

RLMS Curriculum Corner - October 2018

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

Art Department

ART 6th:

6th grade art students are finishing up their unit on value and shading. They have created realistic animal drawings using their knowledge of shading techniques, and their drawings are truly amazing! Students will be moving into a unit in linoleum block printing, with a focus on creating a graphic image with a unique composition. They will be carving their designs and making a series of prints for the next couple of weeks.

ART 7th:

7th graders have wrapped up their unit in color theory, and are now moving into a unit in 3D form. They will study and learn about the Mexican Folk Art of Oaxacan Animal sculpture. Students will select an animal and use both additive and subtractive sculpting methods to form their animals with clay. Animals will be painted with highly stylized designs, colors and patterns in the Oaxacan style.

2D ART 8th:

2D art students are embarking on a unit in acrylic painting. They are finalizing their pen and ink drawings, and transitioning to painting over the next week. Painting will focus on color mixing, a variety of methods and techniques, and developing an understanding of composition and perspective. This unit will bring students to the end of the quarter.

3D ART 8th:

3D art students are finalizing their original, hand-built piece of coil pottery. They have built their forms and are wrapping up with embellishments. As their pieces are drying to prepare for firing, they will create an animal sculpture in the style of the Mexican Oaxacan artists. Upon completion of the bisque fired pottery, students will then apply glaze to complete their pottery pieces.

Computers

COMPUTERS: Mrs. Walker

6th Grade Computers: Students continue 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 will be learning all the tips

and tricks of MS Paint, and then students will each draw an original Future Me illustration. Independently, students continue to practice their keyboarding skills using Typing Pals.

8th Grade Computers: Students continue 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. The lessons are getting more difficult!

COMPUTERS: Mr. Boocks

6th Grade Computers :

Students are typing using Typing Pals. They have had an introduction to MS Excel and they are currently working on creating animated movies.

COMPUTERS: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

6th Grade Computers :

Students are typing using Typing Pals. They have had an introduction to various Google Products including Drive, Form and Sheets and will move on to more collaborative projects requiring them to learn Teamworking skills, listening skills and productivity skills.

Family and Consumer Science

FOOD LAB: Mrs. Kempton

6th Grade: Students will be switching from sewing to cooking and begin with an introduction to safety in the kitchens. Then students will practice the standard units of measurement in a hand-on lab with their teams for their first healthy cookie recipe. The following week students will learn the essential skill of knife cutting techniques. After they have mastered their rough chop skill, they will make Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas and enjoy them with their classmates.

7th Grade: Students start by making pancakes with their teams and then it's off to Breakfast Burritos with peppers and onions. They are so proud of themselves as they practice their knife and cooking skills all on their own. Students will be required to plan, shop and cook for their Family Meal Projects. Making a family breakfast is a major accomplishment for 7th graders! Once completed students will present to the class using google slides on their new Chromebooks.

8th Grade: Students are currently working hard on their Multicultural Cuisine Projects with their teams. They will enjoy a sample from their classmates countries as well as their own. This Thursday they will learn about other cultures from around the globe. Check out the webpage located on our RLMS virtual library: <http://www.foodbycountry.com/>

Next week we begin our healthy cakes lab with cake decorating tips. Each student will bring home a cake. We will also take out our 5:1 Cuisinarts and grill chicken for caesar salad and dressing made from scratch. Students will be treated to a guest Chef in October that will be demonstrating Asian Stir Fry and discussing career opportunities.

SEWING LAB: Mrs. Flashman



6th grade

The students in grade 6 will switch to foods on Monday. Today they finished their computer artwork which will be iron on transferred onto their bags. They had to learn how to use the sewing machine and follow directions. It is great to see lots of students walking around the building using their shoulder sack bags!



7th grade

These are some of the 7th grade students who have finished their shorts. Many had time to make a pillow to match. They are very proud of their work!

The students will switch to foods class this week.

8th grade Fabric Art
Pictures of student projects from previous years are hung on the



bulletin board as well as samples of some of the kinds of quilts they can make. These quilts are treasured for years to come.

Health Department

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Health 6th: In October we will be learning about the following topics: alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, puberty and the reproductive systems, and healthy relationships.

Health 7th: In October, grade 7 will learn about coping with death/loss, bullying, sexual harassment, vaping, family communication, conflict resolution and cancer.

