

From The Intermediate End

Welcome back to another eagerly anticipated school year. We in the intermediate division, are excited to be back and are well rested from our hot, summer days. As this new bunch of intermediates grace our rooms, we are reminded of our departed grade 8's and look forward to graduating a new crop of excellent students. We have a lot of interesting activities planned for this group. Trips such as visiting our local university and another overnight trip to a winter camp after the new year. It is important to understand that being an intermediate student means more responsibility. These responsibilities include taking the initiative to get their own work completed on the assigned dates and balancing their time between all the different subjects areas. Also, every school in Ontario has broken the school year into 2 semesters just like our secondary counterparts. Therefore, the students will have 2 semesters rather than the traditional 3 terms. This means that students will receive a progress report in Nov. followed by 2 standardized report cards . They are send home in Feb and also in June.

Evaluation Portfolios

Students will once again be using an Evaluation Portfolio in order to keep track of all major assessment items for all of 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 way it 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 semester, 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 career. In terms of our writing program, the students will focus on 3 different writing genres for the first semester (Recount, Procedural and Persuasive Writing). It is our belief that these three writing forms are an easy transition for them after a long summer break. Our oral program will continue to thrive on classroom discussions along with group and individual activities throughout the semester. 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 reflect in their assignments. If they enjoy these novels it will positively reflect in their assignments!

Mathematics

Getting back in to math can be a bit of an adjustment, especially for our new intermediates. It can be expected that your child may have math homework 3-4 days a week, depending on their ability to use their class time wisely. Due to the new semester

system, your child will be focussing on all the 5 strands of math in each of the two time periods. Our first strand will focus on Number Sense and Numeration followed by, Measurement, Geometry, Algebra, and finally Data Management. Although each strand is important this does not mean that each will receive the same amount of attention. Thus, your child may not receive that much homework in Data Management however he/she can expect more in Number Sense and Numeration. We understand that all students learn differently and therefore will do our best to vary our teaching styles to meet all our classroom needs.

Science

The students will be examining the Pure Substances & Mixtures unit. This unit deals with the particle theory and changes within all 3 different states of matter. We spend much time exploring how the world economy uses these two items for everyday uses on our planet. Also, a technology piece is added so the students learn to use the computer for scientific purposes. 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 through out 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 include a chance of clothes, and a set of both indoor and outdoor shoes that are non-marking.

Geography

Geography will be studied for the first semester, therefore your child will not have to worry about History until semester 2. The 3 areas of study will be, Human Patterns, Economic Patterns, and Mobility and Migration. It is expected that each student comes to class prepared to work and keep a organized set of notes. There marks will be derived from classroom tests, quizzes, and assignments. Due to the large class size some of the assignments will be done in groups.

We are in full swing and ready for a great first semester. 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!

French:

Je vous souhaite bienvenu and a Welcome Back. I'm very excited to be able to share this year with your children and I have plenty of fun, productive activities for us to engage in. We will start our year with a general review of everyday vocabulary. We kept our notes from last year in order to build upon what we already know. If someone is unable to find their notes we will fill in the

blanks. No one will be left behind. Our first activity of the year includes creating a plan for an imaginary school and labelling it with the help of reference tools. We will each label a classroom and fill a desk with objects related to school and things of our choice. When we have all of that in order we will discuss the necessary verbs needed to put all of that vocabulary into sentences and proper context. We will be working in the AIM reading program and will be reading a great book for intermediate students called “Simon le Grincheux” and will practise answering questions following the pattern. We have already been exposed to with AIM. This year will be productive and fun. I’m available to discuss any comments or concerns at Jessica.Rondeau@dsbn.edu.on.ca or call the school for an appointment.

Thanks from the Intermediate Squad,

Mr. Millin, Mr. Sotola,
Mme. Rondeau and of
course Mr. Robinson