



RLMS December Curriculum Corner

8LMS

Language Arts: Eighth grade students are fully immersed in book clubs. Aside from exploring and discussing common literary elements such as plot, conflict, setting, character development, theme, and symbolism, students will focus on identifying “researchable” topics found within the texts. They will then investigate the topics using informational sources, analyze how their findings impact their understanding of the books, and assess how accurately the authors portrayed the scenes and characters in the books.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we are beginning to study linear relationships. We will be working with many different representations, including equations, graphs, and tables.

Math Algebra: In Algebra we are extending our work with linear functions by studying systems of linear equations and linear inequalities.

Math Geometry - In geometry, we are proving triangle congruence using theorems such as Angle-Angle-Side and the Hypotenuse-Leg Theorem. In the next unit, we will explore theorems regarding triangle relationships such as bisector.

Science: 8th grade science students are finishing learning about gravity and motion. They have been designing and conducting lab experiments to explore variables that affect the motion of paper copters. Students will soon be exploring Newton’s laws of motion. They will be thinking about what happens when a force is put on an object and what causes acceleration.

Social Studies: This month, Social Studies students will begin studying the 1920s. Students will analyze the positive and negative aspects of the decade and use this information to write their first argumentative essay on a selected topic from the time period.

7LM

Language Arts: This month in language arts the students are finishing up *The Outsiders* and moving into writing narratives.

Math 7 - The students are working on the distributive property, combining like terms, solving equations and inequalities.

Pre-Algebra 7 - The students are focusing on linear equations, figuring out slope, x & y intercept, standard form, and slope intercept form.

Science: In science the students are learning about cell division and beginning to explore genetics. Students will learn the difference between dominant and recessive traits and how to use Punnett Squares to predict an offspring's traits.

Social Studies: This month the students are beginning a unit on the physical systems. In this unit the students will examine landforms and how they are created. They will also begin creating islands for the "Simunation" unit.

6 LMS

Language Arts: Wow! What a difference a few weeks make! Our sixth grade students have successfully completed their first formal essay of the year. Using several stories, students selected their favorite text to use as a springboard for writing a literary essay focused on theme. Classroom lessons targeted strategic skills that were critical for this writing assignment. Additionally, students were guided through every phase of the writing process using graphic organizers and exemplary models of literary essays. This unit will provide students with an invaluable foundation for writing about reading in the years ahead. In December, we are moving on to our first book club unit of the year that is focused around character change.

Math 6 - We are currently working on understanding and writing expressions and equations. We will be moving on to learning about rates, ratios and percents.

Math TPA - We are currently learning about rates, ratios, and percents. Towards the end of the month, we are going to be working with positive and negative integers.

Social Studies - Social Studies classes just finished the Early Humans unit of study. The students learned how early humans lived their lives, and made advancements, prior to the creation of civilizations. Students will now begin to explore Mesopotamia, considered to be the first civilization. They will focus on how these people created a stable food supply, government, specialized labor, highly developed culture (writing system, oral language, religious beliefs, art etc), and a social structure. Students will also focus on the geography of the Mesopotamian civilization. This unit will allow students to learn about the necessary components required of a civilization, and will be the basis for learning about other early civilizations throughout the school year.

Art

Grade 6 - We are presently finishing our pencil drawings and shading them with tortillions. We will begin a home assignment which will incorporate the drawing skills we have learned in class. Our next projects will be linoleum block printing and floral watercolors.

Grade 7 - We are continuing working on our mask construction. After completion of this part of the unit, we will move on to color theory. Students will learn about color mixing as well as design skills. This unit will culminate in students creating a geometric painting which will incorporate their knowledge of coloring mixing as well as proper painting techniques.

Grade 8 3-D -We have begun our pottery unit with hand build coil construction. The students have also looked up reference material for their sculpture project. We will be working on the coil pottery construction for the next several weeks.

Grade 8 2-D - We are currently working on our pen and ink drawings. After completion of this unit, the students will move on to the acrylic painting unit. These units will build upon our students previous art knowledge which they learned in the 6th and 7th grades. These projects will showcase their higher level thinking ability as applied to different mediums.

Computer

6th 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.

8th 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.

Com Tech

Students are finishing making their very first video game. They have made all of the characters, most of the rules and most of the obstacles. All that is left is to finish writing rules and make levels!

FCS

Foods

6th gr – Students will be introduced to knife skills and how to prepare a healthy snack through utilizing www.choosemyplate.gov.

7th gr – Students will prepare individual egg breakfast burritos. Then use their public speaking skills as they share their family meal projects with the class!

8th gr – Students will continue to gain confidence through independent cooking skills. 1. Healthy grilled chicken Caesar salad. 2. Pastry crust / apple pie with lattice crust.

In the sewing lab:

The previous quarter 8th grade students produced beautiful quilts. They create the design themselves using Electric Quilt software. Some students make a ‘pieced’ quilt. Others make an art quilt.

Some students have time for extra projects. These students chose to make a dog collar and fleece hat. Students are welcome to open sew club every other Thursday beginning December 10th. Happy Sewing!

Health

Here is what is happening this month in Mr. Dickenson’s health class.

GRADE 8 – Students will be learning about sexual assault awareness, healthy and abusive relationships, and love.

GRADE 7- Students will be learning about alcohol and marijuana.

GRADE 6 – Students will be learning about bullying, sexual harassment, and bad friendships.

6th Grade - Mrs. Maline - We are finishing the unit on friendships with peer pressure, bullying and cyberbullying. The salubrious project will be complete and students will share with the class. We will then begin our drug unit by discussing the brain. We will cover tobacco products; ecigs, inhalants, marijuana, and alcohol.

