

RLMS Curriculum Corner - February, 2019

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner- February 2019

Happy February from the Counseling Department! With the new year here, it brings a time for our 8th grade families and staff to begin the high school transition process for the Class of 2023. The transition to high school can be a very overwhelming experience and at the same time students are filled with excitement for the next chapter of their journey. We have coordinated a transition plan with the high school and several activities will happen over the next few weeks.

Our 8th grade counselors will kick off the transition process by providing developmental guidance lessons to our students. The first lesson will entail our 8th grade students taking the “Career Key” inventory on Naviance and identify their Holland Personality profile. The students will then participate in a lesson to guide them and utilize their personality type results to support them in exploring careers and choosing high school electives.

The second day of developmental guidance lessons is titled “High School Planning”. Students will receive their Fairfield Ludlowe High School Program of Studies. We will also provide some general information on the high school to get our students to start thinking more about their transition. Students will also receive a course planning worksheet to bring home to review with parents.

Please note you will continue to receive important information on the high school transition process. **We encourage all parents to make sure your Infinite Campus is up to date since all information on high school articulation will only come via this system.** It will be important to be on the lookout for important dates and deadlines for the transition process. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your 8th Grade Counselors. Kate Harder (kharder@fairfieldschools.org) or Kelly Renna (krenna@fairfieldschools.org) and by telephone: 203-255-8343.

8th Grade Transition – Important Dates:

Career Exploration Development Guidance Lessons:

- January 28 – Crew 8L
- January 30 – Crew 8M
- January 31 Andreczyk Science per 7

High School Planning Development Guidance Lessons:

- February 1st– Bayers per 2 LA class
- February 4th – Crew 8L
- February 5th – Crew 8M

Grade 8 Parent & Student Evening:

- February 6th 7-9pm (at FLHS-parents and students)
- Snow Date – February 7th

Students will input course selections into Infinite Campus with FLHS School Counselors/RLMS Counselor:

- February 12th-Crew 8L
- February 13th-Crew 8M

RLMS Counseling/Dean Staff:

Bill Bosch (6th grade counselor) bbosch@fairfieldschools.org

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

Karyn McNeil (7th grade counselor) kmcneil@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

World Language - Feb 2019 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

Sixth grade students are identifying and describing friends and family members, including pets. They will also compare personality traits and physical attributes of these people. When identifying pets, students will explore and compare the role of pets in the family in the target culture and the U.S.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Students investigated artists from their target culture and created presentations informing their peers on how these individuals demonstrate how they use their imagination. In addition, the students compared these artists and their works with artists from U.S. culture. As a follow up activity, learners will use the information from the presentations and will write on demand in class.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

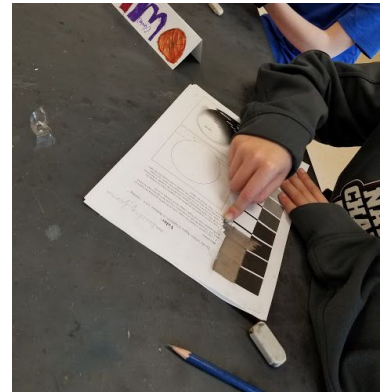
Students will examine their own lifestyles and those of their peers in the target culture to determine what constitutes a balanced lifestyle. Learners will explore foods, exercises and daily habits that lead to a healthy lifestyle.

UA- Art/Computer/FCS/Health/Music/PE- Feb 2019 Update

Art Department

ART 6th:

6th graders have just begun their quarter in art, and are beginning with a unit in value - learning how to shade to show the illusion of 3D form on a flat surface. They have been working on matching values with different pencils, and blending to create smooth tones. Students will be using their new knowledge to draw a realistic animal upon completion of their tone and value practice packets. Students will be working on these drawings for the next few weeks.



ART 7th:

7th grade students are working through a unit in color theory. They are learning lots of new color vocabulary and how to mix any color by using only primaries and black/white. Students have created a symmetrical design that mimics a kaleidoscope, and they will use their color knowledge to paint these designs, using 12 colors that they independently mixed. They will be painting for the next few weeks, then move onto a unit in 3D form/sculpture.

