

## RLMS Curriculum Corner - November 2017

### Crew 6 LMS-Nov Update

**Language Arts Grade 6** - We recently started reading our whole class novel, *Tuck Everlasting*, and are building on the foundational skills from our previous unit. As we read this novel, we will teach into a variety of strategies to support students' comprehension, listening skills, and speaking skills. Throughout this unit, we will also focus on character change in preparation for the culminating written assignment.

**Math Grade 6** - Math 6 students will begin to explore some algebraic concepts as we will be starting a unit focusing on expressions and equations. Students will learn the abstract concept of a variable and learn to solve problems using variables to represent the unknown.

TPA students will begin to explore ratios, rates and proportional relationships. They will see the relationships between fractions, decimals and percent. Emphasis will be placed on applying these relationships to real world problems.

**Social Studies Grade 6** -Grade 6 Social Studies students just completed the "Seeds of Change" webquest on the agricultural revolution. Students will create a written response on what were the positive consequences of agricultural development for humans.

We will also be in the beginning of studying our first region, North Africa & Southwest Asia. Students will be learning about the physical geography, such as river systems, mountains, deserts, climate, etc. They will explore the history of Ancient Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt with focus on the traits of a civilization. Through activities and our discussions, students will be exposed to the various cultures of this world region.

**Science Grade 6**- The 6th Grade Science classes have finished the Scientific Method unit and have started our unit on the atmosphere and weather. The students will be able to describe the atmosphere's composition and explain how pressure and temperature are related to altitude. They will discover how the atmosphere can be divided into four layers based on temperature changes at different heights and having them create a model while practicing graphing skills. We will study the circulation of energy in the atmosphere and the greenhouse effect, as well as how global winds impact weather and climate.

## **7LM - November 2017**

Language Arts: In 7th grade Language Arts we are bringing to a close our Close Reading Unit which ends with a processed literary essay. Within this writing piece students have been asked to plan and execute a formal piece of writing supporting a theory they have developed about a shared classroom piece of literature. Later this month we will be engaging in book groups where students will be working together through a shared book with 3-4 other students. Students will be discussing their theories and questions about the characters and themes within the book and then share those ideas verbally and in writing. Students have been coming in every day with great independent reading books so far this year. If you or your child ever feel as if you are in need of a bit of inspiration to find another book then check out our Virtual Library on the RLMS website. Glancing through titles on Destiny Quest and/or Title Peek might give you some new ideas.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - In, November, 7th grade pre-algebra will be exploring linear equations and functions in our third unit of the year. Students will graph linear equation through table, slope intercept form and standard form.

Math 7 - In, November, 7th grade Math will be exploring Algebraic Reasoning. Students will learn how to simplify algebraic expression, and solve algebraic equations.

Science: In November, 7th grade science will be exploring the smallest living thing: cells. Students will diagram plant and animal cells under the microscope including their own cells! Then students will take that knowledge and create a cell comparison project where they will compare a cell to a book, tv show or movie. At the end of the month, students will travel into the cell and explore DNA and how cells divide.

Social Studies: In November, 7th grade Social Studies will begin a Simulation project. Students will create an island nation by applying what they have learned in class. The first part is the base map which will incorporate shape defining features as well as topographic features. They will then learn about elevation and contour maps and apply that knowledge to the next map layer. We will also be discussing the atmosphere and Climate Controls.

## **8LMS November Update**

Language Arts: Students will continue investigating how author's craft affects the reader's development of theme and extends our comprehension of various shared texts. Later in the month, students will be set into book groups. Students will investigate how a reader's understanding of fiction texts is deepened when partnered with nonfiction related to the fiction they're reading.

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra classes are continuing with geometric topics, looking at angles formed by intersecting lines and discovering relationships about angles in different polygons. Then students will see how similar triangles can be used for indirect measurement. After that unit ends, we will begin a new unit on linear functions represented as tables, equations, and graphs.

