

RLMS Curriculum Corner – December 2016

Crew 6 LM- December Update

Language Arts - Grade 6 LA students recently finished our whole class novel unit on Tuck Everlasting. We are now beginning our first book club unit of the year that is focused on character development. In this unit, students are broken into small groups, and each group has a book they are responsible for reading. They will complete small written assignments along the way to help them engage in meaningful discussions with their group. Right before the winter break, we will begin wrapping up the unit with a final assignment.

Math 6 - The math 6 students are finishing up the unit on algebraic concepts. They have been writing expressions that record operations with numbers and variables, as well as evaluating expressions at specific values of their variables- including real world problems.

Math TPA - We have started our unit on Ratios, Rates and Proportions in the TPA classes. This unit illustrates the relationships between fractions, decimals and percents and students learn how these forms are related to one another and make decisions about when to use each form. There is an emphasis on applying and understanding these relationships to solve real-world problems.

Social Studies - Grade 6 Social Studies classes are in the midst of studying our first region, North Africa & Southwest Asia. Students are 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. After the winter break, classes will be engaging in a case study in regards to the energy resources of this region.

Science - Grade 6 Science classes are flying planes and finishing up their scientific method unit. Students are learning the importance of collecting and analyzing data while working in teams to solve a testable question. December brings cold weather and teachers and students are eager to get started on their weather unit. Classes will be discussing hot topics like global warming, greenhouse gases and the effect of jet streams on local weather patterns. Diagrams of the atmosphere will be studied and the different layers will be distinguished from one another. Students will also be introduced to the reason why air pressure changes with altitude. Keep your eyes to the skies- First flakes will be falling and grade 6 science classes will be celebrating!

7LMS -December Update

Language Arts :We are completing reading our book club books, discussion days, and responses; writing about reading. We are moving into argumentative writing with exploring editorials, taking a stance, uncovering “fake” news, and ultimately choosing a topic of interest to research and write about.

Math:

Pre Algebra 7 - We will spend most of December exploring different ways to solve systems of linear equations, and are going to apply these concepts to real-world problems. As this is our final algebraic unit of the year, we will then move on to begin our first geometric unit, exploring angle relationships and properties in 2-dimensional drawings and figures.

Math 7 - Unit 3 Algebraic Reasoning II

- Add, subtract, multiply and divide algebraic expressions.
- Solve Equations that contain multiple operations.
- Solve inequalities that contain one operation.
- Solve inequalities that contain multiple operations.

Science: In December, 7th grade science will be heading into the world of genetics. Students will learn about the difference between dominant and recessive traits and how to use Punnett Squares to predict offspring traits. They will figure out genetics of SpongeBob, aliens, monsters and smiley faces.

Social Studies: In December, 7th grade Geography students will continue their examination of the physical world. After studying contour maps and topography, students will create a realistic contour map of their fictional Simunation island. Students will also study world climates and climate controls, analyze and create climographs, and create their own climate maps for their islands. Finally, to end 2016, students will learn about vegetation and animal life on planet earth, and how they are related to different environments and regions. The final map project of the year will allow students to populate their islands with the proper vegetation zones and animals that would populate their island biomes.

8LM December Update

Language Arts: Eighth grade students are fully immersed in book clubs. Aside from exploring and discussing common literary elements such as plot, conflict, setting, character development, theme, and symbolism, students will focus on identifying “researchable” topics found within the texts. They will then investigate the topics using informational sources and analyze how their findings impact their understanding of the books. Additionally, please note that specific comments posted regarding your child’s progress in Infinite Campus can only be viewed when you log in to the Infinite Campus portal (the comments are not viewable through the smartphone app).

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we have begun to explore linear relationships. We will learn different strategies for writing, graphing, and analyzing linear equations. These strategies will incorporate ideas about slope, intercepts, and different forms of linear equations.

Math Algebra: In Algebra we are extending our work with linear functions by studying systems of linear equations and linear inequalities. Following this unit, students will begin to model linear data by creating scatterplots and lines of best fit to interpret, describe and summarize data.

Math Geometry: In Geometry we have been working on triangle congruence, discovering the different ways to prove triangles are congruent and completing many proofs that use these concepts. Next, we will look at bisectors more closely and investigate the importance of bisectors, medians, and altitudes in a triangle.

Science: We are currently finishing up a unit on gravity and motion. The students will soon begin studying Newton’s laws of motion and work and machines.

Social Studies: In social studies, students have been analyzing a variety of primary and secondary sources to better understand the devastating realities that African Americans faced during slavery. Students will now identify and explore the major causes of the Civil War.

