

Art

6th graders continue to work on the water color unit. They have created their unique composition based off of several references of their choice. They have combined these references in a original and often times ingenious way to construct a painting which utilizes the new knowledge they are beginning to acquire as well as accessing the knowledge they have learned from previous units of instruction. In February we will begin our next quarter with pencil drawings incorporating the use of the tortillions to aid in shading. We will also have a home assignment which will reinforce the shading skill. Linoleum block printing will also be introduced.

7th graders are finishing up their mask painting. They are applying their color theory knowledge and color mixing acumen, gained from their prior painting unit, and creating masks that have complex color compositions and patterns. They will soon begin their portraiture unit in which they will be able to formulate a life like portrait using correct proportion and placement of features. They will finish their self-portrait using the shading techniques they have learned and improved upon from the 6th grade curriculum. We will begin next quarter with portraiture and continue with our Maskmaking unit.

8th grade 2D Art students are finishing up their acrylic landscape painting. This unit culminates all the varying processes and techniques the students have been taught from the 6th and 7th grade. They have used their awareness of composition and design and combined it with their understanding of color theory to create works of Art that are well thought out and have personal meaning. Beginning next quarter we will begin with pen and ink drawings of their choosing using a resource.

8th grade 3D students are completing their clay vessels. Many are putting the finishing touches on their pottery: handles, lids, embellishments, etc. to create individual pieces that are totally unique. They will move forward with glazing the last few days of the marking period. They have also begun their animal sculpture and are starting to use their knowledge of design and spatial relationships to develop the design they will use to paint their sculpture. The new quarter students will begin with their pottery construction which will utilize slab and coil pottery techniques.

We have 4 winners for the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition:

Mikaela Woo, Silver Key, Painting

Katie Valus, Best in Show, Gold Key, Pottery

Bridget O'Brien, Gold Key, Pottery

Aiden Williams, Silver Key, Pottery

Bridget and Katie's work will move on to be judged for the National Competition.

Computer

6th Grade Computers: 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: Students have just completed a unit using MS Access. Each student created a database from scratch, using information about the major battle of the Civil War. Students also created queries to find information in the database. Each student also completed a second project using MS Publisher, which was to create a business card. Each student also completed a second project using MS Publisher, which was to create a business card. Finally, we ended the marking period by using Adobe Photoshop to alter digital images.

Family Consumer Science

FCS Foods Lab- January Update

Grade 6 - Has been busy preparing their healthy snack “Apple Crisp” while practicing their knife skills.

Grade 7 – Students have been working very hard on their Family Meal Projects at home and school. Next week they present them to the class utilizing their ever important marketing/public speaking skills.

Grade 8 – Students are utilizing all their culinary skills to prepare and plate a healthy dessert... Chocolate Pudding Towers! WOW! Next week we work on perfecting our knife skills while preparing Asian Stir Fry while fostering independent cooking.

FCS Foods Lab- February

Grade 6 - Students will be treated to our guest speaker Captain Bill Kessler, Fire Chief for Fairfield. Students will work on their web quest here at school and have parental involvement checking smoke detectors and identifying their meeting place. Then it's off to introducing them to their cooking and their new teams.

Grade 7 – Students will prepare a healthy breakfast using peppers, onions, eggs and cheese.

Grade 8 – Will start making healthy carrot cakes from scratch and be introduced to cake decorating techniques.

FCS – Sewing Lab:

6th grade is finishing up their shoulder sak bags. They will learn to sew a button onto fabric next.



7th grade has made their boxer shorts using a pattern with their measurements.



8th grade is completing their quilts.





Health

Health class with Mr Dickenson

GRADE 6

Tobacco use prevention, HIV awareness/prevention, empathy, coping with bullying and sexual harassment will be the units of study.

GRADE 7

Eating disorders, diversity and tolerance, and alcohol will be the units of study.

GRADE 8

Binge drinking, designer drugs, sexual assault prevention/awareness, OTC prescription drug abuse will be the units of study.

Here is what is happening this month in Mrs. Maline's health class.

6th – Students finished the drug unit and ended it with each generating a big list of all our “Natural Highs”. Students started their unit on puberty and will finished up the marking period with sexual harassment, communicative diseases , stress, anger and time management. The new marking period will begin with key health terms and the friendship unit.

7th – Students have finished the diversity unit. The family unit began and will continue with a review of puberty leading into pregnancy and then complete the unit with death as part of the

circle of life. The marking period will finish up discussing Goal setting. The new marking period begins with key health terms, self- esteem/ self- talk – body image and eating disorders.

8th - Students are presently in the Alcohol unit discussing the cycle of addiction and how it affects families. The next unit will be depression and suicide prevention, ending with stress management. The new marking period will begin with key health terms and healthy relationships.