7th Grade - Mrs. Maline - We are finishing up body image, self-esteem and eating disorders. That test will be on 12/10. Their ME project will be complete and the students will present them to the class. Next, we will cover popularity, rumors, accusations, gossip, cyberbullying and sexting. A presenter will come from St Vincent’s to talk about the health problems of tobacco products. We will then begin our unit on diversity.

8th Grade - Mrs. Maline - We moving from healthy relationships to unhealthy and abusive which will include dating. We are presently discussing boundaries and having wonderful class discussions. The WHO I am project is complete. The students will share their project with the class. We will cover sexual assault and harassment, date rape drugs, flirting vs. hurting, abstinence, HIV, love vs. infatuation.

Music

Band 6 - The RLMS 6th Grade band is very excited to play in the upcoming Winter Concert on Monday, December 7th. In the weeks following the concert, we will spend a little time reflecting

on our performance as a group, working on new concepts of our theory workbooks, and honing our sight-reading skills out of the lesson book.

Band 7 - Students are primarily prepping for the concert. Students are currently learning 2 new scales, C concert, and Bb concert chromatic. Students will be watching the concert video after our performance, and critiquing our performance. They will be resuming work in our lesson books Essential Elements Book. Our percussionists will be perfecting 3 rolls: Buzz, Single stroke and Double stroke.

Band 8 – Students are working on concert preparation.

6th grade chorus – This month students have been memorizing song lyrics in preparation for their upcoming winter concert. Students were introduced to new vocabulary words including phrasing, dynamics and diction. Students have demonstrated their understanding by applying these musical elements to the concert songs as we practice them in class. Students continue to review treble clef and bass clef note names and are reading rhythms in a 4/4 time signature including the following note values: whole note, half note, quarter note, beamed eighth notes and beamed sixteenth notes.

7th grade chorus: This month students have been memorizing song lyrics in preparation for their upcoming winter concert. Students have demonstrated their understanding of musical elements such as phrasing, tone, dynamics and diction by applying them to the concert songs as we practice them in class. Students are reading and composing rhythms in a 4/4 time signature including the following note values: whole note, half note, quarter note, beamed eighth notes and beamed sixteenth notes. Class discussions have included song form, or the “formula,” that composers use to create pop songs, including vocabulary such as introduction, verse, chorus, refrain, bridge and coda. Classes listened to Adele’s “Hello” to discover how this formula is applied in popular music.

8th grade chorus: This month students have been memorizing song lyrics in preparation for their upcoming winter concert. Students have demonstrated their growing understanding of musical elements such as breath support, phrasing, tone, diction, dynamics and style by applying them to the concert songs as we practice them in class. Gospel-style music, which is one of the featured styles of American music we study in the 8th grade curriculum, has been a topic of discussion and interest this month. Students watched exemplary performances of this style of music in class, including Michael Jackson’s 1987 Grammy performance of “Man in the Mirror” and a U2 collaboration with the Harlem gospel choir, New Voices of Freedom.

Keyboarding - for December Grades 6, 7, 8 are working on a “Holiday Carol Project”. Students learn 13 traditional carols – rhythm, proper fingerings, note accuracy, practice, “concert etiquette” - then choose 3 of them to perform in class on 12/22.

Orchestra

Grade 6 orchestra: Preparations for the upcoming Winter Concert are in full swing. We will be performing “Winter”, “Twilight Express” and “Frosty The Snowman”. Our main focus was on

different and challenging rhythm patterns, intonation, bow distribution, dynamics and more than anything ensemble skills.

After the concerts, 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 will restart working on the solos from Suzuki books.

Grade 7: In the Winter Concert this orchestra will perform “Corelli Suite”, “Brigit’s Fire”, “Fantasia in an Original Theme” and “Postcards From Russia”. After the concerts, we will refocus on 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 will restart working on the solos from Suzuki books.

Grade 8: in the Winter Concert students will perform “Themes for Moldau”, “Cake Walk”, “Dona Nobis Pacem”, “Toreador Song” and “Three Holiday Songs”. After the concerts, we will refocus 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 will restart working on the solos from Suzuki books.

Physical Education

Our Physical Education classes are now on the second of the three rotations .Our current curricular activities will continue through December and the first part of January. We are offering all students an opportunity to participate in a variety of team and individual sports. We began the first of our nine week rotation in November and we will continue with badminton, floor hockey, and fitness, and project adventure. All students will participate in each of the above mentioned activities prior to transitioning into our winter rotations which will begin in the later part of January.

Trans Tech

Students are just finishing the Mouse Trap Car. They have now used the band saw, the chop saw and the drill press. This week they will be introduced to several hand tools while the finishing touches are placed on the current lab.

World Language - French/Spanish

6th Grade

Students have been expressing likes and dislikes and identifying leisure activities. Students are now choosing appropriate adjectives to describe physical appearance and personality attributes of themselves. Students are also researching extracurricular and leisure activities in their adopted countries to make cross-cultural comparisons.

7th Grade

Students are identifying and describing family members, relationships, professions and pets. They can express what others like and dislike and ask about others' family, friends and pets and make comparisons with each other.

Students will also be comparing the role of the family and traditions, holidays and celebrations in the target culture and in the U.S.

8th Grade

Students will define the meaning of responsible consumerism in order to understand what is required to maintain a healthy environment. They will also investigate how the media influences our perspective and how our habits have impacted the environment. In addition, learners will consider ways in which to address the issues related to consumerism.