2D ART 8th:

2D art students in Mrs. Woron's class are working on a unit in pen and ink design and drawing. They have practiced a variety of pen techniques (stippling, hatching, cross-hatching etc.) to create different values and textures. They will use these techniques to create a final ink drawing of their choice, which they will work on for the next month or so.

In Mr. Friedrichs' class, students are embarking on a Claude Monet study- utilizing Monet's grainstack paintings for reference. Students are using chalks, oil pastels, and paints to create various studies of Monet's paintings. This will prepare them to move on to a larger painting of their selection later in the marking period.

3D ART 8th:



Students in 3D art have begun their first unit in hand-built coil pottery. Students have brainstormed and designed their forms by sketching first, and are now in the process of construction using the coil building method. This method requires patience and helps students build persistence through completing a longer task. As students build the forms, they also smooth them, then at the end they add a decorative embellishment. Students will continue with this unit for the next month or so.

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. 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 to be completed include a Nested Repeat Design Project, Basic Picture Project, and even a Star Wars game.

COMPUTERS: Mr. Boocks

6th Grade Computers :

Students are continuing to work on their typing assignments and lessons. They have also begun to use Microsoft Excel to create spreadsheets and graphs. They will be working with a graphics program and developing presentations starting this week.

COMPUTERS: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

6th Grade Computers :

Students are working with Typing Pals typing program as well as other graphics, Google Drive and Windows based programs. Please encourage your students to practice at home. Typing Pal is accessible from home and the best way to Carnegie Hallpractice, practice, practice.

Family and Consumer Science

FOOD LAB: Lori Kempton

6th Grade:

Students were treated to our town's Fire Marschall, Jeffrey Edmonsens who help educate them on Home & Life Safety. Then students will start the unit on measuring techniques.



Next knife skills are introduced to 6th graders as they learn how to properly use a knife and enjoy Vegetable Cheesy Quesadillas with their teams. They will continue to practice their knife skills as they prepare a healthy snack while peeling, coring, slicing and cooking apples.

7th Grade:

Students begin to plan a healthy breakfast for their Family Meal Projects. They are required to plan, shop, cook and clean for their families breakfast. Students are so proud to complete this task all by themselves. Next students will learn the importance of a healthy breakfast while preparing whole wheat pancakes, breakfast burritos, oatmeal, and omelets with their cooking teams. Students will plan, collaborate and use teamwork for each lab.

8th Grade:

Students use bread yeast and stand up mixers to make individual pizza dough from scratch. We will be using food processors next as they begin shredding carrots for their Valentines Day cakes. They are thrilled to start cake decorating with pastry bags and decorative tips. They are very excited to bring home their cakes to share with their families next week. Later this month, they will mince, chop and simmer as they prepare their marinara sauce. We will work on our knife skills and independent cooking as they prepare a multicultural dish with their lab teams. Then we are off to the computer lab to learn where our food comes from and how to make healthy choices.

SEWING LAB: Mrs. Flashman

6th grade: The 6th Graders are very proud of their work!



7th grade:

7th Graders showing their style with boxer shorts.

Several made extra projects such as pillows, pouches and hats.



8th grade Fabric Art:



While 6th & 7th grade is all about following directions ~ 8th grade is total creativity. Addison's family spends time in Vermont hence the moose she designed. Katie is into Hunger Games and used a variety of mediums to create her heirloom including digitizing the Hunger Games pin, making a stencil of the pin and iron on transfer of four quotes



Health Department

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Health 6th: This month we will be learning about coping with bullying and sexual harassment, and the effects of alcohol.

Health 7th: This month we will be learning about alcohol and marijuana, as well as a review of bullying and sexual harassment.

Health 8th: This month we will do sexual assault awareness, abusive relationships, love, and vaping.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline

6th Grade : We are finishing up the friendship unit(good and bad friendships, bullying, online safety, sexual harassment) with a presentation from Officer Kovacs on Thursday and Friday , Feb 7th and 8th about bullying and online safety. . The Friendship Unit test will be sometime next week. The date will be sent on messenger. The following unit will be the drug unit: Tobacco and vaping, Marijuana, Alcohol and Inhalants.

