RLMS Curriculum Corner May/June 2018

Crew 6 LMS- May/June Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - We are moving into the social issues book club unit. Students will explore social issues that groups of people face in society. Within their book club groups they will be immersed in a book where the characters face one or more social issues, and students will analyze how the characters react to/deal with the issue(s). After completing this unit, students will be showing you a compilation of their work from throughout the year. More information about this will follow in June.

Math Grade 6 -

Math 6 students will explore equations with one and two variables, identify algorithms that exist for solving linear equations, and graph inequalities. In this unit, students will develop methods for representing relationships and patterns of change.

TPA classes will expand on statistical thinking. They will gather data and utilize basic concepts of the measures of central tendency, such as mean, median, and mode. They will also be introduced to measures of variation such as range, interquartile range, and mean absolute deviation. Some essential questions the students will answer during this unit are: How can you summarize and display numerical data? How can you use measures of center to describe a data set? How can you use measures of variability to describe a data set?

Social Studies Grade 6 -

The 6th grade Social Studies classes are finishing up our study on the European Unit with Europe's role in World War I and World War II. We will be administering our Spring Writing Assessment and then moving on to our last unit of study, the region of South Asia. We will focus on the geography, history and current events of this region. As the school year comes to an end, students will be creating a travel brochure related to an area of study from this year.

Science Grade 6-

The 6th grade Science classes are monitoring the current volcanic and seismic activity that is going on in Hawaii. Students will continue to research and report on seismically active locations around the world. They are studying the science of earthquake measurement and rating systems, and applying engineering and technology principles and practices as they design, test, and evaluate their building structures. We will be closing the year with more hands-on science experiments, continuing to utilize the scientific method.

7LM - May/June 2018

Language Arts: As the year winds down the students will be working with a few short texts to deepen comprehension and strengthen text based discussions, which ultimately will be followed by an on demand writing assessment of their critical reading. We will follow by investigating the genre of historical fiction through nonfiction and fictional accounts of a variety of time periods and events. They will be asked to recognize how setting impacts the characters and how the author makes choices to manipulate historical details in order to create a historical fiction text? At the close of the year, in an effect to have students own their own learning, they will be asked to reflect on their reading and writing growth within this year and begin to set goals for themselves for the next year.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - As we are just about finishing up our probability we will now get into our congruence and similarity unit. The three types of symmetry used are reflectional, rotational and translational symmetry. We will also focus on lines of reflection, centers of rotation, angles of rotation and translation directions and magnitudes. Once we finish this unit we will be onto our last unit of the year-Systems of Linear relationships.

Math 7 - We are in the middle of our two and three dimensional geometry unit. We are now focus on circumference and area of circles, plus perimeter and area of irregular shapes. Once we finish this chapter we will be onto surface area and volume of three dimensional figures.

Science: In the last month of school students will finish their travels around the human body with the circulatory system. Students will learn about how their blood connects their entire body and will do labs to explore how different movements change their heart rate. Finally, students will explore how living things have evolved over many years with a project on the animal kingdom. Students will study different animal phyla from sponges through mammals and present in phylogenetic order to show the progression of traits over centuries.

Social Studies: As we enter into the home stretch of the 2017-2018 school year, Geography students having been very busy doing research in the RLMS Media Center. The research project is titled "Issues For A Changing World." It explores how humans interact with the environment. Students are weighing the consequences of human action related to a wide range of topics, such as the risks vs benefits of land clearing, or the risks/benefits of nuclear energy use. In addition to the great Geography topics, students are learning a lot about the research process including use of keywords, note taking, identifying bias, writing a thesis statement and argumentative writing. This project enhances the students' research skills and prepares them for in-depth study in 8th grade and beyond. Looking ahead, we will be studying South America and its amazing

geography & cultures. Additionally, the RLMS PTSA is sponsoring a Brazilian Capoeira workshop on June 11.

