance). The bottom line is this: *Energy drinks offer no real health or performance benefit for kids.*

For athletes and non-athletes alike, nothing beats a well-balanced diet. Most kids who eat well, stay hydrated, and get enough physical activity and rest will have plenty of energy - naturally.

For more on this subject go to www.kidshealth.org

Cindy Moss RN, *School Nurse*
Stacey Dame RN, *Building Nurse*



BULLDOG EVENTS

Choir News

The Aux Sable choir members have been hard at work since Day 1! The singers have been working on reviewing the fundamentals of singing and preparing for our first concert (see date/time information below). Each year the Aux Sable choirs have been growing and this year we added another section of 6th Grade Chorus! These choir members have a lot to be proud of!

During this fall season, 7th and 8th grade choir members will be offered the chance to audition for the *Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) District IX Junior Chorus Festival*. We hope to send some of Aux Sable's dedicated 7th and 8th grade choir members to this prestigious all-day choir festival! Chosen students will perform on **Saturday, November 7th** (location TBA) under the direction of a well-known conductor.

Please mark your calendars and join us for the first choir concert of the year! The students truly appreciate your support!



**Meet the Choirs Concert:
Music from Around the World**
**Wednesday, November 11th,
7:00 PM**
Aux Sable Main Gymnasium

Questions?

Please contact **Mrs. Riewaldt**: kriewald@psd202.org, (815) 439-7092 x5825



BULLDOG EVENTS

Student Council

My name is **Mrs. Sylvia Downing** and I have been in the Plainfield school district now for 9 years as an art teacher. Before coming to Plainfield I worked for 2 years in Elwood, IL. This is my first year as the advisor of the Aux Sable Student Council. Before arriving here I was a teacher at Indian Trail Middle School and the student council advisor there. Through my 8 years of service at IT I made a program for the students that helped them to express their needs and wants. I have hosted workshops for council throughout Illinois and provided collections of materials for numerous charities throughout the area.

I have a bachelors degree in Art Education and a masters degree in Education. My family consist of my husband who I have been married to for 2 1/2 years, my 2 step daughters Taylor 15, Payton 13, and Anastacia my 9 week old baby girl. My hobbies include drawing and painting.

The *Aux Sable Student Council* is in need of some strong members. We will have our first meeting on **September 8, 2009** at 7:00 A.M. in room 156.

Packets explaining the expectations of a council member are available in the main office or room 156. This packet also includes a permission slip that needs to be returned on or before the first council meeting.

Events that will be occurring through the council include the annual *Homecoming Dance*. The dance will be held on **October 2, 2009 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm**. The cost will be \$5.00 for each Aux Sale student at lunch and \$6.00 at the door. A *Haunted House* and *Goblin Party* will also be in the works during the month of October. This event is scheduled for **October 23rd from 5:00pm - 8:00pm and on the 24th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm**. This is a great event for the family. Those who are brave enough can venture in to the Haunted house to experience a thrill. While the Goblin Party offers events for the younger kids. The Goblin party will include carnival like games, coloring, a costume contest and more!

Board Games Club

Board Games Club will be starting up again in the end of September. All students are welcome. The games go from 2:45-3:45 every **Thursday** in **Ms. Hood's** room 207. See you then!

FACS Club

FACS Club will have the organizational meeting on **Wednesday, September 16 from 2:45 until 3:15** in Room 152. FACS Club will meet on Wednesday afternoons, and the meeting schedule will be posted on the web site. Students may pick up information about FACS Club at the Club Fair held during lunch periods. Contact **Mrs. Albrecht** or **Ms. Herring** for information.

Athletics

Welcome back! We are looking forward to another great year from our athletic programs. This fall our student-athletes will be participating in **7th and 8th Girl's Volleyball, 7th and 8th Boy's Soccer** and **Cross Country**.

Again, congratulations to the *Paw Pac Championship teams* from the 2008-2009 seasons: 8th Girl's Volleyball, 8th Boy's Volleyball, 7th and 8th Girl's Soccer and 8th Boy's Basketball.

Please come out and cheer on the Bulldogs! All sports schedules are posted on Aux Sable's website. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail at jemurphy@psd202.org or call me.



STAFF STUFF

Encore Spotlight

The Encore Team welcomed new teachers this year. **Mrs. Sylvia Downing** is our new Art teacher. She joins us with lots of experience from Indian Trail, and will also be the Student Council sponsor. **Ms. Jessica Rainey** is our new Career Education teacher. She joins us from Timber Ridge. Ms. Rainey describes herself as a real technology lover, and she has lots of great ideas for the Career Cruising unit. **Ms. Josephine Hlavacs** is teaching seventh grade music during Block 1 before leaving to direct the choirs at Timber Ridge.