Health 8th: In October, grade 8 will learn about Love, marijuana, suicide prevention, coping with depression, HIV, and vaping.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline

Health 6th: We will be taking our Friendship Test that will include bullying and peer pressure. See messenger for the heads up on the date. We will then begin the drug unit which will include; Tobacco/vaping. Marijuana, Inhalants and Alcohol. At the end of the drug unit we will have a class discussing our “Natural Highs”. (*What floats our boat and toasts our bagel.*)

Health 7th: We will be discussing online safety and on Tuesday, October 2nd, a lesson will be done using the Chromebooks. The unit on Diversity will follow.

Health 8th: We are finishing up Unhealthy -Abusive relationships. There will be an upcoming test that will include Sexual assault, Date Rape drugs, Abstinence, HIV and Love and Infatuation. The upcoming date will be posted on messenger. Afterwards we will begin our Alcohol unit. The Who I Am project will be given out the first week in October and the due date will be sent in messenger.

Music Department

Music-BAND:

Band 6th:

Students are busy working on two band compositions: Antagonist and Winter Wonderland. We will be starting two new pieces this month: Handclap and Escapade. All students also have music assigned from their lessons. The sixth graders are continuing to improve in getting to these all-important instrumental lessons (once per week). We still need to see more instruments

going home after school so that they practice their music. That will help the students to enjoy their experience much more.

Very soon, students will be bringing home information about a field trip to Jazz at Lincoln Center which will take place in early November. Information will also be sent out to parents' email. The topic will be on the legendary Joe Williams. *"The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra celebrates the life and music of baritone vocalist Joe Williams, whose legendary voice and powerful sense of swing helped define the sound of the Count Basie Orchestra. Williams "gave the blues a new dimension," as Duke Ellington famously wrote, and special guest vocalist Milton Suggs, a rising star baritone from Chicago, will join the JLCO to teach [the students] all about Williams' unique mastery. With an engaging story, jaw-dropping talent, and chart-topping tunes like "Every Day (I Have the Blues)," this concert will help you stomp the blues away with an hour of pure entertainment."* This ties in with the 6th grade Band's first time performing a swing tune, Winter Wonderland, which will be performed in our December Concert.

Band 7th:

It was so nice to see so many of you at the Open house in September! 7th Grade band is moving up and out of the Standard of Excellence book and into our new book "Essential Elements Book 2" (red stripe at the top). Please pick up a copy for your band student ASAP if you have not done so,yet. It's hard to believe, but we are already beginning our study of music for the winter concert - the band students will be receiving a few more pieces over the month of October and should be working on these at home, in addition to assigned material from Essential Elements Bk 2.

The band(s) will be taking a field trip to Jazz at Lincoln center on Friday, November 2nd. I will be sending home more information, field trip and health forms shortly - if you are interested in chaperoning, please email me! The topic will be on the legendary Joe Williams. *"The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra celebrates the life and music of baritone vocalist Joe Williams, whose legendary voice and powerful sense of swing helped define the sound of the Count Basie Orchestra. Williams "gave the blues a new dimension," as Duke Ellington famously wrote, and special guest vocalist Milton Suggs, a rising star baritone from Chicago, will join the JLCO to teach [the students] all about Williams' unique mastery. With an engaging story, jaw-dropping talent, and chart-topping tunes like "Every Day (I Have the Blues)," this concert will help you stomp the blues away with an hour of pure entertainment."*

Please reach out with any questions : jbrion@fairfieldschools.org

Band 8th: Mr. Bilotta

We have had a great first month of school. We are now in our third full week of lessons and have also been hard at work in our full ensemble band rehearsals as well. Now that the students have had a little time to get acquainted with their new music, we are diving deeper into analyzing our music, working on playing with expression, key signatures, alternate fingerings, blend and balance, amongst many other things.

Also, we are excited to announce the launch of our 8th grade band website. On this website, you will find all the necessary information about 8th grade band, including: performance dates, handouts, lesson schedules, instructional videos, recordings, fingering charts, tools and games, Western Regional audition information and more! Please check out the website and encourage your children to do the same. The website address is: rlmsgrade8band.weebly.com

Western Region Middle School Music Festival - Western Region Middle School Music Festival (or WRMS for short), is a festival that brings together the best middle school band students from the entire Western Region of Connecticut. This is a really great experience for students and a great way to represent RLMS in the region. Auditions are held in December and students can audition to be in the Concert Band or the Jazz Band. Students have to learn a piece of music, memorize a few scales and do some sight-reading. Registration forms for the audition are due to me no later than October 26th. If the student gets selected for the ensemble, the festival itself is March 15-16. The students go to Wilton High School on Friday night, rehearse for a few hours, eat dinner and then go home. The next morning, they go back, rehearse some more, eat lunch, do a sound check and then perform a concert later that afternoon! Usually the guest conductors/directors are renowned music educators, professors or professional musicians. One year the Jazz Band Director was actually the saxophone player from Beyonce's band! I can't stress how great of an opportunity this is for students. If they are interested in auditioning, have them see me for a copy of all the materials, or visit the WRMS Festival section of the band website.

