

RLMS Curriculum Corner- March 2017



Counseling News- March:

March Madness is officially in full flight at the middle school! With half the school year down and SBACs quickly approaching, students may begin to experience elevated levels of stress and anxiety. The school counseling department is working hard to support students and provide them preventive strategies to manage during this busy time.

A proactive way to decrease levels of stress is to continue to encourage our students to maintain healthy habits. Here are some helpful hints on how to set students up for success:

1. **Make healthy meal choices-** It is important for students to eat a balanced breakfast and lunch to boost their energy, mental stamina, and fuel their ability to focus in school; all key ingredients to test-taking and academic success.
2. **Get plenty of sleep-** According to the *National Sleep Foundation*, pre-teens and teens need a minimum of 8-10 hours of sleep per night to properly function at their best. Sleep deprivation can, “*limit your ability to learn, listen, concentrate and solve problems*” (<https://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-topics/teens-and-sleep>). Sleep deprivation can also impact a person’s mood and ability to regulate, which will ultimately impact stress levels.
3. **Make time for movement-** Many studies have been conducted that support the hypothesis that exercise improves one’s ability to concentrate. It is likely that this result is due largely in part to the fact that physical movement/exercise provides people necessary physical and mental breaks, allowing them time to release stress feelings, re-group, and re-charge. “*In a 2007 report, Dr. Stewart Trost of Oregon State University links as little as 15 minutes of physical activity to improved concentration, memory and classroom behavior...*” (<http://www.livestrong.com/article/457834-does-exercise-improve-concentration/>). Students are encouraged to take “me time” each day and engage in an activity that they enjoy.
4. **Utilize self-relaxation techniques-** In order to properly sleep, eat, and enjoy activities, it’s important for students to learn how to calm themselves down when feeling stressed. The following articles provide a list of relaxation techniques that are found to be helpful to kids and young adolescents (deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, visualization, meditation, stretching, etc...):

http://stress.lovetoknow.com/Top_Ten_Relaxation_Techniques_Children

<http://www.pcdcr.org/en/top-ten-relaxation-techniques-for-children-2/>

<https://www.education.com/magazine/article/new-age-relaxation-techniques/>

Thank you for your time and attention!!!

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Crew 6 LM-March Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - Students are continuing to work through our narrative unit applying the craft techniques they learned in poetry. We are focusing on the elements of plot development and grammatical skills to help with the fluency of their writing.

Math 6 - The Math 6 students have started the unit on the application of Geometry. The overarching goal for this unit is to help the students understand what it means to measure. We will study two kinds of measurements in depth: perimeter and area, and eventually volume of rectangular prisms. The students will be introduced to the vocabulary of prisms and pyramids and be asked to sketch several solids.

Math TPA - The TPA students are finishing up the unit on rates, ratios, and proportional relationships using their knowledge to solve real-world problems such situations as calculating sales tax, interest and commissions. Students explored real-life problems with quantities that increased and decreased, and used percent change formula to solve problems. They also expanded their financial literacy when we learned how to use the simple interest formula, applying it to several consumer applications.

Social Studies Grade 6 - We are in the midst of our unit about Europe. Students did an awesome job presenting their Ancient Greece and Rome Research projects in the Greco-Roman Fair. We will be moving into the Middle Ages. Students will analyze why the feudal system developed after the fall of Rome, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the feudal pyramid. We will then explore the importance of the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages. We will wrap the month by discussing emerging changes that transform Europe from the feudal system in the Middle Ages to modern nation states.

Science Grade 6- Grade 6 scientists completed their research project on hurricanes and are very well versed in how hurricanes impact people and the environment of a specific area. We are moving on to study climate and biomes. We will learn about the 5 factors that influence climate and the three climate zones across the globe. The students will then be researching a particular biome and using this new knowledge to create brochure intended to persuade people to come visit.

7LMS -March Update

Language Arts- Seventh graders have completed our whole class unit using the novel , *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton. We are moving on to our creative writing unit with culminating vignette.

Math:

Pre Algebra 7 - The Pre-Algebra 7 students are going to begin a unit on three-dimensional geometry, finding the surface areas and volumes of prisms, pyramids, cylinders, cones, spheres, and composite solids.