Math Algebra: The Algebra classes are studying linear functions in depth, and this unit includes a fun motion sensor activity using graphing calculators and a logo design project. We will then extend upon these concepts in our next unit as we investigate linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, and systems of linear inequalities.

Math Geometry: In Geometry, the students just finished their study of parallel and perpendicular lines, which included many theorems that the students proved and constructions of such lines using a compass and a straightedge. The next unit is a brief study of transformations such as translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations. After that, we will move on to studying triangle congruence, figuring out the least amount of information necessary to establish a congruence relationship among triangles.

Science: Eighth grade science students have started learning physics topics. They recently finished up a unit on motion and are now experimenting with and learning about friction.

Social Studies: Grade 8 social studies students will be writing their first argumentative essay of the year answering the essential question from Unit 2 -- "Whose Land Is It?". In mid-November students will begin Unit 3 Civil War & Reconstruction. Students will focus on the institution of slavery and the ways it was challenged.

## **World Language - Nov Curriculum Update**

### French/Spanish

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

6th grade French and Spanish students continue to answer the question, "Who am I?" They have finished up greeting one another and introducing themselves and are moving into describing themselves and family, talking about likes and dislikes, and comparing how geographical location influences leisure activities both here in the US and in the target culture.

## 7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Our 10B students continue to work on their interpretive skills using a variety of strategies we have been practicing in class. Students have also begun researching schools and student life in their target culture and are making comparisons with student life in Fairfield. We are really enjoying learning about the different subjects studied, the interesting foods that are eaten for lunch and the various free time activities of students.

## 8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

Level 20 students are finishing the unit Life in the City. They learned more about their cultural identity countries by creating a Google Earth tour of their city. Students have also been practicing their speaking skills by reading maps and giving directions to various locations in cities where the target language is spoken.

We will soon begin a unit on Responsible Consumerism. In this unit, students will talk about what they really need in life as opposed to what they want.

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

### **Art**

#### **Grade 6 ART**

6th Graders are currently working on a design unit with linoleum block printing. They have carved a unique design into their linoleum, focusing on relief. They are creating multiple prints using a variety of ink colors and papers, and they will assemble a collage with these prints at the culmination of the unit. Students will end the marking period with a sculpture unit, learning about 3D form. They will study the work of Alberto Giacometti, and create a 3D sculpture of the human figure, using wire and plaster.

#### **Grade 7 ART**

7th graders are in the middle of their self portrait drawing unit. They are studying proportions of the human head/face, and learning how to draw facial features and apply shading to create the illusion of form. Upon completion they will finish their 3D clay unit. Their relief sculpture clay mugs have been fired in the kiln, and they will glaze them to finalize the marking period.

#### **Grade 8 2D ART**

8th graders are working on their acrylic paintings. They are mixing colors and applying paint in a variety of methods- gradients, scumbling, dry brush, etc. The final product will be a finished

realistic acrylic painting, based upon an original photograph. This unit will take us to the end of the marking period.

### **Grade 8 3D ART**

8th grade 3D art students are finalizing their coil pottery- they are selecting glazes and applying them to their bisqued pottery forms. Additionally, they are working on another 3D form, creating a realistic animal out of clay. These will be paper mached, and painted in the style of the Oaxacan animals of Mexico.

### **Computers**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers: Mr. Boocks:**

As the semester comes to a close students are still working on their keyboarding skills. They have done an amazing job! The class is also learning to create e-presentations, shared google docs and spreadsheets.

#### **Mrs. Walker:**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers:** Students have continued to learn more features of MS PowerPoint, such as inserting and editing pictures, changing the indent using the ruler, aligning and distributing objects on a slide, and copying formats using the format painter. They have learned all the tips and tricks of MS Paint, and then each student has drawn an original Future Me illustration. Independently, students have continued to practice their keyboarding skills using Typing Pals.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers:** Students are continuing to learn to code. We are progressing through the lessons in Unit 2, using the online program called CODE.ORG. Specifically, students are learning about loops, nested repeats, conditional while, if/else, and functions & variables. At the end of certain lessons, students are asked to create a project on their own. They are provided with specific instructions, as well as a rubric for each project. Projects completed include a Nested Repeat Design Project, Basic Picture Project, and even a Star Wars game.

