

## **Counseling News- May**

Spring has sprung, leaving our RLMS students in eager anticipation of the nearing summer vacation and a new transition! Now that the articulation process has begun, the counseling staff is working hard to help support students in preparing for another new school year, and for some, a new school. While transitions can be invigorating, they can also be quite daunting. It's difficult to try something new because the outcome is unknown, and what isn't known is sometimes nerve-wrecking to think about. Our counseling department encourages parents to reach out if any support is needed during this time of change. In addition, below are some resources with information on how to support your child through school transitions.

Guiding Our Children through School Transitions: Middle School

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=11D8DA50-1360-11E4-98390050569A5318>

Guiding Our Children through School Transitions: High School

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/index.cfm?objectid=DD2D6520-1362-11E4-98390050569A5318>

Helping your Child Cope with School Transitions

<http://www.kellybear.com/ParentTips/ParentTip8.html>

Resource Page for School Transitions:

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/transition-resources-teachers-matt-davis>

## **Crew 6 LMS- May Update**

Language Arts - In language arts we are currently finishing the poetry unit. Students have done a beautiful job creating their own poems and have learned to analyze poetry for meaning, author's craft, and structure. We are moving into the social issues book club unit. Students will be discovering social issues that groups of people in society face such as poverty, racism, and bullying. Within their groups they will be immersed in a book where the characters face one or more social issues. The culminating project will ask students to educate their classmates on one of the issues explored in their book.

## Math 6 -

Math 6 classes are continuing the unit on statistics. We have focused on measures of center, mean, median and mode and then measures of variation range, interquartile range and mean absolute deviation. We will now look to record and analyze data by using stem leaf plots, histograms and box and whisker plots.

## Math TPA -

Transition classes continue to work on understanding and operating with positive and negative numbers. We have completed a unit on utilizing integers and learning how to do the four operations with integers. We now are doing the same thing, learning the four operations with rational numbers.

## Social Studies -

Grade 6 Social Studies are immersed in the study of Ancient Rome. Students have been introduced to the geography & culture of Rome. They are currently working on an independent research topic such as Roman Government, Religion, Warfare, Colosseum, Gladiators, etc. Students will create a Roman cube project related to their topic, which they will present to their classmates. In the next few weeks, each crew will be traveling to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. The students will be viewing art & artifacts related to the ancient civilizations they have been studying throughout the school year.

## Science -

Grade 6 Science classes are rocking and rolling and heating up as they study earthquakes and volcanoes. The Ring of Fire will be introduced and the mysteries of the Earth's crust, mantle and core will continued to be studied. Students will be able to analyze the sudden motions along breaks in the Earth's crust and learn how these natural disasters can affect landforms and societies. Students will also brainstorm ideas with partners to design a structure that will resist a simulated earthquake. Let the shaking begin!

## **7LM -May Update**

Language Arts: In 7th grade Language Arts we will be moving to historical fiction book clubs and examining on how setting impacts character development. Students will also be focusing on creative writing and poetry. In the end, students will compile writing portfolios in order to share their writing.

## Math:

Pre Algebra 7 - Geometric thinking involves developing, attending to, and learning how to work with imagery. Transformations - Rotation, Reflection, Translation, Dilation. Similar figures and ratios of perimeter and area. Parallel lines and transversals. Angles of triangles and polygons.

Math 7 - Two Dimensional Geometry - Circles and Circumference, Perimeter of composite figures, Areas of Circles, and Area of composite figures. Surface Area of Prisms, Pyramids, Cylinders. Volume of Prisms and Pyramids.

Science: 7th grade science is continuing our excursion into the human body. We will be studying the Digestive and Circulatory Systems. Students will be completing self-directed work consisting of reading articles, completing lab activities and identifying organs via worksheets.

Social Studies:

7th grade geography: In Geography class, students have been delving into serious research; analyzing web sources for bias, developing claims and thesis statements, writing arguments, and writing argumentative papers. The research project is based on the Human Environment Unit. Students are looking at the relationships between people and their environments. Topics include burning of fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and deforestation.

