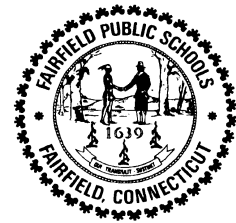


# ***ROGER LUDLOWE MIDDLE SCHOOL***

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## **Curriculum Corner – November 2016**

### **Counseling News**

Happy November!!!

November is a very busy time of year at RLMS in general. It's the end of the first quarter which means many projects and assessments are taking place across all disciplines. First quarter Unified Arts classes are ending on November 10th and new ones will begin on November 14th. And let us not forget...first quarter grades will be posted on IC on Friday, November 18th.

November is also a very busy time of year for students (especially for 8th graders) planning to apply to private or regional schools. For those interested in applying to private/regional schools, please note the following:

1. Attendance reports, disciplinary records, school reports/recommendations (always completed by school counselors), teacher recommendations and transcripts cannot be sent to any school without a signed release for permission to communicate. This permission is usually part of the private/regional school's application packet. If it isn't, you can obtain a Permission to Communicate form from your student's school counselor.
2. Counselors and teachers are completing recommendations and compiling required paperwork above and beyond their school duties so time is of an essence. Please allow, at the minimum, two weeks for us to write and submit recommendations in a timely manner.
3. All recommendations and required paperwork are sent directly to the private/regional high schools from our school counseling department.

If you have any questions about the application process, please do not hesitate to contact your student's school counselor via email or telephone at 203.255.8343.

- Grade 6 – Kate Harder, [kharder@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:kharder@fairfieldschools.org)
- Grade 7 – Kelly Cummings, [kcummings@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:kcummings@fairfieldschools.org)

- Grade 8 – Karyn McNeil, [kmcneil@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:kmcneil@fairfieldschools.org)
- Grades 6, 7 & 8 – Kelly Renna, [krenna@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:krenna@fairfieldschools.org)

## **World Language**

### **French/Spanish**

#### **6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French**

Students have been introducing themselves as their cultural identity including information such as name, age, birthday, country of origin, physical and personality attributes. Students are sharing.

#### **7th Grade Level 10B**

French and Spanish students continue to assume their cultural identity and compare weekend activities in Fairfield and those of the target culture as well as compare and contrast daily and weekend plans in the target culture with their own actual plans in Fairfield.

#### **8th Grade level 20**

Students will be finishing the unit on what makes city life unique and beginning a unit on responsible consumerism. Learners will define the meaning of responsible consumerism in order to understand what is required to maintain a healthy environment. They will also investigate how the media influences our perspective and how our habits have impacted the environment. Students will answer the essential question: “What do we really need?”

## **UA- Art/Computer/FCS/Health/Music/PE**

### **Art**

6th grade art:

6th grade students are working on and finishing up a unit on 3D form. They are using wire to make a 3D form of a figure in action. They are learning about proportions of the human body and how to translate a 2D drawing into a 3D form with wire. They will end the marking period with a final observational drawing of a fish or ocean animal and continue to use their knowledge of sketching, blending values and applying color.

#### **7th grade art:**

7th grade students recently completed painting their clay masks. They utilized their knowledge of color theory to apply color and additional embellishments to their design. They are working on their final unit in portraiture. Students are learning about facial proportion, and how to draw facial features, with the ultimate goal of drawing a self-portrait.

#### **8th grade 2D art:**

8th grade students are working through their acrylic painting unit, focusing on creating the illusion of 3D space on a 2D surface, through the use of layering of foreground, middle ground and background. They are utilizing their knowledge of color theory to accurately mix colors to apply to their paintings.

### **8th grade 3D art:**

8th grade students are currently glazing their completed pottery forms and learning about the glazing process. Concurrently, they are using a variety of sculpture techniques to construct a clay form inspired by the Oaxacan animal forms of Mexico. They are molding, adding paper mache to their forms, and embellishing them with bold colors and designs.

## **Computer**

### **6th Grade Computers:**

Mr. Boocks:

Students are finishing the Presentation Unit with final presentations this week. Next week students will take their final typing exam, as well as use MS PowerPoint, Word and Excel to complete a small portfolio.

6th Grade Computers/Mrs. Walker:

Students have continued to learn more features of MS PowerPoint, such inserting and editing pictures, changing the indent using the ruler, inserting action buttons, and copying formats using the format painter. They have learned all the tips and tricks of MS Paint, and then each student drew an original Future Me illustration. Independently, students have continued to practice their keyboarding skills using Typing Pals.

