

October 2023



Dear Parents and Guardians:

It has been an exciting start to the 2023-2024 school year at Alden Middle. This will be the first of four publications of “View for the Middle” and will be one of the many ways we will keep you informed on the events and activities happening at our school.

It appears that students are off to a great start. All students have adjusted nicely to their new surroundings and teachers. I thank the parents and teachers for their commitment to helping alleviate, or at the least minimize, any anxiety our students might have experienced. Our students participated in an opening day Code of Conduct assembly that included the introduction of new staff members, a review of expectations and acceptable student conduct, as well as a bus emergency evacuation. I have asked every student to go over the student handbook with their parent/guardian and sign that they understand the schools Code of Conduct. As a part of our continued efforts to address and prevent bullying and promote positive character we will have monthly morning meetings during homeroom which focus on RULER. Our first morning meeting was on October 5th.

As the leaves change and autumn arrives, there are many activities scheduled for the fall. October 6th will be our annually scheduled emergency drill/early dismissal. During this week of October 2nd - October 6th we had the district-wide safety week. We conducted several drills to practice our District Emergency Response protocols.

School newsletters and report cards will not be mailed or sent home. Newsletters will be available online at the Alden Middle School website, and parents/guardians will have access to their children’s report card via Parent Portal. The Parent Portal provides you access to your child’s academic information. With a Parent Portal account, you may log on at any time to view information regarding your child’s schedule, grades, and attendance. All parents/guardians will need to create an account with Parent Portal through PowerSchool. For information on the steps needed to create this account, please visit our site at [www.aldenschools.org](http://www.aldenschools.org) and select the Parent Portal link. Parents who do not have access to a computer may pick up a copy of the newsletter or their child’s report card at the Middle School office. Please call the Middle School at (716) 937-9116 ext. 3111 to request a report card.

To provide a safe environment for our students to learn and grow, visitors will need to enter the foyer and get buzzed into the main office before entering the building. All visitors entering the building will need to present valid, government-issued picture identification before gaining access to the building. Without this identification access will be denied. Visitors who do not need to enter the building and only plan on entering the main office will not need identification. We thank you in advance for your cooperation as we continue to provide a safe environment for our students. I am also happy to announce that Officer Piel and Kojak will be with us for another year, however, she and Kojak will be off until the middle of the year. Officer Ess will be filling in until their return. At the Middle School the SRO will attend evening events, help with safety drills, visit homes when needed, push into some classes to speak on the hot topics in the world today, and most importantly have a presence in the building, which will allow her to build relationships with our students.

Please use the Park Street entrance to drop off and pick up any 6-8 grade student. Parents can use the Crittenden Road (Intermediate School) entrance if they are picking up a student from the Health Office. I look forward to partnering with you in your child’s education this year. I would encourage you to visit our website at [www.aldenschools.org](http://www.aldenschools.org) for additional information and a yearly calendar of events. You can also follow us on Twitter @Aldenmiddle1. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 937-9116, extension 2191.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve C. Smith".

Steve Smith

Middle School Principal

## October

- 10/6— Early dismissal & Emergency drill
- 10/9— Columbus Day— No School
- 10/12— 5wk Interim reports posted to PP
- 10/13— Winter sports online registration
- 10/31— MS Exploratory Grades posted to PP



## November

- 11/3 & 11/4— MS Jr. High Area All State
- 11/7— 1st marking period ends
- 11/8— Picture Retakes
- 11/10- Veterans day— NO school
- 11/17- Report cards posted to PP
- 11/23 & 11/24— NO School— Thanksgiving



## December

- 12/5- MS Band & Jazz Band 7pm HS Aud
- 12/7— MS Winter Chorus Concert 7pm HS Aud
- 12/15-15 Wk Interm reports posted to PP
- 12/22-1/2/24 -Winter Recess





## Annual Individual Progress Review

A school counselor's role is central to the success of students. School counselors support students through individual and group counseling, college and career exploration instruction, assistance in crisis situations, and referrals to school social workers, school psychologists or other professionals when specialized interventions are required for student success in school.

The New York State Education Department has amended the school counseling regulations in an effort to help increase opportunities for all students to be successful. The full extent of the annual progress review includes review of every student's records, social/emotional development, academic skills, and college/career readiness. The progress review will be conducted individually and by a certified school counselor.

Mrs. Bonczar and Mrs. Gavigan will begin meeting with all 6th grade students this fall for their annual reviews. 8th grade annual reviews will begin in January and coincide with scheduling for 9th grade. Reviews will conclude with 7th grade and will be completed in the spring.

### **School Counselor Student Support Services Grades 6 - 8**

#### Academic/Social/Emotional

Is your child having a conflict with a friend and can't work it out? Have you had a change in your family situation? Are you having difficulty getting your child motivated for school? We are here to help! Please let us know if you would like us to address any academic, personal, friendship and family issues.

