

RLMS Curriculum Corner - September 2018

RLMS Parent Information: Getting Ready for Cumulative Grading

As you know, grades 6-12 are moving to a cumulative grading process. Students will be scored on all assessments and each will contribute to an ongoing, cumulative grade-in-progress throughout the school year. We will continue to have FOUR “TERMS/QUARTERS” (similar to our previously named Marking Periods) at which times teachers will ‘post’ grades which will be reported to families. Posting will simply capture the ‘snapshot’ of the grade in progress at that time.

Important Considerations

Due dates- Teachers can still assign final deadlines (teachers may use the quarter dates we will publish) at which time assignments are no longer counted in the final grade calculation or are entered at some minimal point value.

Teachers will follow these guidelines: *All standard tests, papers, and projects will be graded and entered into Infinite Campus no longer than two weeks from the due date. Lengthier/larger scale assessments may require an additional week.*

Quarterly reporting dates will be as follows:

Quarter 1 - Friday November 2nd, 2018

Quarter 2 - Friday, January 18th, 2019

Quarter 3 - Friday, March 29th, 2019

Quarter 4 - Thursday, June 13th, 2019

Missing work:

ALL missing/incomplete work be marked as an “M” in Infinite Campus.

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner- Sept 2018

Welcome back from the RLMS counseling department and dean! Transitioning back to school after summer can be a bit of a shock for many. Farewell to late summer nights and hello to early morning wake ups and balancing a slew of new daily obligations! Our counselors and dean are here to support students in establishing healthy routines that will ensure a smooth transition and successful year. Sleep is a critical component to student success as it drastically impacts a person’s ability to think, focus, and emotionally regulate. With this in mind, we thought it might be helpful to share a resource on establishing a healthy

sleep routine at the start of a new school year. An online article, published by www.thinkhealth.priorityhealth.com, shares the following key tips:

1. It's important to know how much sleep your child needs based on their age. The National Sleep Foundation indicates appropriate amount based on age (see full article for chart: <http://thinkhealth.priorityhealth.com/6-back-to-school-sleep-tips-creating-a-healthy-sleep-routine/>)
2. Stay active. The more exercise your child gets throughout the day, the more energy they'll have burned off. This will make it easier for them to wind down at the end of the night. Enjoy the last few days of summer weather spending time being **active as a family**, swimming, biking, playing tag and having fun exploring outside. Make sure physical activity remains a priority in your child's routine to help them get a restful slumber.
3. Eat Healthy. Nutrition impacts the quality of your sleep. According to the Cleveland Clinic, some foods raise serotonin, a key hormone that promotes healthy sleep. Focus on incorporating complex carbs, lean proteins and fresh herbs into dinner recipes to increase your family's serotonin levels.
4. Power down before bed. Electronics emit a blue light that tricks the mind into believing it's daytime. And the content on these devices simulates the brain rather than settles it. All electronics should be turned off at least an hour before bedtime.
5. Create a relaxing bedtime routine. It's necessary to find a bedtime routine that works for your child. Perhaps, it's a relaxing bath after dinner, reading a few chapters of a book, doing a bedtime yoga sequence, singing a lullaby or sharing prayers or what they are thankful for – or a combination of a few of these. The goal is to create a routine that tells the brain it's time to start relaxing and settling down for bed.
6. Make the bedroom a sleep sanctuary. Take the opportunity to create an **ideal sleep environment**. Their bed should only ever be used for sleep and their bedroom should be uncluttered. In addition, during bedtime, the room should be as dark as they'll tolerate and cool, between 65 to 72 degrees. Try a sound machine or fan to create rhythmic white noise that can be relaxing and help drown out other sounds outside or in the house.

(<http://thinkhealth.priorityhealth.com/6-back-to-school-sleep-tips-creating-a-healthy-sleep-routine/>)

Kelly Cummings (6th grade counselor) kcummings@fairfieldschools.org

Karyn McNeil (7th grade counselor) kmneil@fairfieldschools.org

Kate Harder (8th grade counselor) kharder@fairfieldschools.org

Kelly Renna (6th, 7th, & 8th grade counselor) krenna@fairfieldschools.org

Meg Rosenau (Social Worker 6-8) mrosenau@fairfieldschools.org

Walter Young (School Psychologist 6-8) wyoung@fairfieldschools.org

Jason Purzycki (Dean 6-8) jpurzycki@fairfieldschools.org

Crew 6 LMS- Sept Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - As we launch our year in language arts, students are establishing good habits as readers and writers. They will be setting appropriate goals for the year in reading and writing. Students will be working on annotating texts and learning how to write cohesive, well-supported reader's responses. Students also visited the school library to become acquainted with its layout and all that it offers. As a follow up to this visit, students will share reading recommendations with their classmates and hopefully gather some new titles of interest.

