

RLMS Curriculum Corner- April 2017



Counseling/Dean News- April

With spring in the air and the fourth marking period approaching, all crews will be invited down to a Spring Crew Talk with the Dean. Mr. DeAngelo has already met with the six grade crews, and he will be meeting with every seventh and eighth grade crew, as well, to discuss academic and behavioral expectations as the school year starts to draw to a close. Some topics covered include: school rule reminders, tardiness, cafeteria behavior, dress code, responsible use of technology, and the importance to treating one another, all adults and the school with respect.

Mr. DeAngelo will also be using this time to explain the “3 Strike Policy” which goes into effect immediately following these meetings. He will be highlighting the importance good decision-making with regards to behavior so all students can enjoy the end-of-school activities planned for their respective grades.

RLMS has established high behavioral expectations for all students because we want our school community to be a truly positive and safe environment for everyone. All students are encouraged to be the best citizens and learners they can be!

Looking ahead, here are some important upcoming presentations to help foster positive school climate and support safe students:

May 15 - Anti-bullying (Grade 6)

May 18 - Internet Safety and Responsible/Respectful Use of Technology (Grade 6)

May 31 - Dangerous Behaviors (Grade 8)

Wishing everyone a safe and sunny Spring!

Thank you for your time and attention!!!

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Crew 6 LM-April Update

Language Arts Grade 6 -

Students recently concluded a narrative writing unit by developing a realistic fiction story of their own. During the next few weeks, students will be working through a nonfiction unit in which they will critically read and evaluate nonfiction texts. Students will determine how the author articulates his or her purpose by focusing on text structure, text features, and specific evidence. This exciting unit will culminate in students researching a topic of interest and presenting a speech on that topic.

Math 6 -

The math 6 students took a break from geometry to plan a party!

The team of students created their own catering company where they were able to spend \$1,000 on a party for 45 people. Students used their researching skills to determine costs for food, decorations, entertainment, consumables, and other miscellaneous expenses. Students then used google sheets to create an overall expense list and pie chart. The group provided a menu and one recipe for the food item they were making for the party. Using their knowledge of rates, ratios and proportions they adjusted the ingredients so their recipe would feed 45 guests and then 20 additional party crashers! All of their information was collected and organized into a Google SSlide Presentation. The catering company presented their slide show to the class and we voted on who we wanted to hire to throw the party.

Math TPA -

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Social Studies Grade 6 - We will be continuing our study of Europe. After examining the Middle Ages, students will explore the political, economic, and social forces that have shaped the emergence of modern Europe from the Renaissance through to the present day.

Science Grade 6-

The grade 6 science students have moved out of the atmosphere to Inside the Restless Earth this month and we have many hands on interactive activities planned. In this unit they will be learning about the structure of the Earth and the forces that continually reshape the crust of our planet. The unit was kicked off with a nebula lab the students performed using everyday ingredients like coffee, salt, sand and cornmeal to mimic the layers of the Earth. The students will create a model of Pangea, use blocks to model the forces that move tectonic plates, and research a mountain to identify how it was formed.

7LMS -AprilUpdate

Language Arts : We are closing in on completing a vignette involving practicing and playing with language and literary devices. Upcoming, we will be enjoying reading and writing poems, a form of literature uncovering rhyme, prose, stanzas and uncovering the deeper meaning within.

Math:

Pre Algebra 7 - In Pre-Algebra 7 we are moving on to units about probability and statistics, which will include experimental and theoretical probability, compound events, independent and dependent events, and inferences about populations.

Math 7 - In Math 7 we will continue with our geometry unit. Students will study supplementary, complementary, vertical and adjacent angles in a multi-step problem to write and solve simple equations for an unknown angle in a figure. Students will also be working on circumference and area of circles, explore volume and surface area of right prisms and polygons in depth.

Science: Before April break, students will learn about invasive species and design the ultimate invader. After April break, we will begin the human body with a unit about muscles and bones. Students will explore many aspects of the musculo and skeletal system through articles, worksheets and labs.

Social Studies: We have just completed our unit on South America which included a special performance by Youth Rising NYC. Students learned the history of Capoeira along with some of the music and dance that have kept it alive. During the month of April we will be focused in on our 7th grade research project. Students will research a Human/Environmental issue, write a paper and create a webpage to display it.

SLM April Update

Language Arts:

In language arts we are wrapping up our personal narrative unit with publication of students' own work. SBA testing will occur April 4-6. The production company, Shakespearience, will present an interactive workshop after April break in preparation for our upcoming (May) drama study. As a whole class, we will begin reading Elie Wiesel's *Night*.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we are continuing our unit on real numbers, including a study of the Pythagorean Theorem. We will then study volumes of solid figures, including cylinders, cones, and spheres.