### **8LMS May Update**

Language Arts: Following an interactive introduction to Shakespeare by the acting troupe "Shakespearience," students read, performed, and viewed scenes from either A Midsummer Night's Dream or Hamlet. Students will then move into reading classic novels in book clubs. The focus in the book clubs will center around the concept of universal theme across multi media. As students develop and support themes in their reading of classic novels, they will recognize where similar themes emerge in works across other media, including art and music.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we will be completing a unit on exponents, including the product and quotient properties of exponents, how to use zero and negative exponents, and how to read, write, and perform operations in scientific notation.

Math Algebra: In Algebra we will be finishing our unit on quadratic equations and functions, learning to solve quadratics by factoring, completing the square, and using the quadratic formula and learning about the factored and vertex forms of a quadratic function. We will then begin our statistics units, exploring measures of central tendency and dispersion.

Math Geometry: In Geometry we have just finished our trigonometry unit. Students are currently working on a project in which they'll pick objects around the town of Fairfield to measure indirectly using trigonometry and other methods. We will then begin our unit on area, surface area, and volume.

Science: Grade 8 science classes are focused on matter and its interactions. Current units include atomic structure and properties of elements, compounds and mixtures. Upcoming topics include the arrangement of the modern periodic table and the properties

of metals, non-metals and metalloids. Students should continue to have appropriate lab clothing (closed-toed shoes and long pants) as much of the in class work is laboratory based.

Social Studies: 8th Grade Social Studies students will be studying the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War. Students will be analyzing the factors that led to the growth of the Civil Rights movement. In addition, students will be examining how the United States became involved in Vietnam and be able to explain the growth of the anti-war movement and its impact on American life. All crews will be visiting the September 11th museum in early May with pre and post trip activities centered on the historical importance of the day and its impact on our country.

## **UA- Art/Computer/FCS/Health/Music/PE- May Update**

### **Art**

6th grade art. Students are completing their in class shaded drawing of an elephant. They have created a value scale and have applied those values to their contour line drawing. They will begin their water color unit next week where they will apply their existing knowledge of value and apply it to a new medium.

7th grade art. Students are close to completing their slab clay mask construction. While their masks air dry, they will begin designing their geographic composition which they will then paint. Upon completion of the mask being bisque fired, the students will then use what they have learned through their painting unit, and paint and embellish their masks.

8th grade 2D art. Students have designed their composition from a variety of reference material, and have practiced various pen and ink techniques. They will now apply those pen and ink techniques to their composition.

8th grade 3D art. Students have planned out their clay vessel. They have begun constructing their clay form using coils.

### **Computer**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers: Students are using MS PowerPoint to create a presentation called All About Me. They have designed a 5 slide framework for their presentations. The title slide has three action links: Past Me, Present Me, Future Me. Students have also learned how to use Typing Pals, and are now working independently through the lessons. Speed is not important; accuracy is very important.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers: 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

### May - Foods Lab

**6th Grade:** Students will begin learning the essential skill of knife cutting techniques and safety in the kitchen. Students will be introduced to the standard units of measuring ingredients with the proper techniques and tools. After they have mastered their knife skills they will make Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas and enjoy them with their classmates.

**7th Grade:** Students are making Breakfast Burritos with peppers and onions. They are so proud of themselves as they practice their knife and independent cooking skills. Students will present their Family Meal Projects to the class on May 9th. Making a family breakfast is another major accomplishment for our 7th graders!

**8th Grade:** Students are working hard to bring home their carrot cakes after they decorate them utilizing a piping bag. Their cakes are individually decorated and will come home just in time for Mother's Day! Then we are off to the computer lab to learn where our food comes from. Students will then practice the 4 C's of cooking as they learn the importance of Food Borne Illness by making Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad on our 5:1 Griddlers.

### **In the sewing lab:**

8th Grade made some very complicated quilts last quarter. They did a great job!!

Danielle made a beautiful quilt for her sister using a quilt grid.





Dailyln was inspired by our American Flag.



Robin and several other students worked hard to make a 'string' quilt.



Allegra chose a column quilt using graphic fabrics to mimic the NYC skyline.

8th grade fabric art is an elective students may choose after making a shoulder sak bag in 6th grade and boxer shorts in 7th grade.