Math 7 - The Math 7 students are going to begin a unit on Constructions and Scale Drawings, finding adjacent and vertical angles, defining supplementary and complementary angles, Triangles, Quadrilaterals and Scale drawings.

Science: In March 7th grade science will continue to work through the kingdoms of living things. We have looked at protists and are moving onto fungi. The organisms are now large enough for labs (unlike bacteria) where the students can look at the organisms under the microscope . Students will also be able to use stereo microscopes with the Fungi Kingdom which is always fun! After fungi, we will work on plants which will lead us into a project on invasive species before April break.

Social Studies:

In Geography class, students have been studying the Geography of East Asia. In addition, they have focused specifically on China, studying Chinese dynastic history, East Asian philosophies, the Silk Road, and China's economy today. Our next unit will study the geography, history, culture, government, and economics of South America. We will have special guests for all 7th graders leading Capoeira workshops- an artistic blend of martial arts and dance. heir biome.

8LM March Update

Language Arts: Students are investigating elements of memoir. They have been reading short shared-texts as well as their own choice book-length memoir. While reading these texts, students are employing close reading strategies in order to recognize how writers craftily express their discoveries about life & the world around them through their various experiences. This reading with a "writer's lens" will help students as they form ideas of what they will write their own personal narratives on during the next few weeks.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we are finishing our unit on systems of linear equations, which includes a party planning group project that students are working on at home and in class. The next unit will be a study of the real number system, including classifying numbers and finding square and cube roots. We will then apply these ideas when we begin to study the Pythagorean Theorem.

Math Algebra: Students have started a unit on polynomials. They will be learning how to complete operations with polynomials and will learn about a very important topic called factoring. These concepts will be reinforced by using manipulatives called algebra tiles.

Math Geometry: The Geometry students will wrap up their unit on coordinate geometry and begin a unit on trigonometry. This will include a study of the Pythagorean Theorem, special right triangles, and the basic trig functions.

Science: Students are commencing their study of chemistry. They will be learning about the states of matter and their physical and chemical properties and changes. Next, the students will be learning about the atom.

Social Studies: Students will identify the causes of the Great Depression and how it affected American society. They will then evaluate how the New Deal addressed the problems of the Great Depression and expanded the role of government.

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

Art

6th grade art:

6th graders just wrapped up a unit in observational drawing. They used artificial fruits for observation, and applied their value knowledge in color. They are moving onto their linoleum block printmaking unit, where they will learn both carving and printmaking techniques.

7th grade art:

7th graders are in the middle of their unit on color theory. They are learning a variety of color schemes and applying their knowledge to mix their own tints, shades, and tones, to apply to their kaleidoscope design paintings. Upon completion of their painting, they will paint their clay masks.

8th grade 2D art:

8th graders are working on their acrylic paintings using a photograph reference. They are using their knowledge of color theory to mix and apply color. They are also learning new techniques for painting: blending, dry brush and scumbling. They will be working on this painting until the end of the marking period.

8th grade 3D art:

8th graders in 3D art are finalizing their clay pottery forms. They are adding embellishments to add detail to their forms. Then, they will move on to their sculpture unit, where they will sculpt a 3D animal in the style of the Oaxacan artists of Mexico. They will end the marking period by glazing their pottery forms, and painting their Oaxacan inspired animals.

Computers

6th Grade Computers: Mr. Boocks:

Students are still honing their keyboarding skills. Our last test showed that every student can now type the entire alphabet without looking at the keys. This is a very important milestone. We are now moving into Google Docs and the MS Office tools.

6th Grade Computers (Mr. McAleese):

Students are progressing through the different levels of Typing Pal doing very well and honing both accuracy and speed. They have been introduced to Google documents various tools such as Sheets (similar to Excel) and Slides (sim. To PowerPoint) while learning about file management and organization and especially collaboration. Students have collaboratively created a calendar for next year, and advertisement for a fictitious event and a shopping list with unit costs and formulas on 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, will start to work in Unit 3. Students have 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 are introduced to knife skills & safety instructions through making Vegetable Quesadilla. FBI – Food Borne Illness and “How to Read a Food Label Unit to follow.