Math Algebra: Algebra students have recently learned how to factor polynomials. They will apply this knowledge in a new unit of study on quadratics. Students will graph quadratic equations with various methods and use these equations to real-life applications.

Math Geometry: The Geometry class is studying areas and perimeters of 2-D geometric figures, applying the trigonometric properties we recently learned in order to find missing lengths of regular polygons. This unit will include an introduction to circles, which will lead us into our next unit.

Science: 8th grade science students are beginning a unit of study on atoms and then they will be learning about elements and the periodic table.

Social Studies: Grade 8 social studies students are studying the political, economic, and social causes and impacts of World War II, both on the homefront and Europe. Ms. Judith Altmann, a childhood survivor of the Holocaust, will be coming into share her experiences with our students after April break.

World Language - April Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

Moving beyond “Who Am I?” students have explored various family components, relationships, and types of professions across cultures. 6th-graders will end the year researching common family celebrations in the target culture. We will compare/contrast them to the celebrations and traditions enjoyed here in the U.S..

In June, students will also be taking a skill-based Final Exam. The various components - Speaking/Listening/Reading & Writing will be given over a period of a few days.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Our French and Spanish learners have been researching weather, tourist sites/attractions and regional dishes of vacation destinations from their target culture. Additionally, students will also make comparisons between the information they researched and tourist sites of the United States. The language students will create a speaking presentation on GOOGLE SLIDES with visuals to share with their classmates.

8th Grade level 20 Spanish and French

Spanish and French students will wrap up the unit on maintaining a balanced lifestyle. They have been talking about daily routines and habits that lead to a healthy lifestyle in the target culture and in the United States.

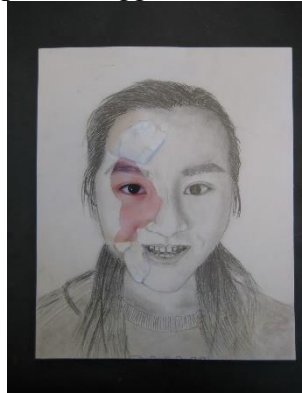
After vacation, students will begin the unit *What makes a person a hero or heroine*. They will identify heroes from their target country and identify common traits of heroes and heroines.

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

Art

6th grade art:

6th graders are learning about the Swiss sculptor, Alberto Giacometti, and are creating a three-dimensional sculpture in his style. They are utilizing multiple materials and are problem solving through the artistic process. Students are focusing on the difference between 2D drawing and 3D form, and are using their hands to sculpt an exaggerated human figure in an interesting pose. This



is the final unit of the marking period.

7th grade art:

Students in 7th grade are working on their culminating unit in drawing. They are studying the proportions of the face in order to draw realistic self portraits. They will apply their prior knowledge of value to shade their portraits with graphite, creating the illusion of three-dimensionality on a flat surface. They also are incorporating a photograph of themselves into the



final drawing product.

8th grade 2D art:

8th graders in 2D art are in the final stretch of their acrylic painting unit. They have been working very hard to create a realistic painting based on a reference photo. Using their knowledge of color mixing and a variety of painting methods, they are successfully working to paint realistically.



8th grade 3D art:

3D art students are finalizing their coil pottery forms and glazing them. They are also working on clay animal sculptures inspired by the Oaxacan artists of Mexico. They have sculpted a three-dimensional animal form of their choice and are applying paper mache to the forms. Lastly, they will apply paint to the sculpture in unique, detailed and precise manner to add bold color and design to the sculpture.

Computers

6th Grade Computers: Mr. Boocks:

Students are finishing their typing tests this week. They are also going to finish their “Presentation” unit.

6th Grade Computers (Mr. McAleese):

Students are finishing Typing Pal this week while continuing with a research project about famous inventors, designers and product design companies. Students will be presenting their research to their classmates later this week.

Mrs. Walker:

6th Grade Computers: Students have completed their All About Me presentations using PowerPoint, and will present to the class on the last day of the marking period. We also created a document using Excel called Birthdays, and created a document using Word called Branches of Science. Finally, we are completing the exercises in Typing Pals, so we will know how to keyboard correctly for the rest of our lives. Some of us have also had the time to learn how to type properly using the numeric keypad.

8th Grade Computers

8th Grade Computers: 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 will have a guest speaker “Captain William Kessler” come to speak about home and life safety. The Captain will spend time on how to safely put out a pan fire. Then it’s off to learning about proper knife techniques.

7th Grade: Students will present their family meal projects to the class as they learn the importance of public speaking and the importance of a healthy breakfast. They will also cook eggs on their own in the lab and make oatmeal as a team.

