

## **Crew 6 LMS**

Language Arts: Students recently completed the narrative writing unit in which they drafted, edited and revised, and published a narrative story. The next unit is a nonfiction reading unit in which students will critically read and evaluate nonfiction texts. Students will determine how the author articulates his or her purpose and whether it is effective. Lessons will focus on identifying and examining text features, text structure, evidence (facts/statistics), and word choice (strong words) to determine how they convey and support the author's purpose.

Math 6 - Is wrapping up the geometry unit. They learned measurement and explored perimeter, area, and volume. In the next unit, the students will extend their understanding to negative numbers, which will enhance their understanding of positive numbers.

Math TPA - The students are concluding a unit that explored relationships between fractions decimals and percents. They applied these relationships to solve real world problems.

They will begin a new unit in geometry in which they will explore two and three dimensional figures to enhance their understanding of perimeter and area, then begin their study of a third kind of measure, volume.

Social Studies - The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students recently completed their topic research related to Ancient Egypt, wrote informational essays, and collaborated with partners to create visual projects that was displayed and presented at each crew's Egypt Fair in mid-February. The fairs were a great success, and many parents & administrators were able to attend. Our students did a fantastic job orally presenting their knowledge of topic specific information related to ancient Egypt.

Social Studies classes are now turning their attention to the Ancient Greece unit of study . . . students will be learning about many aspects of ancient Greece including the geography, culture & important achievements of this great civilization. During this unit, students will be involved in projects related to Greek Mythology and/or the Olympics, which originated in Ancient Greece.

Science - Spring is in the air and Grade 6 Science students are continuing their study of weather and climate. Students have finished researching and analyzing data from past hurricanes and have created presentations like true meteorologists.

The month of March will be filled with lessons examining how latitude, prevailing winds, geography and ocean currents affect an area's climate. Biome projects will be completed and students will learn about different causes of climate change.

## **7LM -March Update**

Language Arts: 7th Grade Language Arts will be reading editorials, investigating how arguments are supported, and creating theories. Students will be creating arguments that can be supported with facts.

#### Math7 – Proportional Relationships

- Reasoning with ratios involves attending to and coordinating two quantities.
- Find and compare unit rates.
- Ratios are often expressed in fraction notation.
- Use table and equations to identify and describe proportional relationships.
- Equivalent ratios can be created by iterating and/or partitioning a composed unit.
- Use graphs to represent and analyze proportional relationships.
- A proportion is a relationship of equality between two ratios.
- Use percents to solve problems.

#### Pre-Algebra 7- Dimensional Geometry and Pythagorean Theorem

- Use Scale Drawings to solve problems.
- Draw shapes that satisfy given conditions.
- Use angle pairs to solve problems.
- Find Circumference and area of circle.
- Find perimeter and area of composite figures.
- The Pythagorean Theorem.

Science: 7th grade science is continuing to work through the kingdoms of living things. We have finished up the simple bacteria and are now delving into protist, fungi and plants. We will be conducting labs on the kingdoms by having the students diagram living organisms. We will also be incorporating modern social media by having the students create a microsoft word based Instagram for a protist or fungi.

#### Social Studies:

7th grade geography has started Unit 3: Human Systems. Everything in this unit focuses on the interesting and quirky species known as human beings that populate this planet! In this unit we will be exploring deeper concepts of **culture** such as cultural norms, values, artifacts, etc. We will study seven cultural elements in detail and look at examples from cultures around the world. We will also be covering **demography** or population studies. Students will examine the number of people in the world, population growth and negative growth factors, fertility rates, life expectancy, infant mortality rates, the demographic transition model and much more. We will use fun interactive materials from National Geographic, GAPMINDER and world renowned population guru Hans Rosling to create population pyramids, and other useful visuals to help better understand population trends around the globe.

#### **8LMS March Update**

Language Arts: Eighth grade LA students will complete an immersion in reading shared and independent choice memoirs with writing individual personal narratives/ memoirs of

their own. We will then begin reading the whole class core novel, Elie Wiesel's *Night*, in conjunction with the social studies curriculum focus on the Holocaust.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra 8 we are learning about systems of linear equations and the different ways to solve them, and we are going to apply this knowledge to word problems. In the next unit, we will be exploring the real number system and investigating the Pythagorean Theorem.

Math Algebra: In Algebra 8 we are finishing our unit on the real number system. Next we will move on to a unit about polynomials, which will include classifying, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and factoring.