The Encore classes are each nine weeks long. Art, Music, and Computer Applications classes have one instructor for the entire quarter. Family and Consumer Science and Applied Technology classes will be team taught this year. **Mr. Lyznicki** will be teaching each class for four and a half weeks in the Synergistic Lab, switching Career Exploration classes with **Ms. Rainey** at the midterm. **Mrs. Albrecht** will be teaching all the FACS Sewing classes, switching groups at midterm with **Ms. Herring**, who will teach all of the FACS Foods lab classes.

Encore classes in the Block Schedule are fast-paced. Students only have 22 class periods to complete the course requirements. Students need to have their supplies very quickly after they begin each course. We encourage parents to check the Encore supply lists that are posted on the school web site before each quarter begins, so that the supplies are in the classrooms as soon as they are needed. The Encore teachers all send informational letters home on the first day of the quarter. We encourage parents to read, sign, and return those letters as soon as possible. The Encore Team teachers all welcome parent questions and concerns, and can be reached via e-mail or at the phone extensions that are listed on the school web site.

Art Club, **FACS Club**, and **Technology Club** will all be having organizational meetings early in **September**. Students will have the opportunity to join these clubs after the school club fair registration period. Watch the school web site for special programs sponsored by the Encore team this year. Planning is underway for an **Evening Creating Art Together**, and a **FACS Showcase** night. We are looking forward to a great year with the Aux Sable families and students.

Mrs. Albrecht and Ms. Herring, *FACS*;
Mrs. Downing and Mr. Niwa, *Art*;
Mrs. Reiwaldt, Mrs. Bedore, Mr. Rathgeb, and Ms. Hlavacs, *Music*;
Mr. Lyznicki and Ms. Rainey, *Applied Technology*;
Mrs. Bedore and Mr. Africa, *Computer Applications*

P.E. News

Hello from the Aux Sable Physical Education Staff!



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!! We are very excited to start our fourth year here at Aux Sable Middle School. There are a few changes in regards to the physical education uniform. Students will be able to wear their own shorts (mesh/workout shorts) as long as they are of athletic material and in accordance with school code. No pajama bottoms, cargo, or jean shorts will be accepted. The previous year's physical education uniform will be accepted as well as the gray Plainfield physical education shirt. Teachers will go over class expectations within the first few days of school. The students will not dress until the week of 31st. During the first quarter of the school year some of the activities that the students will participate in will include skating, team building, soccer, football and fitness. Lastly, we hope that each student will enjoy the physical education experience.

We are so happy to have the privilege to teach your child/children. Please be in touch throughout the school year. Please encourage an active lifestyle and healthy eating in their lives.

Sincerely, Aux Sable's Physical Education Staff:
Stephanie Lopez slopez@psd202.org ext. 5848
Jennifer Murphy jemurphy@psd202.org ext. 5848
Jeff Mcfarland jmcfarla@psd202.org ext. 5847
Michelle Pendzinski mpendzin@psd202.org ext. 5848

Alfonso Lopez alopez@psd202.org ext. 5847
Chris VanDyke cvandyke@psd202.org ext. 5847
Nate Spriggs nspriggs@psd202.org ext. 5847

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Team Updates

Team 6-Green

Welcome to G-Force! Aux Sable's team 6 Green. We are so excited to start the year with our group of wonderful students and look forward to a successful year here at Aux Sable.

Your team teachers are **Joanne Pierce** (Language Arts), **Nicole Dehlin** (Math), **Tess Daskas** (Language Arts and Social Studies), **Becky Cross** (Math and Science), **Kelly Otto** (Science and Social Studies), **Sarah Hilb** (Instructional), and **Jennifer Nashkoff** (Resource). While your child will not see all these teachers every day we are all available to help all of our students.

Some important websites to bookmark are <https://plnpar.psd202.org/> our parent web module which will have grades and homework assignments updated on a weekly basis and <http://my.hrw.com/> which is the online math and science textbook. Parents will need to set up their own parent web module account using their child's id number. The log in for the online textbooks is **a6green** and the password is **bulldog**. Students will need to choose the correct textbooks for their class as all books are available on this site. We encourage students to use the online textbooks as an alternative to carrying textbooks home every night and as an extra resource.

Students received many important handouts during the first days of school including the student handbook (in their agenda book) and a copy of our team policies. All parents should have signed the agenda book receipt and filled out a copy of our contact sheet. If you did not, please ask your child for this information.

