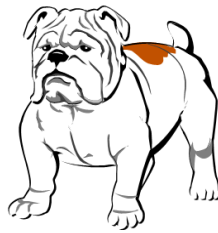


RLMS Curriculum Corner- January 2017



Counseling News- January

Student Success Plans (SSP)/Developmental Guidance

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT!!

Each year, all students participate in Developmental Guidance on varying topics. The School Counselors typically spend 2 days in a class and coordinate with the subject area teachers around their lessons. All of these topics tie into Student Success Plans; which are part of “Connecticut’s Plan for Secondary School Reform”.

Grade 6—during the month of January. The grade 6th lessons focus on “getting to know you”, “coping skills” and learning Naviance (the electronic file that will house your child’s Student Success Plan). All grade 6 students will log in to the Naviance system and review their online goal planning framework facilitated by their School Counselor. They will also establish one personal goal.

Grade 7— In February, all grade 7 students will participate in lessons that focus on learning styles/interests. They will log in to their Naviance accounts and complete the “Strengths Explorer” assessment facilitated by their School Counselor.

Grade 8- In February, all students will log in to the Naviance system and complete a Career Interest Inventory in preparation for high school course selection facilitated by their School Counselor.

The state of CT defines a Student Success Plan as:

The SSP is an individualized student-driven plan developed to address students’ needs and interests. The Plan should include strategies to help every student stay connected to school and achieve postsecondary educational and career goals. An effective SSP is built around three core components: “Academic Development, Career Development, and Social, Emotional, and Physical Development. This Plan will begin in Grade 6 and continue through high school to provide the student support and assistance in setting up goals for social, emotional, physical and academic growth, meeting rigorous high school expectations and exploring postsecondary education and career interests. The SSP and support structures, such as student portfolios and academic/personal records, should be electronic and portable following the student from school to school and district to district.

Any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's School Counselor.

Grade 6- Kate Harder kharder@fairfieldschools.org

Grade 7- Kelly Cummings kcummings@fairfieldschools.org

Grade 8-Karyn McNeil kmcneil@fairfieldschools.org

Grades 6th, 7th, 8th – Kelly Renna krenna@fairfieldschools.org

World Language - January Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

As 6th graders continue to explore the question, Who Am I?, they have learned how to express personal preferences as they relate to extra-curricular activities in the target culture and their own. To expand what students can say about themselves, 6th-graders are learning ways to describe their own physical appearance and personality traits. Moving forward, students will be able to identify family members and ask about and describe what they are like and how they are related.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Learners begin to give examples and their opinion of art and music in their own culture, as well as investigate artists and musicians in the target culture. Students are also identifying popular instruments in the U.S. and why specific instruments are popular in the target culture.

8th Grade level 20 Spanish and French

8th graders will look at the meaning of responsible consumerism in relation to what is required to maintain a healthy environment. Students will create and present a public service announcement on how our consumer habits affect the environment.

Crew 6 LM- Jan Update

Language Arts - Students are busy finishing their final writing assignment for book clubs focusing on character analysis. Then students will analyze author's craft in poetry as preparation for the next unit on narrative writing.

Math 6 - The math 6 students are learning about relationships between fractions, decimals and percents and how these forms are related to one another. Various models such as fraction strips, percent bars, and number lines are used to develop conceptual understanding. We emphasis using and applying these concepts to real-world problems such as unit rate, measurement conversion, and comparison of quantities.

Math TPA - The TPA students are learning about ratios and proportional relationships, and analyzing those proportional relationships to solve real- world math problems. This includes solving problems to find an unknown part of a proportion and applying that reasoning to solve problems related to calculating sales tax, interest and commission, scale drawings and unit pricing.

Social Studies - When we return from the holiday break, we will be finishing up our unit on Southwest Asia and North Africa. Soon after, classes will be involved in a case study about the modern global issue of energy in this region.

In mid to late January, classes will begin to study the region of Europe. Students will work on an independent research project based off of either Ancient Rome or Greece.

Science - The 6th grade scientists are busy investigating the fundamental principles of meteorology and weather forecasting. They are learning about clouds, air masses and fronts, severe weather and weather forecasting. The students are creating a birthday weather map and comparing data with a partner to make conclusions on how weather is impacted by location. They will also begin a severe weather research project, becoming an expert on a hurricane and presenting their findings to the class.

