

7/8 SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

August 31, 2020 Edition

ON THE SCIENCE FRONT

Last week we discussed whether or not it is possible to be both, a Christian and a good scientist. We talked about the various reasons it is beneficial to study science.

We have been reacquainting ourselves with basic definitions and concepts of scientific investigation. We will review the six basic steps of the scientific method, safety procedures for labs, etc. and will be drawing up and signing a lab safety agreement. It will come home to be signed by the student's parents as well. It is important that this agreement be strictly followed throughout the year when conducting labs. We love the students here at NCS and do not want any of them harmed while performing science experiments.

At the end of the week we had made it halfway through three of the four lessons in chapter #1. The plan is to begin there this week and finish out the chapter. We will spend time in class answering and checking a chapter review which will serve as their study sheet for the chapter test. At this time, it is looking as though the test will most likely take place on Tuesday, September 8th, although subject to change.

For those students who did not write their observation homework using complete sentences, it will be returned for them to re-do. Failure to do so will result in a zero. I know we've been out of school for a long time now, but as we get back into the groove of things, it will be expected that all answers be given in complete sentences unless otherwise specified. This is appropriate for 7th and 8th graders as they prepare for the looming rigors of high school.

HISTORY HEADLINES

When conversing with Mrs. Mc Bride this summer, she indicated that the class had covered US history up through the end of the Revolutionary War, but didn't get much past that point. Therefore, she and I felt it was best to start with what transpired right at the end of the war and how the writing and ratification of the Constitution resulted in the structure for our government becoming established. This may be a bit of review, but will soon proceed forward.

In an effort to get students more excited about, engaged in, and accountable for their review of this time period, I have broken the class up into four small groups. Each group has one event they will be responsible for informing their classmates about through whatever creative means they desire, within reason. They must present the information in a clear way. Each presentation should result in the class being able to fill in the next section of answers in our review packet.

There will be an overall grade for the presentation that will be given to all of the members of the group. Leading up to the presentation, daily participation grades will be given for each individual during the "work days." I expect each student to contribute something of value to the development of their group's project & presentation. Students will receive a rubric outlining the scoring and expectations of this assignment.

I cannot wait to see what creative ways the students will come up with to complete this project!