We hope that every student is challenged academically this year and will be successful in the academic classroom. Here is a brief overview of topics that students will be studying first quarter: freshwater systems, early man and Mesopotamia, graphing and rational numbers, reading strategies, story elements, word study and grammar rules.

Team 6-Silver

The 6 Silver VIPERS are off to a FANTASTIC start. We have really enjoyed meeting our students this first week and are looking forward to getting to know each individual student and the uniqueness they all bring to the team. The nerves of our new sixth graders are slowly leaving and excitement is starting to set in. At this point, you should have received our team's policies and procedures, and students should understand the high expectations of all the 6 Silver teachers.

It will be a great year for our young mathematicians. **Ms. Cournaya** and **Ms. Hood** are ready for lots of learning to take place in their classrooms. We will begin all classes with number sense. We will then move on to the dreaded fractions, decimals, and percents.

Science is all about water. After **Mrs. Gnat** teaches our future Albert Einsteins' learn lab safety and the scientific method, they will be ready to "dive" in. We will begin with the Earth's water distribution and supply for both fresh and salt water.

Mrs. Dahl and **Mrs. Coppes** will be exploring ancient civilizations this year. They will begin the year as true historians by studying the early man and moving on to Mesopotamia. Our students will definitely be surprised by the many differences between the 21st century and ancient times.

In Language Arts, **Mrs. Kimbrell**, **Mrs. Coppes**, **Mrs. Meyers**, and **Mr. Krause** will be working hard to improve our students' reading and writing skills. The first month will focus on reading strategies, Wordly Wise vocabulary, and parts of speech. Students should be reading their "SQUIRT" books everyday!

Thank you in advance for your support. It is so important for teachers, students, and parents/guardians to work together to ensure a successful 6th grade year.

Mrs. Coppes ~ Ms. Cournaya ~ Mrs. Dahl ~ Mrs. Gnat ~ Mrs. Kimbrell ~ Mr. Krause ~ Mrs. Meyers

Team 6-Black



Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! We have an exciting and challenging year planned. As we get to know each and every one of you better, we can work together to make 6th grade a rewarding experience for all of us. We hope that your transition to middle school and team 6B thus far has been an easy one. Our team philosophy is steeped in the belief that all students should be provided with the opportunity to receive a quality education focusing on their individual strengths so please do not hesitate to contact any one of us with any questions or concerns. Go Bulldogs!!

Thank you,

Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Masurak, Mrs. Seeman, Mr. Komon, Mrs. Zila

Team 7-Green



Welcome to 7 Green

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. Your team of teachers this year include **Ms. Levitsky, Mrs. Gornick, Mr. Lee, Mr. Hoffman, Mrs. Winfrey, Mrs. Hahn, Mrs. Zucker, and Mrs. Vermaat.**

Collectively we have over 55 years of teaching experience with degrees from Western Illinois University, St. Francis University (x2), University of Illinois, Lewis University, Illinois State University, University of Iowa (x2), Northern Illinois University (x2), Govenors State University (x3), Tiffin University, and Benedicting University. Six Master's degrees are held by your team of teachers, with more on the way!

In addition to education we have had many prior positions, which include business owner, construction worker, gas meter reader, McDonald's employee, manager of Boston Market, bill collector, EKG reader, lifeguard/swim coach, bartender, WalMart employee, green house worker, care taker for an animal shelter, secretary for an animal research lab, child care worker, 3 YMCA employees, 2 landlords, area manager of several PizzaHuts, pipeline construction, waiter/waitress, 2 rec center employees/directors, Burger King manager, Tupperware salesman, welder, Wendy's grillman, and a pool manager.

Outside of teaching we enjoy coin collecting, motorcycles, action movies, jogging, sleeping, swimming, Bible study, camping, 4-wheeling, reading, basketball, traveling, yoga, gardening, collecting postcards, going to the beach, bike riding, hiking, sewing and quilting, scrapbooking, and post card collecting.

7 Green teachers are excited about this new year and looking forward to working with you and your student.

Team 7-Silver

On behalf of Team 7 Silver, we would like to welcome you and your child back to another great year here at Aux Sable. Teachers on the team include: **Mr. Wulf** (Social Studies), **Ms. Duffy** and **Ms. Miller** (Math and Pre-Algebra), **Mrs. Reidy** and **Ms. Churchill** (Language Arts), **Mrs. Bangash** (Science), and **Mrs. Pugh** (Resource).

