

From The Intermediate End

Welcome back to another eagerly anticipated school year. We, in the intermediate division are excited to be back and are rested from our hot, summer days. As this new bunch of intermediates grace our rooms, we are reminded of our departed grade 8s and look forward to graduating a new crop. It is important to understand that being an intermediate student means more responsibility. These responsibilities include taking the initiative to get their work in on the assigned dates and balancing their time between all the different subjects.

Evaluation Portfolios

Students will be using an Evaluation Portfolio in order to keep track of all major assessment items for all their subjects. This portfolio organizes and keeps track of all tests, quizzes, presentations, and projects in their home room and rotary subjects. We believe it is an important tool to use for constant communication between parents and teachers. Students will be required to get this portfolio signed once a month. This allows parents an opportunity to check out how their child is performing with all the things we are doing here at Jacob Beam.

Language Arts

For our first term we will be focussing on teaching many different reading strategies that the students will use during their secondary education. We will continue to use our Nelson Literacy Program daily as it includes many different reading and writing activities that will assist them in their high school years. In terms of our writing program, the students will focus on 3 different writing genres for the first term, (Recount, Procedural and Persuasive

Writing). It is our belief that these three writing forms are easy to transition into after a long, summer break. Our Oral program, will continue to thrive on classroom discussions along with group and individual activities throughout the term. In all intermediate classes, there is a portion of the language program which is set aside for independent reading. During this time the students are reading materials of their choice. Students will be supported and encouraged to choose appropriate material that is both challenging and interesting for them to read. Afterward, they will be expected to complete a reading response based upon their independent reading choice. Therefore, if it is both challenging and enjoyable to them, it will be reflected in their assignments.

Mathematics

Getting back into math can be a bit of an adjustment, especially for our new intermediates. It can be expected that your child may have math homework 2-4 days a week, depending on their ability to use their class time wisely. We will be looking at Number Sense and Numeration as it is the foundation for all the other strands that will be looked at during our year. During the first term they will also do Data Management.

Science

The students will be examining our earth's water systems. This unit deals with how we get water from this earth and follow it through the water cycle. We spend much time exploring how we purify and filter water to make it useable for many different specific needs. It is important to know that

the students will have 2 larger projects as well as 1 large unit test at the end of the first term. Vocabulary words used throughout the term have been posted in the science room and it is the responsibility of the students to come in and copy the words down along with the definitions which are found on the back of the word cards. They will remain in the classroom accessible to all students until the day of the test. All words will be on the test in different types of questions such as matching, multiple choice, or fill in the blank. Again it is the student's responsibility to make sure they have these for each test this year.

Phys-ed

While the weather is still nice, our phys-ed program will be balanced between both indoor and outdoor activities. Sports such as soccer, football, volleyball, and cooperative games will be our focus this first term. Please understand the importance of having proper gym attire. This includes a change of clothes, and a set of both indoor and outdoor shoes that are non-marking.

History

As the Intermediate students are beginning to gear their minds to be prepared for the rigours of high school, History and Geography are run in a 'semester' type system. They will begin the year with an examination of the developments of New France, and the enduring cultural and societal influences this period has had on our society to this day. Specific themes throughout the early term will include, but not be limited to: Heroes and Villains, the Fur Trade, and the Seven Year War. As the end of the Seven Year War ended, it ushered

the era of British North America. We will be exploring the impacts of the United Empire Loyalists, as well as taking a detailed look at the War of 1812. These examinations will take us into the Christmas Break and beyond. There is a great deal of material to examine and analyse, and it is expected that the students make full and complete use of class time provided. Assessments for the program will be in the form of tests, quizzes, role plays and debates.

We are in full swing and ready for a great first term. It is important for you to know that all teachers in our intermediate division share an open door policy where we want you to feel very comfortable in approaching any of us regarding the school year. We are looking forward to meeting you throughout the school year!

Thanks from the Intermediate Squad,
Mr. Millin, Mr. Sotola and Mr. Robinson