7th Grade: Students will gain independence as they begin planning their Family Meal Projects. They are required to plan, shop, cook and CLEAN for their family breakfast. Students are so proud to complete this all by themselves! They will be cooking pancakes, omelets and breakfast turkey sausage with their team. What fun working in teams!

8th Grade: Students have begun planning for their multi-cultural cuisine unit. They choose a country to research, present their findings to the class and cook/sample a recipe of their choice. Next we will be grilling (inside) Chicken Caesar Salad while honing in on knife skills and how to butterfly meats. 8th graders will be introduced to the roux for while preparing a healthy mac & cheese as well. Then we are off to the computer lab to discover the origins of our foods through our Smart Cart Webquest.

In the sewing lab:

The 2nd marking period 8th graders have done a wonderful job with their quilts. We are hoping to have several to show at the Family and Consumer Science presentation to the BOE on Tuesday, March 14th.



Tara was inspired by the tropics.

Laura sewed her soccer badges to have a memento.



Health

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Grade 6: will be learning about marijuana, healthy relationships with friends, inhalants, puberty, and the reproductive systems in March.

Grade 7: will be learning about bullying, and sexual harassment - review from 6th grade, as well as conflict resolution and coping with death and loss.

Grade 8: this month we will be learning about abstinence, review HIV from grade 6, marijuana, suicide prevention, coping with depression, and some communication skills.

Health - Ms. Maline

6th Grade - We will be taking our Tobacco and Marijuana test on March 8th and will begin Alcohol. We will then cover inhalants and explore our “Natural Highs” to complete our drug unit. We will then discuss sexual harassment, puberty and communicative diseases. I will send out a reminder in messenger when we begin puberty to give you all a heads up.

7th Grade- We are in our Diversity unit. Students were given a complete packet that they will use as study guide. Included in this will be their responses to the many experiences they will have in class.

8th Grade- We are finishing up with discussing abstinence and HIV-AIDS. There will be a test coming up on; Unhealthy Relationships, Date Rape Drugs, Love vs. Infatuation, Abstinence and HIV- AIDS. The date will be sent on messenger. The next unit will be on Alcohol and then Depression and Suicide Prevention followed by Stress Management.

Music

Band 6: We are finishing up our scales tests by March 17th (Bb, Eb and F concert scales), will be studying enumeration (writing in counting in our music), and addressing new theory topics such as new tempo markings, and continued study of 6/8 time.

Band 7: Scales tests have been completed, and the majority of students did very nicely. Continue to practice and perfect them especially for faster tempos and better intonation. The band festival is this month, honors band students will be performing on Thursday 3/23 at Warde HS. Please check I.C. regularly for missed lessons and announcements regarding the music theory test to be given in late March.

Chorus

Grade 6 - In March, 6th grade students will receive one more selection to prepare for their spring concert. “One Note Samba” is a fun, upbeat jazz song written by Brazilian composer Antonio Carlos Jobim. Students will learn about the musical technique of syncopation when practicing this number. 6th grade singers will begin memorizing lyrics to their other song selections in preparation for the spring concert.

Grade 7 - In March, 7th grade singers will begin memorizing lyrics to their song selections in preparation for the spring concert. Students are working hard at learning how to sing in three-part harmony, with the introduction of baritone vocal lines that were recently introduced.

Grade 8 - In March, 8th grade singers will begin memorizing lyrics to their song selections in preparation for the spring concert. Students are singing in three-part harmony regularly in class and we are excited to present four-part harmony arrangements of well-known songs such as “Hallelujah” and “Stand By Me” in performance. Music theory topics such as reading key signatures and sight reading using solfege will continue to be covered this month.

Keyboard

March is when students present their Marking Period 3 Projects. This is an oral report to class about their choice of a favorite, artist, band, group, composer, song-writer, musician. Each presentation is followed by a question/answer session and discussion led by the presenting student.

Students get to pick two new level two songs to learn for performance assessment this month.

We are playing a new game for a grade - NOTE RUSH. Students are timed in 5 levels of play:

1. Starter
2. Part Staff
3. Whole Staff
4. Just Ledgers
5. Grand Challenge

Notes are shown on screen, and students plays the note they see on their keyboard. For anyone interested in practicing this at home, this game is available in the Apple App store, for IOS and Android devices,

Orchestra

Grade 6 orchestra: I will continue to test the students on the scales. We will continue to work from "I Can Read Music" book. In orchestra are playing 4 pieces: "Mabel Creek Overture", "La Bocca Grande", "Mystical Quest" and "La Rejouissance" and "Luminescence".

