

7TH GRADE TEAM PHOENIX

February-March Online Newsletter, 2009

Congratulations! You survived first semester!

In many ways, your first semester grades are like the first lap on a long race towards success.

Good grades and positive comments from teachers mean that you have the basic skills, study habits, and motivation that are necessary to do well in school. Poor grades show a danger of falling even further behind as assignments become more difficult as the year goes on.

If you are worried about grades so far, and think that you can do better, now is a great time to get yourself back on track.

Success (or failure) in your classes is completely up to YOU. Believe it or not, your teachers don't "give" you grades. You earn them!

Your job as a student is to be an active learner by participating and also by thinking

about what is being discussed in class. It is also your responsibility to allow others to do the same.

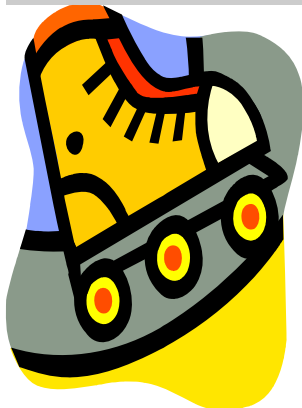
Your behavior in school often has a large impact on your grades. If you are easily distracted, or are distracting others, you aren't learning.

As 7th graders, you should know what you need to do in order to succeed! Don't fall further behind in this year's race.

We are here to help!



FIRST SEMESTER SKATING PARTY



The first semester skating party has been scheduled for Friday, March 13th, at Skatetown USA. Students who met a set of rigorous requirements will be permitted to attend the skating party free of charge.

Students needed the following in order to go skating:

1. No D's or F's
2. No more than 5 days absent.
3. No Rescue
4. Teacher approval
5. Parent permission

Students eligible for the trip should be bringing home permission slips soon. Please sign and return the form to your child's Advisory teacher as soon as possible. Without a permission slip, students cannot attend.

Great job students... Keep up the hard work!

The second semester party will be an event called "Olympic Day." Do your best so that you don't miss out!

Let's Talk Testing...



Students will take many different tests throughout their school careers. Assessment has become a key issue in education across America. That is why testing is more important now than ever.

Here are a few of the tests that Garfield students are taking and the reasons behind why they are taken.

EXAMS:

Students just finished their first set of semester exams in each of their core academic subjects. Students will take their second set of exams following the second semester of school (June 2, 3, 4).

These tests are created

by teachers throughout the district. They are designed to test the student's understanding of the material that has been taught.

Exams scores are important because they are averaged into the student's final grades. Doing poorly on an exam may have the potential to determine whether or not the student passes the seventh grade.

PRO-OHIO TESTING:

Pro-Ohio tests are computer based tests given bi-weekly in all subject areas.

Each test focuses on a specific skill set that students should master.

Pro-Ohio tests are an excellent tool for teachers

to monitor student progress, as well as adjust lessons to focus on skills that need more work in the classroom.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS:

Achievement tests are typically your standard, state-mandated, proficiency tests that school are required to give each year.

Garfield students will take these tests in March. After doing so, student scores will be sent to Ohio's department of education in order to monitor building information and student performance..



Gearing Up for Test Time...

Many Garfield students have been given the unique opportunity to work closely with teachers in all subject areas.

During Advisory, teachers have been giving weekly intervention in order to help better prepare students for the achievement tests in March.

For a number of years, students have struggled with the Math and Reading portions of the test. These interventions are designed not

only for students to practice their skills, but also to help students understand how to approach test questions and answer them correctly.

During one of the sessions for Reading, a seventh grade student involved in the program commented on a test question when she said, "I had no idea they were asking me to look for that. I think I get it now!"

One of the teachers participating in the interventions said, "It is nice to work with

the students outside of the typical classroom setting." She also said that, "These students are really beginning to understand how to apply the skills they're learning in class. I think that is why this program will really help them during test taking."

The interventions will continue three times a week for Math, Reading, and General

"...I get it now!"