



UP ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Deborah Escobar, Teacher

September, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 1—*Enrichment Open House, 6:30 p.m., see p. 2.*

October 5—*Debate begins, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M.*

October 6—*6th Grade Math Olympiad Tryout, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M.*

October 6—*Johns Hopkins CTY Talent Search 7-8 Information Meeting*

October 7—*History Club begins, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M.*

October 13—*Math Olympiad coaching begins, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M.*

October 13—*Math Counts coaching begins, Activity Period, Room 252*

October 15—*Verbal Challenge begins, Learning Center, 7:45 A.M.*

October 16—*Permission slips due for Digital Photography*

October 26—*Digital Photography Workshop and Field Trip*

ENRICHMENT AT FMS

FMS offers a variety of enrichment opportunities to students. The UP (Unlimited Potentials) Enrichment Program, taught by Mrs. Escobar, is located in Tawasentha 101. This newsletter highlights some of the opportunities that are available through the Enrichment Program. Throughout the year, experiences might include:

- **Exploration Activities** – Workshops, speakers, assemblies, demonstrations, contests, etc. These are usually one-time activities and take place during tutorial or activity period.
- **Group Training Activities** – Groups meet once or twice a week to build new skills such as problem-solving, communication, critical thinking, research, etc. Mini-courses and groups take place before school, during access and/or tutorial, or as a pull-out from academic classes.
- **Investigation Activities** – Intensive experience that take place over a longer period of time and allow for research and creation of a product. Examples include video documentaries, writing a story for publication, etc.

The Unlimited Potentials enrichment website is located at:

www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/FMSEnrichment

This site has information on course descriptions, recommended books, summer opportunities, etc. An exciting feature of the site is that it gives students the ability to signup for courses online (Go to the "Forms" section), and automatically e-mails the signup to Mrs. Escobar. Students may still signup, as always, by handing in the signup form included with this issue of the newsletter or by writing a note to Mrs. Escobar, and leaving the form or note in her Tawasentha House Office mailbox.

UP ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FALL 2009

SIGN UP AT WWW.MYTEACHERPAGES.COM/WEBPAGES/FMSENRIChMENT

DEBATE CLUB: *Monday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center, October-January. First meeting October 5.* Do you like to argue? Then you might enjoy this course, which will teach you the basics of Crossfire style debate. This type of debate consists of fast-paced argument and questioning sessions. You will work in a team of two to anticipate and counteract your opponent team's thinking. You will learn logic, argumentation, and public speaking skills. A tournament will begin in late November.

MATH OLYMPIAD: (6th Grade Only): *Tuesday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. Tryout test for this club will be held on October 6. Team-only meetings begin on Tuesday, October 13.* This team (limited to 35 students plus a few alternates) meets in weekly coaching sessions to build math word problem-solving skills in preparation for once-monthly "meets."

HISTORY: *Wednesday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. First meeting October 7.* In this course, you will choose a topic, research, and create a product for National History Day competition. The product can be a paper, exhibit, website, performance, or documentary. This project requires a lot of effort, but will teach you research and presentation skills that will lead you to success! Many of our students have made it to the national level of this competition. This year's theme is "Innovation in History: Impact and Change."

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FALL 2009 (CONTINUED)
SIGN UP AT WWW.MYTEACHERPAGES.COM/WEBPAGES/FMSENRIICHMENT

VERBAL CHALLENGE: *Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. Begins Thursday, October 15.*

You will expand your vocabulary by learning new words, but also by learning Greek and Roman roots that will help you to guess the meaning of words you do not yet know. You will also sharpen your grammar and editing skills. Games and activities will help to make this course fun, but it will also require homework. If you approach this course seriously, it will pay huge rewards in the future.

FUTURE ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS: *Thursday mornings at 7:45 a.m., Learning Center. DOES NOT BEGIN UNTIL JANUARY.* You will learn basics of architectural modeling and some basic engineering principles. This class is a hands-on experience building parts and components of a city out of recyclable materials, but also designing and creating a SimCity "city of the future." **TRYOUT REQUIRED** – *Information will be sent out in November to those who sign up.*

ON THE LOT: *Monday mornings at 7:45 a.m., beginning in February, Tryout information will be announced.* Students who participate in this course will write a script for a short film, become a director as others act it out while you are filming, and finally edit using desktop video editing software. There will be a Film Festival in May to celebrate our work.

MATH COUNTS: *Tuesday activity periods, Room 252. BEGINS ACTIVITY PERIOD, OCTOBER 13.* This course consists of weekly coaching sessions that will build skills/concepts to handle the challenging math content in the Math Counts Competition. This course will take you "a step above" what you thought possible in math. Homework will be required to prepare you to compete to become a member of our school's team. A runoff will be held in December to choose the four team members and four alternates who will represent our school. Once team members have been chosen, coaching sessions will be expanded to 3:30-5:00 during January, February (and part of March if we make it to State level).

PHILOSOPHY: *Access period and/or tutorial.* This course is guaranteed to be an eye-opening, thought provoking experience. You will engage in discussions about the nature of the universe and the meaning of concepts, ideas, or words that you have always taken for granted. It will make you think harder than you ever thought possible! *Teacher consultation required.*

SIXTH GRADE MATH: *Access period and/or tutorial. CLASSES BEGIN after December break.* This course will take you beyond classroom math to explore topics that are above-grade level. You will learn some basic algebra, challenge your problem-solving skills, and develop a geometric eye through completing projects in origami and polyhedron-building with manipulative kits. *Teacher consultation required.*

SIXTH GRADE READING: *Reading class.* Students will be selected for a gifted reading group that will be pulled out from Reading class for a six-week period. We will read a novel and will focus on critical reading skills and response.

SEVENTH GRADE MATH: *Access period. CLASSES BEGIN after December break.* This course will challenge and surprise you. You will learn problem-solving strategies, algebra, and practice other math concepts.

HEROES SEVENTH GRADE WRITING: *Access period. BEGINS IN THE SPRING.* In this creative writing experience, students will create characters who interact with each other as they save the world. The final event will be a writing workshop with an author as students write together to place their characters in a final showdown.

EIGHTH GRADE WRITE STUFF: *Access period, groups offered throughout the year.* This course will polish your writing skills and help you to "ACE" those essay tests, DBQ's, or expository writing assignments. The ability to write an essay is a skill that is perhaps one of the most important to guarantee future academic success.

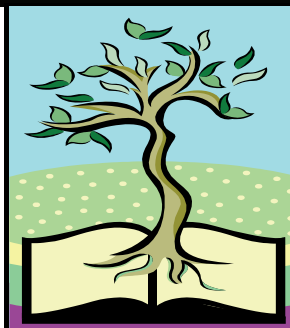
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: *Field trip in the fall, date to be announced.* This workshop will teach you basics of photo composition, take you on a photo shoot, and teach the basics of photo editing in Photoshop Elements. There is a special sign-up form for this activity that is located in the "Forms" section of the enrichment website.

CHESS: *Thursday activity periods, beginning in November.* This club involves everyone from beginning to expert, and is coached by Mr. Flynn, with a tournament at the end of the year.

Check the enrichment website for information on additional opportunities!

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM,
PLEASE COME TO THE
ENRICHMENT OPEN HOUSE, IN THE LEARNING CENTER,
ON OCTOBER 1!**

**SIXTH GRADE SESSION: 6:30-7:00 P.M.
SEVENTH GRADE SESSION: 7:10-7:40 P.M.
EIGHTH GRADE SESSION: 7:50-8:20 P.M.**



*“Happiness lies in
the joy of
achievement and the
thrill of creative
effort.”*

-Franklin D. Roosevelt