7th Grade: The Body Image, Self-esteem and Eating Disorder test is on Thursday, Feb. 7th. The RYSAP survey will be given to all 7th graders at school on Friday, February 8th. The Happiness Inventories will be presented next week February 13th and 14th. Our new topics will be, Popularity, Rumors and Accusations and Online safety.

8th Grade: We have been discussing qualities of a healthy relationship and focusing on setting boundaries. We will continue the discussions including unhealthy and abusive relationships including sexual assault. We will then discuss Abstinence and Date Rape drugs.

Music Department

Music-BAND:

Band 6th: Mr. Jeffries

The 6th grade band is hard at work on our new music for the spring concert - keep up the good work with home practice sessions!!

Band 7th: Ms. Brion

We have been hard at work on our new pieces over the past month and having a lot of fun exploring some calypso and rock rhythms! We also are working our way through the chromatic scales on pg 37 in our lesson book.

We are catching the tidying up wave here in the band classroom and all students will be assigned a new locker space for instrument and music storage in our storage areas over the coming weeks. We are also finding that our band folders are not sparking joy (joke) as most are well into the process of falling apart! As a result, we have decided to transition to using 3 ring binders to keep track of our music, handouts, and warm ups. If your band student does not have one already, please purchase a 3-ring binder, sheet protectors, and tab dividers (of any kind!) for your band student. The idea is that your student will be able to use the same binder and accessories next year in 8th grade band, as well! I am hopeful this will help everyone stay more organized and cut down on lost music, too!! As always, please reach out with any questions: jbrion@fairfieldschools.org

Band 8th: Mr. Bilotta

We are in full swing, preparing our spring concert music. All students have had (or will have) a performance-based assessment this month on two of their spring concert pieces. Over the next few months, we will begin preparing for the Memorial Day Parade. I can't stress enough how important this event is. It is such a great way to showcase our students and represent our school and this town while honoring our veterans. Being an Army veteran myself, I can tell you from experience, that there is no greater honor than marching in the Memorial Day Parade. We are expecting ALL RLMS 7th and 8th grade band students to be there. Thanks for your support of this important event. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Contact Mr. Bilotta: mbilotta@fairfieldschools.org

Band website: rlmsgrade8band.weebly.com

Music-KEYBOARD: Mr. Albright

Keyboard 6th:

We continue work on learning new songs in Piano Suite, Beyer Etudes, C Major, G Major, F Major 1 octave scales, Music Theory fundamentals, and Sight reading skills.

Keyboard 7th:

We continue work on learning new songs in Piano Suite, Beyer Etudes, C Major, G Major, F Major 2 octave scales, Music Theory fundamentals, and Sight reading skills

Keyboard 8th:

We continue work on learning new songs in Piano Suite, Beyer Etudes, a minor, d minor, e minor, scales, Music Theory fundamentals, Sight reading skills, and Melodic Dictation.

Music-ORCHESTRA: Mr. Kroqi

Orchestra 6th: This month we will start with the performance tests (scales from “Sound Of Innovations” bk 2 - numbers 167-171, also 1-33). We will be reviewing all of them in class and during the small group lessons. Orchestra will continue to work on the “Emperor Waltz” and “Mystical Quest”. Two more pieces will be added by the end for the month as we prepare for the spring concert and the High Note Festival.

If your kid did not return the forms and the check for the High Note Festival, at Lake Compounce, he/she can still do so.

Orchestra 7th: This month we will start with the performance tests (scales from “Sound Of Innovations” bk 2 - numbers 167-180, also 1-33). We will be reviewing all of them in class and during the small group lessons. Orchestra will continue to work on “A Baroque Concerto”, and “Mystical Quest”. New pieces, “Emperor Waltz” and “Jupiter” together with two more pieces will be added by the end of the month as we prepare for the Spring Concert and the High Note Festival.

If your kid did not return the forms and the check for the High Note Festival, at Lake Compounce, he/she can still do so.