Thank you and if you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at mbilotta@fairfieldschools.org.

Music-CHORUS: Mrs. Lafond

Chorus 6th: In October, 6th grade chorus students are learning the basics of score navigation, which means how to read choral sheet music, starting with identifying staff lines, bar lines and measures and locating the treble clef and bass clef. New vocabulary that is being introduced is system, bracket and brace. Our choral tone is really starting to come together as a 6th grade chorus! Students will continue to practice good vocal habits such as posture and breath support. This month students will start two new songs that we will perform in the winter concert.

Chorus 7th: In October, 7th grade students will start using their chromebooks in chorus class! Sheet music will be accessed through google classroom. 7th graders will also be starting two new songs this month in preparation for their winter concert. In class, we are reviewing good singing habits including posture, breath, tone and diction. Good listening skills and best effort are being reinforced in 7th grade as well. In music theory, students will be reviewing note names of the treble and bass clefs and moving on to reading leger lines above and below the staff.

Chorus 8th: In October, the 8th grade chorus will receive two new concert selections and will begin music theory lessons on Tuesdays, in which the focus is on solfege for sight-reading and learning how to read key signatures. The Broadway trip planning is underway, so expect permission slips to go home this month. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday April 24, 2019! I will have confirmation on the show we are going to see coming soon to a chorus room near you...stay tuned!

Music-KEYBOARD: Mr. Albright

Keyboard 6th:

In October, students will finish learning the C Major scale and our first piano song - *Amazing Grace*. We will get started on our first rhythm dictation, and sight reading exercises.

Keyboard 7th:

In October, students will finish learning the C Major scale, and be exploring ways to integrate use of their new Chromebooks in the world of Music. Our list of apps to explore includes; *Real Piano*, *Perfect Piano*, *Piano PRO*. Sight Reading, Rhythm Dictation, Music Theory exercises continue.

Keyboard 8th:

In October, we will finish the a minor scale and start a small GarageBand project. Students are invited to bring their IOS 12 (GarageBand compatible) device to class, and will work with partners to create an 8 measure song with drums, chords, and melody tracks.

Music-ORCHESTRA: Mr. Kroqi

Orchestra 6th:

We had a very good first month of orchestra rehearsals. We have started the first piece "Cindy" and very soon we will start "Tango Troccadero". I am also considering two more pieces "Twilight Express" and "Let It Snow". Students will have the music to practice home. Please remind them.

Small group lessons are also going very well. We will focus a lot on the new book "Sound Of Innovations" book 2. Students will be assigned 7-10 exercises weekly from the book. This book

is selected to help students with general technique of their respective instruments, notation and beat counting.

Students must sign and return the orchestra contract. You can find the contract on the RLMS website - Music - Orchestra - Pamphlet (last page)

Orchestra 7th:

In orchestra we are currently working on two pieces: “Spartacus” and “A Baroque Concerto”. We are making a very good progress on them and shortly we will start two more pieces “Mystical Quest”, and “Jupiter”. Based on the progress that they will make, I may consider to give them one or more new pieces. Students will get the music sheet to practice at home. Please remind them.

Small group lessons are also going very well. We will focus a lot on the new book “Sound Of Innovations” book 2. Students will be assigned 10-20 exercises weekly from the book. This book is selected to help students with general technique of their respective instruments, notation and beat counting.

Students must sign and return the orchestra contract. You can find the contract on the RLMS website - Music - Orchestra - Pamphlet (last page)

Orchestra 8th:

I was nice to see most of you at the Open House night. We are having a very strong start. We are currently working on “Brandenburg Concerto No.2” by J.S. Bach, “Abduction From the Seraglio” by W.A. Mozart. This month we will start “A Day at Disneyland”, “Mystical Quest”, “Jupiter”, “Harry Potter Suite” and “A Baroque Concerto”. Students will be given the sheet music to practice home. We will during class and during the small group lessons also focus on the “Essential Techniques” book. Students will be assigned 10-20 exercises weekly from the book.

