

The Wave

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Spanish version at
www.almeriamiddle.org

Learn Today for Success Tomorrow

Quote of the Month- Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. – Albert Schweitzer

OCEAN MOTION— INSPIRING MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL MR. FROMM

Parents Can Help Teens Become Responsible Citizens

Citizens in a democratic society have many rights . . . but they also have responsibilities. Here are five ways parents can help their teens become responsible citizens:

Set a good example. Take an active role in your community. Attend a meeting of your city council or school board. Take your teen with you.

Expect your teen to do things for the good of the family. Help them see that when everyone contributes, everyone benefits.

Take part in community service projects as a family. Clean up trash in a nearby park. Set up a paper recycling program. Help children with disabilities enjoy physical activity. Or, choose another activity your family can do together.

Learn about current events. Choose an issue that affects your neighborhood or community. Read about it in the local newspaper and watch news programs for more information. Perhaps you and your teen could attend a meeting on the subject.

Emphasize the importance of fair play. Winning isn't everything. Children should learn to take pride in doing their best—not being the best.

TRULY CARE

Sincerely care about what you do. Give your full attention and respect to the task at hand.

There are those who depend on the work you are doing. Put yourself in their shoes, and look at the world from their perspective.

You have within you the potential for excellence. That excellence will be realized in your work when you truly care about each thing you do.

Do not fall into the trap of thinking that some particular task is somehow beneath you. Instead, seek to raise up the significance of that task by giving your very best to it.

Each effort is an opportunity to express your highest, most treasured values. Each job is a chance to transform your vision of what life can be into something real and concrete.

The greatest, most valuable achievements are those built with genuine passion. Put passion and sincere care into the work you do, and the results can be astounding. -- Ralph Marston

COUNSELOR NEWS

Almeria's counseling department welcomes Mrs. Jessica Cifelli as the 3rd full-time counselor. Mrs. Cifelli will be the counselor for 6th grade students, Mr. Conklin for 7th grade, and Mrs. Simpson for 8th grade. The counselors have visited all elective classes and introduced

themselves and presented information relating to available health intervention programs. Mrs. Simpson and Mr. Conklin will visit 6th grade classes the last week of August to present a guidance lesson on middle school report cards, calculating grade point average and

reviewing the 2nd trimester lunch/quad program.

All parents should be receiving 2008 STAR testing results in the mail. Based on these results, Assembly Bill 1802 mandated meetings with 7th grade students and their parents will begin in September.

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Gregory J. Fromm-Principal
Kim Bente- Asst. Principal
Stuart Hamill-Asst. Principal
Debbie Simpson-Counselor (8th)
Fred Conklin-Counselor (7th)
Jessica Cifelli- Counselor (6th)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kathy Binks
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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Cali L. Olsen-Binks

BENTE'S BASICS: A Message on Teaching and Learning : Kim Bente—Assistant Principal

As another school year kicks off into full swing, the best thing you can do to help your child succeed is to stay interested in his or her education and share the joy of learning.

Students actually spend much more time at home than they do in the classroom. How they spend their time outside of school affects their academic success.

Here are a few things you can do to help your child succeed.

LET YOUR CHILD KNOW THAT EDUCATION MATTERS. Make education a top priority by working with your child every day. Ask specific questions such as, “How did your language arts test go?” or “What did you discover in your science experiment?” or “Can you show me how to do one of your math problems?”

LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL. Get to know your child's teachers and let them know that you want to support your child's education. Attend student-led conferences. Join the School Site Council. Be a part of our ELAC Committee. Volunteer to help in your child's classroom. Supervise at lunch. Chaperone a field trip.

EXTEND YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING. Every waking moment is an opportunity to learn. Limit the amount of time your child spends watching television and playing video games. Make sure your child is reading and writing, and that he or she sees you doing the same. Take your child to libraries, museums and other places that can help him or her learn.

YOUR CHILD'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION!

HAMILL'S HEADLINES: News From Student Support: Stuart Hamill - Assistant Principal

As I was browsing through our school website, I found great information that had to deal with parenting. As a father of 3, I have found that my children get confused if I am not consistent, firm or fair. I hope this information will work as well for your family as it has for mine

Be Firm, Fair & Consistent

YOU are the parent, and only you can decide how to carry out discipline in your own home. But, no matter what you do, the experts say the secret of success is to be firm, fair and consistent.

BE FIRM

You are the adult, and you are in charge. You have the maturity and the experience. Your children don't. Only an adult can establish the limits of acceptable behavior in your household. With loving firmness and authority, you must establish the rules and firmly enforce them.