#### Parent Conferences

The middle school conducts parent conferences on an as needed basis. The school counselors are available to discuss academic concerns at any time. If you have any concerns or would like a conference with your child's teachers, the school counselors can be reached as follows:

**Mrs. Bonczar (last names A - K):** 937-9116 ext. 2197

([kbonczar@aldenschools.org](mailto:kbonczar@aldenschools.org))

**Mrs. Gavigan (last names L – Z):** 937-9116 ext. 2194 ([jgavigan@aldenschools.org](mailto:jgavigan@aldenschools.org))

#### PowerSchool

As in the past, students and parents can access grades through the PowerSchool on-line portal.

## Health Office News- Alden School Nurse (716) 937-9116 Ext. 3118

By: Mrs. C. Doering, RN    [cdoering@aldenschools.org](mailto:cdoering@aldenschools.org)

### Cold and Flu Season

It can be difficult to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. The following are a few indicators that your child may be too ill to attend school:

Persistent fever greater than 100.4 F, including a fever that requires control with medication (such as Tylenol).

Vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Persistent coughing that causes discomfort.

Sore throat and fever that lasts for more than 48 hours.

A pronounced rash (including boils, sore, or bumps), especially if accompanied by other symptoms such as fever, swelling, etc.

Significant nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache.

Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear.

Any condition that you may think to be serious and/or contagious.



When it comes to cold and flu season, the best offense is a good defense. Remind your children to discard used tissues promptly; not to share personal items; to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze; to keep their hands away from their face; and to wash hands thoroughly and often with soap and warm water.

If your child is still running a fever, please do not administer medicine and then send him/her to school because as soon as the medicine wears off, you are apt to get a call from the school nurse asking to pick up your child. It is better to let your child stay in bed with a fever and take their medications at home until they are well enough to learn for a full day.

If you must keep your child home from school, please call Mrs. Sentz in the Attendance Office (937-9116, ext. 3194) before the start of the school day. Feel free to contact Mrs. Doering, our school nurse, with any questions or concerns at 937-9116, ext. 3118 or by email at [cdoering@aldenschools.org](mailto:cdoering@aldenschools.org).

### Seasonal Allergies

We have seen an increase in seasonal allergies with the approach of fall weather. Many of our students have already begun to experience some of the following:

Sinus headaches-pain behind the eyes/forehead

Sore throat due to post-nasal drip

Nausea or upset stomach due to post-nasal drip accumulation in the stomach

Dry, itchy, irritated eyes

Congestion, and runny nose

Ear pressure due to pressure buildup in sinuses

Sneezing and coughing

More sensitive skin: dry, irritated, itchy, etc.

### **Cold vs. Allergies: How do we tell the Difference?**

Many symptoms of allergies also apply to having a cold; a few that you will NOT see with allergies are fatigue, aches, and pains.

Time of year and duration of symptoms are also ways to differentiate between a cold vs. allergies. Colds are commonly experienced in fall and winter, where allergies are more common in spring and summer. (This is not true for everyone, but the majority of student's do fall into this timeframe.)

### **Duration of Symptoms**

A cold will get better in 5-7 days. Seasonal allergy symptoms last for two to three weeks at a time, or until the exposure to the allergen is eliminated (with seasonal allergies this would be change in season or treatment).

Although seasonal allergies will make your child not feel well, it is not a requirement to keep them home. Feel free to contact Mrs. Doering, our school nurse, with any questions or concerns at 937-9116, ext. 3118 or by email at [cdoering@aldenschools.org](mailto:cdoering@aldenschools.org).

## **ALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **8TH GRADE**

### **2024 WASHINGTON, D.C. CLASS TRIP**



**PLANS ARE WELL UNDERWAY FOR THE APRIL 24th - 26th 2024 8TH GRADE CLASS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**FUNDRAISERS ARE/WILL BE AN OPTION TO HELP WITH OVERALL COST PER REGISTERED STUDENT TRAVELER**

**REGISTRATION AND REQUIRED PARENT/STUDENT FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MRS. La BAR IN THE MS OFFICE**

**\*\*THE ALDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS TRIP ONLINE REGISTRATION ACCESS CODE WILL BE SHARED AFTER ALL REQUIRED "PRE-REGISTRATION" FORMS ARE RECEIVED.**

**DO NOT SEND REGISTRATIONS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE**

**REGISTRATION IS STRICTLY ONLINE**

**\*\*PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY\*\***

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL MRS. La BAR AT 937-9116 X2193**

## Alden Family Center



This year the Alden Family Center will be offering a variety of services to the students and families in the school district. Some services include short-term counseling for families and students, mental health resources and connecting families with community resources as needed like food pantries and clothing closets. In addition to these services, look for more information about our current educational programming on the district website under the Alden Family Center page or on twitter. The center is located at the Middle School and is open Tuesdays 7:15-2:45pm, Wednesdays 11:00-7pm, and Thursdays 8:45am-3:45pm. If you would like to make an appointment or have a suggestions about what kind of programs you would like see, contact Meredith Howard at [mhoward@aldenschools.org](mailto:mhoward@aldenschools.org) or 716-937-9116 x2158.