8LMS May/June Update

Language Arts: In LA students have been reading Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*. In response to each day's reading, they are creating discussion questions and responding together to essential questions. Following *Night*, students will be investigating the universality of themes across texts and genre. As we conclude the year, students will reflect on their reading and writing progress.

Math PA: In Pre-Algebra, students are finishing the year with a unit on Systems of Linear Equations. We will learn different ways to solve systems and apply these concepts to real world problems. We will also investigate special cases of systems. After this unit, students will spend some time preparing for and taking the final exam.

Math Algebra: The Algebra students are completing their unit on Quadratic Functions and Equations. Students will practice multiple ways of solving a quadratic equation and be able to analyze an equation to determine the best method to use. Students will also use different forms of quadratic functions and make connections between them. We will then finish the year with a final exam.

Math Geometry: The Geometry class is beginning their final unit of the year, which is an in depth study of circles. Students will investigate tangents, chords, and arcs of circles, establishing relationships between their measurements. Students will also work with circles in the coordinate plane, learning to write standard form equations. The year will culminate with a final exam in June.

Science: Science students are studying elements, the periodic table and compounds. Upon completion of the chemistry units, students will be conducting a series of labs where they will design protective structures to test cushioning and various falling rates. Students will combine what they learn from the labs to determine the combination of design and materials that create the most effective mars lander for the egg drop.

Social Studies: Students are beginning a new unit, the Postwar United States (1945-1973). They will examine the role of the United States after WWII, and the economic and social transformation within the United States. Key topics include the Cold War, the conflict in Vietnam, and the Civil Rights Movement. The unit will culminate with a research project and a roundtable discussion about the American Dream during these decades of change.

World Language - May/June 2018 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

As we approach the end of the school year, 6th graders will be learning about traditions and celebrations across the French and Spanish-speaking world and making cultural comparisons along the way. The speaking benchmark will be given this marking period as will the district's WL Final Exam. The final exam assesses language skills in writing, reading, listening, and speaking.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

We are wrapping up our last unit with our District Presentational Speaking Assessment sharing our target culture travel destinations.Students will continue to work on their interpretive listening and reading skills as well as their writing and speaking in preparation for their final exam. The final will be on June 8 to June 12. It will include all three units and skills studied during the year. Spanish 10B students are also reading a short novel all in Spanish that goes along with their travel unit.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

Students continue to explore the theme: What makes a person a hero or a heroine? They researched a hero from their target country and will talk about a hero in their everyday lives. Students are reading and listening to native speakers discuss the qualities and actions of everyday heroes.

The common district final exam will be in June.

UA- Art/Computer/FCS/Health/Music/PE- May/June Update

Art Department

Our RLMS art show was a big success! Over 450 pieces of student work are on display in the main lobby until May 25th. The 44th annual Fairfield town wide art show will be held May 25th through May 31st at the Pequot Library.



lobby wide at the

6th graders are finishing up their unit on value and

shading. They have produced beautiful and realistic animal drawings using the shading

techniques they have learned. Next, they will move on to a unit in linoleum block printing, and then finish out the marking period with a sculpture unit!

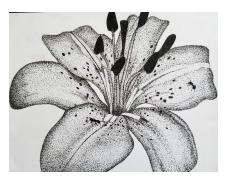


ART 7th:

7th grade students have been working hard on their unit in 3D form. They have designed and constructed a clay mug form that features a unique relief sculpture. They will be moving onto a major unit in color theory which features a design in radial symmetry, and the application of various tints, shades, and color tones. Students will learn how to mix many colors using only primaries. We will end the marking period with self portrait drawings.

2D ART 8th:

Students in 2D art are in the midst of their pen and ink drawings. They have learned and practiced many pen techniques to apply textures and values, and are now working on their final compositions. We will begin our unit in acrylic painting in the next couple weeks. Students can use a reference photo of their own or source an image from Google for this painting.



3D ART 8th:

3D art students are working on their coil pottery forms. They have built up the walls of the pottery by adding coil on top of coil, and are smoothing the surfaces. By next week they should be finalizing the forms and adding decorative embellishments. We will end the marking period by sculpting animal forms in the style of the Oaxacan artists of Mexico.