8th Grade: Students will be wrapping up the marking period with their favorite lab, cake decorating. Students will be using a piping bag to decorate and learn how to write on their cakes. Students will also make individual omelets before the marking period ends. At the end of April our new students will begin with knife skills to include; mince, chop, slice and chiffonade.

In the sewing lab:

Doug and Estella working on their quilts.



Students may make additional or optional



projects.

Grace created a pillow embroidered with “I Love Mom”

Can you guess? Charlie is making a Knicks quilt!



7th grade boxers!



Coco is making a fleece Harry Potter blanket.

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Grade 6: The first week in April is the final week of the 3rd quarter. We will have our final test and also learn about decision making. For the beginning of the 4th quarter, we will start with tobacco use prevention and HIV.

Grade 7: The final week of the 3rd quarter will be the last test and some family communication classes. The 4th quarter begins with eating disorders and diversity.

Grade 8: The final week of the 3rd quarter will be the final test and a look at values. To begin the 4th quarter we will do binge drinking and designer drugs.

Health - Ms. Maline

6th Grade - Our last week will be finishing Puberty with a test on Wednesday. Then we will cover communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS. The beginning of the 4th marking period will be on Friendships, bullying and peer pressure.

7th Grade- We are finishing up with Family Life including Death. On Wednesday, students will hear from a speaker from St. Vincent's Hospital on Tobacco use and e cigarettes. We finish up with goal setting. The beginning of the fourth marking period we will be addressing the importance of positive self-talk , body image and then eating disorders.

8th Grade- We are presently discussing stress management techniques and will also cover vaping and designer drugs. The fourth marking period with the importance of resiliency and then Relationships; healthy, unhealthy and abusive.

Music

Band 6: The sixth grade band has a little bit over a month left until our concert and we are so excited to play for you! Our Spring concert will be on Wednesday, May 10th at 7pm in the RLMS auditorium. We just started working on two new songs for the concert (Reggae Vibrations and Rollin' in the Deep), and are beginning the polishing stages on 1812, Asian Folk Rhapsody, and Irish Jig. The band is working on transitioning between time signatures and more complex enumeration (writing in the counting of rhythms in our music).

We just finished up our Winter Scales tests at the end of March, and will begin studying for our end of year theory test, which will take place at some point in May.

6th grade honors band students performed in our Town Wide Band Fest on March 23rd, and have another performance which is open to the public on Thursday, April 7th, 7pm at Fairfield Warde H.S in the auditorium.

Band 7: Grade 7 band will be beginning final preparations for the concert Tuesday May 9th 7:00. The band will be voting on 3 of it's selections, we will be performing "Mission Impossible" and "Bugs" for sure. In addition the jazz ensemble will be performing on the gr. 8 concert.

Honors band students will be performing on April 6th at FWHS after their successful Town Wide Band Festival performance in March. Congratulations to all performers.

8th Grade Band -The 8th Grade Band is preparing for the May Concert. The student choice this year is STAR WARS. Although this is a very popular Star Wars, written by John Williams is in the "Pop" genre, which exposes very difficult rhythmic and technical passages that are very challenging.

Chorus

Grade 6 - Grade 6 Chorus is beginning final preparations for their spring concert on Wednesday May 10th at 7:00 p.m. Students will perform the songs we have been studying during the third and fourth marking periods, including “J’Entends Le Moulins,” a French Canadian folk song “How Far I’ll Go” from Disney’s Moana, “Circle Round the Moon,” which is a lovely song about the wonders of nature and “One Note Samba” a jazz standard by Brazilian composer Antonio Carlos Jobim. Auditions for three solos in “How Far I’ll Go” will be held in the chorus room after school on Friday April 28th. Students should see Mrs. Lafond to sign up.

Grade 7 - Grade 7 Chorus is beginning final preparations for their spring concert on Tuesday May 9th at 7:00 p.m. Students will perform the songs we have been studying during the third and fourth marking periods, including George Harrison’s “Here Comes the Sun,” “Give Us Hope” by well-known choral composer Jim Papoulis, “Scars to Your Beautiful,” which is our student-recommended pop selection and another student-recommended piece that adults in the audience will likely sing along to, “Don’t Stop Believing” by Journey. Auditions for the solos in “Scars To Your Beautiful” and “Don’t Stop Believing” will be held in the chorus room after school on Monday April 17th. Students should see Mrs. Lafond to sign up. In addition, the Chamber Choir will perform at the 7th grade spring concert. Our next rehearsal is on Wednesday April 19th.

