



RLMS November Curriculum Corner

8LMS

Language Arts: In language arts, we have been closely reading and annotating short shared texts in order to identify, discuss, and write about potential symbols and themes. This is moving us toward our summative assessment. Our next unit will focus on developing a critical lens for the analysis of informational texts, and will challenge students to use non-fiction texts to help them deepen their understanding of fictional texts.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra we are continuing our unit on congruent figures, similar figures, and angles in polygons.

Math Algebra: In Algebra, we are wrapping up our unit on modeling with functions and will soon move on to our next unit, which is a more thorough study of linear functions.

Math Geometry - In geometry, the students have finished a preliminary unit on two-column proofs, and are applying that same deductive reasoning towards angle relationships. In addition to using angles to show that lines are parallel, we will be constructing parallel lines using a compass and a straightedge, a process that was created by ancient Greek mathematicians.

Science: Our 8th grade science classes are working on a friction and inquiry skills unit before moving on to gravity and motion.

Social Studies: Students are completing a unit on the Constitution and the challenges that faced our young nation. This month, students will be learning about the United States and its changing role in the world during the early 20th century. This unit will include immigration and World War I.

7LM

Language Arts: The LA department is finishing up a close reading and writing unit. Next, they will be heading to a full class novel, The Outsiders. More information about this novel will be going home soon to parents.

Math: Math 7 - In math 7 students will be doing algebraic expressions and solving 1 and 2 step equations.

Pre-Algebra 7 - In pre-algebra, the students will be solving linear equations.

Science: In science, the students have finished ecology and are moving into cell parts. Students will be looking at cell parts under the microscope and completing a cell comparison project in class. After that, students will be going more in depth into various cell components.

6 LMS

Language Arts:

Throughout the past several weeks, sixth graders have been learning skills that will lay the foundation for writing a literary essay focusing on theme. While practicing close reading and annotating a variety of texts, students have been able to identify the topic, theme, and supporting evidence within a piece of literature. Using familiar fairy tales as teaching tools, students have observed that when the events in a story are altered- the theme also changes. One special activity from this unit involved students collaboratively writing and acting out an original script to match an assigned theme. Rest assured that there are many talented thespians in grade six! Without a doubt, the reading and writing activities covered in this unit will support students as they embark on their first literary essay.

Math 6

Math 6 just finished up working with multiplying and dividing fractions. We will begin adding, multiplying, and dividing decimals. We will then move on to Algebraic Expressions.

Math TPA

In Transition to Pre-Algebra, the students have just finished multiplying and dividing fractions, as well as, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. We are beginning to learn about Algebraic Expressions and will finish the month discussing rates and ratios

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we have begun to explore the life of early humans and how people of today learn about our past through archaeology. In class, we participated in an archaeology dig, where students observed different artifacts and developed theories on the artifacts based on their own observations and background knowledge. We will continue to learn about the distant past and the life early humans as we search for the components of civilization in our past.

Science

This month in science classes we have been busy putting the scientific method to work. We performed a lab to see how many drops of water would adhere on top of a penny with and without soap- changing the independent variable. The students completed a Mission Impossible task which was to solve the problem of fitting themselves through an index card. The learning lab helped them discover what way they learn best and brainstorm strategies to use that information in the classroom. Teachers will be performing demonstration lessons to illustrate independent and dependent variables, in addition to the students manipulating their independent variable to complete their paper airplane experiment. The students will be utilizing quantitative and qualitative observations for Cut Flower lab. By the end of the unit, the students will all be very well versed with the steps of the scientific method.

Art

Grade 6

We are currently creating a floral watercolor painting using the techniques we learned in class . Next project will be a colored pencil drawing of tropical fish, concentrating on values. The second quarter Art classes will begin with pencil value drawings.

Grade 7

We are currently completing our color theory painting followed by painting and embellishing our ceramic masks. Lastly we will be learning portraiture.

The second quarter art classes will begin with constructing their ceramic masks after researching and creating their own mask design.

Grade 8

3-D Art

We are completing our pottery unit, adding embellishments to enhance our designs. Next, we will paper-mache and paint our Oaxacan inspired animal sculptures .

The second quarter students will begin their hand-built coil pottery.

2-D

We are completing our acrylic paintings and ending the marking period with a quick lesson in Calligraphy.

The second quarter students will begin with pen and ink drawings .