Orchestra 8th: This month we continue to work on the “Essential Elements” book, on positions, scales, technique (right and left hand) and reading skills. Small group lessons will be focusing on the solos from the Suzuki books as well. Orchestra will continue to work on “Jupiter”, “Abduction From the Seraglio”, “Harry Potter Suite“. More pieces will be added ” A Baroque Concerto”, “Mystical Quest”, “Emperor Waltz”, and two more pieces as we prepare for the Spring Concert, High Note Festival and the Educational Trip to Austria-Slovakia-Germany.

If your kid did not return the forms and the check for the High Note Festival, at Lake Compounce, he/she can still do so.

Music - CHORUS: Mrs. Lafond

<https://sites.google.com/a/fairfieldschools.net/rlms-music/chorus>

Chorus 6th: This month 6th grade chorus students will practice naming notes in treble and bass clef during class and will identify musical symbols in sheet music as they continue to practice navigating a choral score New music will be started this month as we begin to prepare for the

spring concert. Solo auditions for spring concert selections will be held during homeroom flex time during the week of March 4th. Students must sign up for a time slot with Mrs. Lafond and receive a pass to to come to their audition during homeroom. Students are singing in unison and two part harmony during vocal warm-ups.

Chorus 7th: This month 7th grade chorus students will practice reading music in treble and bass clef using solfege syllables. New music will begin this month in preparation for the spring concert. Solo auditions for spring concert selections will be held in homeroom flex time during the week of March 4th. Students must sign up for a time slot with Mrs. Lafond and receive a pass to to come to their audition during homeroom. Students are singing in unison, two-part and newly-introduced three-part harmony during vocal warm-ups.

Chorus 8th: This month 8th grade students will practice naming sharp and flat key signatures and reading music in treble and bass clefs using solfege syllables. New music will be started this month in preparation for the spring concert. Solo auditions for the spring concert selections will be held during homeroom flex time in the week of February 25th. Students must sign up for a time slot with Mrs. Lafond and receive a pass to to come to their audition during homeroom.

Technology Education Department

TECH ED: Mr. Boocks

Technology Education 7th:

Students finished notepads and are now working on problem solving skills. As you know, students revolve between the three 7th grade Technology teachers each semester. As my current crew finishes up they will be moving to Mr. McAleese to begin the wood shop portion of the semester.

Communication 8th:

Students are working on individual labs. Most are finishing their animated short films and will be moving into photoshop this week. Students will do graphical manipulation for a week or two, and then move into a short session on programming and robotics.

Transportation 8th:

Students are doing an excellent job of exploring the design and build process. They are finishing their first set of side and top view orthographic projections, and most are well into the build phase of our first vehicle. Students are learning to use the scroll saw, miter saw and the drill press, and will use these tools to build on the design and build process throughout the semester.

TECH ED: Mr. McAleese:

7th Technology Education (Mr.McAleese):

The 7th graders have just about completed their Materials Processing Lab project. They have created wooden boxes to hold notepads of their own design. Students have now used the chop saw, band saw, miter saw, miter box and various sanding machines and tools. They have also learned about staining wood, how it differs from painting, how to polyurethane something, which is very similar to painting and know how to clean their equipment....so put them to work at home they are all pros now!

8th Transportation Tech (Mr.McAleese):

Students spent the last two beautiful days testing and fixing their Hot Air Balloons outdoors. Ask your students about the terminology we discussed, buoyancy, gravity, aerodynamics. We next move onto building water and air powered rockets from 2 liter soda bottles. We could use any lacrosse or similar balls you might have laying around for added Mass on the nose of the rockets. All donations welcomed, any condition, and they will get trashed so backsies.

8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

Students are just about complete with designing, fabricating and finishing their Letter Plaque projects. NExt we move on to measuring, and drawing so they can prepare for their big Independent Project that they will work on for the remainder of the Marking Period.

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

The Physical Education Classes have begun a new rotation of activities that all 3 grade levels will be rotating through for the next 9 weeks. Those activities include: Archery, Badminton, Climbing portion of Project Adventure and the Fitness Center.

Crew 6 LMS- Feb Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - We are currently immersed in our first whole class novel study using *Tuck Everlasting*. This novel study will serve as a springboard for incorporating vocabulary work, author's craft techniques, class discussions, and reinforcement of previously taught concepts in writing. The unit will culminate with a project that reflects the theme, author's craft, and major events of the novel. After students finish reading the book, they will enjoy viewing the movie version of the novel to compare/contrast the two types of media.

