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# Secondary Newsletter

September-October



Happy autumn to you all. :) It is so nice to be together, and our new space (The Jade Room) is working out well. We're trying out some new "systems" this year, including **Quarter blocks** (where classes shift and/or change each Quarter, the first quarter being 9/10-10/31), a universal **Online Gradebook** (where grades for each assignment are logged at [learnboost.com](http://learnboost.com), and students/families can check them anytime via login account and access code emailed to you on 9/23), and **Class Periods**, where we are blocking our classes as follows:

1st period (optional) 8:00-9:00

2nd period (on time arrival important) 9:00-10:20

3rd period 10:30-11:50

Lunch Break 11:50-12:40

4th period 12:40-1:30

5th period 1:40-2:30

We are setting strong **individualized goals** with our middle and high school kids through our twice weekly "individual studies" block. Some are preparing for PSAT 8/9 or PSAT 10, as well as the ACT. Some are working towards personal goals to become proficient at math or writing skills. *Ask your kid how you can support them in reaching goals in individual studies at home.*

**Spanish** is being woven into our classes, and has its own block on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students should be practicing frequently at home, and bringing their Spanish notes to and from school to review often. Immersion and repetition are the best ways to really absorb a new language. Also, DuoLingo.com is a great place to practice and learn new content at their own pace in Spanish, and *we really encourage DuoLingo at home!*

Please keep up with what your kid is up to at school, and help them reach their goals! **Homework** should be done with care and attention to detail, and returned on time. *Please help your child set aside time for homework each day and give the proper care to the assignments we send home.* Even more importantly, please remember how important **Attendance** is, and on time arrival. **Please check in if there are any absences on the horizon, and after any school is missed.**

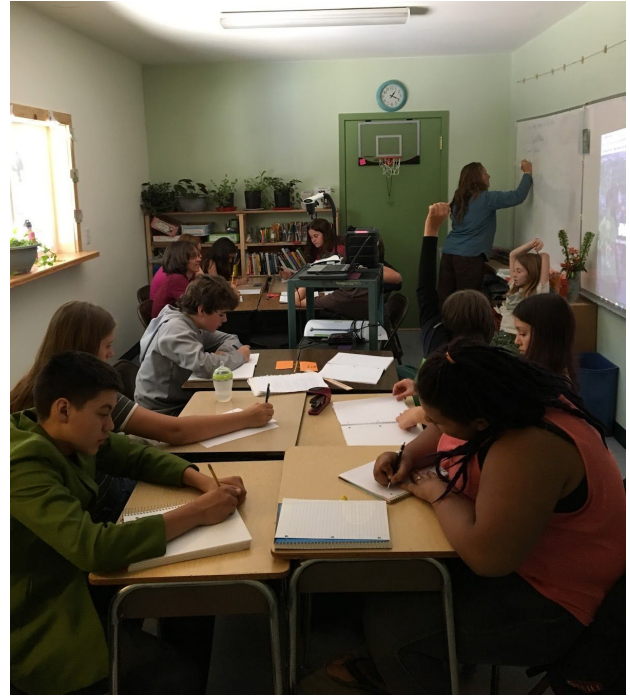
Finally, we have a lot of opportunities for earning your **Parent hours** in a way that directly supports our class. Check out our parent board (next to the students' lockers in the breezeway)! Flip through the next two pages for a look at what we're learning & info on upcoming dates!

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## A Glimpse At What We're Learning...

**English Composition & Literature:** How (and why) to punctuate properly--“A panda walks into a bar... eats, shoots and leaves...”. Writing with all of your senses-- personal narratives/autobiographical incidents. SAT vocabulary, PSAT practice and literary analysis. Also, Jennifer Rose is teaching grammar and punctuation, word usage and new vocabulary through “Caught Ya” exercises as a warm up on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

**Spanish:** We are using the online resource, [Fluenz.com](http://Fluenz.com), as a primary curriculum for studying beginner Spanish. We've already had our first quiz. All students can have their quizzes re-graded if they are willing to write the correct answer 8 times. We are also learning a few songs in Spanish, including “Me Gustas Tu” by Manu Chau and “Soy Yo” by Bomba Estereo.



**Fine Arts:** We are currently 'building' books that will provide not only a lovely product, but also, a receptacle to record and house much of our work in many of the classes this year, especially Art. Through the process of learning to make a handmade book, we are looking at the practice of craftsmanship and more broadly how one thing is connected to another. The book will also become a way for students to share what they are doing and provide a place for others to communicate their appreciation and observations about the work.