Computer

6th Grade Computers: Students have continued to learn more features of MS PowerPoint, such 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 Excel. Each student completed a data sheet and chart having to do with snowfall amounts in Connecticut over a decade. Skills learned included using functions such as SUM, AVERAGE, MIN, and MAX, changing the attributes of cells, columns, and rows, filling and stacking the bars, inserting comments, freezing panes, and adding and removing gridlines from the screen and printout. Each student also completed a second project using MS Publisher, which was to create a business card.

Com Tech

Students began using Game Maker software this week. Students are learning to create their own graphics, to develop characters and place them in a game environment.

FCS

Foods

6th grade – Students are introduced to knife skill & safety instructions through making Vegetable Quesadilla's. FBI – Food Bourne Illness and How to read a food label Units will follow.

7th grade – We celebrate their success as they present their Family Meal Projects to the class. Then utilizing their independent cooking skills, students make oatmeal with chopped apples (knife skills) on their own.

8th gr – Students are independently researching a Nutrient then prompted to produce a marketing flyer to present to the class. Following a roux production which is a thickening technique in mac & cheese and gravy.

In the sewing lab:

6th grade is starting to assemble their shoulder sack bag after successfully threading and practicing with the sewing machine.

7th grade boxer shorts have gone thru a design change which allows students to complete their boxer shorts faster. Mrs. Flashman has developed other projects the students can make. This includes a fleece hat, dog collar, quilted Velcro pouch, and headband.

8th grade are completing their fabric art quilts. The students are excited to bring them home!

Health

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

Grade 6

In grade 6 during November, marking term one students will be finishing up with puberty and the reproductive systems, healthy relationships, Lyme disease, and their final test. Marking term two will begin with Tobacco use prevention and HIV.

Grade 7

In grade 7 during November, marking term one students will be finishing up with birth/pregnancy, family life, and coping with death/loss, as well as their final test. Marking term two will begin with eating disorders and diversity.

Grade 8

In grade 8 during November, marking term one students will be finishing up with body image, suicide prevention, a smoking review, and their final test. At the beginning of marking period two we will be doing stages of addiction and binge drinking to start with.

6th Grade - Mrs. Maline

- Finishing up Alcohol
- Inhalants
- Natural Highs
- Test on above including Marijuana
- *Puberty Unit and Test
- Communicative diseases – HIV, Lyme

7th Grade - Mrs. Maline

- Continuing Diversity
- Family life – review of puberty ; Pregnancy,
- Death – Dying
- Test on above
- Goal setting

8th Grade - Mrs. Maline

- Alcohol unit
- Depression / suicide prevention
- Stress management
- There will be a tests to cover the above as well as
- Abstinence and HIV AIDS

Music

Band 6 is currently in the process of finishing up our scale pretests. We will also be shifting our focus from analyzing and learning, to polishing our four ensemble pieces for the upcoming winter concert on Monday, December 7th at 7pm.

6th Grade beginning band just completed SKIP IT LOU in the Standard of Excellence Book. More technique and more reading and improving skills.

Band 7- Students are working toward our concert in December, and beginning work in our new lesson book Essential Elements II. All students need to be mindful of the end of MP 1 and to check I.C. weekly. The Ab concert scale is the next scale to memorize and concert material is; Cayuga Lake Overture, Lament and Jubilation, Adversary and Holiday Bells are Ringing.

Band 8 - The 8th grade band is preparing for the holiday concert.

Chorus – Students are preparing for the holiday concert.

Keyboarding -8th Grade learned and performed the Addams Family Theme Song before watching video clips as we started our "Music In The Movies" project. Each month we pick a movie, learn and perform the theme song, then watch part of the movie. 7th and 6th Grades are continuing to develop keyboard skills in their Beginning Piano course books.

Orchestra - All orchestras are intensifying the work to prepare for the Winter Concert.

The main focus is on applying the right technique and right music style. Intonation is still our main issue. We will continue working on it in particular the violins and violas by applying the right finger position. In Rhythm and Tone, all orchestras have made a great progress.

Grade 6 orchestra is working on 3 pieces Winter, by Vivaldi, Twilight Express, by D. B. Monday and Let it Snow by S. Kahn.

Grade 7 Orchestra is working on 4 pieces Corelli Suite, Brigit's Fire, Fantasia On an Original Theme and Postcards from Russia.

Grade 8 Orchestra is working on 5 pieces: Themes From Moldau, Cakewalk, Dona Nobis Pacem. The Toreador Song, Three Holiday Songs.

RLMS Chamber Orchestra Is working on two pieces: Symphony No 1 in D Major by Mahler and Hungarian Dance no. 5 by J. Brahms.