Please be on the lookout for Team Guidelines that were sent home during the first week of school. Teachers have also sent home letters regarding their specific classes that need to be returned as well.

Here is a brief synopsis of what your child will be learning in each class during this first class. In math class students will be covering the following topics in the 1st Quarter: exponents, order of operations, properties, integers, the coordinate plane, tables and graphs, squares and square roots, factors and multiples, and rational numbers. While homework will be assigned almost daily, students will be given ample time to practice the content they have learned in class through cooperative learning and other activities. Pre-Algebra students will be covering the following topics during the first quarter. Their skills for these topics will be developed through in-class practice by way of different activities; i.e. group work, individual practice, math games, etc. First Quarter Pre-Algebra Topics: Evaluation algebraic expressions, applying order of operation, integer operations, solving equations using add./sub. and mult./div., absolute value, rational numbers, scientific notation, estimating square roots, cube roots, and the Pythagorean theorem. As you can see by the list our Pre-Algebra students will be covering several topics this first quarter. So expect them to have lots of math on the brain.

First quarter for Language Arts classes will focus primarily on getting to know our students while studying the following concepts: elements of fiction, writing a narrative, and literary genres.

In Social Studies, students have already done a quick review of the Middle Ages. Now we are moving on to the Age of Exploration and the discovery of the New World. Students will be completing a small project covering each of the explorers. We will then begin looking at how these explorers interacted with Native Americans and Africans in the Americas.

Finally, in Science, students will start off the year learning about lab safety, the Scientific Method, metric units, characteristics and classification of living things, and beginning an Ecosystems unit.

We look forward to a great year of learning and fun! Together, we can make Seventh grade a wonderful experience for your child!

Team 7-Black

Welcome to the 2009- 2010 school year! We are excited and ready for a challenging year of learning. The three of us are eager to teach your child the necessary skills to be prepared for 8th grade and beyond. As we get to know each and every one of them better, we will work together to make 7th grade a rewarding experience for all. We hope that the transition to 7th grade and team 7 Black thus far has been an easy one. As a team, we believe all students can be successful in our classrooms and we will strive to challenge and support them in every way. Concepts of 7th grade consist of pre-algebra and 7th grade math, life science, early American history, and a variety of reading and writing. So please, do not hesitate to contact any one of us with any questions or concerns. For daily homework assignments and class announcements, please check out the parent web module: <https://plnpar.psd202.org>. With the realignment of the new teams and grade levels, we are currently working on a team name and logo. We look forward to meeting each and every one of you at curriculum night!

Mrs. Madden - *Language Arts*

Mr. Sea - *Math*

Ms. Vant - *Science / Social Studies*

Team 8-Green

Science: This year your eighth graders will be learning various earth science concepts in their science class. We will begin our studies by looking to the stars. Students will explore astronomy concepts such as telescopes, physical features of the moon, solar and lunar eclipses, and NASA. We will end the quarter with a project where your students will work in pairs to design and launch their own rockets! I'm looking forward to an exciting year exploring the world around us in science. Go Green!!

Language Arts: We are diving right into Language Arts! We are starting the year off by writing biographies on our fellow classmates. By doing so, we can learn about the writing process, and we can hopefully make some new friends too. Soon after that, we will be studying Elements of Fiction by reading short stories from our literature book. We will focus on skills such as previewing material, active reading strategies, conflict, and theme. Overall, we have had a great start to our new academic year!

Math: All classes began exercising their minds with a review of material from last year. Pre-Algebra will concentrate on learning to use variables appropriately. Algebra classes will move right into functions and graphing. Classroom procedures and basic properties are heavily stressed in the first month so the rest of the year can be devoted to improving students' ability to think.

Social Studies: Onward and Westward we go this quarter! In Social Studies, we will be studying the Lewis and Clark expedition as well as other explorations of the American west. We will be taking a close look at Manifest Destiny, the expansion of the western border and the issues and events that will gradually lead us to the Civil War.

As we begin our year here at Aux Sable Middle School, I want to express the enthusiasm I have for this upcoming year. Responsibility and motivation is already evident in this class of 8th graders. We are settling in and are building relationships that will enhance learning. I look forward to promoting an atmosphere where there will be a desire to learn, while reaching toward the goal of independence.

Team 8-Silver

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year and the 8th grade Silver Linings Team. We are looking forward to meeting you at the upcoming *September curriculum night*. As a reminder from all of us, we encourage you to monitor the *Parent Web Module* (<https://plnpar.psd202.org>) for homework and grade updates.