**Mathematics:** Diving into the world of GEOMETRY! From the basics (lines, angles and formulas) to the abstract (platonic solids vs complex polyhedrons). Kids will need to study their notes at home to help retain the lessons we cover in class, and are also taking home geometry lessons from our textbook. We are working in teams of two through our primary curriculum “Teaching Textbooks” Geometry, and getting ready to kick off another year of individual math books, picking up where we left off, or starting anew! Coming soon: Kimi and Terry are planning a really neat collaboration where we will be sculpting large geometric masterpieces and taking them to a professionally glazed and fired endpoint in October and November!

**Sciences:** Our science emphasis for the first quarter is on topics in “Environmental Sciences”. In the first two weeks, we've talked about Climate Change and Global Warming. Currently we are transitioning into the importance of small scale farming and agrarianism. Originally, we talked about doing environmental science only until Meryl returns in November, but there is so much to cover we are considering extending the curriculum through the winter.

**Music:** Our music class with Erol di began on Friday, September 28th! We'll be learning with Erol di, a wonderful music teacher who resides in Ashland and commutes to be with us, most Fridays from this point forward. More soon! :)

**Fitness/P.E.:** We are learning the gameplay for two major team games: Volleyball and Badminton. Cardio fitness is our opening and closing routine— we are doing sprints, jogs and walks on the beautiful Ranger trail. ***If attendance is high***, we'll keep up this optional class, maintaining healthy hearts and an air of teamwork!

## Upcoming Dates

Friday, October 5	School Pictures (during school)
Mon/Tues, October 8/9	Vision and Hearing Screenings
*Wednesday, October 10	*PSAT 10 @ IVHS
Monday October 15	Elementary/Kindergarten (only) Field Trip to Fort Vannoy Pumpkin Patch
Thursday October 18	2ndary Teacher Pedagogy Meeting 3-5
Wednesday, October 24	Family Curriculum Night (Elementary AND Secondary) Includes: 2 parent hours, free dinner and a teacher presentation! 6-7 DINNER, 7-8 PRESENTATION
Thursday, October 25, Friday October 26 (no school)	½ Day Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences- School Out at Noon Full Day Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences- No School
**Friday, October 26	**Secondary (only) Field Trip to Fort Vannoy's <u>Haunted Corn Maze--On the Bus with Joy &amp; Jennifer!</u>
***Monday, October 29- Tuesday October 30	***Secondary Hope Mtn. Backpacking Trip (Elementary Families Welcome, Too!)
Wednesday, October 31	Halloween Party 11-2 Family & Community Event (no school) Also, last day of Fall Quarter, <b>NEW SCHEDULE</b> in NOV.
Thursday, November 1/ Friday, November 2	2ndary Day of the Dead Celebrations & Cemetery Clean Up with visiting Spanish classes from IVHS!

### Notes on Important Dates:

\*Parents will need to arrange transportation to the **PSAT 10 at 8:00 am at IVHS** on Wednesday, October 10. Eligible test takers include: Lily, Rio, Fern, Christian, Anika (Contact Kimi for details). Please return to school after taking the test.

\*\***The Haunted Corn Maze Secondary Halloween Trip** returns this year! We are going on *Opening Night of the Haunted Maze*... Friday, October 26. We'll meet at Diggin Livin Store and Deli between 4:30 and 5pm, then head to Wild River Pizza, and finally hit the maze from 7-10pm. All families are invited to join us if you provide your own ride and are up for a SCARE! :)

### \*\*\*Upcoming Backpacking Trip Information:

This October, we are going BACKPACKING up our big, lovely HOPE MOUNTAIN (for those of you who aren't familiar with Hope Mountain, it is the majestic mountain that towers over our school, and the trailhead starts on our playground's Ranger Trail). It's a short hike, only about 2-3 miles, so we will have a lot of time to just enjoy being there! We are planning some great workshops for the class time on the mountain--including *Readings from Great Naturalists and Sensory Writing, Site/Sight Observational Art* and a *Geometry Scavenger Hunt*. We'll also be practicing our wilderness skills, covering the basics of setting camp, building a fire, reading a compass, map, and more! **We are leaving from school on Monday, October 29 after breakfast and returning by 2:30 (or as close as we can get to 2:30) on Tuesday October 30.** This is a FAMILY TRIP, so bring along any family members you'd like, and remember all the food, camping and fun items you will need for this trip to be the best it can be. Elementary families are also welcome to join us!

Stay in Touch! <3 :D **WITH LOVE + CARE,**

**KIMIKO, ELAINE, JOY AND JENNIFER**