Math Grade 6 - All sixth grade math classes will be starting the year with a launch in which we review skills taught in elementary school. We will be reviewing two digit multiplication, long division and exponents. We will also review operations with decimals, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. Finally, we will look at recognizing improper fractions and mixed numbers.

Once we complete the launch, we will start unit 1. Unit 1 will deal with operations with positive rational numbers. Included in this will be understanding operations with decimals and fractions. Students will be able to multiply and divide decimals and fractions. They will also be working with powers and exponents, order of operations, prime factors, greatest common factors and least common multiples.

Social Studies Grade 6 - In geography class, students will learn about basic map skills and spatial relationships including map components, latitude and longitude, and parts of a map. Students will explore the classroom atlas in order to enhance their ability to locate places and regions. Students will then begin to learn about the 5 Themes of Geography and 6 essential elements, or key ideas, to study physical processes and human systems. By the end of this unit, students will be able to apply newly learned geography skills and concepts to the World regions they will be studying going forward. This unit will culminate by having students take part in a Webquest, Think like a Geographer. In October, we will begin our World Regional Studies on the Middle East and North Africa.

Science Grade 6- Grade 6 science students are off to a great start. Our first unit of study is the scientific method. The students completed a Learning Style Inventory lab which is the first of many labs we will complete this year. They gathered, organized and analyzed data to help them identify what kind of learner they are. Then, the students came up with strategies they could use this year to be successful based on that information. The Paper Clip Lab & Mission Impossible are also part of the hands on learning to jump start the scientific method unit. Be sure to ask your child if he/she completed the mission!

7LMS - Sept 2018

Language Arts: Our seventh graders have established writers' notebooks and have had an opportunity for imaginative writing. We have begun close reading with highlighting and annotations as reading strategies. We will move forward crafting written responses working toward deepening insights as readers.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - In the first couple of weeks we will be reviewing main concepts taught last year. We will be focusing on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers. We will also review distributive property and combining like terms. Once we have a good understanding of these concepts we will start to focus on Chapter one, solving multi-step equations

Math 7 - We will start the year off by focusing on absolute value and then use our understanding of this concept and apply it to adding and subtracting integers. Once we have a good understanding of this, we will move onto multiplying and dividing integers

Science: In the month of September, 7th grade science will practice inquiry skills and use of scientific tools. Students will measure worms and design and implement a plant growth lab. Near the end of the month, students will discuss the characteristics that all living things share and create organisms that possess those characteristics.

Social Studies: We are excited to be teaching the 2nd year of geography to students in Fairfield. In geography class, students have learned about basic map skills and spatial relationships including map components, latitude and longitude, and parts of a map. Over the next few weeks, students will begin to learn about the 5 Themes of Geography and 6 essential elements, or key ideas, to study physical processes and human systems. Additionally, students will continue to explore the classroom atlas in order to enhance their ability to locate places. Near the end of October, we will begin our World Regional Studies of East Asia.

8LM Sept Update

Language Arts: As part of our first unit, students are establishing good habits as readers and writers. Students are working on annotating texts and writing cohesive, well-supported reader's responses. They will be taking a close reading assessment and the Star Reading test mid-September.

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra classes are starting the year with a review of Integers and Expressions before moving on to our first unit on Solving 1-Variable Linear Equations. This unit will include a mix of review concepts and new concepts.

Math Algebra: In Algebra, the students have begun the first unit on Solving 1-Variable Linear Equations and Inequalities, which is mostly a review of concepts learned last year. At the end of the month we will start a unit on Functions, which kicks off with an in-class group project that allows students to explore different families of functions and their properties.

Math Geometry: The Geometry students have started a unit on the building blocks of geometry, including points, lines, planes, space, segments, rays, and angles. The students will explore different properties of these elements, create basic constructions using a compass and a straightedge, and will become familiar with some basic postulates and axioms.