Computers & Typing

COMPUTERS: Mrs. Walker

6th Grade Computers: Students have continued to learn more features of MS PowerPoint, such as inserting and editing pictures, changing the indent using the ruler, aligning and distributing objects on a slide, and copying formats using the format painter. They have learned all the tips and tricks of MS Paint, and then each student has drawn an original Future Me illustration. Independently, students have continued to practice their keyboarding skills using Typing Pals.

8th **Grade Computers**: Students are continuing to learn to code. We are progressing through the lessons in Unit 2, using the online program called CODE.ORG. Specifically, students are learning about loops, nested repeats, conditional while, if/else, and functions & variables. At the

end of certain lessons, students are asked to create a project on their own. They are provided with specific instructions, as well as a rubric for each project. Projects completed include a Nested Repeat Design Project, Basic Picture Project, and even a Star Wars game.

COMPUTERS: Mr. Boocks

Computers 6th:

Students are currently working on several projects during each class period. Their focus continues to be on learning to properly keyboard. Students are also creating pixel art, learning the basics of game maker and today will begin learning MS Excel.

COMPUTERS: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

Students are progressing through the Typing Pal software and have completed 2 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 8 Steps (levels). While this is happening we will do other projects using both Microsoft products and Google products. The next one is letter writing. Students have selected someone famous to write a letter to as a way of learning about how to structure a proper letter, with return address, greeting, body of the letter and signature. I will mail these to the subjects, provided I receive back SIGNED letters from parents as a sign of approval. 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.

Family and Consumer Science

FOOD LAB: Mrs. Kempton

FCS 6th: Students learn the standard units of measuring and proper techniques while exercising their kitchen math skills. Then it's off to baking a tasty and healthy cookie with their lab teams. Students then begin their introduction to knife skills while preparing a healthy Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas and enjoy them with their classmates.

FCS 7th: – Students have been working very hard on their Family Meal Projects at home and school. Next week they present them to the class utilizing their ever important public speaking skills. Students have practiced making and enjoying omelets and scrambled eggs so now they can independently prepare their own food for themselves when they need to.

FCS 8th: Students have been busy utilizing the food processor and preparing healthy carrot cakes. Then they use their decorating skills as they pipe designs on their cakes. Next they are off to the computer lab to learn about where their food comes from. They will use RLMS

Virtual library as they journey through a webquest called Smart Cart. No password required so parents feel free to view. Then we are back in the kitchens making pizza dough and marinara sauce from scratch.



SEWING LAB: Mrs. Flashman

Sewing 6th: The sixth graders have accomplished a great deal in half a quarter. They've learned to thread and operate a sewing machine, measure accurately and sew with precision using many functions of the machine. They've completed a shoulder sak bag and created a computer design which was ironed on. Many of the skills they've learned will be built on in seventh grade sewing. The most important lesson is reading and following directions.



Sewing 7th:



Many of the students are now accomplished sewers and may choose to make extra projects, Here they are showing bandana pillows. These projects reinforce what they've already learned such as right sides together, matching edges, accurate seam allowances and hand sewing.



Students from all three grade levels may come during homeroom to work on their grade level project or create extra projects.

Fabric Art: 8th:



I am so very impressed by the quilts made by eighth grade. Many of the students take work home and come in for extra help. Their dedication shows in their creativity.

Health Department

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Health 6th: For the remainder of the school year we will be learning about friendships, alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, vaping, puberty and the reproductive systems, and Lyme disease.

Health 7th: For the remainder of year we will be learning about vaping, marijuana, coping with death and loss, family communication, sexual harassment and bullying, and conflict resolution.

Health 8th: For the remainder of the year we will be learning about love, abusive relationships, coping with depression, suicide prevention, vaping, marijuana, HIV, and body image.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline

Health 6th: We are just beginning our drug unit that will include, Tobacco/vaping, Marijuana, Alcohol and Inhalants. We will end the unit with a lesson on Natural Highs. The following unit will be on Puberty and then Communicative Diseases.

