

RLMS Curriculum Corner - April 2018

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner- April 2018

With spring in the air and the fourth marking period beginning, all crews have had their Spring Crew Meeting with the Dean. The purpose of this annual meeting is to discuss academic and behavioral expectations as the school year starts to draw to a close. Some topics covered include: school rule reminders, tardiness, cafeteria behavior, dress code, responsible use of technology, and the importance to treating one another, all adults, and the school with respect.

At the conclusion of each meeting Mr. DeAngelo explained the “3 Strike Policy” which went into effect immediately. The importance of good decision-making with regards to behavior was highlighted, so that all students have the opportunity to enjoy the end-of-school activities planned for their respective grades. The students are made aware that their choices dictate whether or not they will be able to attend activities such as crew celebrations or special functions, class field trips, the 8th Grade Dance, crew yearbook signings, etc.

RLMS has established high behavioral expectations for all students because we want our school community to be a truly positive and safe environment for everyone. All students are encouraged to be the best citizens and learners they can be!

Looking ahead, here are some important upcoming events to help foster positive school climate, promote school-connectedness and support safe, happy students:

April 20 - RLMS “Choose Kind” Movie Night: Wonder

April 25 - Holocaust Survivor Presentation (Grade 8)

May 14 - Brazilian Cultural Arts (Grade 7)

May 24 - Chariots of the Sun (Grade 6)

June 6 - Trip to Holiday Hill (Grade 8)

June (TBD) - Risky Business Assembly (Grade 8)

Wishing everyone a safe and sunny spring... Thank you for your time and attention!!!

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Art Department

ART 6th:

6th Grade art students will begin the marking period with an introduction to value. They will learn how to shade in order to create the illusion of three-dimensional form on a two-dimensional surface. After practicing with shading a variety of forms, they will then select an animal to draw realistically. Utilizing a reference photo and a grid, they will draw and shade their animals.

ART 7th:

Students in 7th grade begin the marking period with a unit in 3D form. They will be working with clay to learn and understand a variety of building, sculpting, and modeling methods. They will study and understand the concept of relief as they create clay mugs with expressive relief sculpture - faces, animals etc. that “pop up” off the mug. Later in the marking period they will be introduced to color theory and portraiture.

2D ART 8th:

Two-dimensional art for 8th graders incorporates a combination of drawing and painting. Students will apply their prior drawing knowledge to now work with ink, and draw a realistic representation with the pen and ink medium. They will learn different techniques for working with ink, and be able to apply them to show form and value. This unit will encompass the first half of the marking period before leading into painting.

3D ART 8th:

8th graders in 3D art will work exclusively with clay during this class. They will build upon their prior clay knowledge for constructing, but will be introduced to the coil building method. Joining coils, manipulating form, smoothing, and embellishing will be covered as students design and build their unique clay vessels. They will also apply glaze to their forms. The second unit involves clay animal sculpture.

Computers & Typing

COMPUTERS: Mrs. Walker

6th Grade Computers: Students are using MS PowerPoint to create a presentation called All About Me. It is a five-slide presentation about each of us. 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 that important; accuracy and proper typing technique are very important.

8th Grade Computers: Students are learning to code/program. We are progressing through the Lessons in Unit 2, using an online program called CODE.ORG. Students work independently to complete the lessons. It sure feels like an accomplishment when we figure out how to get the code to work properly for us!

COMPUTERS: Mr. Boocks

Computers 6th:

Students start Typing in 6th grade with software called “Typing Pal” which has them learn the basics of proper form and ergonomics while building finger memory. As students progress through the 8 steps they will complete a test at the end of each section which scores their accuracy over a given time period. Additionally students will learn Google and Microsoft products beginning with the creation of a survey to be submitted to classmates using Google “Forms” and their Gmail accounts which were set up with contacts and groups.

COMPUTERS: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

Computers 6th:

Students start Typing in 6th grade with software called “Typing Pal” which has them learn the basics of proper form and ergonomics while building finger memory. As students progress through the 8 steps they will complete a test at the end of each section which scores their accuracy over a given time period. Additionally students will learn Google and Microsoft products beginning with the creation of a survey to be submitted to classmates using Google “Forms” and their Gmail accounts which were set up with contacts and groups.