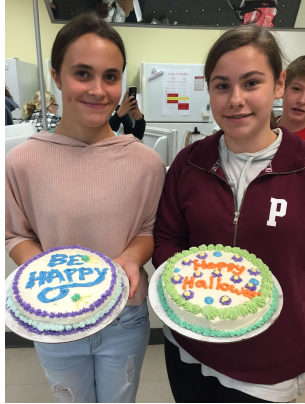
### **Family and Consumer Science**

#### **Food Lab - Lori Kempton**

6th Grade: Has been busy preparing their healthy snack “Apple Crisp” while practicing their knife skills. Students will set the table and celebrate their success with their classmates.

7th Grade: Students have been working very hard on their Family Meal Projects at home and school. This week they present them to the class utilizing their ever important public speaking skills.

8th Grade: Students just finished their cake decorating unit with great pride as you can see. Then we made a class community pot of Chili as one team. Students utilized their knife skills and stove top skills while recognizing the vitamins and proteins while they enjoyed their Chili. This week they will make pastry crust and try their hands at Apple Pie with a lattice top.



**Sewing Lab** Mrs. Flashman

6th grade is starting to assemble their shoulder sack bag after successfully threading and practicing with the sewing machine.

7th grade learns a little about CAD design when they create a computerized embroidery for their shorts.

8th grade

The students are finishing their quilts.

Miller is making an Elephant



Jessica's fox

That's some Pig May!



Michael's Fox

Nameera's wise owl



Kate's Flamingo



### **HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson**

Grade 6: We will finish up with puberty and the reproductive systems and our final test. 2nd quarter will begin with tobacco use prevention, vaping, and then empathy.

Grade 7: We are finishing with family communication and our final test. 2nd quarter begins with eating disorders and diversity/tolerance.

Grade 8: We are finishing with body image and our final test. 2nd quarter begins with binge drinking and OTC/prescription drug abuse.

### **HEALTH - Ms. Maline**

Grade 6: We will be finishing up with Communicative diseases, including HIV. Then we will discuss stress and time management. The 2nd marking period will begin with Friendships - good, bad, bullying and peer pressure.

Grade 7: We will be finishing up with our Diversity test, then with the cycle of life -Death and Loss. The 2nd marking period will begin with self talk, body image and eating disorders. Students will also create their happiness inventory as a homework assignment.

Grade 8: We will be finishing up our Depression and Suicide Prevention unit then discuss Stress management. The 2nd marking period will begin with Relationships; healthy, unhealthy and abusive. Students will also develop their "Who I am" Project as a homework assignment.

## **Music**

### **Band 6:**

Students are continuing to prepare for our Winter concert. Please remind them to attend lessons, do makeups and prepare for the concert by practicing our 3 band pieces. Major scale work is beginning and students are working on the Bb, Eb, and F concert scales from their lesson books.

### **Band 7:**

The 7th grade band has been working hard on their band music for the upcoming winter concert. We will be having playing tests (specific assignments for each instrument) this month on each of the four selections we will be playing. We are also looking forward to our field trip to NYC to see a performance at Lincoln Center on jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman on Friday, November 17th.

**Band 8:** The students are continuing the scales that are required for the high school band curriculum. The mentors group comprised of high school band students are visiting our Thursday band only class every other week. This is and has been a very beneficial exercise for the 8th grade students.

With the help of the High School Mentor Program we have decided to add an arrangement of the Nutcracker to our performance in December.

On November 17th students from the 8th Grade Band will be attending a Jazz Presentation at Lincoln Center.