## 8th Grade News

### Mrs. Kerl- Algebra

I have had a great time working with your children so far this school year. They are enthusiastic and enjoy being back in the classroom. In Algebra we started the year working with Equations and Inequalities. The next unit we will be working on is Functions. It is both a challenging and interesting unit. Please continue to encourage your child to complete corrections on their weekly sheets which can be found in OneNote. Students have two weeks to complete them. They serve as a review of skills that we have already worked on this year and previous years and as an extension of what we are currently learning in class. They can hand them in for corrections as many times as they would like before the due date. These are graded and are in addition to nightly homework.

Mrs. Kerl: [pkerrl@aldenschools.org](mailto:pkerrl@aldenschools.org) 937-9116 ext. 2343



### Mr. Partell — Social Studies

OneNote is the central hub for Mr. Partell's social studies students this year. This class is 100% paperless and students do not receive nightly homework. Please ask your child to show you any of our class activities in which you are interested. Also, please continue checking PowerSchool to stay up to date on your child's progress.

During the first few weeks, 8th grade students listened to Billy Joel's *We Didn't Start the Fire* song, explored different ways to look at the world map, and designed a CoSpace scene to predict how student's lives may look in 10 years. Students examined pictures to analyze how the growth of industry in the late 1800s had varying effects on business owners vs workers. Next, we explore the next generation of immigrants, the "new immigrants," and Ellis Island. Students will be given the opportunity to explore their own heritage and determine whether they might have a connection to this wave of immigration.

As always, this class focuses on the constant connections/lessons that the past teach the present. To this point, please continue to have communication with your children about the world and its happenings.

## 8th Grade News



### Science— Mr. Kasper

Mr. Kasper's classes use Schoology, OneNote and some good old-fashioned paper for assignments. In grade 8 Science we've started the year with our weather unit. We've been keeping a close eye on any major storms in the Atlantic. If you're planning a cruise or trip anywhere along the East coast, check with an eighth grader first. This year will be the first year of the new, computer-based 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science Assessment. We've been differentiating between inorganic and organic compounds as we start off the year in Living Environment. This course is a Regents level course and students participating in this class will take the Regents exam in June.



### Ms. Behlmaier—Social Studies

We have had a great start to the year in Social Studies, and it has been a pleasure to work with your children! Over the past few weeks, we have been learning about the Industrial Revolution, the experience of immigrants, and the many reformers who worked to improve the living and working conditions in our great country. One of the highlights of this unit has been working with Ms. DiSalvo in the library on a fun research project! Students chose an influential person to research from the Industrial Revolution/Progressive Era and designed a fictional Instagram page written from their historic figure's perspective.

As the year continues, your student can expect to learn about the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, the World Wars, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and much more! In order to stay caught up on assignments, it is very important for students and parents/guardians to check Parent Portal regularly. Daily assignments for this class can be found in OneNote.

I look forward to a great rest of the year with our amazing 8th Graders!



## 8th Grade Math – Mrs. Stotz

I am very excited to start a new school year and look forward to working with our new eighth graders.

At the beginning of each new lesson of study (every 2 – 3 days), students are working in randomly chosen collaborative groups for problem-based learning. This launches the learning for each section within a Topic/Chapter. Students work on vertical dry-erase surfaces so that their work can be easily shared and viewed by their classmates.

There is no nightly homework in math, but we do have a weekly sheet each week. These are given out on Mondays and due on Friday. The weekly sheets are distributed in One Note where students should show work. However, some of our 8th graders have said they prefer to work on paper. Each week, paper copies will be made available to any student who wants one. Each sheet is worth 10 points. Students receive 5 points for showing their work and 5 points for correct answers. Weekly sheets alternate between 5 multiple choice questions and 2 open response questions. Students may correct weekly sheets to raise their scores until the due date.

All assignments can be turned in late without a penalty up until grades close. The learning is important, so students are encouraged to return to missing assignments and complete them.

We use One Note for notes that are not in the workbook. Why One Note? One Note looks and acts like a traditional binder, with sections and pages. One Note is really an enhanced traditional binder because we can see a student's work in real time. No downloading or uploading needed. Also, One Note includes some wonderful math features, including a calculator and step-by-step tutorials for some math topics.

If you would like to see what your child is working on in math class, you can see the math agenda for the week in the Files section of Teams. Agendas are located in "Class Materials" in the folder called "Weekly Agendas." Each page will show all of the assignments for the week, including suggestions for how to complete work when a child is absent if alternate directions are needed.

