

## Curriculum Corner – October, 2015

### 6th grade Crews L, M & S

**Language Arts:** Students are still in our launch establishing good habits as readers and writers. For writing, students are working on ways to brainstorm ideas and then develop their seed ideas into longer pieces. For reading, students are working on how to cohesive, write well-supported reader's responses.

### **Math**

**Math 6:** Students are beginning to apply order of operations to solve real life problems. The students are becoming more familiar with numerical expressions and factors and, therefore, are able to solve advanced problems. In the next few days, the students will begin working with prime factorization, greatest common factors, and least common multiples. In Transition to Pre-Algebra we are finishing up working with prime factorization, greatest common factors, and least common multiples. We will begin multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers shortly and will be finishing Unit 1 with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals.

**Science:** There is excitement in the air as science students are getting ready to explore the Estuary on October 6. Students have been researching an estuary organism and will be creating a web page that will display their research and technology skills. Lessons in class have been focused on learning new estuary vocabulary and there have been hands on experiments that have introduced students to scientific inquiry.

**Social Studies:** In Social Studies, students have begun to understand the components of a civilization. One part of a civilization is the highly developed culture and students explored their own heritage and culture by completing a "Cultural Shield". We will begin understand what geography is and how it affects civilization development.

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade Crew L & M

**Language Arts:** The LA department will be exploring close (analytical) reading strategies within the next few weeks and practicing communicating our developed theories in writing. The focus in this writing process will be focused thesis statements communicating our theories, organization of evidence, and elaboration along with demonstration of mastery of items on the No Excuse Editing list.

**Math:**

Math 7: Students are adding and subtracting integers this week then we move on to adding and subtracting rational numbers. In Pre-Algebra, students are currently solving two step equations and variables on both sides.

**Science:** The science department is finishing up and intro unit on tools and scientific methods then using the scientific method skills in a lab growing plants. Then we will move to ecology and talk about the characteristics of life as well as food chains and food webs.

**Social Studies:** In geography class, students are in the process of learning about basic map skills and spatial relationships. Recently, students learned about mental mapping, and the 5 Themes of Geography. Over the next few weeks, topics will include map components, latitude and longitude, and parts of a map. Additionally, students will continue to explore the classroom atlas in order to enhance their ability to locate places.

8 Grade Crews L, M & S

**Language Arts:** We have successfully launched into 8<sup>th</sup> grade by looking at how we can use some of our notebook tools to improve our writing and revising, reviewing some important grammar rules, and discussing how best to choose texts for independent reading. Coming up, we will read shared texts closely in order to investigate and respond to theme.

**Math:** In Pre-Algebra students began the year with solving equations and will soon move on to their unit on congruence and similarity. In Algebra students just completed a unit on solving equations and inequalities and moved on to a new unit where we will investigate functions. In Geometry students began the year working on points, lines and planes. Students are currently in their second unit focusing on transformations, particularly as they apply to the coordinate plane. In the next unit, students will be exploring algebraic proofs.

**Science:** Science classes will be completing density before moving on to physics. Physics will start with observing and measuring motion, followed by forces. For more details, see the topics lists/study guides posted on the website.

**Social Studies:** Students have begun to explore the foundations of American government during the Revolutionary Era. In the coming month, students will be learning about the Constitution and early challenges facing our newly formed nation.

## Unified Arts/Art/ /Music/PE/World Language

### **Art**

6th grade art students have completed their drawing unit which included learning to shade using a tortillion as well as a homework assignment that will utilize these skills. This month they will start to create a design for their linoleum block print unit. They will carve out this design and make various prints with different color combinations as well as a collage.

7th grade art students are completing the construction of their clay masks. While these masks are air drying, we will begin learning about color theory and preparing for the painting unit.

8<sup>th</sup> grade 2-D art students are working on completing their pen and ink compositions, and will be starting their acrylic paintings. They will utilize the painting techniques and color theory practices they have previously learned to create their canvas.

8<sup>th</sup> grade 3-D art students are continuing working on their clay vessels and have begun to plan and sculpt their Oaxacan inspired animals.