Science: After completing a brief unit on lab safety, students have been learning about properties of matter such as mass, volume, and weight. Students will finish the properties of matter with lessons on density and will then begin to study physics. Physics will start with observing and measuring motion, followed by forces. For more details, see the topics lists/study guides posted on the website.

Social Studies: Our Social Studies course this year is U.S. history, *America and the American Dream*. Students are analyzing the founding documents in an effort to identify how life in the American colonies, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights helped shape and define American values and the American Dream.

World Language - Sept 2018 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

During this first marking period, 6th-grade Spanish and French students are using the target language to greet others and to exchange information about themselves. This includes asking for and providing information related to age, dates, phone numbers, etc. We are also exploring geography and nationality in French and Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Students continue to take on a new cultural identity to investigate a typical school day and a typical weekend in the life of a student in the target culture. Learners will identify school schedules, courses taken and extracurricular activities available to them in the target culture. All 7th grade French and Spanish students will soon complete a project in using technology demonstrating cultural comparisons of a Fairfield student and a student from the target culture.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

Students are navigating their way through a target culture city to determine what makes the city special. They will identify places in the city, describe the purpose of these places and ask and give directions from one point to another in a city. Students will compare cities around the world to identify common and different elements. Both French and Spanish students will prepare a project on their target culture city.

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

Art Department

ART 6th:

6th grade art students are learning about value and shading. They are preparing for their first unit in animal drawing by practicing how to apply different tones. Students shade basic forms- spheres, cones, and cubes, in order to understand highlights, mid-tones, and shadows, and developing a smooth blend of values. They will begin their animal drawings next week, and work on them throughout the rest of September.

ART 7th:

7th graders are being introduced to color theory, and will be creating a design with radial symmetry to demonstrate their newly acquired color knowledge. A variety of color schemes including, primary, secondary, tertiary, complementary, analogous and warm/cool will be introduced and utilized. Students will mix color both with oil pastels and paint, and produce original tints, tones, and shades of a variety of colors to be used for their paintings.

2D ART 8th:

2D art students are embarking on a drawing unit featuring pen and ink. For most students, this unit will be the first time in which they create a piece of art with ink. Students are practicing a variety of mark making techniques with pen to explore textures and shades. They will then select

an image to reference for their final pen and ink drawing. This unit will bring students into mid-October, and then they will move on to painting.

3D ART 8th:

Students in 3D art are working with clay to create an original, hand-built piece of coil pottery. They are learning about handbuilding methods and how to properly join coils to build up the walls of their vessels. After building, they will learn how to smooth the pottery using a three step process, and finally, they will add a form of embellishment - carvings, sculptural elements etc. Due to the time consuming nature of this process, students will be working on this project for the majority of the marking period.

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 pro

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 are finishing their “possible future me” drawings and will begin to use MS word and publisher to develop a poster. Students will also begin to practice proper keyboarding while learning the other office programs. Students will practice typing every day for roughly ten to fifteen minutes, and then move on to the daily lab for the remainder of the period.

COMPUTERS: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

6th Technology Education Computers(Mr.McAleese):

Students have learned to organize their work in specific folders, depending on whether they are working with Microsoft or Google. They are beginning with crafting a letter to someone they admire as a class. In the past we have done this and received a response from the White House so we are keeping fingers crossed that this year’s person will also respond. They next move on to creating a spreadsheet using Google Slides to serve as an introduction to researching, using,

organizing, manipulating and presenting data. This will come in handy in their core classes as projects are assigned. They will soon be moving on to a regular routine of daily typing practice in conjunction with various other projects I assign along the way including but not limited to creating a calendar, greeting card, advertisement, etc. We are awaiting receipt of the information for our new typing program which is to be loaded on our brand new laptops in the Tech Ed computer lab.

Family and Consumer Science

FOOD LAB: Mrs. Kempton

Foods Lab

6th Grade: Our first unit begins with students learning the importance of Home and Life Safety. We use a Fire Safety Webquest located on the RLMS Virtual Library. The next unit is proper kitchen measuring techniques while exercising their math skills. Students will then bake a tasty healthy cookie with their lab teams. Next week we begin knife skills and safety while making a cheesy vegetable quesadilla.

7th Grade: Students plan their healthy breakfast menu 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 task all by themselves. In school, students learn the importance of a healthy breakfast while preparing whole wheat pancakes, breakfast burritos, and scrambled eggs. Students will plan, collaborate and use teamwork for each lab.