Family and Consumer Science

FOOD LAB: Mrs. Kempton

FCS 6th: Students start the marking period with a visit from our Assistant Fire Chief to discuss Home & Life Safety. They will bring their safety packets home and need to check that their smoke alarms are working and have carbon monoxide alerts as well. Once students successfully complete the safety unit they begin working on their first recipe which is a healthy cookie. Students practice hands-on as they measure each recipe and enjoy with their teams. Then students begin learning the essential skill of knife cutting techniques as they prep for their individual Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas and enjoy them with their classmates.

FCS 7th: Students begin planning their Family Meal Projects. They are required to plan, shop, cook and CLEAN for their family breakfast. They learn the importance of a healthy breakfast and coming to school reading to learn. They are so proud to complete this all by themselves! In April we cook pancakes, omelets, breakfast turkey sausages, scrambled eggs and smoothies. What fun!

FCS 8th: Students start the marking period with some basic skills, boil, simmer and how to make a roux (thickening) for a creamy cheese sauce for healthy mac & cheese. They understand the difference between processed and unprocessed foods. Then we start on cake decorating techniques while learning knife skills as they peel and shred carrots in the food processor to make a healthy carrot cake. Parents get to sample their decorated cake creations when students bring home a cake to share.

SEWING LAB: Mrs. Flashman

Sewing 6th: These 6th graders had time to make a quilted pouch. Many students come during flextime to work on additional projects.



The last day of the marking period is when 6th grade students will put the iron-on transfer they created on the computer onto their shoulder sak bags.



Sewing 7th:
Coco loves her shorts!



Fabric Art: 8th:
Grace did a great job on her pillow.



Charlie the weatherman



One bear interpreted two different ways in fabric collage. Well done!

Health Department

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Health 6th: In grade 6 we will begin with tobacco use prevention and vaping. After this we will learn about HIV, bullying and sexual harassment.

Health 7th: Grade 7 will begin with eating disorders, diversity/tolerance, and then go into alcohol and marijuana.

Health 8th: Grade 8 will begin with binge drinking and OTC drug abuse/opioids. From there we will go into sexual assault awareness and relationships.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline

Health 6th: We begin with the understanding of health. Students will learn that health is a combination of their physical, mental/emotional and social well being.

The first unit is on Friendships : Good, bad, how to meet friends, peer pressure, bullying, and cyberbullying. The drug unit will follow which will consist of Tobacco/ecigs, Alcohol, Marijuana and Inhalants.

Health 7th: We begin with discussing the importance of self talk and how it affects our self esteem. We will then discuss Body Image and Eating Disorders. Students will create a Happiness Inventory that will be presented to the class.

Health 8th: We will begin the marking period with health terms and then begin talking about Relationships; Healthy , Unhealthy , and Abusive. Students will develop their answers to a set of questions and then present their Who I am Project to the class.

Music Department

Music-BAND: Ms. Torrence, Mr. Fumasoli

Band 6th: We are preparing for our spring concert in earnest. Scales and theory tests are completed and we are working on 2 new pieces, “Crazy Train” and “Smithsonian Suite”. The band continues to be playing at a high level and all students should continue playing in grade 7. Concert is Wednesday May 9th at 7:00 pm.

Band 7th: We just started three new pieces - one in cut time, one with latin rhythms, one that features our percussion mallet players. We are working on counting and playing in cut time, syncopation, playing as a band behind the soloists, and will begin working on our music for the Memorial day parade. We are also wrapping up our scales tests due to delays with snow days and special events. All students should expect to perform excerpts from our band repertoire each week in preparation for our upcoming concert. Happy Practicing!

Band 8th: The 8th grade band is preparing for the concert. We have invited back Fairfield music teacher and professional dancer, Mendy Midzenski, to dance for the Despacito finale of the concert. Her dance partner will be 8th grade student Graham Nielson. We are also preparing the Moussorsky Night on Bald Mountain, Encanto and The Last Ride of the Pony Express.

Music-CHORUS: Mrs. LaFond

Chorus 6th: In 6th grade chorus students are preparing for the spring concert. We are focusing on memorizing lyrics and adding expression to our singing. Singers are learning concert etiquette as performers and audience members. Students in full-time chorus will take a music theory post-test this month on Wednesday April 25. A study guide will be provided.