World Language - December Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

As students continue exploring the question, Who Am I?, they are using terminology to express their own personal preferences as they relate to leisure time activities. As students begin to identify and refer to such activities, they are asked to make cross-cultural comparisons and use time frames to categorize sports as well as other activities. Coming up, students will be able to describe their own personal characteristics as well as other's. As the marking period ends, students will begin identifying family members and relationships.

7th Grade Level 10B

This month we are wrapping up our unit on How do I manage my time? Next, learners will once again assume their cultural identity to explore creativity and the imagination in Unit 4's How do I use my imagination? They will begin to investigate art and music in the target culture and explore how creativity is expressed through art, music and other means and how they use their imagination

8th Grade level 20

In December, eighth graders will explore the question What do we really need? Students began this unit by learning vocabulary for clothing. They will be expressing what they want versus what they need and exploring ways in which the media influences our spending habits.

Counseling News- December

Happy Holidays from the Counseling Department! The holidays are an exciting time for children and adults but can also be stressful and tiring. Here are a few tips from the American Academy for Pediatrics for fighting the holiday blues and enjoying the season to the fullest:

- Try to keep household routines the same. Stick to your child's usual sleep and mealtime schedules when you can, which may reduce stress and help your family enjoy the holidays.
- Take care of yourself both mentally and physically. Children and adolescents are affected by the emotional well-being of their parent or caregivers. Coping with stress successfully can help children learn how to handle stress better, too.
- Make a plan to focus on one thing at a time. Try a few ideas to balance the hustle and bustle of things like shopping, cooking, and family get-togethers during the holidays: Stop and pay attention to what is happening at the moment, focus your attention on one thing about it, and notice how you are feeling at the time. Withhold immediate judgment, and instead be curious about the experience.
- Give to others by making it an annual holiday tradition to share your time and talents with people who have less than you do. For example, if your child is old enough, encourage him or her to join you in volunteering to serve a holiday meal at your local food bank or shelter

or sing at a local nursing home. Help your child write a letter to members of the armed forces stationed abroad who can't be home with their own family during the holidays.

- Remember that many children and adults experience a sense of loss, sadness or isolation during the holidays. It is important to be sensitive to these feelings and ask for help for you, your children, family members or friends if needed.
- Kids still need to brush their teeth twice a day!
- Don't feel pressured to "over-spend on gifts." Consider making one or two gifts. Help your child make a gift for his or her other parent, grandparents, or other important adults and friends. Chances are, those gifts will be the most treasured ones and will teach your child many important lessons.

Most important of all, enjoy the holidays for what they are -- time to enjoy with your family. So, be a family, do things together like sledding or playing board games, and spend time visiting with relatives, neighbors and friends.

Please contact us anytime with any questions or concerns about your child.

The Counseling Center

203-255-8343

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

Art- December

6th grade art:

6th grade students are learning about value and how to shade to create the illusion of 3D form on a flat surface. They have practiced creating value scales and shading basic forms. They have moved onto drawing an animal of their choice, and are using their shading skills to realistically shade the animal. They will then continue on to a unit in observational drawing, drawing fruits and vegetables and shading with color. Color will be applied with both oil pastel and colored pencil.

7th grade art:

7th grade students are working on their clay masks. They are learning how to use clay - rolling slabs, molding, and attaching pieces. They are creating 3D form to show elements of relief. They each created a unique mask design and are executing the plan with clay. They will then move on to a unit in color theory, learning all about color and mixing, and then apply it to a painting.

8th grade 2D art:

8th grade students are working through their drawing/line unit. They are using the pen and ink media, and learning how to draw with ink. They have practiced using a variety of pen techniques to create values and textures. They will then move on to create a final pen and ink drawing of their choice, which they will work on throughout the month.

8th grade 3D art:

8th grade students are currently constructing their pottery forms and learning about the coil building process. They have sketched a shape for their pottery form and have begun to create it with coils. They are learning how to join coils together correctly, and use a three step smoothing process to smooth the form. They will continue with this through the month of December.

Computers

6th Grade Computers:

Mr. Boocks:

Students have been practicing their keyboarding skills and learning to type using the proper fingers on the proper keys. This week students will begin to learn how to utilize Google Docs and Google Classroom as well as learning some other online tools that are available.

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

Mr. McAleese's students are progressing through 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 been introduced to Google Drive, setting up a shared folder for Computers class and participating in a Truth and Lie collaborative project. Students will next create a greeting/holiday card to learn about Google Drawing and MS Publisher gaining experience with desktop publishing-communication.