### **8th Grade Computers/Mrs. Walker:**

Students are continuing to learn to code/program using CODE.ORG. Students who have completed Unit 2, are now working on Unit 3. Each student has completed eight independent projects as well. For example, students have written code to program the Olympic rings, as well as flower and tree designs.

## **Family Consumer Science**

### **Foods Lab**

6th Grade: Students will enjoy a visit from Captain Kessler our Fire Chief of Fairfield. He will share his insights on Home & Life Safety. Students will utilize the RLMS Virtual Library to research the safety unit and complete their packets at home. Then it's off to baking a tasty and healthy cookie. Students will learn the standard units and proper measuring techniques.

Grade 7 –Students enjoyed a special visit from Guest Chef Herzfeld, owner of Chef's Table. What a treat for our students to see a self-made success. They watched Chef prepare French omelets, home fries, how to clarify butter, knife skills and eggs in a frame. Students will now

begin their Family Meal Projects as they plan, shop, cook and clean for their family breakfast. Students are so proud as they complete cooking all by themselves! In November, we will be cooking pancakes, omelets and breakfast turkey burgers. What fun!

8th Grade: Students will learn how to use a food processor and how to make a healthy carrot cake through recipe adaptations. Students will celebrate their successful learnings through measuring, baking and cake decorating - WOW! 8th graders really have chef skills! In the second half of November students will prepare pizza dough, simmer tomato sauce and practice knife skills as they slice vegetables for their pizza toppings.

### **In the sewing lab:**

6th grade is finishing assembling their shoulder sack bag after successfully threading and practicing with the sewing machine. They will soon learn to make a hand knot and sew on a button.

7th grade boxer shorts have gone thru a design change which allows students to complete their boxer shorts faster. Mrs. Flashman has developed other projects the students can make. This includes dog collar, quilted Velcro pouch, and headband.

8th grade is completing their fabric art quilts. The students are excited to bring them home!

### **Health**

Grade 8 Dickenson - Students will have their final quiz on marijuana, and wrap up with body image and nutrition. Next marking term begins with binge drinking.

Grade 7 Dickenson - This marking term is closing with family communication. Final test included on Friday. Next quarter begins with eating disorders.

Grade 6 Dickenson - Final test, heart disease, some classes on healthy relationships to close out the first quarter. Next quarter begins with tobacco.

8th grade: Maline- Upcoming alcohol test, depression/suicide prevention, stress management

7th grade: Maline- Death /dying, speaker from St. Vincent's to talk about tobacco products

6th Grade: Maline- Puberty test, communicable diseases, stress and anger management

### **Music**

#### **Band 6:**

We are working on playing many styles of music in band, and will be voting on our concert selections over the next week. We have covered: Traditional Concert band, Rock, Latin, and blues, and will be adding classical and programmatic music to the mix. We have also been

working on tempo changes within music, dotted quarter notes, and general dynamics. Band students should make sure to check infinite campus and complete any needed make up lessons.

### **Band 7:**

Concert prep, working on 4 songs: “More Cowbell”, “Gates of Orion”, “Lone Star Overture, “Into the Night”, Intro/Work on C, Ab, Bb chromatic concert scales. Note reading review and music terminology introductions. Term ends on 11/10, please complete all makeups.

### **Band 8:**

Concert preparation. Scales, tone production, intonation, history of the concert pieces, composers.

### **Chorus**

Grade 6 - students were introduced to a fourth concert selection, “When I Grow Up” from the Musical, “Matilda.” Through this selection, students were introduced to sight reading strategies. Students have been volunteering to sing solos in class in this number as well as in “Winterlight.” Auditions for solos in these numbers are taking place at the end of October and early November.

Grade 7 - students were introduced to a fourth concert selection, “Treat You Better.” Through this selection, students were introduced to sight reading strategies. Students have been volunteering to sing solos and duets in class in this number. Auditions for the solo and the duet are taking place at the end of October and early November.

Grade 8 - students were introduced to a fourth concert selection, “Seasons of Love” from the Broadway musical “RENT.” Through this selection, students were introduced to sight reading strategies. Students have been volunteering to sing solos in class. Auditions for solos in this number are taking place at the end of October and early November.

### **Keyboard**

November brings us to learning “three and two”, “hands separate”, “changing fingering positions”, and “eighth rests” skills. We will use these new skills to help learn these new songs:

Away in a Manger (changing fingering position)

Mexican Clapping Song

Trot Along My Little Pony

Clementine

You Are My Sunshine

Michael Row Your Boat Ashore

### **Orchestra**

Grade 6 orchestra: We are in full swing of preparing for the Winter Concert. Students are playing Wooden Shoe Dance, Telemann Sinfonia and Let it Snow. As you understand, practice at home is very important to ensure a good result in their first concert in middle school. Please ask your kid to practice at home.