Students and parents may reach Mrs. Stotz for questions using email: [hstotz@aldenschools.org](mailto:hstotz@aldenschools.org). Parents may also leave a voice mail by calling the middle school office.



## 7th Grade News

### **Mrs. Gauthier & Mrs. Renaud- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science:**

Welcome to 7th Grade Science! This year we will be doing a mixture of notes, labs, projects, and activity-based learning. We will release assignments through teams and the students will work on assignments in OneNote. Please note that assignments are posted on our Team 7 website, although this could be subject to change.



We have started off the year doing some refresher assignments on safety, metrics, measurement, and density. We practiced using formulas by doing some vertical learning, and measurements using our lab equipment.

### **Math 7A ~ Mrs. Laraba**

This year, in Accelerated Math 7 (Math 7A), we will be covering MANY topics including ratios, proportional relationships, rational numbers, expressions, equations, percents, statistics, probability and geometry just to name a few. All students should be coming to school prepared and motivated to learn each day. All students should be prepared for math every day (charged device, agenda, calculator, pencils, workbook and completed homework). We will be using One-Note this year for all notes and assignments. Homework and upcoming tests/quizzes are posted on the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team chart. This should be very helpful in ensuring that each student's homework is completed when assigned.

We are having a great time incorporating the district wide initiative of 1 To The World (each student has his/her own device) as well as a previous district wide math goal of incorporating inquiry learning into the math classroom. We do this with inquiry-based warmups, gallery walks, math hooks, 3 act lessons and various activities. The students have done a phenomenal job so far this year of exploring and experimenting with the new math series we are using. This will be a work in progress all year. The students will be expected to put forth a great amount of effort and work to their greatest potential for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions, please email me anytime at [tlaraba@aldenschools.org](mailto:tlaraba@aldenschools.org).

ELA 7 – Mr. Burkhardt and Mrs. Renaud

Students started the year by writing a Dear Teacher Letter. This gave them an opportunity to share about themselves as people and as learners. Their teachers received valuable insight regarding how they learn best as individuals.

We also spent a couple of days in the library, where students took a personality quiz to guide them to specific book genres. They took out books to read on their own outside of class. We will go to the library to exchange books once a month, and the homework assignment for this year will be to always have something they are reading. There will be regular reading checks.

We are about to begin reading *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park. This book tells the story of Salva Dut, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. It also details the fictional account of a girl named Nya, a typical South Sudanese youth whose full-time job is to fetch water for her family.

Students can find their daily work in Schoology, even when absent from school. They can keep up on class reading by listening to audio of that day's chapter. They are responsible for work missed while they are absent. Late work is accepted in ELA, and corrections are encouraged on every assignment. They can be corrected multiple times if students wish.

Parents can keep up with what we're doing in class by going to the Alden district homepage, clicking on Schools, then Middle School, and then Teacher Sites and Team 7. Please feel free to email us with any questions. We look forward to a great year of learning with you and your children.



## **Math – 7th grade Mrs. Pyc, Mrs. Renaud**

It has been an **absolute pleasure** working with your children so far and getting to know them!!! We hope your child has had a wonderful start to the school year. We began the year by sharing a little about ourselves through various activities that really gave us wonderful insight into their lives beyond math class. Thank you to everyone who handed in the Parent 3\*2\*1. Not only was it extra credit for your child, but it was another tool for us to get to know your child. They are doing a great job communicating about math concepts in their groups and sharing different strategies so far.

We have been working with the real number system and operations with rational numbers. Students have received their workbooks that we will be using this year.

When weekly sheets are assigned, please encourage your child to complete them early so they can make corrections. They can correct them as many times as they would like before the due date. They are assigned on Wednesdays and are due on Wednesdays. They serve as a review of skills and as an extension of what we are currently learning in class. They will also contain NYS released questions from previous NYS math assessments. Students should show their work even though they are able to use a calculator. Students receive approximately 5-8 minutes of class time a few times each week to work on weekly sheets. Please encourage your child to use this time to ask questions.

Please use the following to check your child's daily homework assignments, upcoming quizzes/tests, and projects: your child's agenda, our team website, Remind texts. Please sign up if you haven't done so already. Directions are below. Power School is an excellent tool to utilize to keep track of your child's grades throughout the school year. Please feel free to contact us with any questions and/or concerns. We are looking forward to an amazing school year! We are off to a fantastic start!!