The band is now working on 4 musical selections for the performance on December 11th.

## **Chorus**

**6-** In the month of November, 6th grade chorus students will continue learning the notes of the treble clef and bass clef and will be introduced to notes on leger lines in both clefs and the grand staff. To prepare for our upcoming winter concert, this month students are learning proper concert posture and etiquette as performers and as audience members. Students are working hard at memorizing their lyrics and are focusing on musical concepts such as diction, phrasing and watching the conductor for musical cues. See you at the concert in December!

**7-** In the month of November, 7th grade students will continue learning how to sight-sing melodies in the key of C that move up and down in stepwise motion. Intervals of 3rds will be introduced this month as students will apply knowledge of solfege to their sightreading practice. In preparation for the upcoming winter concert students are reviewing concert posture and concert etiquette while they strive toward memorizing lyrics and adding musical elements such as phrasing and dynamics to their performance. Students were introduced to pop song form in



October and will continue to listen to songs in class that help them to analyze the structure a composer uses to create music!

**8-** In the month of November, 8th grade students will continue learning how to sight-sing melodies in the key of C that move up and down in stepwise motion. The key of G will be introduced this month as well as intervals of 3rds. Students will apply solfege to further their sight reading practice. In preparation for the upcoming winter concert, students are reviewing concert posture and concert etiquette while they strive to memorize lyrics and improve their ability to sing together in two and three-part harmony. We are looking forward to presenting our winter concert to you in December!

### **Keyboard Music 6, 7, 8**

**Grade 6** - November songs are, *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* and *Old Grey Goose*. Both songs develop skills for both hands playing but not yet at the same time, level 1.

We will be learning about the life, background, importance of Ludwig van Beethoven and his role in Music History.

We begin Rhythm Dictation and Listening Drills to aid in musical skills development. Students will develop a strong sense of pulse, become comfortable with reading different kinds of music, understand rhythm and counting. Listening Drills are an introduction to Ear Training and Melodic Dictation. Initially, we will learn to discern the difference between two musical phrases.

**Grade 7** - November song is *Ode To Joy*, both hands together, playing different parts, level 2.

We will be learning about the life, background, importance of Ludwig van Beethoven and his role in Music History.

We begin Rhythm Dictation and Listening Drills to aid in musical skills development. Students will develop a strong sense of pulse, become comfortable with reading different kinds of music, understand rhythm and counting. Listening Drills are an introduction to Ear Training and Melodic Dictation. Initially, we will learn to discern the difference between two musical phrases.

**Grade 8** - November song is *Old Grey Goose*, level 2 - melody in right hand, harmony in left hand.

We begin Rhythm Dictation and Listening Drills to aid in musical skills development. Students will develop a strong sense of pulse, become comfortable with reading different kinds of music, understand rhythm and counting. Listening Drills are an introduction to Ear Training and

Melodic Dictation. Initially, we will learn to discern the difference between two musical phrases.

Play By Ear songs from September and October finish up at end of Marking Period 1, on November 9th.

### **Orchestra - Mr. Kroqi**

**Grade 6 orchestra:** We are making a great progress in orchestra. We are preparing 3 pieces for the concert Rondeau, Cindy and Let It Snow. Main focus in on tone, rhythm patterns and intonation. During small group lessons we will focus on the same issues. Please remind them to attend lessons, do makeups and prepare for the concert by practicing the concert selections.

**Grade 7:** Pieces that we will perform in the Winter Concert are Twilight Express, An English Folk Song, Frosty The Snowman, Tangerine Rag. We'll continue working on Ludwig's Tango and Brandenburg Concerto No. V as well. Ensemble, Tone, Intonation are the main focus in orchestra and Small group lessons. Please remind them to attend lessons, do makeups and prepare for the concert by practicing the concert selections

**Grade 8:** We are working on the selections for the Winter Concert: Allegro in D, Palladio, The Cold Of the Winter, Dumfries Place, Three Holiday Songs. Main focus is on positions, note accuracy, intonation, using the appropriate bow section. Please remind them to attend lessons, do makeups and prepare for the concert by practicing the concert selections.