8th Grade: As we begin the school year, students are introduced to the roux technique for their homemade Mac & Cheese with broccoli. They learn how to safely boil, simmer, and how to add a veggie to make a dish they love a little healthier. Next we begin using the chef knives for mincing as they prepare a wonderful marinara sauce for their homemade pizza. This week they make pizza dough from scratch using the stand up mixer. All 8th graders have done an amazing job on their first few weeks of cooking!

SEWING LAB: Mrs. Flashman

6th grade is learning to thread and operate the sewing machine. They will be making a shoulder sack bag after successfully practicing with the sewing machine. They will also create a word art design and apply it with a heat press machine using iron on transfer paper. The students will employ several new computer skills to accomplish this.

The quarter began with a home and life safety unit that includes Family Involvement Project to plan escape routes from their home and how to put out a small pan fire following the fire triangle.

7th grade has chosen their flannel material to make boxer shorts. They will create a 5D design to embroider. This year the students will use the serger for the first time to finish the seams on their garment. They also take their measurements to fit the pattern.

8th grade is designing an art quilt and will be creating an embroidery on the computer. Currently, they are choosing motifs for their fabric art. There is quite a bit of creativity and math required during this process.

Health Department

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Health 6th: The marking term will begin with the following topics: tobacco and vaping, HIV, empathy, and coping with bullying.

Health 7th: For September, the topics covered will be eating disorders, diversity and tolerance, alcohol, and marijuana.

Health 8th: At the beginning of the term our topics will be binge drinking, designer drugs, sexual assault and healthy and abusive relationships.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline

Health 6th: We begin the marking period with a basic set of vocabulary that covers all areas of health. Our first unit will be the Friendship unit. Within this unit we cover: How to make friends- communication skills, identifying bad friendships, peer pressure, bullying/cyberbullying, and sexual harassment. Next we will begin the drug unit which will include; Marijuana, Inhalants, Alcohol and Tobacco-vaping.

Health 7th: We begin the marking period with a basic set of vocabulary that covers all areas of health. Students will be creating a Happiness Project. Topics this month will include; Self Talk, Self Esteem, Body Image, Eating Disorders, Popularity, Online Safety, Cyberbullying and Sexting.

Health 8th: We begin the marking period with a basic set of vocabulary that covers all areas of health. We began with the topic of Perseverance and Resiliency. Our first unit will be on Relationships which will include Healthy, Unhealthy and Abusive Relationships. Topics of Setting Boundaries, Sexual Assault, and Flirting will be covered.

Music Department

Music-BAND:

Band 6th: Band 6 is reviewing music which they played last year from their Standard of Excellence book. In addition, they have received a scale sheet and four new musical compositions which we will begin to play on Wednesday, September 12th. Students are busy remembering note names, fingerings, and many notated symbols. The students had their very first “Tacit Tuesday” during which there is no talking at all. They are also reviewing their lesson schedules as lessons are set to begin next week (9/17).

