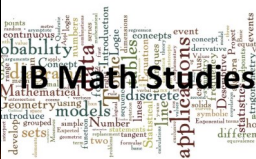




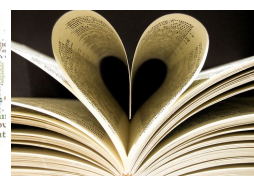
## What we have done——What we are doing——What we are going to



Individuals and Societies  
[GPS Standards](#)



Mathematics  
[GPS Standards](#)



Language and Literature  
[GPS Standards](#)



Life Science  
[GPS Standards](#)

### Individuals and Societies

The past week our class has explored the similarities and differences between the three major religions of Southwest Asia (SWA). Through the development of a timeline, the students were able to see how all three religions have the same root faith, but have splintered off throughout the centuries.

This week we will continue to identify each religion as well as the history of Jerusalem and the creation of the State of Israel. 8th Grade I&S teacher, Mrs. Schwartz will discuss these topics as a guest speaker this week as well.

**SWA Religion and Water quiz on Thursday, 9/11**

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### Mathematics

7th Grade Math just finished up the unit about Operations with Rational Numbers, and the next unit is about Expressions and Equations. The foundational skills sharpened in the first unit will be used every day while exploring these next topics. Expressions and Equations are some of the most abstract topics that students have yet encountered in math, so students should come to school prepared to think deeply every day.

Advanced 7th Grade Math spent the past two weeks tying up loose ends about Inferences. Students created surveys, displayed data, and analyzed data. Analyzing surveys and data is a useful life skill and I hope that students can think critically about statistics found in newspapers, magazines, and advertisements. We have moved on to start the topic of Geometry, building on lots of prior knowledge. It will be helpful for students to refresh their memory on basic formulas for area and volume

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### Language and Literature

We are about halfway through reading *The Giver*, and the students are very engaged. Our media center specialist, Mrs. Tomlin, presented a very interesting and engaging lesson involving music, poetry, and non-fiction texts that related to our current unit. The students did a great job making connections between all of the texts, showing that they are great thinkers—one of the IB traits.

The students will be working on a unit project involving comparing and contrasting outside texts with *The Giver*. They will be given instructions this week, and the project will be due on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we are working on argumentative writing and focusing on the topic of utopias.

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### Life Science

Students should be working on completing their 3-D Cell Projects which are due September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Students should turn in all projects with a rubric for either a plant or animal cell which students were given in class and they can also be found on my website at [www.msrayscience.weebly.com](http://www.msrayscience.weebly.com).

Thus far we have covered introduction to cells, cell structures, and cell parts. We are now working on cell production and cell process. Students will learn about Mitosis and Meiosis as well as cell processes such as cellular respiration over the next two weeks. Parents please be aware that students have received 2 notebook checks which were to be signed by a parent. Students will randomly receive notebook checks throughout the semester so please remind your student to complete all assignments and make sure you are signing their rubrics.