6th Grade Computers/Mrs. Walker:

Students have continued to learn more features of MS PowerPoint, such as 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

Food Lab

6th Grade: Students are introduced to knife skills & safety instructions while preparing an individual Vegetable Quesadillas. Our next food lab will be preparing applesauce while honing in on knife skills/techniques. Students will learn stove top cooking as they cook with their teams. FBI – Food Borne Illness, the 4 C's in cooking and how to properly read a food label units will follow.



7th Grade: Students are busy making individual omelets as they prepare to cook at home on their Family Meal Projects. Students are prompted to plan, shop, cook and clean for their family breakfast and present their projects to the class. Students and parents are so proud as they complete cooking all by themselves! Our next unit is on how to properly handle raw meat and the importance of eating healthier with turkey instead of bacon or sausage.

8th Grade: Students prepare pizza dough from scratch, simmer tomato sauce and practice knife skills as they slice vegetables for their pizza toppings. Adapting new recipes to have healthier ingredients is the primary focus in December. Our next labs will include making a roux for Mac & Cheese using protein packed macaroni and broccoli. Then students further enhance their learnings of the roux as they prepare a healthy Chocolate Pudding Tower. Students will garnish and plate their pudding towers for an individual presentation.


In the Sewing Lab:

The previous quarter 8th grade students produced beautiful quilts. They create the design themselves using Electric Quilt software. Some students make a 'pieced' quilt. Others make an art quilt.

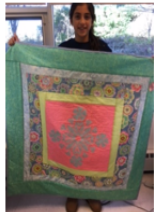
Allie sewed her soccer badges to the squares and surrounded her Team T-shirt




James made a family crest with machine embroidery



Kylie made an art quilt




Tyler made a four seasons quilt



In 6th grade all students learn about home and life safety. The focus of the unit is how to put out a small kitchen fire and planning escape routes from the home.

Captain Bill Kessler comes as our guest speaker and he is always a highlight.



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Health

Mr. Dickenson -Health

Grade 6 - We are currently learning about bullying, followed by sexual harassment. This will be followed by bad friendships.

Grade 7 - We are learning about alcohol, followed by marijuana and then a quiz on both. A review of both bullying and sexual harassment will end the month.

Grade 8 - We are learning about love, followed by both healthy and abusive relationships. This will be followed by abstinence.

Ms. Maline - Health

6th Grade - We are presently discussing bullying and then will continue with cyberbullying including how to avoid this and responsible decisions to take if they were. We will choose a date for the friendship, peer pressure and bullying test the week of Dec. 5th. A notification will be sent to you on messenger one that date is decided. Following the friendship unit, we will begin our drug unit which will include alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, and smoking and e cigs.

7th Grade- We are finishing up Eating Disorders and will plan to have our first test next week on Eating disorders, Self-talk and Body Image. Once we choose a date it will be sent to you on messenger. We will then discuss popularity, cyberbullying, sexting and online safety.

8th Grade- We are presently discussing qualities of a healthy relationship. We will then continue with unhealthy and abusive relationships. Any upcoming test will be sent on messenger.

Music

Band 6:

The RLMS 6th Grade band is very excited to play in the upcoming Winter Concert on Monday, December 5th. In the weeks following the concert, we will spend a little time reflecting on our performance as a group, working on new theory concepts, and honing our sight-reading skills with new ensemble pieces and songs out of our lesson book.

Band 7:

Concert prep, finishing work on 4 songs: "More Cowbell", "Gates of Orion", "Lone Star Overture, "Into the Darkness". Continue working on C, Ab, Bb chromatic concert scales, some students will be ready to perform their scales test. Continue Note reading review and music terminology introductions. Enjoy the Winter Concerts!

8th Grade Band Concert prep. Continuing with scales, warmups. After the concert we will continue our unit on sightreading using holiday tunes. The 8th grade band will be attending the

Holiday Concert at Ludlowe High School. The students will have an opportunity to compare the performances and begin to prepare for articulation into the music classes offered there.

Chorus

Grade 6 - November brings us to learning about concert etiquette. Throughout our lives we will find ourselves as audience members at a variety of music performances, sporting events, lectures and many other situations that require us to sit quietly, watch, listen and learn. Audience members, in fact, participate in the performance. Without the role of the audience, there would be no performance! In class, students generated a list of how we demonstrate proper audience etiquette in a school concert setting, and compared it to what audience etiquette would look like at a basketball game, a rock concert or a tennis match. One common theme that appeared on every list was “be respectful” of other audience members and to the performer. Students learned also about performance etiquette this month and have been practicing correct singing posture and stage presence in class as we rehearse our program entirely by memory.