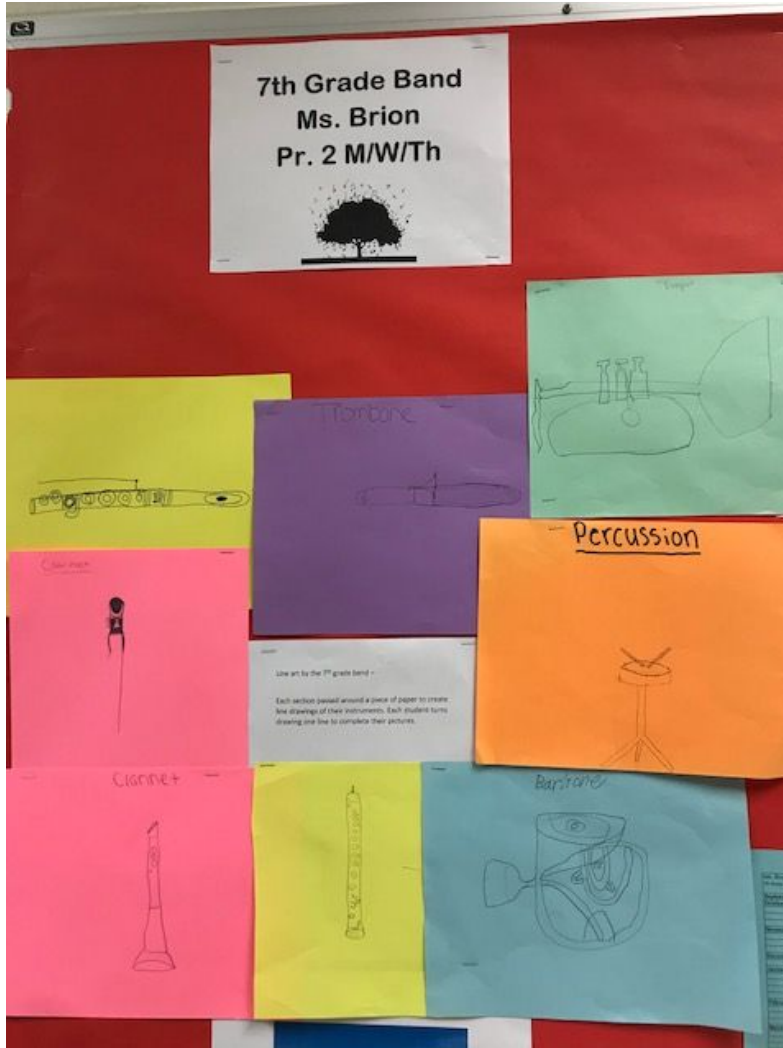


Band 7th: Welcome back to school! We have had a great few weeks in the band room getting to know each other by working on our band room procedures such as fire drills, instrument storage, rehearsal expectations, and a fun line art project in our instrument sections (pic included).

Last week we began playing during rehearsal by reviewing songs in the Standard of Excellence. The 7th grade band

students should all be bringing their instruments to school for rehearsals at this point, as well as any necessary materials to keep their instruments in tip-top playing shape (valve oil, valve grease, cork grease, reeds, cleaning swabs, etc.). For now, we are working out of the same lesson book that was used last year (Standard of Excellence Book 1) and I will be sending home information soon about some new books and materials needed for this year, over the coming weeks.

Our small group lessons will begin the week of September 17th. Lesson schedules and information will be distributed to students this week during band. I am so excited to be working with your children - I am looking forward to a fantastic year filled with music! Please contact me with any questions: jbrion@fairfieldschools.org



Band 8th: Mr. Bilotta

Welcome back! The school year is off to a great start. In our first rehearsal with students we have been getting acquainted and learning all of the procedural aspects of 8th grade band. This week, students will be receiving and working on their first piece for our winter concert, *The Great Locomotive Chase*. We will also be working on warm-up techniques. All 8th grade band lessons will begin next Monday, September 17th. Students will receive a copy of their lesson schedule this week. Please be sure to return any percussion contracts or instrument rental contracts by Friday, September 15th. Students should also return their student/parent commitment forms as soon as possible. **All students should now have instruments and lesson books or have made other arrangements with Mr. Bilotta. Please contact Mr. Bilotta immediately if there is a problem/concern with getting an instrument or lesson book.** I'm looking forward to working with your children this year!

Music-CHORUS: Mrs. Lafond

Chorus 6th: Welcome to chorus! In sixth grade, students are learning the basics of singing, including posture, breath, tone and diction, through fun warm-ups and vocal exercises. Classes have starting practicing one of our winter concert selections, “The Storm Is Passing Over.” Mark your calendars! Our Winter Concert will be held in the RLMS auditorium on Monday December 10 at 7:00 pm.

Chorus 7th: Welcome Back to another year of singing! Byt the start of 7th grade, boys voices have begun to change from soprano to various renditions of alto. After a brief “voice check” students are grouped together with other like voices to create sections that sound cohesive. Classes have been reviewing note names in the treble and bass clef and score navigation skills. Classes have also begun learning “Oye,” one of the numbers we will perform at the Winter Concert. Mark your calendars! The 7th grade concert will be held in the RLMS auditorium on Tuesday December 11 at 7:00 pm.

Chorus 8th: Welcome to 8th grade chorus! A big change from 7th to 8th grade in this first month of school is the welcome addition of new baritone voices. Classes have begun a challenging piece for the first concert of the year, “Angels Watchin’ Over Me,” an uplifting traditional spiritual with opportunities for solosists and and four-part harmony singing. Students are reviewing music theory topics covered in 7th grade chorus this month. Mark your calendars! The 8th grade Winter Concert will be held on Wednesday December 12 at 7:00 pm.

Music-KEYBOARD: Mr. Albright

Keyboard 6th:

For September, students will be introduced to the C Major Scale - 1 octave, an ascending 3rds exercise, note names, rhythmic dictation, and songs to be learned this year.