It is a creative process and a rewarding one. These projects become heirlooms they will treasure for years to come.

## Health

Health class with Mr Dickenson

Grade 8

This month we will be studying designer drugs, sexual assault awareness, abstinence, HIV, abusive relationships, healthy relationships, coping with depression, and suicide prevention.

Grade 7

This month we will be studying bullying and sexual harassment, alcohol and marijuana dangers, coping with death and loss, and violence prevention.

Grade 6

This month we will be studying alcohol, marijuana, empathy, bullying, sexual harassment, inhalants, bad friendships, and healthy friendships.

Health class with Mrs. Maline

6<sup>th</sup> - We will be sharing our Salubrious Flowers with the class, representing how we maintain our health physically, emotionally, and socially.

The drug unit will begin with discussions on the difference between drugs and medicine. The drugs we will cover will be Tobacco- ecigs, Inhalants, Alcohol, and Marijuana. We will end the drug unit with focusing on our natural highs

7<sup>th</sup> - Next week we will have our test on Eating Disorders and body image and will be discussing cyberbullying and sexting. Afterwards, we will begin our unit on Diversity which will include many different activities.

8<sup>th</sup> – We will continue with discussing and learning about relationships; healthy, unhealthy and abusive. This will include sexual harassment and assault. We will continue with date rape drugs, Love vs. Infatuation, Abstinence and HIV. Students will be presenting their “Who I am” projects to the class the first week of May.

## Music

**Band 6:** The 6th grade band is gearing up for our Spring Concert which will take place on Wednesday, May 11th at 7pm. We have narrowed down our concert selections and are currently working on honing the musicality of our songs for the performance. We are working closely on our rhythmic and pitch accuracy, dynamic and articulation variations, and melodic phrasing, to refine our musical expression as a group.

**Band 7:** The 7th grade band is getting ready for our Spring concert which will take place on Tuesday, May 10th. Come enjoy the show!

**Band 8:** The students in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band are preparing for the Spring Concert. The Video Game Theme project is formulating the video presentation. We are rehearsing the “students’ choice “ piece FINAL COUNTDOWN which won its selection by an overwhelming vote.

## Chorus

6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus: Preparations for the spring concert are well underway. This month, students have been focusing on memorizing song lyrics, rhythms and melodies to the concert selections. Vocal technique continues to be a focus in 6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus, as students have been practicing diaphragmatic breathing and voice placement strategies and applying those strategies to the literature. Full-time chorus classes reviewed and wrote note names in the treble and bass clefs and identified musical symbols and terms in their sheet music. Full time chorus students took a post-assessment this month and showed considerable growth in their ability to name all of the notes in the treble and bass clefs and in how to navigate a choral score.

7<sup>th</sup> grade chorus: Preparations for the spring concert are well underway. This month, students have been focusing on memorizing song lyrics, rhythms and melodies to the concert selections. Vocal technique continues to be a focus in 7<sup>th</sup> grade chorus, as students have been practicing diaphragmatic breathing and voice placement strategies and applying those strategies to the literature.

8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus: Chorus students are continuing to work on memorizing lyrics, adding more complex musical elements to concert selections and fine-tuning tone production skills during classes. This month the long-awaited Broadway field trip took place! The 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus took three coach buses into NYC on April 27<sup>th</sup> to see “Finding Neverland,” the story of how Peter became Pan. Our day started with a workshop and Q&A session with three of the stars from the show. Then we headed over to Planet Hollywood for lunch and finished out our day with a memorable live Broadway theatre experience!



## Keyboard

6th Grade - Timed identification of pitches in treble and bass clefs. Goal is to be 100% accurate with a sequence of 25 pitches in shortest amount of time possible.

7th Grade - Continued work on developing piano keyboard skills and performing songs from our Beginning Piano book.

8th Grade - May is Old & New Cinema Hits month. Students will choose a song to learn and perform from: Hunger Games, Jaws, Jurassic Park, Pink Panther, or Harry Potter.

## Orchestra

Grade 6 orchestra: Main Focus in May is on the Spring Concert and High Note Festival. After the Spring Concert we will continue to focus on getting ready for the Final Theory Test. During lessons will continue working on the solos from Suzuki books and music theory and notation.