Grade 7 - November brings us to learning about concert etiquette. Throughout our lives we will find ourselves as audience members at a variety of music performances, sporting events, lectures and many other situations that require us to sit quietly, watch, listen and learn. Audience members, in fact, participate in the performance. Without the role of the audience, there would be no performance! In class, students generated a list of how we demonstrate proper audience etiquette in a school concert setting. We then generated a second list about performance etiquette. Since students have not had as much performing experience as they have had audience experience, we pulled from our existing knowledge and applied it how a performer communicates with the audience in the form of artistic expression through music. Students have been practicing performance etiquette this month using correct singing posture and stage presence in class as we rehearse our program entirely by memory.

Grade 8 - November brings us to learning about concert etiquette. Throughout our lives we will find ourselves as audience members at a variety of music performances, sporting events, lectures and many other situations that require us to sit quietly, watch, listen and learn. Audience members, in fact, participate in the performance. Without the role of the audience, there would be no performance! In class, students generated a list of how we demonstrate proper audience etiquette in a school concert setting. We then generated a second list about performance etiquette. Since students have not had as much performing experience as they have had audience experience, we pulled from our existing knowledge and applied it how a performer communicates with the audience in the form of artistic expression through music. Students have been practicing performance etiquette this month using correct singing posture and stage presence in class as we rehearse our program entirely by memory.

Keyboard

Six new level 2 songs for December will introduce students to new keys - F and A Major. Students will also be designing and either writing about or drawing their own unique musical inventions. They will have an opportunity to present them to the class and display them.

Students have also started writing their own composition, an original eight measure melody in C Major. After creating their song on staff paper, they will perform and transcribe it in “Composer’s Corner”.

Orchestra

Grade 6 orchestra: We are in full swing of preparing for the Winter Concert. Students are playing WoodenShoe Dance, Telemann Sinfonia and Let it Snow. All the rehearsals are going very well. I am confident it is going to be a great performance. 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.

After the winter concert, we will restart working on reading skills, technique and solos from Suzuki books.

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. All the rehearsals are going very well. I am confident it is going to be a great performance. 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.

After the winter concert we will restart working on reading skills, technique and solos from Suzuki books.

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. Students are resounding great. I am confident it is going to be a great performance. 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.

After the winter concert we will restart working on reading skills, technique and solos from Suzuki books.

Physical Education:

Our Physical Education classes are now on the second of the three rotations. Our current curricular activities will continue through December and the first part of January. We are offering all students an opportunity to participate in a variety of team and individual sports. We began the first of our nine week rotation in November and we will continue with handball, floor hockey, and fitness, and project adventure. All students will participate in each of the above mentioned activities prior to transitioning into our winter rotations which will begin in the later part of January.

Technology Education Department

Technology Education 7th (Mr. Boocks)

Students have learned how to draw Orthographic Projections and have just utilized the top view of an “ortho” to create a blueprint. Students are now moving on to stop-motion animation, where they will make flip books and stop-motion movies on a computer.

Communication (Mr. Boocks)

Students have been working at their own pace through a series of tutorials utilizing “Game Maker”. This program is teaching our learners to create games and to write snippets of code called “scripts”. Next week students will be led through a specific tutorial with Mr. Boocks and then they will begin to write and develop their own game.

Transportation (Mr. Boocks)

Students have successfully finished drawing their “Mousetrap Vehicle”. They have completed a side and top view that is used as a set of blueprints to build their vehicle. This week students are learning tools, taking safety tests and beginning the building process.

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

Students used Sketchup **C.A.D.**(Computer Aided Drafting) software to draw a 3D model of the memo holder they will be making. Following a machine safety lesson in the Materials Processing Laboratory students will begin fabrication of the memo holders.

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

Students successfully finished fabricating Lighter than Air vehicles(hot air balloons). The balloons were launched with various technical difficulties and students thus learned that failure itself is not a bad thing, in that engineers and designers learn from failures to improve on a product.

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

Students designed Letter Plaques on MS Publisher. Following a machine safety lesson in the Materials Processing Laboratory, students will begin fabrication of the plaque. Students will be receiving lessons about measuring, laying out, cutting, sanding, finishing and assembling material altogether to bring their ideas to fruition.