Chorus 7th: In 7th grade chorus students are preparing for the spring concert. We are focusing on memorizing lyrics and adding expression, phrasing, dynamics and diction to our performance. Singers are reviewing concert etiquette skills and practicing diaphragmatic breathing in our warm-up exercises.

Chorus 8th: In 8th grade chorus students are preparing for the spring concert. We are focusing on memorizing lyrics and adding expression, phrasing, dynamics and diction to our performance. Singers are reviewing concert etiquette skills and practicing diaphragmatic breathing in our warm-up exercises. Students received a Lion King study guide and we are discussing the plot, characters and themes in the show. We are looking forward to our Broadway trip on April 18! Final details about the trip will be forthcoming.

Music-KEYBOARD: Mr. Albright

Keyboard 6th - Students will be continuing to work on the chord progression vi - IV - I - V adding variations in starting order, and a melody. They get to choose their own level 1 Piano Suite song to learn for the month of May.

Keyboard 7th - Students will be continuing to work on the chord progression vi - IV - I - V adding variations in starting order, and a melody. They get to choose their own level 2 Piano Suite song to learn for the month of May.

Keyboard 8th - Students will be continuing to work on the chord progression vi - IV - I - V adding variations in starting order, and a melody. They get to choose their own level 2 or 3 Piano Suite song to learn for the month of May.

Music-ORCHESTRA: Mr. Kroqi

Orchestra 6th:

Main focus now is preparing for Spring Concert. Performance is on May 9th, at 7pm. We will intensify the work on the pieces that we will perform: “Four Seasons”, “Fiddles on Fire” and “Tango Trocadero”. Small group lessons will also focus on particular parts of these pieces.

Orchestra 7th:

Main focus now is preparing for Spring Concert. Performance is on May 8th, at 7pm. We will intensify the work on the pieces that we will perform: “Sinfonia In D”, “Brandenburg Concerto

No. V”, “Ludwig’s Tango” and “Violas Front and Center”. Small group lessons will also focus on particular parts of these pieces.

Orchestra 8th: Main focus now is preparing for Spring Concert. Performance is on May 7th, at 7pm. We will intensify the work on the pieces that we will perform: “Spring”, “Fantasia on an Original Theme”, “Russian Sailors Dance”, “Frozen” and “Viva Violas”. Small group lessons will also focus on particular parts of these pieces.

Technology Education Department

TECH ED: Mr. Boocks

Technology Education 7th:

Students start with a 3D model of the Memo-Holder box which will be the first project fabricated in the Materials Processing Lab. Students use Sketchup CAD software to accomplish this and discover the interesting and difficult things about working in a 3D environment. We will then transition into safety lessons in the Material Processing Lab and use the Chop Saw to rough cut material to start fabricating the box.

Communication 8th:

Students will begin the semester by creating a stop motion film. We will cover the history of film making, the stop motion process and then will create our own dynamic background film.

Transportation 8th:

Students have begun to explore the world of transportation by discussing different aspects of flight, the forces involved and the ones to overcome in both rocketry and Lighter Than Air equipment(Hot Air Balloons). Students will start by building the balloons and testing them while we still have some cold weather (better for lift) and then transition to design and fabricate rockets. Weather permitting we will be outside soon to launch both.

TECH ED: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

Technology Education 7th:

Students start with a 3D model of the Memo-Holder box which will be the first project fabricated in the Materials Processing Lab. Students use Sketchup CAD software to accomplish this and discover the interesting and difficult things about working in a 3D environment. We will then transition into safety lessons in the Material Processing Lab and use the Chop Saw to rough cut material to start fabricating the box.

Transportation Tech 8th:

Students have begun to explore the world of transportation by discussing different aspects of flight, the forces involved and the ones to overcome in both rocketry and Lighter Than Air equipment(Hot Air Balloons). Students will start by building the balloons and testing them while we still have some cold weather (better for lift) and then transition to design and fabricate rockets. Weather permitting we will be outside soon to launch both.

Manufacturing 8th :

Students have designed three “plaques” using Microsoft Publisher software. We will then transition into safety lessons in the Material Processing Lab before using any tools or equipment.