Lessons are also going very well, but there are students that missed lessons and there are not coming to the make ups. End of the first marking period is approaching very fast and missed lesson/lessons affect their grade.

Grade 7 orchestra: Preparations for the Winter Concert are going very well. We are working on Ludwig's Tango, A Day at Disneyland, Game Of Thrones. As you understand, practice at home is very important to ensure a good result in the concert. Please ask your kid to practice at home.

Lessons are also going very well, but there are students that missed lessons and there are not coming to the make ups. End of the first marking period is approaching very fast and missed lesson/lessons affect their grade.

Grade 8 orchestra: Preparations for the Winter Concert are going very well. We are preparing A Day at Disneyland, Finale - Symphony No 9 - "Posthorn", Variations on Paganini, Brandenburg Concerto No 2. As you understand, practice at home is very important to ensure a good result of the concert. Please ask your kid to practice at home.

Lessons are also going very well, but there are students that missed lessons and there are not coming to the make ups. End of the first marking period is approaching very fast and missed lesson/lessons affect their grade.

### **Physical Education:**

Now that we have wrapped up the fitness testing, we're ready to move into our curriculum units. Each unit will be approximately 3 weeks with the exception of Project Adventure, which is broken down into two, 3 week units. Our first rotation will include Team Handball. Students will work on the basics such man to man defense, moving to open space, and effective passing, as well as understanding the rules and scoring. Some students will be in the fitness center where they will be introduced to a variety of equipment. They will learn how to use the equipment safely and with proper technique. They will also learn concepts such as intensity, heart rate, repetitions, and sets. Our third unit that will be introduced in November will be floor hockey. Students in this unit will learn the basics including stick handling, passing, and shooting, as well as the concepts of offense/defense, and spacing.

### **Technology Education 7<sup>th</sup>**

Students are finishing their Note Pad box this week, and moving on to their Egg Crash Vehicles, our final lab! Students will use prior knowledge to complete this lab, race a car down a runway and crash into a wall, keeping their egg safe!

### **Communication (Mr. Boocks)**

Students have completed their films. They have a copy of the film that they can show you, please ask to see their work! Our final week will be spent developing games in GameMaker. Students will learn about Sprites, Objects and rules, and how all three interact to create a game.

### **Transportation (Mr. Boocks)**

Students have successfully finished fabricating Lighter than Air vehicles and test launched them experiencing some technical difficulty. Students have learned that failure is itself not a bad thing, in that engineers and designers learn from their failures to improve on a product.

### **6th Grade Computers (Mr. McAleese a.k.a. Mr. Mac a.k.a. Mr. Mac and Cheese):**

Mr. McAleese's students are progressing through the final levels of Typing Pal, focusing on their keyboarding skills. Primarily, students are building finger memory for proper positioning with the end result being greater accuracy and speed. Students have also completed numerous projects on Google Drive, the latest being a poster advertising a fictitious Octoberfest/Halloween event to give the students a desktop publishing-communication experience.

### **7th Technology Education (Mr. McAleese a.k.a. Mr. Mac):**

Students have completed their woodworking projects and moved on to designing and fabricating notepads as part of the Tech Ed desktop publishing/communication experience. They also created a poster advertising a fictitious Octoberfest/Halloween event as part of a team. Students worked collaboratively in a live Google document. In doing so, they gain real-world experience of the ins and outs of dealing with various coworkers all trying to influence the project outcome.

### **8th Transportation Tech (Mr. McAleese a.k.a. Mr. Mac):**

Students have successfully finished fabricating Lighter than Air vehicles and test launched them experiencing some technical difficulty. Students have learned that failure is itself not a bad thing, in that engineers and designers learn from their failures to improve on a product.

### **8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese a.k.a. Mr. Mac):**

Students have been working for weeks on their personal final project. Some are making shelf units, some gumball machines and many skateboards of varying sizes. Students are putting the lessons about measuring, laying out, cutting, sanding, finishing and assembling material altogether to bring their ideas to fruition. All the while, students are also practicing safe skills in the Materials Processing Lab.

### **Crew 6 LM**

**Language Arts** - Students have been working on a whole class novel throughout the past month. We are working our way through Tuck Everlasting, teaching into a variety of activities to

support comprehension. The textual analysis skills learned in this unit will be applied to book clubs next month.

