

RLMS Curriculum Corner - January 2018

Counseling/Dean News- January 2018

Happy New Year!

With the new year here, it brings a time for our 8th grade families and staff to begin the high school transition process for the Class of 2022. The transition to high school can be a very overwhelming experience and at the same time students are filled with excitement for their next chapter of their journey. We have coordinated a transition plan with the high school and several activities will happen over the next few months.

Our 8th grade counselors will kick off the transition process by providing developmental guidance lessons to our students. The first lesson will entail our 8th grade students taking a “Career Key” interest inventory on Naviance. The students will then participate in a lesson to guide them and utilize these interest results to support them in choosing high school electives.

The second day of developmental guidance lessons is titled “High School Planning”. Students will receive their Fairfield Ludlowe High School Program of Studies and will have a scavenger hunt to complete to become more familiar on using the book. We will also provide some general information on the high school to get our students to start thinking more about their transition.

Please note you will begin to receive important information on the high school transition process. **We encourage all parents to make sure your Infinite Campus is up to date since all information on high school articulation will only come via this system.** It will be important to be on the lookout for important dates and deadlines for the transition process. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your 8th Grade Counselors. Kelly Cummings (kcummings@fairfieldschools.org) or Kelly Renna (krenna@fairfieldschools.org) and by telephone: 203-255-8343.

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UA- Art/Computer/FCS/Health/Music/PE- Jan Update

Art

Grade 6 ART

6th graders are currently working on their linoleum carving and printmaking project, as part of their unit in design. They are learning about the various carving tools and how to use them safely and correctly to achieve their desired results. They have chosen an image to carve, and are about to begin the final carving process. Next week they will begin printing.

Grade 7 ART

7th graders are finalizing their color theory fish paintings, and then moving onto their final drawing unit. They will be drawing a self portrait using their photograph as a guide. These “torn self portraits” will feature elements of the photo showing through, and elements of drawing to complete the photos. Focus will be on drawing accurate facial features and applying shading to show the illusion of 3D form.

Grade 8 2D ART

8th graders are working on their acrylic paintings. They are learning how to properly mix colors to match their references, and how to apply paint in a variety of techniques - gradients, blending, scumbling, dry brush. This unit will bring us to the end of the marking period.

Grade 8 3D ART

8th grade students in 3D art are in the process of glazing their hand built pottery forms. They are also working on a sculpture of an animal, inspired by the Oaxacan animals of Mexico. These sculptures will utilize clay, paper mache, and will be painted with elaborate designs like those from Oaxaca.

Mrs. Walker:

6th Grade Computers: Students are completing their All About Me presentations using PowerPoint, and will present to the class on the last day of the marking period. We also created a document using Excel called Birthdays. Finally, we are completing the exercises in Typing Pals, so we will know how to keyboard correctly for the rest of our lives. Some of us will also have time to learn how to type properly using the numeric keypad.

8th Grade Computers: Students are continuing to learn to code/program using CODE.ORG. Students who have completed Unit 2, have started to work in Unit 3. Students have completed four independent projects as well. In Unit 3, students will create the Olympic Rings, a flower design project, tree design project, a basic word project, and an aquarium design project.

6th Grade Computers Mr. Boocks:

Students are working with MS Excel, creating spreadsheets and graphs. They are continuing to hone typing skills and will be working on electronic presentations for the remainder of the semester.

6th Grade Computers Mr. McAleese:

Students are continuing with the computer program “Typing Pal” honing their keyboarding skills. They are focused, hardworking and very diligently working to build finger memory of the location of letters, numbers and symbols on the keyboard. While doing this the class also has worked on 21st Century collaborative skills creating posters and learning proper letter and email formatting. We are still hoping to hear from actor/professional wrestler John Cena and actor/comedian Will Ferrell regarding the letters students sent a few weeks ago. Students are next starting their collaborative calendar project. They will create a year long calendar with graphics, different fonts and color schemes and important dates and events highlighted working on their birth month first in collaboration with those who also share that month.

Family and Consumer Science

Food Lab - Lori Kempton

6th Grade: Students begin the year with an introduction to safety in the kitchens and the standard units of measurement as they practice on their first healthy recipe. Then students will begin learning the essential skill of knife cutting techniques. After they have mastered their rough chop, they will make Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas and enjoy them with their classmates.

7th Grade: Students are making pancakes with their teams. Then they are off to make an individual Breakfast Burritos with peppers and onions. They are so proud of themselves as they practice their knife and cooking skills all on their own. Students will present their Family Meal Projects to the class on as they practice the essential skill of public speaking. Making breakfast for their family is a major accomplishment. Go 7th grade!

8th Grade: Students are working hard on our new Multicultural Cuisine Unit. Students get to choose a country, a recipe, then plan, prep, cook and share as they present to the class. This is a very rigorous task for 8th grade but they are rising to the challenge for sure! They will need to cost out their ingredients to gain the financial part of planning a meal. Next students will indoor grill and the use the ever important 4 C’s of cooking to ensure how to properly cook meat to avoid Foodborne Illness. Students will make Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad on our 5:1 Griddlers.

Below is a quick picture of students making Asian food - Pork Dumplings with duck sauce for their multicultural project!



Sewing Lab - Michelle
6th Grade: A picture is worth 1000.

This is what homeroom flex time looks like almost daily in the sewing room. Students may catch up or work on other projects. 6th grade is learning the machine. We begin our project tomorrow!

Flashman



7th Grade: :
Rockin' those shorts!!



8th Grade: Fabric Art

Szilvi is making a cactus collage.
She has put in lots of homework hours
and it shows!

Abby's Flamingo





horse
Ethan
bunny
Aunt

Grade
the

we
about

Lyme
will



Morgan's Sea
is whimsical
is making this
for his fortunate

**HEALTH - Mr.
Dickenson**

6: In grade 6 for
remainder of the
marking term
will be learning
marijuana,
inhalants, and
disease. We
also have a few

classes with Officer Kovacs on bullying.

Grade 7: The remainder of the term in grade 7 includes coping with death and loss, birth, and family communication. We will also have a guest speaker on tobacco use.

Grade 8: In grade 8 we will be learning about coping with depression, suicide prevention, and body image - as well as vaping.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline Happy, HEALTHY New Year

Grade 6: We are finishing up our drug unit , specifically now with Inhalants then Natural Highs. Our next unit will be Puberty and communicative diseases. January 16th and 17th Officer Kovacs will be teaching about bullying.

Grade 7: We are presently finishing up our Diversity unit. We will then cover Family life; coping with death and loss. On Friday, January 12th, we will have a speaker from St Vincent's speak about the dangers of Tobacco and Vaping. We will also discuss goal setting.

Grade 8: We are finishing up our alcohol unit and then we will discuss depression and suicide prevention. We will finish up the marking period with heart disease and stress management techniques .

**** Attention Parents:** FYI Dr. Mogul (author of The Blessing of a Skinned Knee and The Blessing of a B-)will give a talk to the Greenwich Academy community at 7:30, Tuesday February 6, 2018 She will discuss how parents can raise self reliant, appreciative children in a nervous and entitled world. Her talk will be followed by a book signing.

Music

Band 6: Great job on the concert!!! We are looking forward to improving our skills, tone quality, intonation (playing in tune), enumeration (counting) and key signatures. Percussion players will be focusing on 3 types of rolls-especially double stroke and working on keyboard mallets. All students will be taking their scales test no later than March 2nd, they are responsible for Bb, Eb, and F concert scales from memory. In addition we will be working on our musical terminology, much of which is in Italian.

Band 7: Bravo to the 7th grade band on a great concert!! In January, the 7th Grade band will be working on a new sight reading and ear training unit. We will also begin working on some new scales for our mid year scales test (including a few minor scales), and will listen to and play through some new pieces in order to decide what we will work on for the spring concert and high note festival in May. An informational letter and permission forms for High Note festival will be sent home this month!

Band 8: The 8th grade band is starting a unit on sight reading. The students will also be choosing a piece of music to perform in the spring concert. It is called the "students choice".

Chorus

6- Happy New Year! The 6th grade is going to continue learning how to read notes on leger lines above and below the treble and bass clef staves. Classes will start learning some new songs, beginning with a beautiful Korean folk song arranged for two-part harmony and strings, "Ahrirang."

7- Happy New Year! The 7th grade is going to focus on rhythm reading in the month of January as we begin learning new material for the spring. Students will help select the pop song this month for the next concert and will be introduced to a three part arrangement of a Scottish folk song called "Thistle and Rose" as multicultural music is a focus of the 7th grade curriculum.

8-Happy New Year! The 8th grade is going to review note names on the staff and on leger lines in the treble and bass clef staves, as well as accidentals (flats, sharps and naturals). We will work on singing in three part harmony as we start new literature, including a choral piece titled "Wherever You Go."

Keyboard Music 6, 7, 8

Grade 6 - January song is, *Beyer Etude #014*. Weekly Rhythm Dictation continues, we introduce "Reverse Keyboard Note Identification", an important step in strengthening music reading skills. Students determine where a given note on the grand staff is located on their piano keyboard. We will begin working on one octave major scales; C, F, and G

Grade 7 - January song is *Happy Birthday*. Weekly Rhythm Dictation continues, we introduce “Reverse Keyboard Note Identification”, an important step in strengthening music reading skills. Students determine where a given note on the grand staff is located on their piano keyboard. We will begin working on 2 octave major scales; C, F, and G.

Grade 8 - January song is *Fur Elise*. Weekly Rhythm Dictation continues, we introduce “Reverse Keyboard Note Identification”, an important step in strengthening music reading skills. Students determine where a given note on the grand staff is located on their piano keyboard. We will begin learning minor scales; a, d, and e.

Orchestra - Mr. Kroqi

Grade 6 orchestra: Happy New Year. On the month of January we will focus on the music reading skills and scales. We will start working on “I Can Read Music” book. On the small lesson groups we will focus on the performance test (scales) that is coming up at the end of this month and beginning of next month. Violins and basses will be tested on G and A major scales, Cello and Viola on C and D major scales. We will also start new orchestra music as well.

Grade 7: Happy New Year. On the month of January we will focus on the music reading skills and scales. We will restart working on “I Can Read Music” book. On the small lesson groups we will focus on the performance test (scales) that is coming up at the end of this month and beginning of next month. Violin and Basse will be tested on C and D major scales, Cello and Viola on F and G major scales. We will also start new orchestra music as well.

Grade 8: Happy New Year. On the month of January we will focus on the music reading skills and scales. We will start working on the Essential Elements (green book). On the small lesson groups we will focus on the performance test (scales) that is coming up at the end of this month and beginning of next month. Violins and basses will be tested on C and D major scales, Cello and Viola on A and G major scales. We will also start new orchestra music as well.

Technology Education Department

Technology Education 7th (Mr. Boocks):

Students are continuing to work on problems solving skills with every lab. They will be creating notepads, flip books and stop-motion films for the remainder of the semester.

Communication (Mr. Boocks)

Students continue to work on individual labs. Most are creating movies, writing their own video games (using SCRATCH) or building and programming Lego robots. We will be moving into GameMaker software for the remainder of the semester.

Transportation (Mr. Boocks)

Students are continuing to utilize lab safety and tool skills to develop and build vehicles. They recently finished the “Mousetrap Vehicle” and were asked to use critical thinking to analyze the lab. They are currently creating aerostats and should be done by the end of the week. They will be moving into rocket design for the remainder of the semester.

Technology Education Department Mr. McAleese:

7th Technology Education (Mr.McAleese):

The semester is coming to a close and students are finishing strong! They have created wooden boxes to hold notepads of their own design. Students have now used the chop saw, band saw, miter saw, miter box and various sanding machines and tools. Students will be doing an animation project this week into next and then doing one or two small labs for the remainder of the semester either related to Construction or Communication depending on time constraints and effort.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr.McAleese):

The semester is coming to a close and students are finishing strong! They will be launching Hot Air Balloons that were fabricated a few weeks ago, but the weather has not been cooperating. Students have now used multiple machines and hand tools while creating exemplary models of transportation as we have examined land, air and low space transportation. We explored intermodal transportation as students designed and presented their own trip anywhere in the world utilizing at least four different modes of transportation. Their final project starting this week will be the design, drafting(drawing precisely to scale), and fabrication and testing of mousetrap powered vehicles.

8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

Students have now used the chop saw, band saw, miter saw, miter box, scroll saw, drill press and various sanding machines and tools to complete a myriad of Independent projects ranging from gumball machines, to skateboards, letter plaques for the Library, custom shelving and others. Some students have gone further in their Independent projects and used the biscuit cutter, the jigsaw, and various specialty bits and tools. The final steps are staining, assembly and packaging.

Students who finish early with their independent projects will be taking on smaller projects to round out the class such as design and fabrication of a pair of dice, or a nameplate or picture frame. All students will be drafting up drawings of their Independent Projects along with material lists and step by step instructions as an analysis of how well their design worked (part of the last stages of the Universal System Model...or design Loop).

Physical Education:

Our Physical Education classes have started new rotations in January. Our new curricular activities will include soccer, games, project adventure and a final 6th grade floor hockey unit. Students that will be rotating into Project adventure for a second time will begin to climb the rock wall and other elements. We will be changing to volleyball and flag football to finish out the month of January.

Crew 6 LMS-January Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - Students are now immersed in writing their first literary essay using *Tuck Everlasting* and focusing on character change. Using “Teacher Tamer” by Avi as a mentor text, students are learning the prerequisite skills necessary for crafting a well-written literary essay. Some of the skills that will be modeled in class include writing a clear controlling idea, integrating direct quotations, and culminating with a strong conclusion.

Math Grade 6 - Math 6 is continuing to work on different aspects of geometry. We will examine what we have already learned and apply those concepts to 3 dimensional figures. We will be working on new geometric concepts such as volume and surface area. Once we complete our unit on geometry we will be moving on to ratios and rates.

TPA - TPA classes are working on our unit on proportions and will take a more in depth look into percent. We will be looking into a variety of ways to solve a percent problem then explore percent increase and decrease. We will be working on items such as discounts, markups and simple interest. After completing the unit on percent we will move onto applications of geometry.

Social Studies Grade 6 -

In 6th grade Social Studies, students are wrapping up Unit 2 on Southwest Asia and North Africa by discussing some modern day issues in this region. We will be starting our next unit of study, Europe. By the end of January, students will begin the Ancient Roman and Greek Research Project. This is a very important research project that will include an essay, visual project, and have students present the topic of choice to their class and at the crew fair.

Science Grade 6- 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.

7LM - January

Language Arts: In January 7th grade LA will be investigating ways people express their opinions through writing and the visual arts. Throughout the month we will be noticing how our mentor authors use powerful language, writing techniques, and structure to enhance the power of their arguments. Students will be asked to practice expressing themselves powerfully along the way keeping in mind their audience and focusing on how they can purposefully utilize writing strategies to strengthen their argument.

Math:

Pre Algebra 7 - In January 7th grade Pre-Algebra will be learning about 2-Dimensional Geometry. Students will explore adjacent, vertical, supplementary and complementary angles. Throughout the month we will study properties of triangles, and quadrilaterals.

Math 7 - In January 7th grade Math 7 will be finishing up inequalities. The students will then explore ratios, rates and proportions. Students will write, graph and solve proportions. We will finish up the month with slope and direct variation.

Science: In January, 7th grade science will be researching genetic disorders in order to create a case study on a person living with their assigned disorder. Next, students will investigate how molecules move in and out of the cell as well as which molecules cells need to live. Finally, students will end the month exploring both good and bad bacteria and viruses.

Social Studies: World Regional Geography switches gears as we head into the new year. We now begin to study the human aspects of geography, whereas the first section of the year we were studying the physical aspects. First off, we will be looking at culture & demography, then population statistics, and standards of living. Students will examine how human population patterns impact the health of the Earth.

8LMS January Update

Language Arts: Students are concluding their work in looking at various perspectives in literature; they have been rewriting a portion of a picture book of their choice in order to combine their use of non-fiction research and their own creative writing in a way that conveys a perspective of a character whose story is untold. During January we will move into our personal

narrative unit. Students will read short shared personal narratives, book length memoirs and write their own personal narrative.

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra students are continuing their work with linear relationships, learning different forms of a linear equation and shortcuts to creating graphs that don't require making a table. We will also continue to analyze graphs, but will begin to look at piece-wise graphs that tell a story about a real-world situation to try and make sense of it.

Math Algebra: In Algebra class, students are beginning a study of exponent properties and will apply these concepts as they learn about expressing numbers and operating with numbers in scientific notation. We will also be spending time in the middle of this unit to prepare for and take the midterm exam.

Math Geometry: The students in Geometry are finishing their work on triangle properties and will learn how to use an indirect proof (proof by contradiction) to establish a theorem. Then students will study similarity among triangles, discovering the least amount of information that needs to be known in order to prove triangles are similar. The students will also take some time in the middle of this unit to prepare for and take the midterm exam.

Science: The students in Science are finishing their work on Newton's laws of motion and are beginning to study work and machines.

Social Studies: Students are currently researching the Reconstruction period in post-Civil War America, and will ultimately answer the essential question, "How successful was Reconstruction?" By reviewing and analyzing various primary source documents, students will learn about the successes and failures that occurred as the nation tried to rebuild and heal the wounds from the Civil War. In Unit 4: The Development of Industrial America (1870-1900), students will begin a research project that will culminate with their creation of a museum exhibit highlighting the problems, promise, and progress of the post-Civil War era.

World Language - January 2018 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

The 6th graders are finishing up Unit 1- *Who Am I?* They can now share information about themselves and their immediate family including some personal detail such as their name, age, and birthday. As we end the unit, students can describe both their personality traits and physical

characteristics as well as their likes and dislikes. They are aware of popular activities and typical dwellings in the target culture.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

The 10B learners are exploring art and music and how creativity is expressed in their target culture. Students will be researching artists and creating a Google slide presentation for their peers to view and gain new knowledge of various ways these famous people use their imagination.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

Eighth grade Spanish and French students are investigating how our habits of consumption impact the environment. They will create a public service announcement on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle in order to be responsible consumers.