After selecting one design, students will move into the Materials Processing Lab to learn about machine and tool safety, followed by discussion about proper layout, relief cuts, and use of the bandsaw to rough cut their plaques. Next steps will involve finish cutting, sanding and staining and polyurethaning. All of this gives students a taste of the Design Process as it is used in Manufacturing from beginning to end, including a brief lesson on packaging.

Physical Education: Mr. Collins, Ms. Delahunt, Ms. Glogan, Mr. Syrop

This month the student continue to rotate through 4 different unit in PE. The units are **archery, Project Adventure, fitness center, and badminton,**

Project Adventure: Sixth grade students in Project Adventure will be climbing the rock walls. As part of the unit, they will learn about climbing safety, which includes proper fitting of a climbing harness and helmet, use of universal climbing commands, use of carabiners, and how to team belay.

Archery: While in their archery units student in all grade level will be taught the proper use of a recurve bow. This includes safe use of the bow and proper shooting technique. Teachers will utilize various shooting games to challenge students at their individual levels.

Badminton: Sixth grade will be introduced to the game of badminton for the first time in their middle school PE class. Emphasis in sixth grade is placed on familiarizing students with the equipment, and rules of the games, as well as some of the basic strokes. **Seventh and eighth** grade will start to compete more within their badminton class. Students will be encouraged to

think about strategy and the use of different hits to achieve greater success. Effort and sportsmanship are still valued higher over score results.

Fitness Center: **Sixth** grade will have their first exposure to our fitness center and all its equipment. They are instructed on safe use of all the equipment in the fitness center. They also learn about the benefits of exercise and how to work specific muscle groups. **Seventh and eighth** grade student are expected to follow general guidelines of a posted workout and self direct themselves through the class. Students will use, weight machines, spin bikes, step machines, rowers, dumbbells, medicine balls, stability balls, and exercise bands.

World Language - April 2018 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

Students will continue to exchange information about family, friends, and pets and explore how and where others live in French/Spanish-speaking countries. 6th-graders will expand their cultural perspective as they compare and contrast celebrations and traditions in the target culture and their own.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Students have conducted research of different types of vacation destinations in their target culture and how weather plays a role on their trip. They have indicated landmarks, attractions, activities and regional dishes of their vacation. Additionally, they are identifying clothing and other typical items to pack based on their travel experiences and climate. All of this information will be used in a presentation that will be shared with the class. The 10B Spanish and French students will compare Fairfield with the target culture destinations.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

Students will identify and investigate heroes in the target culture and their own. They will discuss the traits and actions that make a person a hero.

Students will also be taking the STAMP (STAndards-Based Measurement of Proficiency) test during the week of April 23. This national assessment is a web-based test that assesses foreign language proficiency.

8LMS April Update

Language Arts: Eighth grade language arts students are completing our personal narrative unit and moving into a mini-drama segment which will include a workshop and production from the theater group, Shakesperience. Following will be our whole class novel *Night* by Elie Wiesel which will piggyback on the World War II and Holocaust unit in social studies.

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra students are completing a unit on Exponent Properties and Scientific Notation. We will then revisit geometric topics as we move on to a unit about Volume, which will include calculating the volumes of cylinders, cones, spheres, and composite solids.

Math Algebra: The Algebra classes have just finished a unit on Polynomials. These concepts will be used in our next unit, Quadratic Equations and Functions. We will find multiple methods more solving quadratic equations and we will analyze quadratic functions in depth. We will also discover different real world situations where quadratic models are used, including the physics of falling objects and projectiles.

Math Geometry: The Geometry students are completing a group project on Indirect Measurement where they have to use multiple methods that we have learned about this year to calculate the height of an object in town. This project will be completed outside of class, and the students will share their results in group presentations at the end of the month. In class, the students are wrapping up a unit on 2-Dimensional Measurement and will next complete a unit on 3-Dimensional Measurement, including surface area and volume.

Science: Eighth grade science students finished up bridge labs and are working on chemistry topics. Please remind your children to keep long pants, closed toed shoes, and goggles in their lockers and have them readily available for lab.