Students must sign and return the orchestra contract. You can find the contract on the RLMS website - Music - Orchestra - Pamphlet (last page)

Educational trip (Austria-Slovakia-Germany):

The first payment installment for the Educational Trip to Austria (Vienna, Vorau, Graz, Hallstatt and Salzburg), Slovak Republic (Bratislava), and Germany (Munich) is due this month. Information regarding the trip (Itinerary, activities, payment schedule...), are posted on the RLMS Music Website. For more info, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Technology Education Department

TECH ED: Mr. Boocks

Technology Education 7th:

We have just switched teachers and the students in my section have completed designing, printing and cutting & binding notepads. We are moving onto the systems model and how it applies to design, and we will be completing small lateral thinking challenges for the next few days.

Communication 8th:

Students have completed their first animated movie and are moving on to learning how to use tutorials to complete tasks. Students are currently using photoshop to superimpose their picture within another famous painting.

Transportation 8th:

Students can now use the scroll saw, drill press and miter saw safely. We are currently building mousetrap powered vehicles. The focus on this lab is the transfer of power, the reduction of friction and orthographic top and side views.

TECH ED: Mr. McAleese:

Technology Education 7th: (Mr.McAleese):

Students that began with me are now in the design stages of the notepad process with Mr. Richards (his more detailed explanation follows below). Mr. Boocks' students are now with me and are learning safety in the Material Processing Lab while moving through the production steps of the Design Process. They are fabricating the various parts of their memoholders and will soon be moving on to staining, assembling and finishing the final product.

Transportation Tech 8th (Mr.McAleese):

Students have designed, drawn up and fabricated mousetrap powered vehicles. They have tested and redesigned and retested their projects for a few days exploring ideas about friction, physics and forces involved with their vehicles and will be finishing soon. Our next project will be design and fabrication of Hot Air balloons as we explore further into the world of Transportation.

Manufacturing 8th (Mr. McAleese):

Students have completed their letter plaques which should be coming home in the next day or so. They are now researching their final self-directed project. Some students have found inspiration

online (pinterest, etc.), others in trying to solve problems at home (shoe racks, trophy shelves, etc.). They will be working on completing drawings of their proposals, and material lists so components may be purchased and work can start. They have thru the end of the marking period to complete this work, and if time allows they may take on another smaller project to round out their Manufacturing experience.

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

The Physical Education department will be testing the mile run in the beginning of October and beginning units in the middle of the month. Those units will include flag football, ultimate ball/frisbee, project adventure games and initiatives.

8LM Oct Update

Language Arts: Language Arts students are continuing to hone their close reading strategies as they read, annotate, summarize, discuss, analyze, and write about a variety of texts. Students will also continue to engage in shared inquiry discussions that revolve around character motivation, conflict, symbolism, and theme.

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra classes are starting a unit on Congruence and Similarity, exploring properties of congruent and similar figures and performing transformations in the coordinate plane. In this unit, students will complete mini-projects in which they will create their own tessellation and dilation designs.

Math Algebra: In Algebra, students are studying the properties of functions and are learning to analyze key information about linear and nonlinear functions, including what family a function belongs to, how its equation, table, and graph are related, and its domain and range.

Math Geometry: The Geometry students are completing a unit on Inductive and Deductive Reasoning and Logic, which will lead them into developing conjectures, finding counterexamples, and creating two-column proofs. They will then use these new skills to establish properties of parallel and perpendicular lines.

Science: Science classes are finishing up an introductory study of matter, including mass, volume, and density. Next, we are moving on to kinematics, which is the study of motion and the forces that cause it.

Social Studies: U.S. History students are learning about the principles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and building connections with the documents. Soon history students will be heading Westward! Unit 2 will focus on Westward Expansion and the challenges that come with

territorial expansion. The unit will culminate with a research project in which students will answer the essential question, *Whose Land Is It?*

7LMS - Oct 2018

Language Arts: We are excited to pilot and implement the chromebooks this year which will allow our writing progress to be a live and ongoing process for editing and revision purposes. L.A. classes have already created individual folders for Chromebook use. Additionally, we have begun and will continue to closely read (highlight and annotate) short stories to formulate theories, craft reader responses as we dig for deeper meaning, and notice and note vocabulary.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - Students have been working on combining like terms, distributive property, one and two step equations. We will soon be getting into multiple step equations with variables on both sides of the equation.

Math 7 - Mat 7 have been focusing on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers. We will soon take these concepts and apply our understanding of +/- whole numbers and apply them to both fractions and decimals.

Science: In October, 7th grade science will be going small! We will begin with an exploration of microscopes and will practice microscope use with prepared slides and creating our own slides. Then we will begin our investigation of cells. Students will learn the difference between plant and animal cells and complete a lab where they will look at their own cells! Finally, students will end the month with a project comparing a cell to some media of their choosing.