### **NYS Math Assessment: May 7 & 8**

Students and parents may email us at:

Mrs. Pyc: [mpyc@aldenschools.org](mailto:mpyc@aldenschools.org)

Mrs. Renaud: [brenaud@aldenschools.org](mailto:brenaud@aldenschools.org)

**Happy Fall!!**

## Team 7 website:

- <https://www.aldenschools.org/Domain/544>

**OR**

- Head to the Alden Central School District Site: [www.aldenschools.org](http://www.aldenschools.org)
- Click on the “Schools” tab in blue.
- Click on “Middle School.”
- Click on the “Teacher Sites” tab in blue on the **right-hand side**.
- Scroll down and click on “Team 7”.
- Save the website as one of your favorites for easy daily access. 😊

## Sign up for important updates from 7th Grade Team.

Get information for **Alden Middle School** right on your phone—not on handouts.


Pick a way to receive messages for 7th Grade Team 2023-2024:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/b7k79k](http://rmd.at/b7k79k)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.




**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @b7k79k to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @b7k79k to (774) 353-0907.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/b7k79k](http://rmd.at/b7k79k) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

### .Math Lab ~ Mrs. Laraba, Mrs. Kerl, and Ms. Kopra

In Math Lab, all students take a universal math screen as well as a benchmark assessment so we can get a better idea of where each student's strengths and weaknesses are in math. These assessments reflect the standards that have been covered in the students' math classes. Based on these results and the topics being covered in the Math 6 classroom, activities are designed to meet the needs of the students. We will be using OneNote for all our activities and assignments. Please note, we will be using a coded grading system vs. a traditional numerical system. EXC means your student has demonstrated a definite understanding of the concept, went above and beyond, turned it in on time, in other words has exceeded the expectations. MET means your student has demonstrated an understanding of the concept and completed the assignment, in other words has met the expectations. INC means the assignment is incomplete and he/she should finish it asap. NYT *means the assignment has not been done yet or not yet tried.*

The students have been busy working on activities to reinforce the math they are learning in their on-team math class. So far, we have had some fun doing some getting to know you activities and team building before starting our work with fractions, decimals and positive numbers and vocabulary. We will continue to preview and review the topics they will be working on this year. We will also be throwing in some technology assistance throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at any time. You may email Mrs. Laraba at [tlaraba@aldenschools.org](mailto:tlaraba@aldenschools.org), Mrs. Kerl at [pkerrl@aldenschools.org](mailto:pkerrl@aldenschools.org) and Ms. Kopra at [lkopra@aldenschools.org](mailto:lkopra@aldenschools.org). Thank you!!



### Math 6 AIS, Math 7 AIS & Math 8 AIS- Mrs. Kerl

I am so happy to be teaching your children this year. They are happy and enjoy being back in the classroom. Academic Intervention Services for Math (AIS) is a program designed to support a student's needs in math class. With smaller classes, students have a greater opportunity to ask questions. Because there is no homework and there are no grades, students often feel less pressure as they approach their math problems. Your children are able to practice skills they learn in their math classes with the direct support of the AIS teacher.

Mrs. Kerl: [pkerrl@aldenschools.org](mailto:pkerrl@aldenschools.org) 937-9116 ext. 2343



## 6th Grade News

Welcome to Alden Middle School. We hope that your child is adjusting to the new routine of switching classes for each subject. This is an exciting time for the students with many changes and added responsibilities.

For your convenience, a weekly assignment list is attached to the Team 6-1 Website showing daily work for each core subject. Students are required to take their agenda to every class and record their assignments. Agendas are expected to be taken home on a nightly basis and reviewed and signed/initialed by an adult. Students whose agendas are complete at the end of the week will earn Extra Credit slips.

PARENTS should be reviewing grades in PowerSchool regularly; a minimum of once a week is expected. Grades are updated frequently to give you an up-to-date snapshot of your child's progress. Teachers often leave comments about specific assignment grades. Please be sure to check them as well. If you do not know how, refer to the handouts given out at Open House or contact your child's counsellor. Regular checking helps avoid problems with grades as the marking periods come to a close.

Tutorials were created for parents and students to provide a bit of guidance when using 6<sup>th</sup> grade computer platforms. These can be found on your child's ELA home page in Schoology (Look for the Black Folder titled, "Tutorials"), or the Team 6-1 Website at [www.aldenschools.org](http://www.aldenschools.org) under the Schools and Middle School tabs.

### **Social Studies**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students began the year exploring why and how people study history. Students also had a chance to review geography terms. These geographical features will play an important role in the development of early civilizations. Students created a climate map, learned characteristics specific to each zone, and made predictions about where they believed the first civilizations began.