Health 7th: We are presently discussing Body image and then Eating Disorders. The following unit will be on Diversity . The last unit will be on Family Life- Death and Dying.

Health 8th: We just started our unit on Alcohol. The following unit will be on Depression and Suicide Prevention and then finishing with Stress Management and the Who I Am Project.

Music Department

Music-BAND: Ms. Torrence, Mr. Fumasoli, Ms. Brion

Band 6th: Excellent job on our Spring concert!! Hard work and dedication pays off! Students will be preparing for their band music theory final exam in June, finishing up Standard of Excellence Book 1 and in some cases beginning Essential Elements Book 2. Percussionists will be performing "Four Sounds" in their lessons. In addition, all students will be cleaning their instruments. Thanks for a great band year!!!!!

Band7th:



The Band students are well on their way in preparing for the High Note Festival (Wednesday, May 30th) as well as for the Memorial day parade (Monday, May 28th). All band students must RSVP for the parade - please send in a signed permission slip if you have not done so already. We will begin our marching rehearsals after the Spring concert and we are looking forward to the "band olympics" that will take place in June. I've had a such a great year working with all of the students in the 7th grade band - by June, we will have played two concerts, taken a field trip to NYC, played in a festival and marched in a parade - it's been a full year of activities and I thank you for all of your support of the RLMS band program!!



Band 8th: Students will be preparing for the Memorial Day Parade; Monday May 28th and the High Note Festival; Wednesday May 30th performances.

Music-CHORUS: Mrs. Lafond

Chorus 6th: Great job on your Spring Concert 6th graders! 6th grade students have already taken their music theory final exam but will begin a rhythm unit in mid-May and will begin learning basics of sight-reading music using solfege. But just because the concert's over doesn't mean the singing has stopped! Students will sing new material in class, including a two-part arrangement of "Old Dan Tucker" and a great medley of songs from "The Sound of Music."

Chorus 7th: Way to go 7th grade on your spring concert! 7th grade students are preparing for their music theory final exam which will be held in June. Students will also be introduced to 8th grade level concert material and will practice navigating choral scores that are voiced for soprano, alto and baritone. Boys' changing voices will be assessed for possible voice placement next year.

Chorus 8th: Your final middle school concert was a success! Congratulations 8th grade! Students are preparing for their music theory final exam which will be held in June. Students will also continue singing in class. Boys changing voices will be assessed one final time...it's amazing how fast a voice can change from soprano to baritone in three short years (and we even have several basses already!). Best wishes to you all in high school and remember to keep music a part of your lives!

Music-KEYBOARD: Mr. Albright

Keyboard 6th - Our "Song of the Month" for May is - Student's choice of any Level 1 Piano Suite Library Song. Our "End-of-Year" project is a combination written-oral presentation

assignment answering 5 basic questions - Who, What, Where, When, Why? - about a student's choice of Artist/Band/Ensemble/Singer/Rapper. After completing the written portion of project, students will speak to the class, sharing highlights about their selected artist.

Keyboard 7th - Our "Song of the Month" for May is - Student's choice of any Level 2 Piano Suite Library Song. Our "End-of-Year" project is a combination written-oral presentation assignment answering 5 basic questions - Who, What, Where, When, Why? - about a student's choice of Artist/Band/Ensemble/Singer/Rapper. After completing the written portion of project, students will speak to the class, sharing highlights about their selected artist.

We will continue working on - learning and reviewing - Music Theory essential concepts, and finish our vi IV I V chord progression by adding a melody in the right hand on top of chords in the left hand.

Keyboard 8th - Our "Song of the Month" for May is - Student's choice of any Level 3 Piano Suite Library Song. Our "End-of-Year" project is a combination written-oral presentation assignment answering 5 basic questions - Who, What, Where, When, Why? - about a student's choice of Artist/Band/Ensemble/Singer/Rapper. After completing the written portion of project, students will speak to the class, sharing highlights about their selected artist.