Math Geometry - In geometry, students have transitioned from studying Synthetic geometry (inspired by Euclid's axioms) to Analytic geometry (inspired by Descartes). Breaking away from postulates and theorems, students use the distance formula, slope formula and/or midpoint formula in order to prove a claim. Next, students will explore the relationships between similar figures.

Science - 8th grade science classes are finishing an energy unit and are starting bridges and structures.

Social Studies: Eighth grade Social Studies students are studying World War II and the Holocaust in order to understand the impact of the war on America's role in the world. Later in March students will begin a research project about exemplary Americans during the 1950s and 1960s.

## **World Language – March update**

French/Spanish

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

*How do family and community influence me?*

Maintaining their cultural identity, sixth graders are continuing their exploration of family by identifying, describing and comparing them to others. Students are also beginning to look into different family celebrations and traditions.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

*How do I manage my time?*

Students assume their cultural identity to investigate a typical school day and a typical weekend in the life of a student in the target culture and compare and contrast it to Fairfield. They have been identifying school schedules, courses taken, and extracurricular

activities available to them in the target culture. In addition, they are investigating the concept of time and how time is allocated for school and daily and weekend activities. Students discuss what they need to do, have to do and what they feel like doing in a given day.

## 8th Grade

*What does it mean to maintain a balanced lifestyle?*

Students will examine their own lifestyles and those of their peers in the target culture to determine what constitutes a balanced lifestyle. Learners will explore foods, exercises and daily habits that lead to a healthy lifestyle.

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

### **Art**

6<sup>th</sup> 6th grade art students are working on their linoleum printing. They have carved their unique designs and have created several prints. We will begin the printing process in earnest in a few days, and they will then embark on creating their collage based on the prints they have made.

7<sup>th</sup> grade students are completing their mask forms. They have combined several techniques in order to create their designs. Many have embellished their masks with horns, teeth, and patterns.

8<sup>th</sup> grade 2D Art - Students are currently working on their pen and ink compositions that demonstrate a range of values, line techniques, and textures. They are in the middle of developing their final drawings, working from reference photos.

8<sup>th</sup> grade 3D - Pottery students are finishing up their basic form for their hand built coil clay vessel. They are researching various elements to use to embellish their pottery. Additionally, they have begun working on their animal sculpture. They are creating this sculpture based upon references that they have researched.

## **Family Consumer Science**

FCS Foods Lab

### **March**

**Grade 6** - Has been busy preparing their healthy snack "Apple Crisp" while practicing their knife skills. Then students will learn "how to read a food label" and how to avoid unhealthy foods.

**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 will be researching the origins of their food and the importance of making healthy choices. Then it's back in the kitchens to make pizza dough from scratch and choosing healthy veggie toppings instead of bacon pizza!

In the sewing lab:

6th grade is just finishing up their shoulder saks and learning to make a hand sewing knot in order to sew on a button.

7th grade are styling their boxer shorts. Many students choose to apply customized machine embroidery. Some made a pillow to practice skill building



8th grade is working on their quilt center blocks, applying machine embroidery and adding borders.

## Health

Health class with Mr. Dickenson

GRADE 6 - We will be learning about alcohol, marijuana, and using inhalants soon. After that will be healthy friendships, puberty and the reproductive systems.

GRADE 7- We are beginning marijuana, to be followed by violence prevention, coping with death/loss, and family communication.

GRADE 8 - We are learning about abusive relationships, to be followed by abstinence, HIV prevention, coping with depression, and suicide prevention.

Health class with Mrs. Maline

6<sup>th</sup> – We started our drug unit and will have the Tobacco test next week. We will then cover alcohol, marijuana , and inhalants. We will end the drug unit with understanding and identifying our natural highs.

7<sup>th</sup> – We are presently discussing rumors, accusations, gossiping, bullying and sexting. Next week we will begin our unit on diversity which will include many different activities.

8<sup>th</sup> - We are discussing sexual harassment/assault, flirting and then will be covering date rape drugs, abstinence, love vs. infatuation , and HIV. The following unit will be on Alcohol including the cycle of addiction.

## Music

Band 6- In 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, we are finishing up our scales tests, nearing the end of our level 1 band lesson book, and trying out two new styles of music: “Swing” in Beal Street Strut and “Rock” in Saxophonic Boogie.

