

# NEWSLETTER

## CAREER MONTH



### Important Dates:

- 5 /8 – 5/15 – Book Fair
- 5/13 – Minimum Day
- 5/14 – Open House/ Science Fair
- 5/22 – Kid's Heart Challenge Event
- 5/25 No School – Memorial Day
- 5/29 – Spirit Day: Decades Day
- 6/4 – Last Day of School

### STATE TESTING REMINDER

Please come to school on-time with a charged chromebook.

### Mr. Valencia-Barron

#### 7th Grade:

Students will end the year with a novel study! After learning about themes of dystopian civilizations and societal oppression, students will read Lois Lowry's *The Giver* and analyze how these themes develop throughout the text. Through this study, scholars will explore how fiction can be used as a means of commenting on societal pressures.

#### 8th Grade:

Students will end the year with a novel study! Building on their previous lessons about the Holocaust, they will further examine themes of prejudice and injustice through a reading of John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.

### Mr. Whipple

7th Grade: Scholars are writing and solving one-step equations from word problems; writing and solving two-step equations from word problems; writing and solving inequalities.

8th Grade: Scholars are identifying functions from mappings, t-tables, and figures; modeling with functions and input/output tables; constructing linear functions and models from data and word problems.

Math Intervention: In 7th grade, we will be working on integer addition and percents. In 8th grade, we are working on forms of a line, finding slope from points and equations, and graphing lines in the three forms (standard, slope-intercept, and point-slope).

Computer Science: We are learning about computer hardware and software. We have learned basic components and have started diving deeper into how computers process and store data. We will learn the differences between RAM and ROM, DRAM, SRAM, DDR RAM, and GDDR RAM, as well as the differences between primary and secondary storage.

# Bella Mente Middle School May 2026

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## Mr. Reyes

Seventh graders have been busy diving into the “rebirth” of Europe, studying the Renaissance’s artistic explosion—including da Vinci’s mirror writing and Michelangelo’s techniques—and the Reformation’s religious shifts, highlighted by Martin Luther’s challenge to the Catholic Church. Students explored how the printing press spread new ideas and how humanism shifted focus to worldly, rather than solely religious, concerns. They also learned about key reformers like John Calvin and Henry VIII, who broke away from the Catholic Church.

Shifting to eighth grade, the class identified major differences between the industrializing, urban North and the agrarian, slave-dependent South. They analyzed how these sectional differences—including economic disparities and the expansion of slavery—set the stage for conflict. The class is now set to begin studying the Civil War, starting with immediate causes such as the election of 1860.

**Crucial Reminder: 200-Point Album Project**  
Please check in with your student about their history album project. This is a major, 200-point assignment that requires in-depth research and a creative presentation. Ensure they are on track with their research, drafting, or assembly to avoid a last-minute rush!

**Community Leadership:**  
Students are stepping up as leaders, preparing to teach peers about heart health ahead of our American Heart Association fundraiser. They are building leadership skills by creating lessons on cardiovascular health, active living, and kindness, helping foster a culture of service and wellness.

## Ms. Hasselberg

**7th Grade:** Students are studying ecology, exploring how organisms get resources, interact, and how ecosystems change. They’ve built scientific vocabulary and analyzed scenarios. They are also completing science fair projects, designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data, and applying the scientific method.

**8th Grade:** Students are learning how genes relate to traits, comparing their own traits and studying mutations. They modeled mutations by building paper airplanes from different “instructions” and comparing results. We will continue genetics and begin preparing for the CAST test in late May.

**Applied Science & Technology:** Students learned about the Artemis II mission and explored the Moon’s environment and needs for human visits. They also discussed Earth Day and our own planet.

**Spanish:** Students are building vocabulary through games and activities and learned about “Semana Santa” in Spain.

SCIENCE