We will continue working on - learning and reviewing - Music Theory essential concepts, and finish our vi IV I V chord progression by adding a melody in the right hand on top of chords in the left hand.

Music-ORCHESTRA: Mr. Kroqi

Orchestra 6th:

After the Spring concert, Grade 6 orchestra will focus on the final theory test and the performance at the High Note Festival at Lake Compounce in Bristol on May 30th. We will also start with some new pieces. Small groups will continue working on the solos from Suzuki books.

Orchestra 7th:

Great Job on the Spring Concert Grade 7! Now we will focus on the final theory test and the performance at the High Note Festival at Lake Compounce in Bristol on May 30th. We will also start with some new pieces. Small groups will continue working on the solos from Suzuki books.

RLMS Chamber Orchestra will be performing the Final Recital on June 14th, at Southport Congregational Church. In the program will be pieces from Vivaldi, Bach, Accolay, Saint-Sance and more.

Orchestra 8th:

Great Performance on the Spring Concert! Bravo 8th Graders! Now we will focus on the final the performance of the year at the High Note Festival at Lake Compounce in Bristol on May 30th. We will also start with some new pieces. Small groups will continue working on the solos from Suzuki books.

RLMS Chamber Orchestra will be performing the Final Recital on June 14th, at Southport Congregational Church. In the program will be pieces from Vivaldi, Bach, Accolay, Saint-Sance and more.

Technology Education Department

TECH ED: Mr. Boocks

Technology Education 7th:

Students are working on animated movies. They will finish with these this week and then move onto the woodshop portion of the class, where they will design and build a small box out of wood that will hold the notepads they are to create later in the semester.

Communication 8th:

Students are working on animated film. They have all completed a paper cutout stop motion. They are now moving into lego stop motion and whiteboard animation. At the close of the week students will begin to learn basic coding using SCRATCH software.

Transportation 8th:

The class started out with a lesson in general safety in the Materials Processing Lab (MPL) and moved on to specific lessons on the proper use of each machine. Additional machine lessons will be added as we progress through more and more complex projects. Students have just finished their first lab. They are now all proficient with and can safely use the scroll saw and the drill press. They have completed one design process and will be using this knowledge to develop and create the next several labs.

Technology Education Department Mr. McAleese:

7th Technology Education (Mr. McAleese):

The class started out with a lesson in general safety in the Materials Processing Lab (MPL) and moved on to specific lessons on the proper use of each machine. Additional machine lessons will be added as we progress through more and more complex projects. Students have begun learning 3D Drawing using a Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) program called Sketchup. They began by drawing the memo holder box which will be the first project they build in the Materials

Processing Lab. Students have cut all of their pieces, sanded and stained them and are now in the process of assembling the final product. The next steps for this project will be polyurethaning the box for protection and packaging it.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr. McAleese):

The class started out with a lesson in general safety in the Materials Processing Lab (MPL) and moved on to specific lessons on the proper use of each machine. Additional machine lessons will be added as we progress through more and more complex projects. Students worked collaboratively to design and build Hot Air Balloons, all the while learning about criteria, constraints and various simplistic aerodynamic ideas such as drag and buoyancy. Students have begun constructing their Mousetrap Powered Vehicles collaboratively while considering ideas about aerodynamics, weight reduction, friction reduction among others. Also students have been learning to use the various tools and machines throughout the MPL. From here students will design and build compressed air powered rockets, create a Powerpoint presentation about a dream vacation and build a final land based vehicle for testing before the end of the marking period.

8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

The class started out with a lesson in general safety in the Materials Processing Lab (MPL) and moved on to specific lessons on the proper use of each machine. Additional machine lessons will be added as we progress through more and more complex projects. Students started in the computer lab with a lesson in graphic design utilizing Microsoft Publisher software to design a plaque of their initials or numbers or some meaningful graphic. They then advanced to the MPL to select wood, rough cut material, detail cut material and are now progressing to the sanding and finishing stages of the project. Students have been learning to use the various tools and machines throughout the MPL. From here through to the end of the marking period students will research and design their own final projects to be fabricated during the remaining time.

