

# SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

### PARENT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2—January 26, 2017

## Areas of Focus for the 2nd Semester

Springfield teachers are amazed by how quickly the first semester has gone by! As we begin focusing on the second half of our school year, we want to continue sharing information on practices/content that will help your child continue to meet his/her academic goals.

- **Strengthening Critical Thinking Skills**

What exactly is critical thinking? [goo.gl/bG7tgt](http://goo.gl/bG7tgt)

- As a parent, what can I do?
  - ✦ Read with your student
  - ✦ Make connections between ideas
- Incorporate academic vocabulary in conversations

- **Greek and Latin Roots and Affixes**

- Focusing on roots and affixes will help with the questioning students see on rigorous assessments and standardized tests.
- If students can identify roots or affixes in an unfamiliar word this can lead to eventual comprehension of the word.
- Various practices will be going on in the building to help students practice using Greek and Latin roots and affixes. Resource: <https://goo.gl/UwN7DW>

- **Strengthening Vocabulary**-please review the following links to view vocabulary that is being highlighted throughout content areas.

English Language Arts: <https://goo.gl/HwqYBF>

Math: <https://goo.gl/wx8bUI>

Science: <https://goo.gl/PZHfX1>

Social Studies: <https://goo.gl/aFzIZD>

Fine Arts: <https://goo.gl/BHLxux>

- **Developing Better Study Habits**

- Helpful Tips:
- ✦ Help your student get organized
- ✦ Know teacher expectations
- ✦ Have a designated study area
- ✦ Think positively

Please check out this article for additional information on helping create good study habits: [goo.gl/n7cgqd](http://goo.gl/n7cgqd)

- **Resources for Student Practice:**

Frontrow: [frontrowed.com](http://frontrowed.com)

FreeRice: <http://freerice.com/>

- NCDPI Released Practice (EOG/NCFE)

Math: <https://goo.gl/MFOdrH>

ELA: <https://goo.gl/Y3FDT8>

Science: <https://goo.gl/sniamm>

— <https://goo.gl/d4uahd> (8th EOG)

Social Studies: <https://goo.gl/sniamm>