Math Grade 6 - Math 6 classes will be exploring ratios and rates. Students will be working with ratio tables, figuring unit rates and then comparing and graphing ratios. Students will then be

working with percent. They will be solving percent problems and converting measures. After completing this unit we will be moving on to statistics and distribution.

TPA - TPA classes are wrapping up a unit on ratios, rates and proportional relationships. Students have worked on percent increase and decrease, markups and discounts and simple interest. Next, we will be moving on to a unit on geometry. We will be exploring the area of parallelograms, triangles and trapezoids. Finally, we will look at polygons on a coordinate plane and three-dimensional solids.

Social Studies Grade 6 -In 6th grade Social Studies classes, students are in the midst of researching their Ancient Greece/Rome topic. Students began using print resources, and they will be moving onto online websites to further their understanding of their topic. After researching, students will be organizing notes and drafting an informational essay. Moving towards the end of the writing, students will be working with a partner to create a visual presentation related to their topic. The culmination of this project will have students present in class and at the Ancient Greece/Rome fair in early March.

Science Grade 6- Grade 6 Science students are continuing their study of weather and climate. Students are finishing up their research on hurricanes and will be analyzing data from past hurricanes. They will create presentations like true meteorologists. Soon we will be traveling the world learning all about the different types of biomes. The students will take a closer look at the climate and ecosystem of each biome in order to create a brochure to convince travelers to visit their biome.

7LMS - Feb 2019

Language Arts: In Language Arts the students are exploring the power of argumentation and the structure, craft, and evidence that allows a writer to convince their reader. They have participated in many exploratory activities that allow them to cultivate their own opinions and develop their ability to see how a logical progression of ideas and a variety of evidence can sway a reader's thinking. Ultimately they will take these findings and construct a processed argument essay based on their own thinking and research.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - We are still working on two dimensional geometry and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will study circumference and area of circles, explore volume and surface area of right prisms and polygons in depth. We will also use the Pythagorean Theorem to prove right triangles and find missing sides of a right triangle.

Math 7 - Students will reason proportionally. They use ratios as a basis of comparison between two sets of data. They observe related data in the form of a table and look for patterns connecting these data values. Plotting the paired data points to see a graphical representation, and writing an equation that shows the relationship of the data in the table further strengthens their understanding.

Science: In February, 7th grade science will be finishing up exploring evolution and then use that knowledge going forward to the kingdoms of living things. We will see how the different kingdoms evolved different characteristics starting small with bacteria and getting larger with protists and fungi. Students will be able to view protists and fungi in various labs and eventually solve the mystery of “What’s the Worst Disease?”

Social Studies: 7.6 billion !! That is our current world population and it continues to grow. In February, 7th grade social studies will continue to look at human populations and how they affect different countries as well as our world. We will take a closer look at the factors that play a role in the increase or decrease of a countries change in population.

8LM Feb Update

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

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra classes are finishing their unit on linear relationships by looking at the differences between linear and nonlinear equations, graphs, and tables. After completing this unit, the classes will prepare for and take a mid-year exam.

Math Algebra: In Algebra we are starting a unit on polynomials, including how they are classified and named and how we add, subtract, multiply, and factor them. We will use Algebra tiles to model these operations in order to better understand them.

Math Geometry: After focusing on triangles for the past few months, the students in Geometry will begin to study polygons with more than 3 sides, with an emphasis on different types of quadrilaterals and their properties. The students will also apply many of the concepts they have learned so far this year to the field of coordinate geometry, which allows us to explore and prove things about polygons in a coordinate plane using generic vertices.

Science: 8th grade science classes will be working on mechanical energy and waves before moving on to chemistry.

Social Studies: Students have recently completed a project that required them to create a museum exhibit for the Progressive Era. Our next unit is The Emergence of Modern American (1890-1930). Students will explore the changing role of the United States in global affairs during this time period with our involvement in WWI, and the prosperity of the 1920s as well as the social tensions and political developments of the era.