Grade 8 - Grade 8 Chorus is beginning final preparations for their spring concert on Monday May 8th at 7:00 p.m. Students will perform the songs we have been studying during the third and fourth marking periods including, “Phantom of the Opera,” which is a medley of some of the most well-known songs from the show, “Stand By Me,” which we will perform a Capella and Leonard Cohen’s famous “Hallelujah.” Auditions for solos in each selection will be held in the chorus room after school on Monday April 24th. Students should see Mrs. Lafond to sign up. Lastly, the piece de resistance this month is the upcoming Broadway field trip on Thursday April 27th! 8th grade chorus students will travel to NYC to meet some of the actors from “Phantom of the Opera” for a one-hour long theatre workshop before heading to Planet Hollywood for lunch and then to the Majestic Theatre to see “Phantom.” We can’t wait!

Keyboard Music 6, 7, 8

April brings us to Marking Period 4 and transitioning from computer assessed performances to live in-class performances. Until now, we have used Piano Suite to score/grade our performances. MP4, we will learn to use our new Casio LK-260 keyboard "Step Up" lessons function. This is similar to what we've already learned in Piano Suite, but we will perform live during class for an assessment grade. Students get to choose from a list of 80 songs, one to learn and perform.

Students will have performance tests on their scales: C Major, F Major, G Major, and d blues scales, with correct fingerings.

MP3 Project presentations will finish up by April 7th.

We will continue using “Note Rush” to reinforce/strengthen music reading skills. This is the same game we used for “Reverse Keyboard Note Identification”, which is still available for students to practice at home via Infinite Campus. Note Rush uses a real keyboard, the IC assignment uses a computer screen.

Our series of 10 quizzes will wrap up, and review/prep for our final exam will begin.

Orchestra

Grade 6 orchestra: Preparations are in full swing for the upcoming Spring Concert on Wednesday May 10th and the High Note Festival on Thursday May 25th. Students will be performing 4 pieces La Rejouissance, La Bocca Grande, Mystical Quest and Mabel Creek Overture. Small group lessons will focus on the preparations for the concert and the festival as well.

Grade 7: Main focus is getting ready for the Spring Concert on Tuesday May 9th and High Note Festival on Thursday May 25th. Students have selected 4 pieces to perform: Brandenburg Concerto No. II, Toccata, Jupiter and Spartacus. Small group lessons will focus on the preparations for the concert and the festival as well.

Grade 8: This orchestra is focusing on many performances. Next two weeks grade 8 students and some RLMS Chamber Orchestra students are preparing for the Educational Trip to Italy, also combined with a concert tour, side by side concerts with Italian young musicians and student to student interaction. In this trip, students will be visiting some of the most known Italian cities like Florence, Siena, Rome, Bologna, Venice, Verona and Milan.

The other performances that students are focused on are the Spring Concert on Monday May 8th and the High Note Festival on Thursday May 25th. Music Selections for these performances are The Abduction From The Seraglio, MacPherson's Lament, Evening Prayer, Themes From Moldau and Light Cavalry. Small group Lessons will also focus on the concert and festival as well

Technology Education Department

Boocks:

Technology Education 7th (Mr. Boocks)

Students are creating and flying straw rockets. The purpose of this lab is to learn the three major parts of a rocket and to utilize fins to stabilize flight.

Communication (Mr. Boocks)

Students are finishing the semester in open lab. Some are creating robots out of Lego, some are creating games and some are working on films.

Transportation (Mr. Boocks)

Students are making hydro / pneumatic bottle rockets. They will utilize fins to stabilize flight and will create and attach parachutes to control descent.

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

Students completed their memo pad holders in the Materials Processing Lab. This gave all 7th graders a chance to work hands-on with various shop tools and machines. Also, students applied steps of the Design Loop/Process from start to finish even down to sanding by hand and with machines, and applying stain and polyurethane to their boxes. Students designed and manufactured

notepads for the box, and utilized various computer programs along the way such as Sketchup,



Publisher, Google Drawing, etc.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr. McAleese):

Students have just completed designing and testing mousetrap powered vehicles. Aso, students designed and built pneumatic soda bottle rockets a few weeks ago, but due to weather have not tested outdoors yet and will be doing that this week as the warmer drier weather moves in.



8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

Having completed a single project for class and learned the proper and safe use of tools and equipment in addition to the proper efficient use of material, students have designed a final personal project. Some of the ideas include a bookcase, a small end table and plenty of longboards.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During the month of April, the Physical Education classes will be finishing up their units in Project Adventure and starting Volleyball. Our Hoops for Heart program was a success and we would like to thank all those students who raised money for the American Heart Association. We are looking towards warmer weather so we can get outside for some of our classes.