**Math 6** - Math 6 students have finished adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. We are currently learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals. After this, students will be introduced to algebraic concepts.

**Math TPA** - The Transition to Pre-Algebra students have finished learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide both fractions and decimals. Students will be introduced to algebraic concepts. Students will begin to understand how solving problems can become more efficient with the representation of an unknown value.

**Social Studies** - Social Studies classes are wrapping up the Geography Unit of Study. After having learned about map skills, students have been discussing the 5 themes of geography, continents and world oceans. We are currently discussing culture and the traits that make up a civilization. Students will be working on a webquest project, called “Seeds of Change”, related to how humans developed agriculture. They will be using a variety of sources including, video, audio, reading, and analyzing maps to collect data/information in order to answer the question, “What were the consequences (positive and negative) of Agricultural Development of humans?” Following this webquest, we will be moving into our next unit, the region of Southwest Asia and North Africa.

**Science** - This month in science classes we have been busy putting the scientific method to work. We performed a lab to see how many drops of water would adhere on top of a penny, nickel & dime. The students completed a Mission Impossible task which was to solve the problem of fitting themselves through an index card. The learning lab helped them discover what way they learn best and brainstorm strategies to use that information in the classroom. Teachers will be performing demonstration lessons to illustrate independent and dependent variables, in addition to the students manipulating their independent variable to complete their paper airplane experiment. The students will be utilizing quantitative and qualitative observations for Cut Flower lab. By the end of the unit, the students will all be very well versed with the steps of the scientific method.

## **7LMS**

**Language Arts:** In grade 7 language arts, we have established our writer’s notebook and have had an opportunity for imaginative writing. We have also begun closely reading short shared texts using highlighting and annotating as strategies. We will be crafting a written response around theme as a culminating activity and summative assessment.

## **Math:**

**Pre Algebra 7** - We are continuing our unit on linear relationships, learning different strategies for writing, graphing, and analyzing linear equations and learning how to identify and analyze linear functions, non-linear functions, and relations that are not functions. As November comes to a close, we will begin to explore systems of linear equations.



## **Math 7 -**

- Evaluating Expressions
- Simplifying Expressions
- Solving Algebraic Equations

**Science:** In November, 7th grade science will be going small and learning about the cell organelles and their functions. Students will look at plant and animal cells under the microscope and do a project where they compare a cell to a book, movie or television show. We will end the month going into the cell nucleus and discussing DNA and how it is replicated so every cell has identical DNA which will set us up for December.

**Social Studies:** In November, Geography classes have become studying landforms and the external and internal forces that shape them. Students will be using digital software created by the Jason Project and National Geographic, to simulate landform creation and make predictions about how various landforms were made around the world!

Students will also learn about the physical processes in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and the biosphere that shape the various places and environments around the world. They will apply their knowledge of maps and the physical systems as they begin to create fictional islands of their own!

## **8LM**

**Language Arts:** In LA, we have been closely reading and annotating short shared texts in order to identify, discuss, and write about potential symbols and themes. This is moving us toward our summative assessment. Our next unit will focus on developing a critical lens for the analysis of informational texts, and will challenge students to use non-fiction texts to help them deepen their understanding of fictional texts.

**Math PA:** In Pre-Algebra we are finishing up our geometric unit on congruence, similarity, transformations, and properties of parallel lines and polygons. Around mid-November we will begin our unit on linear relationships and functions, exploring the connections between different representations.

**Math Algebra:** In Algebra, students are working on mastering topics which involve linear equations. They have completed several activities to explore these concepts, including using technology to track their distance over time to create speed graphs. Students also designed logos for a company by applying their knowledge of linear equations, domain and range. In the upcoming weeks, students will begin learning about systems of linear equations and inequalities.

**Math Geometry:** In Geometry we have begun to look at properties of parallel and perpendicular lines, applying these concepts to diagrams in order to establish theorems, solve problems, and write proofs. We are also using geometry software to better understand these concepts through the use of technology. Next we will delve deeply into transformations, expanding on what was learned in earlier grades.

**Science:** Students are finishing up a unit on friction that included an engineering simulation in which students modeled a real world problem in the lab. Soon the students will be learning about gravity and how it influences motion including orbit, projectile motion and acceleration due to gravity.

**Social Studies:** Westward Ho! Social Studies students have recently completed an independent research project about the factors that influenced westward expansion and the conflicts that arose with Manifest Destiny. We are currently examining the 2016 presidential election in anticipation of voting in the school-wide election. In our next unit we will explore the history of slavery, sectionalism, and the Civil War.