

September 15, 2009



The Panther Page

Parent-Teacher Conferences

On the 29th of this month are Parent-Teacher Conferences. Students will attend school ½ day. All students will be dismissed at 11:00 and conferences will begin at 12:00. You will receive a conference letter from your student's team. You may request a conference with an individual teacher or with the team of teachers that work with your student. Conferences will continue until 6:30p.m.

Explore Test for 8th Grade Students

Also, on the 29th of September the 8th grade students will take the Explore Test. This test is to be taken seriously for it is a predictor of success on Plan and ACT.

Please advise your student that this test is as important to them as is the TCAP .

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be sent to you in the following ways. The Progress Reports for all students who have a D or F at this time will be mailed out on the 17th of September. If your student does not have a D or F, they will bring their progress report home on the 18th of September.

Learning Targets and Formative Assessment

This year we have made a concerted effort as has every other middle school to make students aware of their learning. Every teacher is teaching to the learning targets/standards and the students have a copy of what they are learning. In addition, all teachers are giving formative assessments that are not graded. as they are teaching a concepts. The purpose of these formative assessments "Check Ups" is so that

the teacher can make adjustments in instruction and so that the student is aware of what he/she understands and what is not understood or mastered. If the teacher and the student are putting emphasis on the formative assessments it should and will eventually eliminated failures on summative assessments. Please ask your child on a regular basis the learning target they are covering in each class and how they are doing on their "Check Ups." We feel that a more focused instruction will help our students as they are being presented more rigorous state standards.

"Java with Josie"

In our "Java with Josie" last week a parent wanted me to share with all parents a great website for those of you that might be interested
www.nutshellmath.com

On the first of October, I will have another "Java with Josie" at 1:00p.m. The topic of this session will be learning targets and formative assessments.

PSAT for 8th Graders

We were able to secure 100 PSAT tests through Page High School for our 8th grade students. As you know we offered the opportunity to all 8th grade students and had to take the first 100 applications. We are trying to order more test but if this is not possible, we will have to turn away 35 students. Next year we will take care of this process within our school so that as many students as want can take advantage of this. Next year we will offer the PSAT to our seventh and eighth grade students.

6th Grade Mixer

The sixth grade mixer will be held at Page Middle School this Friday, September 18, 2009. The times are from 6:00 to 8:00. We expect a large attendance and a lot of fun.

Have a great week, Josie