Keyboard 7th:

For September, students will be introduced to the C Major Scale - 2 octaves, an ascending 3rds exercise, note names, rhythmic dictation, and songs to be learned this year.

Keyboard 8th:

For September, students will be introduced to the a minor scale, A B A form short melodies, and songs to be learned this year. We will also examine music theory, rhythmic dictation, and note reading skills.

Music-ORCHESTRA: Mr. Kroqi

Orchestra 6th: We are up to a very good start. This seems to be an excellent group. So will have a lot of fun this year. This month we will focus on some important warm up exercises to get back into the routine of playing again. We will start working on “Sound Of Innovations” book 2 and will start a piece that will be considered for the December Concert. We will also have a try-out lesson, so I can make up the small groups for lesson. The regular small group lessons will start on the week of 9/24.

Tryouts for RLMS Chamber Orchestra will be held on the week of 9/17.

Orchestra 7th: We are up to a very good start. This is an excellent group. So will have a lot of fun this year. This month we will focus on some important warm up exercises to get back into the routine of playing again. We will start working on “Sound Of Innovations” book 2 and will start a piece that will be considered for the December Concert. Lesson schedules for the small groups for lesson will come out this week. SMALL GROUP LESSONS WILL START ON THE WEEK OF 9/17.

Tryouts for RLMS Chamber Orchestra will be held on the week of 9/17.

Orchestra 8th: We are up to a very good start. This is an excellent group. So will have a lot of fun this year. This month we will focus on some important warm up exercises and scales to get back into the routine of playing again. We will start working on “Sound Of Innovations” book 2 and “Essential Techniques” (green book). We will start with “Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 By Bach and another piece that will be considered for the December Concert. Lesson schedules for the small groups for lesson will come out this week. SMALL GROUP LESSONS WILL START ON THE WEEK OF 9/17.

Tryouts for RLMS Chamber Orchestra will be held on the week of 9/17.

Technology Education Department

TECH ED: Mr. Boocks

Technology Education 7th:

Students just finished the Orthographic Projection lab, where they learned how to complete technical drawings. They are now moving onto notepad creation where they are designing and creating individual notepads.

Communication 8th:

Students have been working on a stop-motion film. Most students will be finishing the photography section of this lab and be moving into editing by the end of the week. In editing students will be overlaying music and voice tracks, and completing final production including the opening sequence and credits.

Transportation 8th:

Students spent the last week completing orthographic projections of a propeller vehicle. They are learning the step-by-step process of designing and building a project in a safe lab environment. Students learned to use the scroll saw, and all students have now made cuts with it. This week students will be using the miter box and miter saw, and learning how to safely use a drill press. The skills learned while completing this lab will be used for all future labs.

Technology Education Department Mr. Richards:

7th Technology Education (Mr.Richards): Desktop Publishing

Students are using classroom computers, and both Internet and their personal images to create ¼ page desktop notepads, appropriate for doodling, lists or drawing. Pupils must work collaboratively to review, critique and advise peers on their progress while being mindful of series of specific criteria, including strict time-constraints. This interactive process is meant to give learners authentic opportunities to interact in ways that build the same kind of critical thinking, clear guidelines and social dynamics adults face in collaborative workplaces. More specifically, students are expected to engage in process of frequent reflection and revision as they work towards specific goals while integrating personal creativity.

Technology Education Department Mr. McAleese:

7th Technology Education (Mr.McAleese):

Students have had safety lessons in the Materials Processing Lab. They will spend the next few weeks measuring, laying out, sanding, staining, assembling and polyurethane-finishing their memo holders. They have thus far used the Chop Saw to rough cut material to start fabricating the box.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr.McAleese):

Students have begun to explore the world of transportation by discussing different aspects of the forces involved in a land based vehicle being able to move. Using a mousetrap as the source of energy, students will fabricate a vehicle and run it through various trials for distance and speed.

Before production though, students have to design their vehicle, and create a detailed “engineered” drawing calling out various components and measurements.

8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

Students have designed three plaques using Microsoft Publisher software. After selecting one design, students 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. Cunningham, Ms. Delahunt, Ms. Glogan, Mr. Syrop

The PE department is working on training for the CT Fitness Test. Testing will begin the week of October 2nd. Testing areas include mile run, curl ups, push ups, and sit and reach. Testing will go through to the second week in November.