### **Science**

In science, students were introduced to OneNote. OneNote will allow students to take and receive class notes, watch some video clips, and find weekly science homework assignments. In addition, students used the scientific method to properly conduct an experiment. Students also identified parts of the scientific method in various scenarios

## ELA

Mrs. Woitaszek's and Mrs. McMullen's 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading classes use TEAMS as their primary platform. Though class information can also be found in Schoology and the links will work, assignments must be completed in TEAMS. Unless otherwise stated, assignments are only graded in TEAMS.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade program continues the Collaborative Classroom Reading Program used in the Intermediate grades. This series helps children appreciate the ideas and opinions of others, learn to agree and disagree respectfully, think critically about big ideas, and become responsible citizens. Students are assigned vocabulary terms for each unit. These words & definitions are printed, distributed, and inserted in the 3 prongs of their red (ELA) folder to study. These words are also available electronically on your child's ELA class Schoology home page. Just look for the black vocabulary folder. Students should be re-viewing and studying these terms regularly. Vocab tests are cumulative through (and including) the final exam in June.

**Scope Magazine** is the main non-fiction element of the 6th grade ELA program. This resource builds reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills, while allowing opportunities to learn about current events and real-life problems and solutions. Students will receive one copy of each monthly SCOPE magazine 8 times throughout the year. These should be kept in the front pocket of their red ELA folder, along with all SCOPE reference materials handed out during the year. If your child is trying to complete an assignment at home but (s)he does not have a magazine, a digital copy is accessible at <https://scope.scholastic.com> and using the class login codes below:

Mrs. Woitaszek: WoiELA6

Mrs. McMullen: McMuELA6

ELA assignments can be found in TEAMS daily (see end of MATH section for information about accessing this platform). Your child should not fall behind when absent from class, as daily agendas are available electronically.

**PLEASE NOTE:** GRADED quizzes expire at the end of the school day on the date they are given. Please be sure your child logs-in to complete them.

## Math

I am looking forward to a great year with your student!  
Below you will find the information that was referenced at Open House.

**WEEKLY SHEETS** - Given out on Fridays. Due in 2 weeks.

Students are encouraged to turn weekly sheets in early so that corrections can be made. Corrections are allowed over and over until the due date. These once every 2 week assignments are the only graded homework that I give. Therefore, late assignments will not be accepted.

### **COMMUNICATION**

**E-mail Address:** [lkopra@aldenschools.org](mailto:lkopra@aldenschools.org)

**PowerSchool:** The Parent Portal in PowerSchool is designed to provide you with up-to-date information regarding all of your child's grades. Please check parent portal weekly to see if corrections need to be made to an assignment. Notes specific to your child's progress in class can also be viewed on parent portal. Students can only access the student version after parent/guardian(s) have set up their accounts. Please contact your child's counselor if you experience problems with this system.

**Website:** By logging into the Alden Central School District website, you can navigate to our team website. Our team has a link where homework will be posted each week.

**School Website:** <http://www.aldenschools.org>



**Textbook Series – enVisions Mathematics - Savaas**

**Envision Mathematics – Savaas** can be found on the district homepage. Students each have their own username and password for this site. Before tests, review questions will be posted for students to practice with. We will use our workbooks daily in class. If your child is absent, please email for the pages that were covered in class.

## Library News – Ms. DiSalvo

The start of the school year is always an exciting time in the library! Our annual Scholastic book fair was a big success. Through your support, Alden Middle School earned more than \$1700 in Scholastic Dollars to be used for new books and materials for the school library. Thank you to the families who purchased items from the fair, to the PTO for their generous support, and to Mrs. Cotton, Mrs. vom Scheidt, and Mrs. Amedick for volunteering at the fair! New books from the fair are being catalogued right now and will be on display soon for all to enjoy and check out.

In addition to the book fair, the library also welcomed students in classes for a variety of activities:

Mrs. Nye's General music students visited the library to begin a research project on music artists of their choice.

Mrs. O'Neill and Mrs. Lasker's class came to the library to do a fun scavenger hunt activity and to make bookmarks.

Mr. Burkhardt and Mrs. Renaud's 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA classes visited the library for a fun library orientation! Students took a genre personality quiz to help them identify books they might enjoy reading throughout the year. They were able to find books to check out for independent reading.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mrs. Behlmaier and Mrs. Pelitera's social studies classes visited the library for a research project. Students are learning about Industrialists in order to create faux social media accounts for these historical figures.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students learned how to access eBooks and audiobooks using Sora.

### Upcoming classes & events

8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mr. Partell's social studies classes will be visiting the library to learn about key issues in today's society as part of their unit on Reformers. Students will lead roundtable discussions on their topics of choice.

6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be coming to the library for a full orientation where they will learn how to use the library to find materials for reading and research.

LEGO Club

Silent Reading Society Lunches

I am looking forward to working with students and teachers on more fun projects throughout the year. Students should listen to announcements for more information about LEGO club, wellness activities, and more!

Happy reading!





## **Alden Bulldog Council News**

### **Advisor: Tara Laraba**

This year the Alden Bulldog Council (ABC) is led by Chloe Frost as president, Brianna Tyczka as vice president, Peyton Pytlik as treasurer, Olivia Winling as secretary and Payton Szczepanski in the position of public relations.