Band 7 -

- Work on completion of the scales test, begin preparations for theory testing on terms and note reading
- Continue perfecting band material and working on the new band piece “Instant Swing Concert”
- Work on “Cut time”, 16<sup>th</sup> notes, and syncopation
- Prep for our May concert and Memorial Day Parade

Band 8

The 8th grade Band is preparing for the PTA grant-based Sousa Band Clinic on April 5th with renowned Souza specialist and director of the New Sousa Band. This band performs the Sousa Marches and symphonies all over the world. We are preparing John Phillip’s favorite march Semper Fidelis.

Chorus

6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus – This month students have been introduced to four new concert selections. “J’Entends Le Moulins” is a fast-paced and energetic French Canadian folk song. Students have been practicing French pronunciation while singing in unison. “The Complete History of Western Music” is a piece that takes us from the Medieval times all the way through 20<sup>th</sup> Century music. This month singers took an imaginary time machine and stopped in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century to learn about motets and madrigals, which were popular styles of music at the time. Emerging as a fan favorite is the song, “Everlasting Melody,” which will feature a soloist at the concert in May. Students have had the opportunity to volunteer to sing this song in duets or as a solo in class this month. Through this process, students are learning strategies to manage stage fright and how to be a supportive and encouraging audience. Auditions for the solo will be held in March. Finally, students have requested a “radio song” to be added to their program. “Stitches” by Shawn Mendes has been added and we’ve just begun practicing this number. Students who play instruments have volunteered to learn guitar and drum parts, so this should be an exciting concert in a few months!

7<sup>th</sup> grade chorus: This month students have been introduced to two new concert selections. In keeping with the theme of pop music in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we have begun learning “I Want You Back” and “ABC” by the Jackson 5! Students are excited about this mash-up of songs, which provides ample opportunity to sing more complex 16<sup>th</sup> note rhythms and harmonies than we have sung in the past. Another tune called “Stand Together” has been introduced as well, composed by Jim Papoulis. Mr. Papoulis provides the opportunity for boys’ changing voices to emerge and take a more prominent role in our sound as we

head toward the end of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Written in 4-part harmony, this song has a dramatic flowing melody, driving harmonies and a low baritone line. This song spans a two and a half octave range - literally something for everybody to sing. By the end of the month, students were given two new songs, "For Good" from the Broadway musical *Wicked* and another soon-to-be student favorite, "Riptide." In other news, students have been increasing their rhythmic vocabulary as they explore "dotted" rhythms. Rhythm dictation continues to be an area where many students excel.

8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus: This month students have been introduced to four new concert selections. Two of our numbers introduce the "SATB" voicing, which stands for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass – a departure from the standard 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature that is composed in three part harmony for Soprano, Alto and Baritone. "All Ye Who Music Love" is a 15<sup>th</sup> Century madrigal and "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen, two songs from different genres and time periods, will feature this more advanced voicing. "Believe" is the hit number from the Broadway musical, "Finding Neverland," which the 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus is going to see at the end of April in NYC! Students are also preparing the classic Ben E. King tune "Stand By Me," which will feature soloists. Students are continuing to work on tone production and breath support during classes. In addition to singing, students have been reading and writing rhythms, as dotted notes have been reviewed this month.

Keyboarding - March is "Musical Theater" month for 8th grade. Students will pick one of four tunes from *Sound of Music* to learn and perform for class.

7th and 6th Grades continue working on Beginning Piano skills, focusing on the Grand Staff, C position, dynamics, measuring intervals, and slurs/ties.

Students in grades 6 and 7 will be submitting and sharing music videos incorporating new National Arts Standards: Creating, Performing/Presenting/Producing, Responding, Connecting

### **Physical Education**

This Month the PE classes will complete our Hoop for Heart fundraiser, that will benefit the American Heart Association. Beginning our second week of March our students will rotate into new units. The units being covered during this month will include Team Handball, Project Adventure (focused on the rock climbing), Archery, and Basketball. This is a great time for our students to explore both individual and team sports. In archery we stress safety, proper form, and terminology. When the student move to their team sports they will focus on the concepts of moving to open space, offensive and defensive strategies, as well as teamwork. Skill development takes place during the first few classes of all team games.

## **Trans Tech/Communication Technology-**

Transportation Technology: Students began working on Aerostats today. They will be making hot air balloons out of crepe paper. The past few days we have discussed Aerostats - reviewed major parts and definitions, and began a plan to develop and build our balloon. The next few weeks we will be building and testing our balloons.

Communication Technology: Students are finishing their 'Maze Game' tutorial. Next week will see the beginning of stop motion film creation! We will be making Lego and Claymation films.