The orchestra pieces that we will perform on the Spring Concert are: "Fox In the Chicken House", "Cello Rondo" and "Serenata Española" and Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. At the High Note Festival we will perform same pieces except "Fox In the Chicken House".

**Grade 7:** Main Focus in May is on the Spring Concert and High Note Festival. After the Spring Concert we will continue to focus on getting ready for the Scales Test and Final Theory Test. During lessons will continue working on the solos from Suzuki books and music theory and notation.

The selections for the Spring Concert are: "Entrance of the Queen of Sheba", "Orange Jam", "Danny Boy", "Harry Potter and the Goblet's of Fire". At the High Note Festival we will perform only the first 3.

**Grade 8:** Main Focus in May is on the Spring Concert and High Note Festival. After the Spring Concert we will continue to focus on getting ready for the Final Theory Test.

Small group lessons will continue working on solos from Suzuki books. We will also focus music theory and notation to prepare for the Final Theory Test.

Selections for the Spring Concert are: "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Finale from Mozart Symphony – Posthorn", "Allegro In D", "Ashokan Farewell". At the High Note Festival we will perform only the first 3.

## Physical Education

During the first week of May the Physical Education Staff had coordinated a school wide walk. RLMS was going to participate in Project A.E.C.S. (All Children Exercising Simultaneously). Millions of students from all over the world will exercise together to promote good health and proper fitness habits. Unfortunately, the event was rained out!

Our curricular activities focus on volleyball skills including the forearm pass, the set, and the underhand serve. We will instruct the rules and the rotation of the game and students will eventually compete toward the later part of the unit. Additional units will include archery, project adventure, and fitness. Later this month, students will have the opportunity to participate in some favorite outdoor activities. Hopefully the weather will cooperate!

## **Technology Education**

### **Transportation (Mr. Boocks)**

Students began this semester by reviewing Orthographic Projections. They then used those skills to begin to design a vehicle that is powered by a mousetrap. They started by making a rough draft of the vehicle, adding measurements, and then drawing a scaled (roughly  $\frac{1}{6}$ ) version of the vehicle. Once all of the design problems were sorted we drew a full size top and side view of the vehicle. This week students will begin to learn how to use the power tools, complete their drawings and begin to build the vehicles!

### **Communication**

Students spent the first week learning to create video games. Our second and third week have been spent learning about and creating stop-motion videos! Students have just finished their first of two films and are moving on to create their second. The tools we will focus on this week are the band saw, chop saw and drill press.

## **World Language - May Curriculum Update**

### **French/Spanish**

#### **6th Grade Level 10 French**

##### **Students will...**

- explore cultural celebrations and compare/contrast these to celebrations from their own families and/or traditions.
- explore and compare the role of pets in the family in the target culture and the U.S.
- discuss the role of community service activities in the U.S. and compare it to the target culture

Students will also be taking a skill-based Final Exam in the beginning of June that will be given over a period of a few days.

#### **6th Grade Level 10 Spanish**

##### **Students will...**

- explore housing and discuss the role of community service activities in the U.S. and compare it to the target culture

- research, compare and contrast common family celebrations and/or traditions in the U.S. and the target culture.
- explore cultural celebrations and compare/contrast these to celebrations from their own families and/or traditions.

Students will also be taking a skill-based Final Exam in the beginning of June that will be given over a period of a few days.

## **7th Grade**

### **What makes a travel destination special?**

Students will begin to discover what makes a travel destination special. Learners will explore vacation destinations, particular landmarks to visit, regional foods, how weather plays a role on vacation, identify clothing and other typical items needed, the activities in which tourists participate, and compare Fairfield as a tourist destination to the target culture destinations.

## **8th Grade**

### **Students will explore what makes a person a hero.**

Students will:

- identify local and national heroes and heroines as well as personal heroes.
- discuss common characteristics of our heroes and heroines.
- investigate heroes and heroines of the target culture.
- discuss why these people are/were considered heroes and heroines.
- examine how one's past influences who they become.

Students will also be taking the AAPL test (the American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages) at the end of May/beginning of June. It measures World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages.