

RLMS Curriculum Corner - March 2018

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner- March 2018

Happy March from the Counseling/Dean Department!

MINDFULNESS

Our “Mindful Monday” program is off to a great start! On our first “Mindful Monday,” the whole school participated in a 3 minute mindful breathing meditation at the end of homeroom. We will continue to practice mindfulness every Monday morning. We encourage you to speak with your child about mindfulness and even try it at home. Guided meditations can be found on youtube as well as great phone apps (“Stop, Breathe, Think” and “Headspace” are a few of our favorites). Your child also watched a great video explaining the benefits of mindfulness during homeroom. Check out the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKnRKy5Wu7c>

TALKING TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT SCHOOL SAFETY

In light of the most recent school tragedy in Florida, parents and children are understandably anxious and fearful about their safety in school. Our counselors are here to support you and your children. Please see some great resources below on how to talk to your child about these tragedies:

<http://www.apa.org/topics/violence/school-shooting.aspx>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/better/health/how-mental-health-experts-talk-their-kids-about-school-shooting-s-ncna845586>

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Crew 6 LMS-March Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - Sixth graders are continuing their work in the narrative writing unit. After utilizing a variety of story generating techniques, students have created several flash drafts with realistic characters and plots. Using a selected draft, students will now enhance their realistic fiction stories through a variety of targeted mini lessons which will be modeled in class. To support the idea that stories take many forms and are found everywhere, students will also be

asked to choose another medium (poem, commercial, painting, etc...) to convey the same storyline as their written piece.

Math Grade 6 -

Math 6 will be starting a unit on statistical measures. Students will look at ways to collect, record and interpret data. Included in this will be an understanding of mean and measures of center such as median and mode. To help learn to interpret data, we will explore both measures of variation and mean absolute deviation.

TPA classes are beginning a unit on geometry. Students will look at two dimensional polygons and learn how to find the area of parallelograms, triangles and trapezoids. We will also work with polygons in the coordinate plane. Students will then explore three dimensional figures by calculating surface areas of both prisms and pyramids. Finally, students will examine volume of rectangular prisms.

Social Studies Grade 6 -The 6th grade Social Studies students presented their Ancient Greece/Rome projects in the classroom and will be presenting at the crew fairs in early March. After the fairs, students will continue to learn about the culture, history, and geography of Europe. We will begin to travel from ancient Europe to the Middle Ages to present day Europe.

Science Grade 6- The grade 6 science students have moved out of the atmosphere to Inside the Restless Earth this month and we have many hands on interactive activities planned. In this unit they will be learning about the structure of the Earth and the forces that continually reshape the crust of our planet. The unit was kicked off with a nebula lab the students performed using everyday ingredients like coffee, salt, sand and cornmeal to mimic the layers of the Earth. The students will create a model of Pangaea, use blocks to model the forces that move tectonic plates, and research a mountain to identify how it was formed.

7LM - March 2018

Language Arts: Students will explore the characters in *The Outsiders* this month. The kids generally love this whole class novel and will dive into the setting considering how the characters' environment affects them and their relationships. We also are taking a multidisciplinary trip to Africa looking to answer the essential question of what is the relationship between health, happiness, and culture.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - Students will be working to find the area, circumference and perimeter of circles and irregular shapes. They will also be working on surface area of three dimensional shapes with us then building and understanding of volume in three dimensional shapes.

Math 7 - Students will be working with fractions, decimals and percents. They will convert from one to the other to compare and order values. Students will also solve problems to find an unknown part of a proportion and will apply proportional reasoning to real-world contexts.

Science: In addition to the interdisciplinary project, science students will be science sleuths by determining which disease is the worst. Students will come up with criteria that will help them decide which disease in the world is the worst. They will then create a poster detailing why the disease they picked is the worst and then try to convince their classmates why they are correct. Next stop Kingdom Plantae! Students will do a lab where they examine common plant structures by studying carrots and celery. The unit will culminate with students designing T-shirts based on their research of plants and their uses.

Social Studies: In Geography, Language Arts & Science students have been working on an interdisciplinary project examining Health & Happiness in Africa. Through resources like the Population Reference Bureau website and Gapminder, students are looking into what it means to live in a developed VS. developing country. Students are looking at questions like; Is there a relationship between health & happiness? Are more developed countries happier? Are they healthier? As a part of this project, students worked in small groups and created a popup museum in our media center. In late March, our study of Africa will continue and will be highlighted by a PTSA sponsored visit by Senegalese artist Massamba Diop, fresh off his success on the Black Panther Soundtrack.

8LMS March Update

Language Arts: Students are continuing their study of personal narratives and memoirs by identifying and writing about the themes they're finding in their reading, analyzing the writers' use of craft techniques, and generating ideas about memories from their own lives as they build toward writing a narrative of their own.