Grade 7 orchestra: Scales test will be finished in the month of March. We will continue to work from "I Can Read Music", basically only the rhythm part of it. In Orchestra we are playing: "Toccatina", "Brandenburg Concerto No. 2", "Spartacus", "La Bocca Grande", "Mystical Quest", "Light Cavalry", "Mambo Incognito", "Jupiter". More pieces will be added. Students will decide which ones they will perform in the final concert in May.

Grade 8 orchestra: We will be working on many pieces: "Toccatina", "Brandenburg Concerto No. 2", "Spartacus", "La Bocca Grande", "Mystical Quest", "Light Cavalry", "Mambo Incognito", "Jupiter", "Evening Prayer", "Edelweiss", "Themes from Moldau", "MacPherson's Lament", "Abduction from the Seraglio". More pieces will be added. Students will decide which ones they will perform in the final concert in May.

Physical Education:

During the month of March, the Physical Education classes will be finishing up their units in project adventure, archery, and floor hockey. Our Hoops for Heart fundraiser is underway and all physical education classes will participate in basketball related activities next week. There is still plenty of time to collect for those who would like to support a great cause. A special thank you to all students who have already submitted their envelopes or donations on line.

Technology Education Department

Technology Education 7th (Mr. Boocks)

Students are now working on learning how to use the school woodshop and all of the tools found in the shop. They are learning hand saw, chop saw, miter saw, miter box, wood rasp, band saw, sandpaper and sanding machines. They will be creating a small box that will hold notepads that they will be creating later in the semester.

Communication (Mr. Boocks)

Students have just turned in their first project, the paper cutout animation. Please ask your learner to show you their work! Students are now moving on to Game Maker software. They will design and create their own simple video games.

Transportation (Mr. Boocks)

Students just finished creating Aerostats in the form of hot air balloons. Students are now going to move on to propellor / rubber band driven vehicles. Students will be recapping and using all of the previous knowledge from prior labs to create these vehicles.

7th Technology Education (Mr.McAleese):

Students are now working on learning how to use the school woodshop and all of the tools found in the shop. With a concentration on mature behavior and woodshop safety, students are learning how to properly use hand saws, chop saw, miter saw, miter box, wood rasp, band saw, sandpaper and sanding machines. They will be creating a small box that will hold notepads that they will be creating later in the semester. Finally, students will progress to staining and polyurethaning their finished products.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr.McAleese):

Students have experimented with lighter than air transportation by creating and testing hot air balloons. They have just finished researching and creating a slideshow on Google Slides about a fictitious trip to some exotic destination. Students had to research actual costs for flights, ground transportation, hotels and meals and incorporate this information into a spreadsheet and chart to be included in their presentation. Finally, students presented their trip to their classmates for evaluation and commentary both on content and quality of the presentation.

8th Manufacturing (Mr.McAleese):

Our letter plaques are complete and students learned all about extensive use of the equipment in the Woodshop. Projects were sanded at three different levels and on three different machines and then stained and polyurethaned to finish. Students are progressing on to their own personal products starting with researching the project details, drawing out the parts, compiling a "cut" sheet of the pieces, ordering the rough wood and cutting the parts on shop equipment. Then, like the plaque project, students will assemble, sand, stain or paint and finish their projects.

World Language - March Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

Students have been identifying, describing, and comparing family members (including pets!) They are using personality characteristics and physical attributes. Learners are also talking about what they and their family members like and dislike. Listening to native speakers talk about their families and reading about pets are some of the tasks students are doing in class.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Learners continue to explore different types of vacation destinations, landmarks, attractions, regional dishes, daily activities and clothing and typical items needed based on the destination and weather of their target culture. Students will eventually use this information to create and share a presentational speaking project on their vacation destinations.

8th Grade level 20 Spanish and French

Students are continuing to communicate about what it means to maintain a balanced lifestyle. They are talking about what they eat and do to stay healthy as well as asking for and giving advice. Later in the month, students will write about their daily routines and compare them to the routines of students in other countries.