### **Computer**

6th Grade Computers: Students have been learning advanced features of MS PowerPoint, such as how to align and distribute objects on a slide. Together we have completed the framework for their All About Me presentation. Students have learned how to use Typing Pals, and are now working independently through the lessons. Speed is not important; accuracy is important! Our next unit is to learn the tips and tricks of MS Paint.

7<sup>th</sup> grade: Students have completed planning, sourcing, digitally creating, and constructing a Picture Cube and Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation. We are finishing up the presentations to the class. Excited to begin woodworking project next.

8th Grade: Students have just finished their first project using MS Publisher. Each student completed a Coat of Arms document. Skills learned included grouping and ungrouping objects, and aligning and distributing objects in several ways. Our next project is to learn MS Excel.

### **Family Consumer Science**

In the sewing lab:

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

7th grade is finishing up their boxer shorts and created a 5D design to embroider if they have time.

8th grade has completed designing their quilt and embroidery on the computer and are sewing their center blocks.

Foods:

6th grade is learning knife skills & safety cutting sweet peppers and baking off Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas.

7th grade will be learning about Food Bourne Illness and cooking Turkey Breakfast Sandwiches. Also, working on their Family Meal Projects that will be presented on 10/5.

8th grade will be baking and frosting their cakes. Then learning the Origins of Food using the Virtually Library (Smart Cart)

## **Health**

6th grade: Maline- Just finished friendships; good and bad. Students presented their Salubrious Project to class. Started our drug unit which will take a few weeks to cover Prescription/ over the counter drugs and classifications. The class will cover tobacco, e cigs, inhalants, marijuana, and alcohol.

Dickenson: In sixth grade we have already finished HIV, and tobacco, as well as empathy. We are currently in the bullying unit. Still to come – sexual harassment, bad friendships, marijuana, inhalants, Lyme disease, puberty and the reproductive systems, and alcohol use prevention.

7th grade: Maline- Finishing up self-talk and eating disorders. Students presented their ME project to the class. We started discussing rumors, accusations and popularity. There will be speaker to address the dangers of e cigs and tobacco. There will be a unit on cyberbullying, sexting and diversity.

Dickenson:- In seventh grade we have finished eating disorders and tolerance/diversity. We are currently in the alcohol unit. Still to come – marijuana, sexual harassment review from grade 6 as well as bullying review from grade 6. Coping with death/loss, violence prevention, reducing risks of cancer with a quick tobacco review from grade 6, and birth.

8th Grade: Maline- Students just finished health basics and healthy relationships. Presented their WHO I AM Projects to the class. We began discussing unhealthy /abusive relationships. Students will be covering love vs. infatuation, abstinence, date rape drugs and a unit on alcohol.

Dickenson: In eighth grade we have finished binge drinking and sexual assault prevention, and we also just finished love. Coming in the next few weeks we will be learning about healthy and abusive relationships – as they relate to dating. We are also learning about abstinence, coping with depression, suicide prevention, a review of HIV, as well as other STI's. Also – marijuana use prevention, and body image.

## Music

### Band:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: The 6th grade band has been reviewing theory, rehearsal techniques and generally settling into balancing our sound as a new and larger ensemble by playing exercises and selections from our lesson book. Lessons are now underway and we are just beginning to work on our pieces for the Winter Concert - specifically on Aztec Sunrise this week. Here is a link to a recording of Aztec sunrise:

[http://www.jwpepper.com/2228898.item#.VgvZ\\_exViko](http://www.jwpepper.com/2228898.item#.VgvZ_exViko) (click on the small “play” button to hear a free MP3 recording from jwpepper).

Grade 6 Beginner Band: 4 Baritones, 1 French Horn and 2 clarinets. We have learned 3 notes and all the basic note lengths and rests! Our first tune: HOT CROSS BUNS!

7<sup>th</sup> grade Band: Students are working on 3 scales as review from last year Bb, F, Eb. New band pieces: Cayuga Lake Overture, The Hunger Games, Lament and Jubilation. In addition, students are working with lesson material from Standard of Excellence Book 1. Students will begin Essential Elements Book 2 shortly. Lesson attendance is very important for student growth!

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: We have started the music for our concert which are based on the holiday season. Our goal to be met for this month is to develop a more mature full tone and to improve intonation and technique.