Physical Education

Now that we have wrapped up the fitness testing, we're ready to move into our curriculum units. Each unit will be approximately 3 weeks with the exception of Project Adventure, which is broken down into two, 3 week units. Our first rotation will include badminton. Students will work on the basics such as the serve, forehand, backhand, and overhead

clear, as well as understanding the rules and scoring. Some students will be in the fitness center where they will be introduced to a variety of equipment. They will learn how to use the equipment safely and with proper technique. They will also learn concepts such as intensity, heart rate, repetitions, and sets. Our third unit that will be introduced in November will be floor hockey. Students in this unit will learn the basics including stick handling, passing, and shooting, as well as the concepts of offense/defense, and spacing.

Trans Tech

Grade 8 Mr. Boocks-Students spent this week studying and building hot air balloons. The balloons will be finished this week and tested on Thursday and Friday.

Grade 8 Mr. Freidrichs – Students are testing (racing), evaluating, and re-designing their Mousetrap Racers Mon 11/2 and Wed 11/4. For the last five days students will be understanding, building and launching Hot Air Balloons.

Tech Ed

7th Grade Mr. Boocks - Students learned to use basic power tools to design, shape and finish their "Paddle Game". They will finish this lab this week and then move on to the Egg Crash Car lab, where they build a car and develop a 'crumple zone' to keep the eggs safe in a wreck.

7th Tech Ed Mr. Friedrichs– Students are completing the Painting/ Assembly portion of their Paddle Ball Games, and beginning researching Egg Crash Cars this week, building and crashing next week.

Mfg/Construction Grade 8 – Students are working toward completing Project 2. All are in various stages of completion. Projects right now include: Mini Ping Pong Table, Bookshelves, a Step Stool, Longboards, Skim board, Logos, Ping Pong Paddle, iPad Holder, etc.)

World Language

Spanish

6th grade - After having adopted a Spanish Cultural Identity, students in Grade 6 Spanish 10 learned how to greet and make introductions and ask for and exchange personal information. Students will continue to differentiate between informal and formal exchanges as they learn to express likes and dislikes. This will later connect to identifying leisure activities in the target language and culture.

7th Grade- Students can respond to classroom instructions, identify where the target language is spoken and locate the Spanish speaking countries on a map. greet others, make introductions, ask and exchange personal information (age, birthday, phone number, where they are and others are from) express likes and dislikes of themselves and others and identify leisure activities in the United States and in the target culture and

compare them. Students can use appropriate forms of address to peers and adults when in the introductions and differentiate between formal and informal exchanges. Students can describe themselves and others. *Students will soon be able to identify family members and relationships and describe typical dwellings in the U.S. and in the target culture.*

Eighth grade Spanish and French students have been learning and communicating about what makes city life unique. Students have navigated their way through a target culture city to determine what makes the city special and discussed issues that cities face. They have also investigated the importance of preserving cities and actions taken to achieve this.

Counseling News

Student Success Plans (SSP)/Developmental Guidance

Each year, all students participate in Developmental Guidance on varying topics. The School Counselors typically spend 2-3 days in a class and coordinate with the subject area teachers around their lessons. All of these topics tie into Student Success Plans; which are part of “Connecticut’s Plan for Secondary School Reform”.

Grade 6—currently in process. The grade 6th lessons focus on “getting to know you”, “diversity/tolerance”, “problem-solving” and learning Naviance (the electronic file that will house your child’s Student Success Plan). All grade 6th grade students will log in to the Naviance system and review their online goal planning framework facilitated by the School Counseling Department. They will also establish one personal goal.

Grade 7— In November, all 7th grade students will participate in lessons that focus on learning styles/interests. They will log in to their Naviance accounts and complete a Learning Styles/Interest Inventory facilitated by the School Counseling Department.

Grade 8- by the end of January 2016, all students will log in to the Naviance system and complete a Career Interest Inventory in preparation for high school course selection facilitated by the School Counseling Department.

The state of CT defines a Student Success Plan as:

The SSP is an individualized student-driven plan developed to address students’ needs and interests. The Plan should include strategies to help every student stay connected to school and achieve postsecondary educational and career goals. An effective SSP is built around three core components: “Academic Development, Career Development, and Social, Emotional, and Physical Development. This Plan will begin in Grade 6 and continue through high school to provide the student support and assistance in setting up goals for social, emotional, physical and academic growth, meeting rigorous high school expectations and exploring postsecondary education and career interests. The SSP and

support structures, such as student portfolios and academic/personal records, should be electronic and portable following the student from school to school and district to district. Any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's School Counselor.

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