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

All Physical Educations classes are finishing up their final rotation indoors with Fitness, Badminton, Archery, Games and Project adventure. We will begin our outdoor rotation of Speedball, Ultimate Frisbee and the 8th grade elective Project Adventure outdoor high elements.

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner- May/June 2018

School Stops for Summer but Learning Never Should!!

Summer vacation is just around the corner and two months can be a long break from learning. According to research, students can lose the equivalent of two months of math and reading skills during the summer months. Parents and young teens can work together to change that this summer by using these nine suggested activities to keep teens engaged over the summer.

Suggestions to Keep Students Engaged Over the Summer

- Summer Math & Reading Assignments Summer Math Packets
 <u>http://fairfieldschools.org/curriculum-instruction/subjects/math/</u> Summer Reading
 Bookmarks <u>https://sites.google.com/a/fairfieldschools.net/summer-reading-2015/</u>
- 2. **Daily Journal/Blog** Have your teen keep a daily journal/blog recording their summer experiences, thoughts and travels. Journaling/blogging is a quick activity that can decrease stress, improve health and memory, and strengthen writing skills.
- 3. Get Outside, Explore and Advance Your Teen's Education Visit a museum, a zoo or an aquarium. Many museums have one day or evening per week offering free or reduced admission. Enjoy educational programs and classes like pottery, painting, fused glassmaking, bird watching, scientific experimentation or photography.
- 4. Get Creative– Encourage your child to pick a recipe and have them follow an easy step-by-step recipe. Or, get them outside to construct a bird feeder. The sky is the limit, but the key is to have them doing something rather than passively watching television/aimlessly being online.
- 5. **Participate in Summer Learning Events -** Some kitchen stores offer cooking classes for parents and kids together or separately. Have your kids try a new class like gymnastics, karate, dance or music classes. The first class is often free and summertime can bring low attendance so it is a great time to try new activities in different venues that your teen hasn't experienced before.
- 6. Stay Active & Healthy- In addition to academic risks, children can also be at an increased health risk when they are out of school during the summer months. Take advantage of the warmer weather and keep your child active outdoors. Let's Move! Opportunities for kids to be physically active, both in and out of school and create new opportunities for families to be moving together.
- Take Advantage of Fun Educational Apps You know your teen is going to have their noses glued to their screens anyway, so why not put some researched-based, effective learning programs on their devices? There are interactive and affordable <u>educational</u> apps that will keep your teens learning all summer long. From world languages, to

vocabulary, to mathematics, there is a wide range of fantastic and sometimes free resources for just about every type of learner and interest level.

- 8. Volunteer Opportunities- Encourage middle schoolers to stay active in the community during the summer by volunteering for a local organization. Volunteering provides valuable experience by helping teens develop leadership and job skills through exposure to people who are coping with less or challenged by more than your teen is within their community.
- 9. Enjoy Some Quality Downtime One of the best ways to connect with your teen is to read the same book that your teen may be reading. You can discuss characters and the plot together, and look for books together to read. Reading with your teen will open your eyes to some of the narratives and struggles relevant to today's teens and may help you strengthen your bond with your teen.

The summer slide is a real problem, but by doing your part and encouraging your teen to stay active and engaged, you can help your teen turn the summer months into a fun, innovative learning experience.

For more summer literacy boosting resources and information about the summer slide, visit:

Our summer literacy **<u>Pinterest Board</u>** for reading lists and activities

• <u>Reversing the Slide: Evidence-based curriculum programs ready teachers to reduce</u> <u>learning loss</u>

• Reinventing the Summer School Experience: 6 Ways to Propel Academic Growth

• You can also read McGraw-Hill Education contributing author Tim Shanahan's article <u>"Can We Prevent the Summer Slide in Reading?"</u> on how the summer slide affects disadvantaged students.

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