### **Technology Education Department**

#### **Technology Education 7th (Mr. Boocks):**

The semester is coming to a close and students are finishing strong! Currently they are creating wooden boxes to hold their notepads. Students have now used the chop saw, band saw, miter saw, miter box, band saw and sanding tables. They will be finishing their boxes next week and doing one or two small labs for the remainder of the semester.

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

Students are currently working on their individual labs, doing self study via tutorials. Students are using SCRATCH to learn coding, Game Maker to create video games, and some are working on short independent films. Please ASK your learner what they are doing in my class!

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

Students just finished creating Aerostats (hot air balloons). We are waiting on a non-windy day to launch them. In the meantime students are using prior knowledge and lab tools to create

rockets for the remaining few days. They are finishing up their pneumatic rockets and will be transitioning to hydropneumatic in the next few days.

### **Technology Education Department Mr. McAleese:**

#### **6th Technology Education Computers( Mr.McAleese):**

Students are continuing with the computer program “Typing Pal” honing their keyboarding skills. They are focused, hardworking and very diligently working to build finger memory of the location of letters, numbers and symbols on the keyboard. While doing this the class also has worked on 21st Century collaborative skills creating posters, calendars and learning proper letter and email formatting. We are hoping the subjects of our letter campaign, acotr/professional wrestler Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson and actor/comedian Kevin Hart will respond to our letters.

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

The semester is coming to a close and students are finishing strong! Currently they are creating wooden boxes to hold their notepads. Students have now used the chop saw, band saw, miter saw, miter box and various sanding machines and tools/ The final steps are staining, assembly and packaging. They will be finishing their boxes next week and doing one or two small labs for the remainder of the semester.

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

The semester is coming to a close and students are finishing strong! Currently they are creating Hot Air Balloons to be launched next week, weather permitting.. Students have now used multiple machines and hand tools while creating exemplary models of transportation as we have examined land, air and low space transportation. Next week through the rest of term we will be exploring intermodal transportation as students design their own trip anywhere in the world utilizing at least four different modes of transportation.

#### **8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):**

Students are finishing the Marking Period strong! Students have now used the chop saw, band saw, miter box, scroll saw, drill press and various sanding machines and tools. Some students have gone further in their Independent projects and used the biscuit cutter, the jig saw, and various specialty bits and tools. The final steps are staining, assembly and packaging.

Students who finish early with their independent projects will be taking on smaller projects to round out the class such as design and fabrication of a pair of dice, or a nameplate or picture frame. All students will be making drawings of their Independent Projects along with material lists and step by step instructions as an analysis of how well their design worked (part of the last stages of the Universal System Model...or design Loop).

### **Physical Education:**

The month of November puts us in full swing with our regular PE units. The classes will spend 3 weeks in each of 3 separate units. The units for PE will include Team Handball, Floor Hockey, and Project Adventure.

#### **Floor Hockey**

During the floor hockey unit students will initially take place in lead up games and activities to help them develop the skills necessary to play games of floor hockey. The focus of these lead up games will be on stick handling, passing, shooting, and offensive and defensive strategies. The final few classes have the students participating in floor hockey games.

#### **Team Handball**

More popular in the European community, Team Handball has been around for many years. Teams still compete today in Team Handball in the Olympic Games. It is a fast paced game that combines skills and concepts of many other team sports. Simply stated, Team Handball is traditionally played on a court similar to a basketball court. Team attempt to score by throwing a handball, which looks like an undersized volleyball, into the opponent goal. Our student will play a modified version of the actual game. Lead up games and activities involving throwing, catching, moving to open space, as well as offensive and defensive strategies will start off the first few classes. During the second half of the unit, students will play modified games.

#### **Project Adventure**

6th and 7th graders will spend two 3 week units in Project Adventure. 8th grade will have just one unit of Project Adventure. 6th and 7th grade, students will participate in several activities that focus on teamwork, communication, and cooperation. They will learn to problem solve as a group to overcome both physical and mental challenges. Emphasis is placed on adherence to the **Full Value Contract** (Be Here, Be Safe, Let Go and Move On, Play Hard, Play Fair).

### **Library Staff and Curriculum Collaboration - November 2017**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students completed the instructional unit, Seeds of Change, where students used text, audio and video to examine [the](#) how humans adapted their environment and began to produce food. Students examined both the advantages and disadvantages of farming on human populations.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** In the Google Earth World Language project students researched a specific city in a Spanish or French speaking country and created a tour in Google Earth that included historical landmarks using text in the target language.

### **Counseling/Dean News- Nov**

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we are encouraged to give thanks and reflect on those things, including the people in our lives, for which we are grateful. Holidays can be a joyous time spent with friends and family as well as a time of increased stress, potentially triggering feelings of sadness or loss. You or someone you know may have recently experienced a critical event or a personal loss that temporarily overwhelmed them and others who care for them. The following are some things to consider as we enter another holiday season with open hearts and support for the needs of our students and families.

If a critical event in the family or loss of loved ones (including pets) have been experienced recently (or near holiday time in the past), it will be especially important to be aware of child's capacity to cope. Children and adolescents are sensitive to and often very aware of the reactions and emotions of significant adults in their lives. It is understood that they will need the love and support of their parents and teachers to cope with the feelings that these circumstances often bring and may have significance at holiday time.

The signs and symptoms of stress in children are highlighted below, they may last a few days, a few weeks or longer. With understanding and support, the reactions may pass more quickly however if they persist, it may be helpful to contact your child's counselor for support in school or in the community. The range of stress reactions that children and adolescents may display can be physical, mental, emotional and behavioral. Some examples of responses, of varying degrees, are listed here:

Physical – Nausea, upset stomach, headaches, sleep disturbances, change in appetite, skin rashes, vague aches and pains, chills, diarrhea.

Mental – Slowed thinking, difficulty making decisions, difficulty problem solving, difficulty concentrating, poor attention span, distressing dreams, over concern with physical health, pessimistic about future

Emotional – Anxiety, fear, grief, guilt, sadness, depression, feeling isolated, feeling unappreciated, worrying about others, wanting to limit contact with others, anger, irritability, feeling numb, easily startled, fear of recurrence of event, survivor guilt  
Behavioral – Drop in school performance, acting out in angry ways, difficulty meeting responsibilities at home, acting in ways a younger child may in order to cope, increase in risk-taking behavior, decreased interest in life goals.

The Counseling team is available to support student and family needs at RLMS.  
Warm Thanksgiving wishes to all.

**Steve Deangelo-Dean (sdeangelo@fairfieldschools.org)**

**Karyn McNeil-6<sup>th</sup> grade School Counselor (kmcneil@fairfieldschools.org)**

**Kate Harder-7<sup>th</sup> grade School Counselor (kharder@fairfieldschools.org)**

**Kelly Cummings-8<sup>th</sup> grade School Counselor (kcummings@fairfieldschools.org)**

**Kelly Renna-6, 7, 8<sup>th</sup> grade School Counselor (krenna@fairfieldschools.org)**

**Walter Young-School Psychologist (wyoung@fairfieldschools.org)**

**Meg Rosenau-School Social Worker (mrosenau@fairfieldschools.org)**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Students researched Westward Expansion from various stakeholder's perspectives and produced a creative product that demonstrated different viewpoints, as well as an essay with a clear claim that students were required to defend with evidence from their research.

**Tech:** Launched our first Chromebook cart into classrooms.

**Reading:** Supported author visit with books (both print and digital) and promotional materials.