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra students are finishing a unit on Real Numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem. Next, we will begin to study Exponents and their properties, applying these concepts to problems using Scientific Notation.

Math Algebra: In Algebra, students are learning how to work with polynomials, including classifying, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and factoring them. We will identify multiple methods for factoring and become familiar with special cases.

Math Geometry: The Geometry class is completing an introductory Trigonometry unit, including a study of right triangles, the basic trig functions, the Law of Sines, and the Law of Cosines. We will then begin a unit on 2-Dimensional Measurement of polygons and circles.

Science: Students in eighth grade science classes are finishing up energy and physics topics and will soon be starting chemistry.

Social Studies: In U.S. History students will be exploring the decade of extremes, the 1920s. Students will identify the factors that led to economic depression in the 1930s and analyze the role and responsibility of government to its people.

World Language - March 2018 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

At this point in the year, 6th-graders have shifted focus from themselves to family and community. As we consider the overarching question, *How do family and community influence me?*, we learn how to describe others and make comparisons. Students will contemplate what community means to them and continue to explore the target culture in contrast to their own.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

We are just beginning Contemporary Life/Travel Unit 5. 10B learners will answer the question-What makes a travel destination special? Our students will explore vacation destinations, particular landmarks to visit, regional foods, and the activities in which tourists participate. They will also explore the weather and the type of clothing required.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

In March, 8th grade students will continue to discover what it means to maintain a balanced lifestyle. Students will compare their daily routines to routines of students in the target cultures. Students will identify how to live a balanced lifestyle by eating healthy meals and managing their time.

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

Art

Grade 6 ART

6th graders have just finished up their unit on value and shading, and have produced realistic animal drawings. They are moving on to a design unit in linoleum block carving and printmaking. Students will understand the functions and capabilities of the carving tools, and then proceed to carve a unique design of their own and make a series of prints.

Grade 7 ART

7th grade art students have completed their 3D unit in clay, and have made mugs that feature relief sculpture. We are moving on to our color theory unit, where we will spend the next 3-4 weeks understanding color, learning how to mix colors, and applying color to a radial symmetry “kaleidoscope” painting. Upon completion of the painting, students will return to their clay mugs to apply glazes to them.

Grade 8 2D ART

2D art students are in the middle of their pen and ink drawing unit. They have practiced a variety of pen techniques, and are now working on their final drawings. These drawings require a great deal of time, due to the tedious nature of the work. Students will be working on these drawings at home in addition to in class. We will be moving on to our painting unit beginning March 5th.

Grade 8 3D ART

Students in 3D art are beginning to finalize their coil pottery. They have spent the past few weeks building the form and smoothing it, and will now begin to think about adding embellishments. Pottery forms should be completed over the next couple of weeks, and then students will enter a unit in clay sculpture - Oaxacan Animals.



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, are now working on Unit 3. Each student will also complete eight independent projects. For example, students have written code to program the Olympic rings, as well as flower and tree designs.

6th Grade Computers Mr. Boocks:

Students are continuing to work on typing skills. They are also learning MS XL and electronic presentations. We will spend the next three weeks working on these three skills, as well as developing new skills in presenting in front of a crowd.

6th Technology Education Computers(Mr.McAleese):

Students are progressing through the Typing Pal software and have completed 4 tests to date. Additionally students have created surveys and submitted them to classmates using Google “Forms” and their Gmail accounts which were set up with contacts and groups. They will continue with Typing Pal progressing through all 8 Steps (levels). While this is happening we will do other projects using both Microsoft products and Google products. Last week students completed letter writing after having selected someone famous/important to write to. Students learn how to structure a proper letter, with return address, greeting, body of the letter and signature. We hope to receive a reply that can be displayed on our wall of fame, currently exhibiting one letter from the White House as a reply to last year’s student writing. Students have also begun work on their biggest collaborative project, the creation as a group, of a calendar with important dates, various graphics and fonts, etc. This is all done on Google Drive so ask your students to show you the work at home.

Family and Consumer Science

Food Lab - Lori Kempton

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

7th Grade: Students will begin to gain independence in the kitchen as they plan for their Family Meal Projects. They are required to plan, shop, cook and CLEAN for their family breakfast! Students are so proud to complete this all by themselves! In class students will practice making pancakes, cutting peppers for their individual omelets, breakfast turkey sausages, scrambled eggs and smoothies with their classmates. Below is a sample of last months project.



8th Grade: Students will make a one pot Chili with corn muffins as a class while honing in on knife skills. Then we are off to the computer lab to discover the origins of our foods through our Smart Cart Webquest. Once back to the kitchen students are introduced to grilling on the 5:1 Cuisinart Grills. Students prepare an individual plated Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. This lab culminates all the prior skills they have acquired. They will learn how to butterfly chicken, mince garlic, clean and prepare lettuce and enjoy a healthy dish made from scratch. Students have begun planning for their multi-cultural cuisine unit where they get to choose a country to research, present their findings to the class and cook/sample a recipe of their choice.