7LMS -January Update

Language Arts : Grade 7 LA Classes are continuing exploring the “Art of Argumentative Writing” with a topic of choice to research and write about.. Upcoming are mid-year assessments including STARR, Close Reading Assessment, and mid-year portfolio. We will be moving into a whole class novel study with S.E. Hinton’s, *The Outsiders*, by the end of January. It is a happy new year to date!

Math:

Pre-Algebra 7 - In Pre-Algebra we are studying two-dimensional geometry, including the classification of angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals. We will then look at scale drawings and models, applying prior knowledge of proportions and measurement.

Math 7 - In Math we are starting our Proportional Relationships unit. Here we will study and learn about ratio, rates, unit rates and proportions. We will build upon this by writing and solving real life proportional situations and questions. Later in the unit we will also introduce slope and direct variation.

Science: 7th Grade science is starting the new year with a project on a genetic disorders. We will then move out of the nucleus and explore molecular movement in and out of the cell. During January students will take the mid-year scientific method district assessment. The end of January brings us to a brief overview of classification which will lead us into our study of the 6 kingdoms of living things.

Social Studies: 7th grade Geography students participated in the 2017 National Geographic Bee upon returning from break. They are now examining the seven Elements of Culture, and using their knowledge to answer the essential question-”Are people in essence more similar to one another or different from each other?” The next unit will allow students to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in Unit 1: Essentials of Geography to the region of East Asia.

8LM January Update

Language Arts: Students are wrapping up their work investigating how non-fiction information impacts their understanding of literature - in both independent and shared texts - as it pertains to theme. They have written an essay on theme about a text of their choice and have considered how the non-fiction elements of a work have helped their development of that theme. Shortly, we will delve into our personal narrative unit.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we are continuing our study of linear relationships, looking at different forms of a linear equation. We will then extend these ideas to the study of functions, comparing functions to non-functions and comparing linear functions to nonlinear functions.

Math Algebra: Students are in the process of learning about concepts involving real numbers. They will work with expressions which include powers with both positive and negative exponents. Students will also complete various operations using values written in scientific notation.

Math Geometry: In Geometry we are exploring triangle similarity, including the different ways to prove triangles similar and the properties of similar triangles. We will then move on to studying general properties of all polygons with four or more sides, with a focus on quadrilaterals.

Science: Students will continue to learn about work and machines before starting to learn about energy. Then, we will wrap up the physics unit by studying bridges.

Social Studies: Grade 8 students are wrapping up an argumentative essay about the effectiveness of Reconstruction after the Civil War. This assessment requires critical thinking skills and gives students another opportunity to practice and refine their writing skills. Next students will be learning about the development of industrial America. In an inquiry-based project, students will explore how the progressive movement attempted to deal with the problems of immigration, industrialization, urbanization, and political corruption.

UA- Art/Computer/FCS/Health/Music/PE- January Update

Art- January

6th grade art:

6th graders are currently in the midst of a design unit in linoleum block printmaking. They have used their drawing skills to create a design that they then carved into linoleum, with a focus on line and texture. They are creating multiple prints of various colors, learning about color contrast

along with the printmaking process. They will then be moving onto a final unit in sculpture, where they will create abstract sculptures of the human form, in the style of Alberto Giacometti.

7th grade art:

7th graders are working on embellishing their clay masks using a variety of painting techniques. They are adding detail with color and texture. The final unit is on self portraiture where students will learn facial proportion and how to properly draw facial features. They will draw a final self portrait using graphite and value.

8th grade 2D art:

8th graders are working on their acrylic painting unit. They are learning how to use a grid to scale their chosen image onto canvas. They are also using their prior knowledge of color theory from 7th grade to mix and apply the proper colors to their canvases. Foreground, middleground, and background are emphasized and painting in layers. They will continue painting until the end of the marking period.

8th grade 3D art:

8th graders are wrapping up their coil pottery unit, and many students are glazing their pieces. They are learning the differences between glaze and underglaze. A unit in Oaxacan animal sculpture is also in process. Rather than construct with coils, students are molding and sculpting animal forms with their hands, using reference photos for the form. They will be adding intricate painted designs to their sculptures as well, in the style of the Oaxacans.

Computers

6th Grade Computers:

Mr. Boocks:

Students are continuing to learn keyboarding skills, working with Typing Pals while building up finger memory. Also, students have been introduced MS XL, Word and to various Google Docs tools.