ABC will be meeting (at minimum) once a month in Room 250 before school. We will be planning a variety of school wide events such as spirit days/weeks, fun nights, interactive bulletin boards, activities working with the Intermediate School and more. It is always fun and rewarding to see our students demonstrate what a good leader and role model looks like and have a little fun at the same time.

ABC will continue to support local charities throughout the year by holding various events such as pajama/hat days, spirit weeks, Socktober, canned food drive, etc.... Some events will suggest a monetary donation... a minimum of \$1.00 is suggested in order to participate. We are very excited to be participating in Socktober once again this year. We are asking for donations of (new) socks, hats, gloves, scarves and soap throughout the month of October. We will take donations through 10/28/22 in room 250. All donations will benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy.

We will be hosting two - three fun nights this year. Information regarding the fun nights will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor tv, on the announcements and sent out via email. Tickets for fun nights are sold during the week of fun night in Room 250 for \$5 each. Please stay tuned for more information☐. Have a great year!



### **Mrs. O'Neill Class:-**

Our class will be putting together a newsletter called "Bulldog Bulletin" it is going to be for our class to practice our writing and we will have a great audience to share it with. For example, this month they will be "interviewing" the new MS teachers/staff and share the answers in the newsletter. They will also type up the club meeting dates and times, a mindful minute that will come from Guidance, and any upcoming events or reminders. It will be sent to staff and students at the end of each month.

Attached is our 1st Edition!







## The New Faces of AMS

### Miss Dusza



**Q: What do you teach?**

A: I teach middle school art grades 6, 7, and 8!

**Q: What made you want to be a teacher?**

A: I had a wonderful High School Art Teacher who inspired me.

**Q: Who is your favorite artist?**

A: Some of my favorite artists are Georgia O'Keefe, Bob Ross, and Kehinde Wiley!

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: I love the sense of community and pride at Alden Middle School. I also like the positivity and creativity from students and staff.

### Mrs. Howard



**Q: What is the Family Center?**

A: It is a center for families and students can come during lunch for a quiet space. It is also where students can meet with counselors and learn things. Parents and families that need help can also come to the Family Center.

**Q: When is the Family Center open?**

A: My hours are Tuesday 7:15am-2:45pm, Wednesday 11:30am-7:00pm, and Thursday 8:15am-3:45pm. Check with your counselor if you need to visit the Family Center and I am not here.

**Q: What is your favorite calming activity?**

A: My favorite calming activity is painting and going for walks.

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: Everyone here is friendly. They always have smiles on their faces. I think it is a friendly place to work.





## The New Faces of AMS

### Officer Ess



**Q: Where is your office?**

A: My office is at the High School right across from the Attendance Office.

**Q: When will you be in the Middle School?**

A: I don't really have set times. I come in throughout the day and always try to be here during lunch time. My workday is 7:30-3:30.

**Q: Why did you decide to be a Police Office?**

A: I wanted people to know that someone is always here to help them.

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: Everyone, staff and students, is always looking out for one another.

### Mrs. Gembka



**Q: What do you teach?**

A: I teach ELA for grade 8.

**Q: What is your favorite thing to teach in ELA?**

A: I love teaching The Outsiders. It is a great book and story about 2 groups of people who don't get along. There is a lot of drama in the book. I love doing in class debates about the book.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

A: I like thriller and mystery books, anything with a twist. My favorite book is The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides.

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: It is such a nice sense of community. All faculty and staff are supportive, there are lots of people to ask for help.





## The New Faces of AMS

### Senora George



**Q: What do you teach?**

A: One way to say it is that I teach Foreign language. I love teaching Spanish to 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Q: How did you learn to speak Spanish?**

A: I started in 7<sup>th</sup> grade with words and phrases. Then I added listening to Hispanic music, reading Spanish poetry, and watching Spanish movies. Living in Spain for 10 years really helped me also.

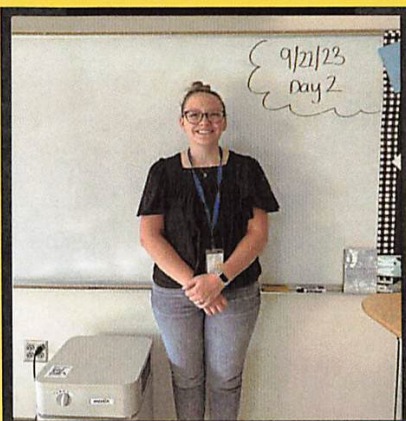
**Q: What is the hardest part about learning a new language?**

A: It takes a lot of time and effort, practice, and patience. It takes a lot to get used to the words being in a new spot in a sentence. It is like learning a new song or playing a new sport. As we say in class: Trabaja duro y Juega duro.

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: It is a special and magical place to learn and teach. It is a great place to meet new amigos.