Below are some 8th Graders that proved very successful in the pastry unit below!



Sewing Lab - 6th Grade: The students are learning skills they will continue to use in the sewing lab such as 5/8th's seam allowance, making a casing, right sides together. The most important one is reading and following directions!



These 7th grade students are showing off their boxers and extra projects.



8th Grade Fabric Art: A quilt like Szilvi's cactus requires many extra hours of work. Her diligence really paid off.



HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Grade 6: In grade 6 this month we will be learning about alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, puberty and the reproductive systems.

Grade 7: In grade 7 this month we will be learning about bullying, sexual harassment, coping with death/loss, family communication, vaping, and birth.

Grade 8: In grade 8 this month we will be learning about abstinence, a review of HIV, marijuana, vaping, coping with depression/anxiety, suicide prevention, and body image.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline

Grade 6: We are presently in the Puberty unit. This will conclude with a test that will be announced on messenger. We will end the unit with body image. We will then cover communicable diseases which will include HIV-AIDS and Lyme. The following unit will be the drug unit; Tobacco-vaping, Alcohol, Marijuana and Inhalants.

Grade 7: We are finishing up online safety; sexting. The next unit will be a comprehensive unit on Diversity/Tolerance.

Grade 8: We are in the Relationship unit. We are covering sexual harassment and assault. Upcoming topics are Abstinence, Date Rape Drugs, Love vs. Infatuation, HIV- AIDS. The next unit will be on Alcohol.

Music

Band 6: Students have completed their scales tests and are encouraged to keep perfecting them, playing them faster, with different articulations (slurring etc.) and higher or lower in different octaves. New scales will be introduced shortly and major scale sheets distributed. The band has added 2 new pieces; “Smithsonian Suite” and “Silvergate Overture”. In addition we are preparing for our music theory test to be given on Thursday March 22nd. Concert reminder: Wednesday May 9th 7:00 p.m.

Band 7: Students are working on band pieces including; “The Great Locomotive Chase”, “Viva LA Vida” and “Storm Surge”. In addition they are working on completion of their major scales C, Ab and Bb chromatic, for testing during the week of March 5th. Spring concert is Tuesday May 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Band 8: Students have completed learning the 7 scales during band rehearsals and lessons. We are now able to complete our daily warm up that will prepare the students for the high school curriculum.

Students who will be attending the Western Region Band Festival in Norwalk in March 16-17 have been preparing their music.

The Band is preparing the following pieces for the May concert: Night in Bald Mountain, The Last Ride of the Pony Express and Encanto. The student choice music: Rocky and Careless Whisper has been ordered.

Chorus

6- In 6th grade chorus, students will incorporate mindful breathing and posture techniques into their daily stretches and vocal warm-ups to support our school's new "Mindful Monday" initiative. Conversely, practicing mindful breathing and posture, even outside of a musical context, will help young singers realize that their bodies and minds, not just their voices, are their instrument. In other news, students are well under way in spring concert preparations! In March, some of our orchestra students will be adding a string accompaniment to "Ahrirang," we will introduce a guitar part in "Riptide" and soloists and duet partners will be rehearsing with the chorus on "A Million Dreams" and "Seize the Day."

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8-In 8th grade chorus, students will incorporate mindful breathing and posture techniques into their daily stretches and vocal warm-ups to support our school's new "Mindful Monday" initiative. Conversely, practicing mindful breathing and posture, even outside of a musical context, will help young singers realize that their bodies and minds, not just their voices, are their instrument. In other news, students are well under way in spring concert preparations! In March, students will learn about the plot, characters and themes to the Broadway musical, "The Lion King" as we continue to learn the medley. Treble singers will add upper harmony parts to our own arrangement of Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" and our baritones will add lower harmonies in "A Million Dreams." In music theory, students will continue to work on their skills in writing and identifying accidentals (sharps, flats and naturals) in both treble and bass clefs.

Keyboard Music 6, 7, 8 - Mr. Albright

Grade 6 - Our scale of the month for March is G Major, one octave, with a steady beat. We continue to strengthen and interact with our new knowledge/skills acquired in Rhythm Dictation using weekly performance assessments. Reverse Keyboard Note Identification challenge is to accurately finish 20 examples/questions in one minute. We begin work on Essentials of Music Theory, a series of weekly written review questions to help interact with the new knowledge acquired in Piano Suite and from Scale studies.

Grade 7 - Our scale of the month for March is G Major, two octaves, with a steady beat. We continue to strengthen and interact with our new knowledge/skills acquired in Rhythm Dictation using weekly performance assessments. Reverse Keyboard Note Identification challenge is to accurately finish 20 examples/questions in one minute. We begin work on Essentials of Music Theory, a series of weekly written review questions to help interact with the new knowledge acquired in Piano Suite and from Scale studies.