Here is an overview of the happenings in your child's core subjects: Language Arts - We are starting off the school year with interviewing a classmate and writing a biography. Students will formulate higher level questions using Bloom's Taxonomy. Elements of fiction will follow with the study of various short stories. Throughout the quarter, students will also broaden their vocabulary through various word and prefix study. Our accelerated classes will be working out of the 9th grade Wordly Wise series. All other classes will use 8th grade words. Be sure to ask your child to wow you with their ever-expanding vocabulary. Please encourage your child to read their personal reading (S.U.R.F.) book.

Social Studies- First quarter in Social Studies students will 'explore' Westward Expansion. Your child's reading and writing skills will continually be utilized in reading non-fiction text and responding to higher level questions.

Science- The beginning of the year will cover observations using students' five senses, scientific method, and lab safety. Students will participate in an Oreo lab, a beverage lab, and a listening lab. Exciting things are 'brewing' in science.

Pre-Algebra/Algebra- Our mathematicians will begin with a brief review of rational numbers and solving equations. Pre-algebra students will be applying their knowledge of integers, fractions, and decimals to solve problems. In algebra, students will build on their pre-algebra skills to solve multi-step and complex algebraic equations. All math classes will focus on word problems and various solution strategies.

Team 8-Black

Team 8 Black is ready for another exciting year at Aux Sable. We have a great group of dedicated and experienced teachers. Our team leader and science teacher is **Mrs. Sue Raslowsky**. This is Mrs. Raslowsky's 25th year of teaching and her fourth in the district. She is a fiercely passionate teacher who takes an avid interest in her students. During the first quarter, Mrs. Raslowsky's science classes will be studying astronomy. They will begin with the relationship between the sun and the moon and then move on to the rest of the universe. Mrs. Raslowsky will also host at least one Star Party during the first quarter. This is an opportunity for students to come to school in the evening with their families and observe the moon, stars, and other planets through the use of telescopes. Be on the lookout for a permission slip coming home with your child soon. Also during their astronomy unit, students will be completing a home lab where they will track the movements of the moon and record their observations.

Our social studies teacher is **Mr. Jason Hrechko**. This is Mr. Hrechko's eighth year of teaching and his fifth in the district. Mr. Hrechko is extremely enthusiastic about his subject area; he literally makes history "come alive" for his students. During the first quarter, students will be studying westward expansion in early America. Topics will include early explorations, the relationship between American settlers and Native Americans, motivations behind westward migration, and the war with Mexico.

Our two math teachers are **Mrs. Lisa Bryjak** and **Mr. John Jones**. This is Mrs. Bryjak's 10th year of teaching and her third in the district. She is a lover of math and enjoys the challenge of explaining it to her students. Mr. Jones is entering his 23rd year of teaching and his third in the district. He is an extremely knowledgeable teacher who relishes the opportunity to impart this knowledge onto his students. During the first quarter in pre-algebra, students will be studying topics such as positive/negative integers, decimals, fractions, percentages, and various other mathematical properties. In algebra, students will be studying advanced problem-solving techniques, polynomials, ways to manipulate resources to solve problems, and various other mathematical properties.

Our two language arts teachers are **Ms. Amanda Welsh** and **Mr. Brock A. Dennis**. Ms. Welsh is entering her fifth year of teaching, and she has taught in District 202 all of those years. She is an extremely enthusiastic teacher who works diligently to ensure all of her students' learning needs are met. This is also her first year teaching the accelerated classes. Mr. Dennis is entering his seventh year of teaching and his fourth in the district. He is an especially energetic teacher who lives for language arts. During the first quarter, students will be writing a biography, reviewing reading strategies, reading one novel, studying vocabulary, and reviewing the elements of fiction as well as reading various fiction stories.

Our ELL teacher on Team 8 Black is **Mrs. Maria Sherrill**. This is her 14th year in teaching and her fourth in the district. She is an extremely devoted teacher who does her absolute best to help enhance her students' learning. She will be assisting her students in their language arts classes.

Our team's Instructional Teacher is **Mrs. Julie Rosch**. This is her ninth year of teaching and her first year in the district. She is an extremely eager teacher who is looking forward to working with a fresh batch of students. During the first quarter, students will be focusing on ways to improve their performance in school. Topics will include completing homework, getting adequate sleep and a balanced diet, and devising ways to enhance consistency.

Our team's Resource Teacher is **Mr. William Reidy**. This is Mr. Reidy's third year of teaching, and he has been in District 202 each year. Mr. Reidy is an invaluable member of the team who works tirelessly to ensure his students' success. He will be assisting students in their math and language arts classes, as well as working with them on an individual and small-group basis.