Social Studies: In 8th grade U.S. History, students will be studying World War II and the Holocaust. A focus will be placed on the conditions that led to the rise of Hitler and totalitarian rule around the world during the 20's and 30's. Students will be asked, "How could these atrocities happen, and could this happen again?" Judith Altmann, a childhood survivor of the Holocaust, will visit RLMS and share her experiences with our 8th graders. Causes of World War II and American involvement in the war will also be examined. Students will consider the focus question, "How did WWII reshape America's role in the world?"

7LM - April 2018

Language Arts:

Language Arts: We've returned from our African adventure and are starting our own storytelling through narrative and creative writing. Students will also explore strategies for reading challenging text which will lead us into our historical fiction book clubs. Parents, if you have time, ask your student about their learning on their journey to Africa.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - We have returned from break to start one of our most exciting units-Probability. Our goal in this unit is to learn how to make predictions and decisions using knowledge of probability and expected values. Students will learn the difference between Theoretical probability and Experimental probability. They will then use their understanding of these concepts to better understand games and make predictions about future events.

Math 7 - We are in the middle of our two and three dimensional geometry unit. In this unit students will soon study circumference and area of circles and explore volume and surface area of right prisms and polygons in depth. We will also start to introduce our semester project of "Build your dream bedroom".

Science: After April break, we embark on a trip to explore the human body! We will begin with the muscular and skeletal systems. Students will learn to identify a number of bones and different types of muscles along with various ailments they might have experienced themselves like fractures and sprains. Students will even be comparing the internal structure of real bones from different kinds of animals. The trip will continue to the digestive system. Here students will explore how each section operates and measure out the actual distance food travels through the body! We will then explore acids and bases from a food perspective and how those affect the body and why and what antacids do for us! It is a fun time ahead studying ourselves!

Social Studies: We are finishing up our unit on Africa the week after April break. We will recap our novel *A Long Walk to Water* and then discuss the *Lost Boys of Sudan*. Our next topic of study will be Human Environment Interaction. During this 3 week time block students will be writing a research paper. They will pick an HEI topic, research it and then create a website that will include their paper along with other information. After that we will be studying South America and East Asia.

Crew 6 LMS- April Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - As students move toward the completion of their realistic fiction stories, they are trying out a number of writer's craft techniques to enhance their finished narratives. Creative leads and endings, use of dialogue, slowing down the moment, and use of figurative language have all been modeled in class through mentor texts to help students envision ways that they can incorporate these craft ideas into their own stories. Due to the snow days, SBA preparation, and SBA testing, students are just now wrapping up their stories and culminating the narrative unit by choosing another medium with which to convey the same storyline found in their narratives.

Math Grade 6 - Math 6 will continue looking at statistics by exploring different ways that data can be displayed. Students will work with stem leaf plots, histograms, whisker plots and shapes of distribution. Students will then start looking at integers. We will be discussing positive and negative numbers and absolute value. Finally students will begin to work with these concepts on a coordinate plane.

TPA classes will be learning to utilize integers. Students will add, subtract, multiply and divide integers. They will also revisit work with rational numbers utilizing all four operations. They will eventually get to work with expressions and equations using skills and concepts learned about integers and rational numbers. From there, TPA students will look at statistics by exploring different ways that data can be displayed. Students will work with stem leaf plots, histograms, whisker plots and shapes of distribution. Students will then start looking at integers. We will be discussing positive and negative numbers and absolute value. Finally students will begin to work with these concepts on a coordinate plane.

Social Studies Grade 6 -Grade 6 Social Studies classes are in the midst of studying our Unit on Europe. After the fall of Rome, we discussed the Middle Ages with feudalism and Christianity taking control at this time. Students have been learning about a variety of topics, such as feudal system, Crusades, and Black Death. We will be moving into Renaissance and Reformation to discuss the Age of Enlightenment. Students will learn as Europe emerged, exploration occurred, and colonies were established in various parts of the World. We will finish the unit with an overview of World War I and II.

Science Grade 6- Grade 6 Science classes are rocking and rolling and heating up as they study earthquakes and volcanoes. The Ring of Fire will be introduced and the mysteries of the Earth's crust, mantle and core will continued to be studied. Students will be able to analyze the sudden motions along breaks in the Earth's crust and learn how these natural disasters can affect

landforms and societies. Students will also brainstorm ideas with partners to design a structure that will resist a simulated earthquake. Let the shaking begin!