Grade 8 - Our scale of the month for March is e minor, two octaves, with a steady beat. We continue to strengthen and interact with our new knowledge/skills acquired in Rhythm Dictation using weekly performance assessments. Reverse Keyboard Note Identification challenge is to accurately finish 20 examples/questions in one minute. We begin work on Essentials of Music Theory, a series of weekly written review questions to help interact with the new knowledge acquired in Piano Suite and from Scale studies.

Orchestra - Mr. Kroqi

Grade 6 orchestra: We are will finish the scales test and do the final theory test in March. We will continue to work on “I Can Read Music” and “Four Seasons”, “Fiddles on Fire” and “Tango Trocadero”. Violins and Violas will focus on Low Second Finger. Special exercises will be practiced in class. Small groups will continue to focus on reading and solos from Suzuki book.

RLMS Chamber Orchestra will perform on the Townwide String Festival. Concert is on March 15th, at 7:00pm. Please note that there are two very important rehearsals that students must attend: Tuesday 3/13 after school (3:30pm-5:15pm); Wednesday rehearsal is during the school (12:30pm-2:00pm). An info letter with all the details and a permission form has been given to the students in February.

Grade 7: We are will finish the scales test and do the final theory test in March. We will continue to work on “Essential Elements”, “Brandenburg Concerto No. V”, “Ludwig’s Tango” and “Violas Front And Center”. Violins and Violas will focus on Low Second and First Finger. Cellos will focus on Finger Extension. Special exercises will be practiced in class. Small groups will continue to focus on reading and solos from Suzuki books.

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Grade 8: During the month of March, students will continue to work on “Frozen”, “Viva Violas”, “Russian Sailors Dance” and “Fantasia On An Original Theme”. Very soon we will start working on “Spring” by Vivaldi. Small lessons groups will continue to work on solos from Suzuki books.

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Technology Education Department

Technology Education 7th (Mr. Boocks)

Students are beginning their woodshop portion of the class with Mr. McAleese. They will spend the next two weeks designing (using CAD) a box to hold a notepad (that they will create later in the semester). They are using the wood lab to complete this task.

Communication (Mr. Boocks)

Students are creating Photoshop Blends and animated movies. Blends are when the student takes two faces and blends them together to create one. Please ask your learner to see their movie and to see their blends!

Transportation (Mr. Boocks)

Students just finished building Aerostats. We will fly them on the next few dry days and collect data on the flights. Students are moving into the “Mousetrap Racer”, where they will design and build a mousetrap powered vehicle.

Technology Education Department Mr. McAleese:

7th Technology Education (Mr.McAleese):

Students have learned Sketchup CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) software to draw a memo holder in 3D. Test your students knowledge by asking about the “follow me” tool! Following this, students will actually fabricate the box in the Materials Processing Lab using the above drawing. In the Lab, students have gone through a Safety Lesson on proper etiquette and use of tools and machines, especially the inherent risks in a shop environment, the least of which is ruining clothes and shoes with spilled stains, polyurethane and glue (fair warning). Students measured, laid out and cut 6 separate uniquely shaped pieces of wood which were then assembled into a box. In the graphics portion to follow, students will design and fabricate their

own pads to go IN the box and the whole thing will be packaged in plastic bags thus finishing the design-manufacturing-packaging cycle.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr.McAleese):

Students completed their Hot Air Balloons which all met with great success on their initial flights. Next comes orthographic drawings as students design and fabricate Mousetrap powered vehicles. These will go through various tests and will be revised accordingly in an attempt to achieve the furthest distance. Along the way students learn about various forces, potential and kinetic energy, friction, drag, etc. Next we move onto vertical transport in the form of rockets.

8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

In the Manufacturing Lab, students have gone through a Safety Lesson on proper etiquette and use of tools and machines, especially the inherent risks in a shop environment, the least of which is ruining clothes and shoes with spilled stains, polyurethane and glue (fair warning). Students measured, laid out and cut roughly foot long boards in order to begin fabrication of their letter plaque. Students have all completed designing the letter plaque on Publisher software and learned about relief cuts, layout, wood grain, hand saws, clamps as well as various shop machinery they will use to actually cut the plaque design. Most students have finished fabrication, sanding, staining and polyurethaning of the plaque and are now in the process of researching something to fabricate for their final independent work. Students must present a completed detailed drawing with dimensions as well as a materials list. If approved, they may start work on the project to be completed by April 5th, near the end of the marking period.

Physical Education (Collins, Delahunt, Glogan, Syrop):

We will be starting our second rotation in the following units: Badminton, Fitness Center, Project Adventure Climbing and Archery.