Social Studies: The Geography teachers are thrilled to incorporate Chromebooks into our instructional 'bag of tricks' here at RLMS. Increased access to technology is welcome news for geography & social studies classes. In October, geo classes will wrap up our introductory unit, "The World in Spatial Terms." Topics will include latitude & longitude (you sank my Battleship!) and spatial thinking. Once unit one is complete we will move on to our study of the Physical Systems and how these 4 systems work together to shape the surface of the Earth.

Crew 6 LMS- Oct Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - Throughout the past few weeks, students have been learning and practicing skills that will lay the foundation for working on our first book club. Through reading and annotating a variety of short texts, students will be given practice in making predictions, finding the deeper meaning, recording personal connections, and summarizing a story. Additionally, questions that related to the text will be used as a springboard to help introduce

students to the ACED technique of crafting solid, well supported written responses. Within the context of their writing, capitalization has been the grammar skill of focus. All of these skills will continue to be the focus in the months ahead.

Math Grade 6 - 6th grade mathematicians will continue exploring the four operations in our upcoming unit. They will look at various ways of using the operations with fractions and decimals and applying them to real-world examples. Students will be working on multiplying and dividing fractions, along with dividing mixed numbers. They will then move on to adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals.

Social Studies Grade 6 -In geography class, students have learned about basic map skills and spatial relationships including map components, latitude and longitude, and parts of a map. They are currently working on a World Map project at home applying their knowledge of map skills. Over the next few weeks, students will begin to learn about the 5 Themes of Geography or key ideas, to study physical processes and human systems. In school, they are collecting and analyzing data, with the 5 themes of geography, on a country within one of our three regions. In late October, we will begin our World Regional Studies on Southwest Asia (Middle East) and North Africa.

Science Grade 6- The 6th graders have been busy putting the scientific method to work. Teachers have been performing demonstration lessons to illustrate independent and dependent variables. While learning about hypothesis, the students performed a lab to see how many drops of water would adhere on top of a penny. As we move through the rest of the unit, students will be able to write their own procedure, collect and analyze data, and communicate their results by using graphs. By the end of the unit, the students will all be very well versed with the steps of the scientific method.

World Language - Oct 2018 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

As we consider the essential question “Who am I?”, 6th graders are exploring numbers and gathering information about their new cultural identities. Students will begin to gather information about French or Spanish countries in various parts of the world beyond location, country name, and nationality. They will learn how to meet, greet, and introduce others in the target language.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

10B students are answering the essential question “How do I manage my time?” by discussing their typical school day and afterschool and weekend activities. We also have been working on telling time, using school vocabulary and communicating what they have to do and feel like doing in school and their free time. Additionally, the 10B learners are comparing and contrasting their school day and weekend activities with students in their target culture.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

Students are continuing to navigate their way through a target culture city to determine what makes this city unique. They are describing places in a city and what people do there. They will ask for and give directions from one point to another within a city. Students will research and create a presentation on their target culture city, share with one another, and identify common and different elements.

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner- Oct 2018

The school year is off and running and now is a great time for our students to think about how they can get the most out of the school year! We encourage all of our students to set goals in every aspect of their lives (academic, social, extracurricular, etc). When we discuss goal setting with our students, we have them follow the SMART goal model. See below and talk with your child about some goals today!

SMART Goals	
S pecific	What exactly will you do?
M easurable	How will you know if you meet your goal?
A chievable	What steps are you going to take to reach your goal?
R elevant	What about your goal makes it important to you?
T imely	When do you want to complete your goal?

8th Grade News:

Our 8th grade class will also be starting conversations this month around high school options. There are many private school Open Houses happening in our area (check their websites for dates) as well as our

local magnet programs. On October 5th, the 8th grade will be having an assembly in the morning and hearing presentations from local public school options. See links below for the schools who will be presenting. Be sure to click the links for Open House and Admission information:

- **Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High School –**
<https://www.bridgeportedu.net/fwc>
- **Center for Global Studies at Brien McMahon High School –** <https://cgs.norwalkps.org/>
- **Bullard-Havens Technical High School –** <http://bullard-havens.cttech.org/index.html>
- **Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science & Technology Education Center –**
<https://www.bridgeportedu.net/Domain/1530>
- **Regional Center for the Arts Interdistrict Magnet High School –**
<https://www.ces.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=3434>
- **Trumbull Regional Agriscience and Biotechnology Center at Trumbull High School –**
<https://www.trumbullps.org/thr/ag/>
- **Bridgeport Military Academy-**<http://www.bridgeportmilitaryacademy.net/home>

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