Music

Band 6

The 6th grade band began to study several new pieces at the start of January – all three pieces offer new challenges with new notes, rhythms and time signatures. One of the pieces, "Jupiter" is an arrangement of one of the main theme from Holst's 4th movement from his suite "The Planets". Here is a listening guide to "Jupiter" from the Philharmonia Orchestra:

<https://vimeo.com/64892291>

February:

The 6th grade band students have been preparing for a playing test (to be completed by the end of the month), which focuses the memorization of three major scales. We will also begin studying two new pieces: "Homeward Bound" and "Attack of the Dust Bunnies". We will introduce some new dotted 16th note rhythmic patterns, and work on expanding some of the upper ranges of notes (as well as the percussion section's creativity!) with these two pieces.

Band 7 - Students are working on: C/Ab/Bb chromatic scales –testing has begun on these scales, they must be completed from memory by 3/15.

Band pieces Trumpets With Attitude, Abandoned Treasure Hunt, Hunger Games, Rites of Tambura. Scale sheets were given out w/all major scales for students to explore/learn new major scales

Band 8 – Information not available for this edition.

Chorus- Information not available for this edition.

Keyboarding – Information not available for this edition.

Orchestra

Grade 6 orchestra: Now is time to refocus on some technical skills. We will refocus on music reading skills using the Essential Elements book 1, bow technique and left hand skills. Small group lessons will focus on scales G major, A major and Bb major for violins, C major, D major for violas, cellos and basses. Also we are working on the solos from Suzuki books. Our main focus is on different and challenging rhythm patterns, intonation, bow distribution, dynamics and more than anything ensemble skills.

New orchestra pieces for the Spring Concert so far are: "Fox In the Chicken House", "Cello Rondo" and "Serenata Espagnola". More pieces will be given in the next two to three weeks.

Grade 7: Our main focus right now is music reading skills using the Essential Elements book 2, bow technique and left hand skills. Small group lessons will focus on scales D major, C major and Bb major for violins; C major, D major G major for violas, cellos and basses. Also we are working on the solos from Suzuki books. Small group lessons will be performing solos in front of the class.

New pieces for the Spring Concert so far are: "Posthorn", "Entrance of the Queen of Sheba", "Orange Jam". More pieces will be given in the next two to three weeks.

Grade 8: Main focus right now is on music reading skills using the Essential Elements book 2, bow technique and left hand skills. Small group lessons will focus on scales D and C major (third position only) and F major for violins; F major, G major, A major for violas, cellos and basses. Also we are working on the solos from Suzuki books. Small group lessons will be performing solos in front of the class. New Pieces for the Spring Concert so far are: "Pirates of the Caribbean", "Finale from Mozart Symphony – Posthorn", "Allegro In D". More pieces will be given in the next two to three weeks.

Physical Education

Physical Education classes have started new rotations in January. Our new curricular activities will include team handball, project adventure and archery. During this rotations we will also be holding our 6th annual Hoops for Heart Fundraiser (2/8-2/12). In the past we have collect close to \$2,000 for the American Heart Association. Information about this fundraiser may be found on the Physical Education Web page.

Trans Tech/Communication Technology-

Transportation Technology – We ended the semester on Friday! Students went out with a buzz! We finished and tested our propeller cars! The students finished strong and used all of the lessons acquired over the semester to safely use the tools and power tools provided in the classroom.

This week we start with a fresh batch of students. We will be looking at and learning how to safely use the tools this week, and students will begin to create their 'Mouse Trap Car'.

Communication Technology – Last week we ended the semester with students either creating their final stop motion film, or creating a Lego robot! Over the semester the students created some amazing video games and movies. If you have not seen what your learner created, please ask them!

This week the Communications class will begin by creating a stop motion film. The characters and backgrounds will be drawn utilizing MS Paint. We will then combine the backgrounds and characters in a program to develop a short film!

World Language - January Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade

The 6th graders have been choosing appropriate adjectives to describe physical appearance and personality traits. They are also identifying family members and relationships and comparing the role of the family in the target culture and in the U.S.

7th Grade

Maintaining their cultural identity, learners have continued their exploration of family and family celebrations in the target culture and compare them with celebrations in the U.S. by researching common family celebrations including typical activities, traditions and foods in the target culture.

8th

Students are finishing Unit 2 - Responsible Consumerism. They are watching authentic videos and reading materials which address how our habits affect the environment. Students will plan a campaign to promote responsible consumerism.

World Language - February Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade

The 6th graders are finishing up Unit 1 ~ Who am I? They can now have a conversation about themselves and their immediate family including personal details such as name, age, and birthday. They can share physical and personality descriptions of themselves and immediate family as well as talk about their likes and dislikes. They can inform regarding popular activities in the target culture and describe typical dwellings.

7th Grade

The 7th graders are finishing up Unit 2 ~ How do family and community influence me? Maintaining their cultural identity, learners have expanded their knowledge to include extended family (and pets) and typical family celebrations in the target culture. They can compare these with typical celebrations in the U.S. including traditional activities and foods from each culture.