### Mrs. Vogel



**Q: What do you teach?**

A: I teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade AIS. I help with reading and writing. I also help Mrs. Laraba, Mrs. Kerl, and Mrs. Gembka in some of their classes.

**Q: What is your favorite thing to teach in ELA?**

A: I like teaching different strategies to help kids study and review what they have done in class. I really like Quiz Quiz Trade and Turn and Chat to help review.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

A: Anything Harry Potter

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: My favorite thing is how welcoming everyone is and them being willing to help me.





# Bulldog Bulletin

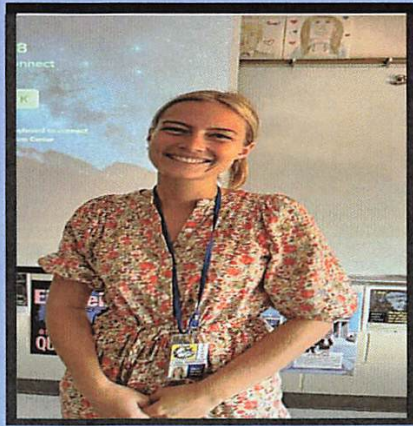
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## The New Faces of AMS

### Miss Behlmaier



**Q: What do you teach?**

A: I teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade US History at the Middle School and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Global History and Government at the High School.

**Q: When are you teaching at the Middle School?**

A: I teach 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> periods.

**Q: What is your favorite period of time to teach about?**

A: For 9<sup>th</sup> grade I like teaching the Renaissance because of the art that came out during that period. For 8<sup>th</sup> grade I like teaching about World War I and World War II.

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: The students and teachers are welcoming, nice, and positive.

### Mrs. Mitton



**Q: What do you teach?**

A: I teach ELA, Math, Support, and Resource Room.

**Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?**

A: My favorite subject to teach is ELA.

**Q: What is your favorite book?**

A: I have two favorite books: Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert and A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson.

**Q: What do you like most about AMS?**

A: My favorite thing about Alden Middle School is all of the nice people I get to see everyday.





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Welcome to our new  
staff. We are glad you  
are here!





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## Upcoming Events & Reminders

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>**  
District Safety Week

**October 6<sup>th</sup>**  
½ Day

**October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
No School  
Columbus Day



**October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Halloween Spooktacular  
In the Park

**Listen for announcements about Socktober**



**AM Clubs: 7:45-8:40**

## Club Hub

**PM Clubs: 3:40-4:20**

Club schedule is subject to change. Please make sure you visit the sign-up sheets outside of the advisor's classroom.

Club	Meeting Date	Club	Meeting Date
<b>ABC</b>	Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>AM</b>	<b>Running</b>	Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>AM</b>
<b>Aerobics</b>	Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> <b>PM</b>	<b>Spanish</b>	Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup> <b>AM</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> <b>AM</b>	<b>Steam</b>	Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> <b>PM</b>
<b>Computer</b>	Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup> <b>PM</b>	<b>Writers of the World (WOW)</b>	Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>AM</b>
<b>Drama</b>	See Mrs. Stoltz for the next meeting date	<b>Yearbook</b>	Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup> During Homeroom
<b>Health</b>	Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup> <b>PM</b>		
<b>Robotics</b>	Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> <b>PM</b>		





# Bulldog Bulletin

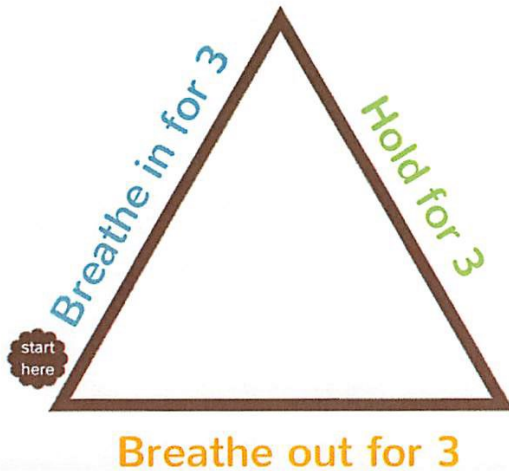
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## Take a Mindful Minute

### Breathing in Shapes



There are so many creative breathing technique strategies out there, and this one seems perfect for visual and sensory learners. The idea is to trace the outline of different shapes in the air with your finger as your breathing the counts of the sides.

Learn more:

<https://copingskillsforkids.com/deep-breathing-exercises-for-kids>

## What do the people have to say?

Question:

What is your favorite part about coming back to school?

Results:

Students

**Of the 143 responses the top 3 answers were:**

1. Seeing my friends
2. Meeting new teachers
3. Getting into a routine

Teachers

**Of the 44 responses the top 3 answers were:**

1. Seeing my friends
2. Meeting new teachers
3. Getting into a routine

Are you surprised that both students and teachers look forward to the same things when it comes to coming back to school?