6th Grade Computers(Mr. McAleese):

Students are continuing to learn keyboarding skills, working with Typing Pal while building up finger memory. Also, students have been introduced to various Google Docs tools having completed Google Forms and have moved onto Google Sheets.

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. Next, students will create a document in Excel called Birthdays.

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 four independent projects as well. In Unit 3, students will create the Olympic Rings, a flower design project, tree design project, a basic word project, and an aquarium design project.

Family Consumer Science

Food Lab

6th Grade: Students will begin learning the essential skills of knife cutting techniques and safety in the kitchen. Students are then introduced to the standard units of measuring utilizing proper techniques and tools. After they have practiced their knife skills they will make Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas and enjoy them with their classmates. Our next recipe includes learning to peel, core and slice apples then how to cook safely on a stove top.

7th Grade: Students are practicing their knife skills while making Breakfast Burritos with peppers and onions. They are so proud of themselves as they practice their knife and cooking skills. Students then make an individual omelet and scrambled eggs later this month. 7th graders present their Family Meal Projects to the class and practice on their public speaking skills while they present and share their success. GO 7th graders!

8th Grade: We kicked off the new year with a healthy start of Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad that was a hit. Next week students start their Multicultural Unit. Students will choose a country, team, and then research on our virtual library. Students will prepare a recipe and share their research and tasty creations with their classmates. We learn how to use a pastry bag by baking and cake decorating on a healthy cakes.

In the sewing lab: January 2017

7th grade has made their boxer shorts using a pattern with their measurements.



6th grade finished up their shoulder sak bags. They learn to sew a button onto fabric next.



If students have time, they can make extra projects and come to sewing club.



Health

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Grade 6 - In January we will be finishing up with alcohol then going into marijuana, inhalants, and risky behaviors. We will also learn about Lyme disease and communication skills.

Grade 7 - In January we will do conflict resolution, coping with death/loss, birth, family life/communication as well as a review of some information on tobacco.

Grade 8 - In January we will finish up with suicide prevention, then we will do marijuana, body image a review of tobacco and some decision making skills.

Health - Ms. Maline

6th Grade - In January we are finishing up with marijuana and will cover alcohol and then “natural highs”. We will then discuss sexual harassment, puberty and communicative diseases (HIV, Lyme) .

7th Grade- In January we began family life which will continue to coping with death and loss. Our Diversity and Online Safety test will be on January 10th. We will review tobacco and discuss goal setting.

8th Grade- We just began our Alcohol unit which will be followed by depression and suicide prevention and stress management.

Music

Band 6: The 6th grade band will begin working on our third scale of the year (Concert F major) as well as a few new pieces (Asian Folk Rhapsody, and an arrangement of the 1812 Overture). We are also working on sight reading and playing dotted quarter note rhythms and bringing greater expression to our playing through the use of dynamics during our band rehearsals.

Band 7: Students are working on new band pieces: “Actium”, “Bugs”, “Disney's Magical Marches”, and “Between Wind and Water”. Scales tests are to be completed by March 2nd and include Ab, C, Bb chromatic concert scales by memory, up and down. In addition music theory work is ongoing-terminology and note reading.

8th Grade Band Students have received all new literature to study and perform in the spring concerts and for the High Note Festival on June 2, 2017. The students are working intensely on learning new scales as a preparation for the rigorous curriculum at the high school level.

Chorus

Grade 6 - This month students are being introduced to new literature for their spring concert in May. "J'Entend's Le Moulin" is a French Canadian folk song sung in both French and English. The students are really enjoying the fast tempo and excitement this song delivers! Students are also working toward naming all the notes in treble and bass clef, including notes on leger lines.

Grade 7 - 7th grade chorus students are being introduced to new literature for the spring concert in May. "Give Us Hope" is a song that examines a child's world and how small steps can be made to improve it. "Here Comes the Sun" is a classic George Harrison song that students are really enjoying singing, especially in the middle of January! 7th grade chorus students will be working on score navigation and reading beamed eighth notes in the month of January.

Grade 8 - 8th grade chorus students are being introduced to new literature for the spring concert in May. "The Phantom of the Opera" medley is underway, and students are also learning who the characters are in the musical and the synopsis of the show. 8th grade chorus is excited to go see the musical in April! Students will be reviewing score navigation and will be learning the basics of how to identify key signatures this month, which will continue throughout this spring.

Keyboard

In January students will be finishing their Composer's Corner Melodies - an original creation, with 8 measures of 4/4 time in C Major. Presentations of Marking Period 2 projects - a musical invention - will continue until the marking period ends, 1/27.

Our January Piano songs are all level 2 - both hands together playing independently - this month: *Are You Sleeping*, *Away In A Manger*, *Lightly Row*, *Twinkle, Twinkle*, *What Can the Matter Be?*

Orchestra

Grade 6 orchestra: In January, during the orchestra rehearsals and small group lessons, we will intensify the work on Music reading skills. We will be using a lot "I Can Read Music" book and Essential Elements book 1. All the small group lessons will review and finish Suzuki volume 1 and start Suzuki volume 2.

By the end of the month and the first two weeks of February students will be tested on scales: Violins G and A Major two octaves, Cello/Viola C and D Major two octaves. Basses G major and D Major one octave.

In Orchestra we will start practicing two new pieces, *Mystical Quest* and *The Four Seasons*.

Grade 7 orchestra: In January, during the orchestra rehearsals and small group lessons, we will intensify the work on Music reading skills. We will be using a lot "I Can Read Music" book and

Essential Elements book 2. All the small group lessons will review and finish Suzuki volume 2 and start Suzuki volume 3.

By the end of the month and the first two weeks of February students will be tested on scales: Violins G and D Major two octaves with shifting in 3rd position, Cello/Viola F and G Major two octaves. Basses G major and D Major two octave.

Starting this month, the small group lessons, will be performing pieces from Suzuki books for the class peers in the beginning of each rehearsal.

In Orchestra we will start practicing three new pieces, Brandenburg concerto no.II Mystical Quest and Spring from The Four Seasons.

Grade 8 orchestra: In January, during the orchestra rehearsals and small group lessons, we will intensify the work on Music reading skills. We will be using a lot “I Can Read Music” volume 2 and finish Essential Elements book 2. All the small group lessons will review Suzuki volume 2 and first part of volume 3.

Starting this month, the small group lessons, will be performing pieces from Suzuki books for the class peers in the beginning of each rehearsal.

In Orchestra we will start practicing three new pieces, Mystical Quest and The Four Seasons, Abduction from the Seraglio.

Physical Education: Our Physical Education classes have started new rotations in January. Our new curricular activities will include badminton, project adventure and archery. Most of the students have also had the opportunity to rotate through the fitness center except for a few classes in 7th grade. They continued to learn about ways to keep their bodies fit and to work out safely and with confidence. Students that will be rotating into Project adventure for a second time will begin to climb the rock wall and other elements.

Technology Education Department

Technology Education 7th (Mr. Boocks)

Students are currently working on the Mid-Air-Vehicle lab. They are using past knowledge to draw their vehicles, and are learning how to incorporate the “Universal Systems Model” into the design process.

Communication (Mr. Boocks)

Students are entering the final stages of the semester. Our last three labs are stop motion animated movies, Lego robots and 3D printing.

Transportation (Mr. Boocks)

Students are now familiar with the machines and lab safety and are working on creating a rubber band powered, propellor driven vehicle. Our next lab will be creating large, hot air balloons.

7th Technology Education(Mr.McAleese):

We have progressed from Manufacturing with machinery and hand tools to manufacturing a Communications product in the Computer Lab. Students are designing custom Notepads which will accompany the memo pad holder they just completed in the Materials Processing Lab. Building on prior vocabulary, students are learning about Production/The Design Loop/Criteria and Constraints among other Tech Ed terms.

8th Transportation Tech(Mr.McAleese):

We have moved onto land based transportation with the design of a mousetrap powered vehicle. Students began by studying Orthographic Projection (ask them - has nothing to do with the Orthodontist). They took these newly discovered communication skills, for drawing a set of plans is a form of communication, and created their own detail drawings of the vehicle of their design. The next step will involve fabricating a kit of parts, assembling them and testing their prototype for springloaded adventure. (Vocabulary to pay attention to: orthographic, projection, kit of parts, prototype, fabricate).

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

Now that students have completed their initial woodworking project with the letter plaque, they are proceeding on to apply Design Loop steps toward creating a custom project of their own. Students were offered the chance to create one similar project as a group and chose instead to create custom fabrications. Running with this then, students researched through various means, and built a set of data to utilize in creating plans/drawings for their project. Once approved, students will layout their various kit of parts, measuring and cutting accordingly, followed by assembly and finishing (painting, staining, installing miscellaneous hardware and/or fasteners).