8th

Students will begin unit 3 - Health and Wellness. They will examine their own lifestyles and those of their peers in the target culture to determine what constitutes a balanced lifestyle.

8LMS January Update

Language Arts: In language arts classes eighth grade students are approaching the personal narrative unit. Students will be selecting book length memoirs for their independent reading, and they will be reading shared texts in class to explore the genre. Ultimately students will be writing a personal narrative of their own.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we are continuing our unit on linear equations. After that we will start preparing for the midterm exam.

Math Algebra: In Algebra, we are taking a midterm exam. Then we will begin our next unit, which is on linear modeling with data.

Math Geometry - Students have just finished proving relationships within triangles. After their midterm, they will begin to study properties of quadrilaterals.

Science - Eighth grade science students have been developing graphing skills and they were exploring how machines make work easier. Next we will learn about energy and bridges.

Social Studies - This month, students will be starting their unit on "The World at War." Students will identify the factors that led to the rise of dictators, investigate the impact of the war on daily life in the United States, and analyze how U.S. involvement in WWII impacted the American Dream. In addition, a Holocaust survivor will be speaking to all crews next week on his experience in the camps as a young man.

7LM -January Update

Language Arts: 7th Grade Language Arts is working on revising narrative writing focusing on language development, structure to enhance narrative focus, and character development. We will then be coming on reading as a writer in the student's first book group. These books should be coming home by early February.

Math:

Pre-Algebra 7 – Dimensional Geometry and Pythagorean Theorem

- Representation of geometric ideas and relationships allows multiple approaches to geometric problems and connect geometric interpretation to other contexts.
- Area represents the space enclosed by 2 dimensional figures.
- The Pythagorean theorem holds for any right triangle and sum of squares of the lengths of the legs is equal to the square of the hypotenuse.

Math 7 – Proportional Relationships

- Reasoning with ratios involves attending to and coordinating two quantities.
- A rate is a set of infinitely many equivalent parts
- Several ways of reasoning, graphs to represent and analyze proportional relationships.
- Unit rates, Ratios and percents

Science: In January, 7th grade science presented projects on genetic disorders and explored chemistry of life and cell processes including diffusion, osmosis, cellular respiration, and photosynthesis. The students observed many demonstrations and completed a two day lab incorporating these topics. After a brief overview of classification, students will be diving into bacteria for the month of February. After discussing the differences between good and bad bacteria, this unit will culminate with a project on a bad bacteria.

Social Studies: In Geography students have been learning about physical systems and how the surface of the Earth is impacted. Students have been working on SimuNation maps. They have created elevation maps and climate maps. Moving forward, students will be learning about the biosphere and then moving into unit 3 with demography and population geography.

Crew 6 LMS

Language Arts: In language arts students have been working on their creative writing skills. Students have written a variety of drafts inspired by music, art work, photographs, and their real life experiences. We look forward to taking students through the writing process as they create interesting and realistic characters, generate suspense and excitement by developing the plot, and incorporate various types of author's craft to lift the quality of their writing. To accomplish this, students will be using numerous mentor texts and working together to edit, revise, and improve their work. We are already incredibly impressed by the creativity we have seen within the students' writing, and we cannot wait to read their final, published pieces.

Math 6 - Math 6 is just finishing up developing relationships between fractions, decimals, and percents. Students learned how these forms are related to one another and made decisions about when to use each form. They will be moving on to Applications of Geometry where students will study three kinds of measurement in depth: perimeter, area, and volume.

Math TPA - Transition to Pre-Algebra classes will finish up applying the relationships of fractions, decimals, and percents to solve real-world problems such as unit rate, measurement conversions, constant rate, and comparison of quantities. They will then move on to Applications of Geometry where they will be asked to investigate the area of polygon shapes, as well as, study surface area of prisms made from triangles and rectangles.

Social Studies - In Social Studies, 6th grade students are in the midst of the Ancient Egyptian Research Project. Teachers are working in conjunction with the Library Media Specialist, Cheryl Beatty, to help the students understand the research process. They have been becoming experts on specific topics (pyramids, government, culture, etc.) and drawing conclusions about ancient Egyptian Civilization based on their research. The students will be writing an informational essay and will be working with a partner who has the same topic to create a visual project and

oral presentation. The culminating activity will be the crew Egypt Fairs to be held in mid-February. Parents and administrators will be invited to view the student exhibits at each fair. After the Egypt Unit of Study, 6th graders will begin to learn about the civilization of Ancient Greece.

Science - The 6th grade scientists are busy investigating the fundamental principles of meteorology and weather forecasting. They are learning about clouds, air masses and fronts, severe weather and weather forecasting. The students are creating a birthday weather map and comparing data with a partner to make conclusions on how weather is impacted by location. They will also begin a severe weather research project, becoming an expert on a hurricane and presenting their findings to the class.