### Chorus:

6th grade Chorus – Students are learning the basics of proper singing technique with a focus on posture and breath. In September, students have begun note spelling and note naming pitches on the treble clef. Students are learning how to sing together in unison and two part harmony by learning rounds such as “Taco Salad,” “Viva La Musica” and “Sing a Joyful Song.” We are currently working on concert repertoire, including “Frosty Hand Jive,” “Moonlight Sleighride” and “Circle ‘Round the Moon.” More selections will be added in the next couple weeks.

7th grade Chorus – In the beginning of 7th grade chorus, boys voices were tested for stages of voice change. Students are reviewing basic singing techniques with a focus on posture and breath. Students are reviewing notes name of pitches on the treble clef. Students are singing in two and three-part harmony during warm ups using solfege. We are currently working on concert repertoire including “Carol of the Bells” and “Give Us Hope.” More selections will be added in the next couple weeks.

8th grade chorus - In the beginning of 8th grade chorus, boys voices were tested for stages of voice change. Students are reviewing basic singing skills with a focus on posture, breath and tone. Students are reviewing note names on the treble and bass clefs. Students are singing in two and three-part harmony during warmups using solfege and in concert repertoire, which includes

“Angels Watching Over Me,” “Home” and “River song.” More selections will be added in the next couple weeks.

#### Music Tech/Keyboard Music:

6th Grade will begin using the same book as 7th grade as soon as they master some basic skills on the keyboard - note reading, finger, hand position. They also are using a new approach to musical flash cards - the Albright Jeopardy Game version of note reading.

7th Grade is using a new Beginning Piano Book.

8th Grade working on a theme from a movie. We call this "Music and Movies". In September we reviewed Keyboard navigation and Theory, and started working on our October tune, The Adams Family Theme.

#### Orchestra

Grade 6: We have started with the small group lessons. For the month of October we will focus a lot on music reading skills and technique (bow hold and bowing, left hand facility) and G and C major scales. We have started working on two pieces for the Winter Concert “Fox in the Chicken House” and “Twilight Express”. In about two week Mr. Kroqi will add another piece (TBD).

Grade 7: Small group lessons has started. For the month of October we will focus a lot on music reading skills and technique (bow hold and bowing, left hand facility) from Essential Elements volume 2, scales D, G and C Major. We have started working on 2 pieces for the Winter Concert “Corelli Suite” “Postcards from Russia” and shortly we will start working on “Winter” by Vivaldi.

Grade 8: We have started with the small group lessons. For the month of October we will focus a lot on music reading skills and technique (bow hold and bowing, left hand facility) from Essential Elements Volume 2, and scales D major (all in third position) Bb, A major. Shortly we will start F major and A melodic minor scales. We have started working on 3 pieces for the Winter Concert, “Themes for Moldau”, “Toreador Song” and Cake Walk. More pieces will be added in the next two to three weeks.

**Physical Education:** The PE department in working on prepping for the CT Fitness Test. Testing will begin the week of October 5th. Testing areas include mile run, curl ups, pushups, and sit and reach. Testing will go through to the first week in November.

#### Tech Ed/Com Tech

Grade 7 – Students have completed planning, sourcing, digitally creating, and constructing a Picture Cube and Microsoft Powerpoint Presentation. We are finishing up the presentations to the class. Excited to begin woodworking project next.

Grade 8 – Manufacturing and Construction – Safety, Safety, Safety. Students have completed a unit on Hand Tools/Quiz, as well as Instruction /Trial/Quizzes on the Drill Press and Band Saw. They are in various stages of working on their Project 1 Golf Tee Game (drilling, shaping/cutting, and sanding).

Grade 8 – Transportation Technology - Students have completed Straw Rockets, Pneumatic Rockets, a Quiz on the Design Process Loop and are currently designing/building their Carbonated Beverage Bottle Rockets. Very excited to launch outside soon.

8th Com Tech will be completing Movie scripts and voice overs and will be moving on to final film production.

**World Language:** We are very excited that our 6<sup>th</sup> graders are now taking either French or Spanish every day. We are implementing our new World Language curriculum in grades 6-8. Additional details to follow in our next edition!