BE FAIR

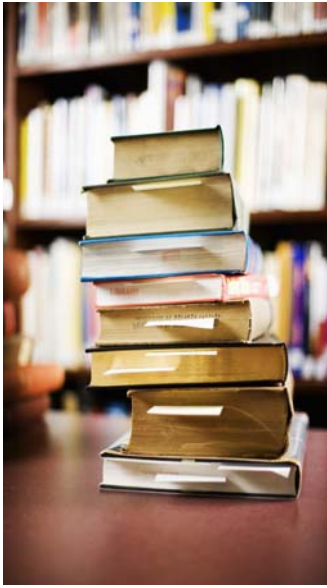
Children have a keen sense of fairness. They will accept nearly any rule you make if they understand that it is fair and that it is being applied fairly. If kids believe a rule is unfair, they will resent it and disobey it.

BE CONSISTENT

Children will test you to find the limits. That's natural. It's how they learn what you really believe and what the rules really are. Your actions always speak louder than your words.

You may say the rule is “No TV until homework is done.” But, if children find they can sometimes talk you into letting them watch a program, they learn that the rule really is, “No TV—unless you can talk me into it.”

If you are consistent, your children will learn the important lessons discipline can teach them. If you are not consistent, children will be confused and won't learn much of anything.



LANGUAGE ARTS NEWS

6TH GRADE:

The 6th Grade Language Arts classes will be working on many of the state standards. Some of these include writing using revision to improve the organization and consistency within/between paragraphs. We will also continue to work on sentence structure and identifying the subject and the predicate.

7TH GRADE:

The 7th grade Language Arts department is having a wonderful time with the students thus far. We have started off strong with focusing on areas the students need help in the most: grammar, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. Additionally, we plan to start introducing plot and plot diagram so that students will be well-prepared for the narrative writing prompt on the 1st trimester District Assessment.

8TH GRADE:

In Language Arts students will be continuing to prepare for the District Benchmark tests. The genre for the district writing assessment is narrative. Students will continue to learn about the parts of speech including nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. In their spelling lessons they will be working on related words, easily confused words, the prefixes ad-, and in-, and words from French.

MATH NEWS

6TH GRADE:

During the month of September, all sixth graders will be working on solving one-step equations. For example, oranges cost \$0.40 more per pound this week than last week, which would be $x + \$0.40$. Then, give them values to substitute for the x , such as \$0.20. Other valuable resources on equations can be found at www.aplusmath.com, www.aaamath.com, and www.coolmath.com.

7TH GRADE:

Pre-Algebra: We have a new Math adoption this year. We are working on integers, Order of Operations to get our year off to a great start. The students are very enthusiastic about this year and are working very hard to achieve 'new' academic goals and progress!

8TH GRADE:

Chapters 2, 3, and 4 will be our focus this month. In Chapter 2 the students will be learning about the vast array of equations, and proportions, absolute values, and word problems. In Chapter 3 the students will be learning about inequalities while solving inequalities by adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. They will solve inequalities with absolute values, learn how to graph and

write inequalities from word problems. In Chapter 4 the students will be learning about functions and relations.



SCIENCE NEWS

6TH GRADE:

Students will be expected to know that the Sun is the major source of energy for the Earth and that it powers the water cycle, winds, and ocean currents. They will also learn that the Earth is composed of several layers. Students in many classes will be making 3 dimensional models of the Earth to demonstrate their knowledge of Earth's interior.



7TH GRADE:

Life Science: In our Science class, we have done some word processing in the Computer Lab and learned some new techniques to use on the computer. We are studying Health and the human body, and learning about Lab Safety and the instruments used in the Science Lab.

8TH GRADE:

This month the students will be studying Matter. They will learn to describe matter. They will learn that each atom in the periodic table has distinct properties and atomic structure, about the chemical reactions that occur when atoms are rearranged into different combinations of molecules. The students will also continue the scientific process by asking questions and conducting careful investigations.

SOCIAL STUDIES

6TH GRADE:

During September, we will be learning about our earliest ancestors, including Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons. We will be exploring famous archaeological discoveries and art, such as cave paintings. An excellent website, filled with information, pictures, and games, is www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/lascaux. Talk with your child about what they are learning – you'll be surprised how much they know!

7TH GRADE:

History in the Seventh Grade Is World History. We are currently studying the causes and effects of the fall of the Roman Empire. Our next topic will be Islam. We will be learning about the life of Mohammed, the five Pillars of Islam and the Qur'an. Our students are using AVID strategies in Social Studies such as Cornell Notes and Costa's Levels of questioning.

8TH GRADE:

In Social Studies, the focus is on early American history. Students will be learning about the colonization of North America and the Revolutionary War.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We are off to a "hot" start-literally! Utilizing the gymnasium, we are pre-testing all students in the California Physical Fitness tests and comparing scores to the healthy fitness zones set by the state. Students are learning and practicing Physical Education procedures and will begin their sports units after testing. Help you child be

more active and successful in PE by:

- **Frequently asking your child what activities they like to do, then help them do it.**

Be a role model. Show your child that physical activity is important by enthusiastically participating in it.

Upcoming activities:

6TH GRADE: Project adventure, Dance and challenging games.

7TH GRADE: Orienteering and Football

8TH GRADE: Orienteering and Basketball



ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



In the wonderful world of English Language Development (ELD) our students are focusing on reading fluency and writing skills. Our students will build beautifully composed masterpiece sentences that will soon build to complete multi-paragraph essays. We are nearing our completion date of CELDT testing. This is a state test that tests the mastery levels of writing, reading, listening, and speaking. We hope to

receive the results by the first week of January 2009.

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)

What a wonderful meeting we had last month! We are so excited to begin a year ready to build healthy and memorable experiences for our ELD students. Many thanks to our wonderful parents who were able to attend! Our next meeting will be on September 8, 2008. Please save the date!

THE WAVE

ART

Welcome to the AMS visual arts class. I am Mr. Smith, and I am very happy to be a part of your student's curriculum. We currently have about 150 students enrolled in the visual arts elective program. Our focus for the first trimester is to develop an understanding for some of the "7 elements" concepts of Art. Basically, our

students are learning about Line, Space Shading and Form. The kids have completed some diverse assignments, from illustrating their classmates to drawing a paper bag! I'm sure if you were to ask them, they would tell you, these assignments are "interesting", but fun. I look forward to having an outstanding year with my classes.



COMPUTERS

In this class, the students will learn to use the computer in a hands-on environment where each student has access to a computer for the entire class period. To get started, instruction will focus on:

- * The Microsoft Windows Operating System – Opening (starting) and closing (quitting) an application, naming and saving documents, locating a folder or document on their computer or on the file

server, and opening or closing a document or application

- * Basic Microsoft Word skills—Formatting a document, selecting and deleting text, cut/copy/paste, and character formats, font sizes, and font styles (bold, italic, underline, outline, shadow).

Students will be expected to apply their computer skills to their work in their other Almeria Middle School classes. As often as possible,

the computer teacher will work with the regular classroom teachers to develop specially coordinated projects using the computers or to allow students to use the computers to complete work for their regular classes. The students will also use Study Island to enhance their Pre-Algebra and Algebra skills. Students will be evaluated and assessed for their accuracy, participation, and effort in this class.

BAND/CHORUS

The Almeria Performing Arts Ensembles are preparing for an even bigger year musically than last year! Our ensembles have almost doubled in size from last year! We now have over 48 band members, 35 singers and 33 members in the Orchestra and Guitar ensembles. Our first "Band Camp" is August 23, where we work hard to organize our program, receive instruction

on our instruments, enjoy a musical movie, and get to know each other better. Our first public concert will be October 28th. Mark your calendars now!



ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY / LEADERSHIP NEWS



We are off to an exciting year in Leadership/ASB. We have a great group of students who are all excited about making this a great year to be a student at Almeria. We had a successful Back to School night by selling out of all pizza and drinks. Our Dolphin Mart team has been working hard getting our student store ready for the year. Students can buy or trade in their

“Dolphin Dollars” for items such as: pencils, paper, high-lighters, notebooks, bags, etc...Our Student Body President, is doing a wonderful job of keeping the class in order and making sure everyone is involved and working hard. Our Vice-President, has already shown her leadership skills by leading the school in the “Pledge of Allegiance” each morning during an-

nouncements. We are working hard to make this a fun year. Here are some upcoming events to be aware of:

September

School wide QSP fundraiser
Make up Pictures

October

Renaissance Assembly
Renaissance Incentive
School-wide dance

SEPTEMBER 2008

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
1	NO SCHOOL	2	AM FITNESS MINIMUM DAY	3	INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	4	INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	5	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP
8	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP SSC/ELAC (5:45 PM in room S1)	9	MINIMUM DAY Spelling Bee G.A.T.E FIELD TRIP (GETTY CENTER)	10	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	11	INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	12	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP MAKE UP PICTURE DAY
15	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	16	MINIMUM DAY STUDENT LED CONFERENCES	17	AM FITNESS MINIMUM DAY ELAP CAMP INTRAMURALS STUDENT LED CONF.	18	INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP HEALTH SCREENING THROUGH PE CLASSES	19	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP HEALTH SCREENING THROUGH PE CLASSES
22	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	23	AM FITNESS MINIMUM DAY ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS WRITING TEST	24	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	25	INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	26	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP
29	AM FITNESS INTRAMURALS ELAP CAMP	30	MINIMUM DAY ENGLISH LANGLAAGE ARTS MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST						