

RLMS Curriculum Corner - March 2019

Crew 6 LMS- March Update

Language Arts Grade 6 - Sixth graders are currently in the process of completing their whole class novel study of *Tuck Everlasting*. Students are about to begin their final project. Upon the culmination of this unit, students will move into the narrative writing unit.

Math Grade 6 - Math 6 will be starting a unit on statistical measures. Students will look at ways to collect, record and interpret data. Included in this will be an understanding of mean and measures of center such as median and mode. To help learn to interpret data, we will explore both measures of variation and mean absolute deviation.

TPA - TPA classes are beginning a unit on geometry. Students will look at two dimensional polygons and learn how to find the area of parallelograms, triangles and trapezoids. We will also work with polygons in the coordinate plane. Students will then explore three dimensional figures by calculating surface areas of both prisms and pyramids. Finally, students will examine volume of rectangular prisms.

Social Studies Grade 6 -The 6th grade Social Studies students presented their Ancient Greece/Rome projects in the classroom and will be presenting at the crew fairs in early March. After the fairs, students will continue to learn about the culture, history, and geography of Europe. We will begin to travel from ancient Europe to the Middle Ages to present day.

Science Grade 6- Grade 6 Science classes are rocking and rolling and heating up as they study earthquakes and volcanoes. The Ring of Fire will be introduced and the mysteries of the Earth's crust, mantle and core will continued to be studied. Students will be able to analyze the sudden motions along breaks in the Earth's crust and learn how these natural disasters can affect landforms and societies. Students will also brainstorm ideas with partners to design a structure that will resist a simulated earthquake. Let the shaking begin!

World Language - March 2019 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

As 6th-graders have been exchanging information about what they like, what they look like, and what they *are* like in the 1st half of the year, they are now applying similar concepts to family,

friends, and pets in the target language. Students will continue to explore their Spanish and French-speaking cultures and ask and answer questions to gather and share related information.

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

As a culminating activity for Unit 4, RLMS 10B World Language students viewed, described, and gave opinions in the target language of their classmates' original works of art that were inspired by artists from French and Spanish speaking countries. Students are now ready to begin our last unit of the school year, *What makes a travel destination special?*. Learners will explore vacation destinations, particular landmarks to visit, regional foods, and the activities in which tourists participate. They will also explore the weather and the type of clothing required.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

In March, eighth grade students will continue to discover what it means to maintain a balanced lifestyle. They will research meals and mealtimes from the target culture and typical activities to stay in shape. Students will also compare their daily routines to routines of students in the target cultures. They will use reading and listening activities to understand the different habits about foods and mealtimes. Students will speak with partners about the foods they should eat and the activities they should do to stay healthy.

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner - March 2019

March Madness is officially in full flight at the middle school! With half the school year down and SBAs quickly approaching, students may begin to experience elevated levels of stress and anxiety. The school counseling department is working hard to support students and provide them preventive strategies to manage during this busy time.

A proactive way to decrease levels of stress is to continue to encourage our students to maintain healthy habits. Here are some helpful hints on how to set students up for success:

1. **Make healthy meal choices-** It is important for students to eat a balanced breakfast and lunch to boost their energy, mental stamina, and fuel their ability to focus in school; all key ingredients to test-taking and academic success.
2. **Get plenty of sleep-** According to the *National Sleep Foundation*, pre-teens and teens need a minimum of 8-10 hours of sleep per night to properly function at their best. Sleep deprivation can, “*limit your ability to learn, listen, concentrate and solve problems*”

(<https://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-topics/teens-and-sleep>). Sleep deprivation can also affect a person's mood and ability to regulate, which will ultimately impact stress levels.

3. **Make time for movement-** Many studies have been conducted that support the hypothesis that exercise improves one's ability to concentrate. It is likely that this result is due largely in part to the fact that physical movement/exercise provides people necessary physical and mental breaks, allowing them time to release stress feelings, re-group, and re-charge. *"In a 2007 report, Dr. Stewart Trost of Oregon State University links as little as 15 minutes of physical activity to improved concentration, memory and classroom behavior..."*

(<http://www.livestrong.com/article/457834-does-exercise-improve-concentration/>).

Students are encouraged to take "me time" each day and engage in an activity that they enjoy.

4. **Utilize self-relaxation techniques-** In order to properly sleep, eat, and enjoy activities, it is important for students to learn how to calm themselves down when feeling stressed. The following articles provide a list of relaxation techniques that are found to be helpful to kids and young adolescents (deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, visualization, meditation, stretching, etc...):

http://stress.lovetoknow.com/Top_Ten_Relaxation_Techniques_Children

<http://www.pcdcr.org/en/top-ten-relaxation-techniques-for-children-2/>

<https://www.education.com/magazine/article/new-age-relaxation-techniques/>

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8LM March Update

Language Arts: Students continue their study of personal narratives & memoirs by identifying and writing about the themes they're finding in their reading, as well as by analyzing the writer's craft in short published personal narratives. They continue with 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 have started a unit on Real Numbers, including how we classifying Real Numbers, how we convert between fractions and decimals, and how we evaluate or estimate expressions with square roots and cube roots. We will then apply the ideas of square roots to a study of the Pythagorean Theorem and its Converse.

Math Algebra: The Algebra students are continuing to learn to work with polynomials, specifically the many strategies we utilize to factor them. Next, we will move on to a unit on Quadratic Functions and Equations, where we will be able to apply our learning about polynomials to this new family of functions.

Math Geometry: In Geometry, students are writing Coordinate Proofs about triangles and quadrilaterals to wrap up their current unit. The next unit will be an introduction to trigonometry, with a focus on right triangle properties.

Science: In science students are finishing up studying energy and they are working on a wave unit. Once the waves unit is complete, classes will move on to chemistry.

Social Studies: Students are currently analyzing how cultural, economic, and technological changes impacted American society in the 1920s. Next week we will begin a unit on the Great Depression and World War II. In March we will learn about the causes of the Great Depression and how it affected American society, and evaluate the role of the government and New Deal programs.

7LMS - March 2019

Language Arts: L.A. classes are moving through the art of argumentative writing discussing bias, perspective, making a claim, researching our stance, practicing making a counterclaim and rebuttal, and citing our sources. We will begin our whole class novel, *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton and discuss the rewards and consequences our choices may deem with our future.

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - Students will be working on Three Dimensional Geometry and volume. In this unit, students build off their understanding of area to build an understanding of volume. Students will extend their understanding of volume learned in 7th grade (cubes, and right prisms), to further understanding cones, cylinders, and spheres.

Math 7 - Students will be working on Two and Three Dimensional Geometry. In this unit, students will study circumference and area of circles, and explore volume and surface area of

right prisms and polygons in depth. The unit will build on students prior experience in 6th grade, studying perimeter and area of polygons.

Science: In March, 7th grade science will explore the exciting fungi and protist kingdoms. Students will be able to view organisms from both kingdoms under the microscope and chase protists around the slide! At the end of the month, they will investigate a number of diseases from viruses to bacteria to protists to fungi to determine which one they think is the worst. They will then try to convince their classmates that their choice is the worst!

Social Studies:

地理課程最近完成了我們對人口學的研究，現在正專注於東亞。學生們已經開始了這個單元的製圖項目，該項目結合了上半年學到的許多地圖技能並將其應用到東亞。在這裡，我們正在關注中國，日本，朝鮮，韓國，蒙古和台灣的文化，歷史，經濟和政府。在這個單位結束後，我們換檔並飛往撒哈拉以南非洲

Geography classes recently completed our study of Demography and are now focusing our lense onto **East Asia**. Students have begun this unit with a cartography project that incorporates many of the map skills learned in the first half of the year and applies them to East Asia. Here, we are looking at the culture, history, economics & governments of China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia, and Taiwan. After this unit concludes, we shift gears and fly to Sub Saharan Africa.

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

Art Department

ART 6th:

6th grade artists have completed their animal drawings and are now working on linoleum block carvings and printmaking. Students have practiced safe carving techniques and experimented in creating multiple textures and lines in linoleum. They will continue to carve a final piece and then make a series of prints utilizing multiple colors of ink and paper. Students will then end the marking period with a unit in 3D form, focusing on sculpture - specifically the artist Alberto Giacometti.

ART 7th:

Students in 7th grade art are in the middle of their 3D form unit, and are using clay to sculpt an animal of their choice. These animals will be sculpted and painted in the style of the Oaxacan artists of Mexico. Painting is highly stylized with a focus on bold patterns and designs. Upon

completion of this unit, students will end the marking period by creating a self-portrait drawing. Proportion and shading will be the focus of this unit.

2D ART 8th:

Students in 2D art are now in the process of creating their final acrylic paintings. Mrs. Woron's students have moved on from pen and ink, and are now focusing on color mixing, painting techniques, and creating a realistic painting based on a reference photo. Mr. Friedrichs' class has spent a lot of time on color, first creating a small painting in the style of French Impressionist, Claude Monet. Now, they will continue to use their acquired color and painting skill for the final painting of their choosing.

3D ART 8th:

3D art students have just completed their pottery forms. After spending several weeks building and smoothing the forms, they have applied their embellishments, and are now waiting for their pieces to dry. In the meantime, students are working on a 3D paper sculpture, or ceramic relief sculpture/tile while their pottery dries. They will end the marking period by applying colored glaze to their pottery in order to have a finished ceramic piece.

Computers

COMPUTERS: Mrs. Walker

6th Grade: Students will be completing their All About Me presentations using PowerPoint, and will present to the class on the last day of the marking period. We will also create a document using Excel called Birthdays. Finally, we will complete the exercises in Typing Pals, so we will know how to keyboard correctly for the rest of our lives. Some of us will also have time to learn how to type properly using the numeric keypad

8th Grade: Students will continue to learn to code/program using the CODE.ORG. We alternate between on-line lessons using CODE.ORG, and working independently on our own projects. Specifically, we have learned how to use functions & variables. Projects this month include a Spiral Design, a Basic Word Picture, and an Aquarium. Please be sure that you have seen these fantastic projects. Each project is graded and sent home!

COMPUTERS: Mr. Boocks

6th Grade: Students are continuing with the computer program "Typing Pal" honing their keyboarding skills. They are focused, hardworking and very diligently working to build finger memory of the location of letters, numbers and symbols on the keyboard. While doing this the class also has worked on 21st Century collaborative skills creating posters, calendars and learning proper letter and email formatting.

COMPUTERS: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

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Family and Consumer Science

FOOD LAB: Lori Kempton

6th Grade: Students have begun by making a healthy cookie while learning the essential life skill of proper measuring techniques. Then students will begin learning how to use a paring knife and a french cut knife. Students will chop peppers and tomatoes and make vegetable cheese quesadillas. Teamwork and problem solving are the focus for 6 grade.

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 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: Students have just completed their multi-cultural cuisine unit and made foods from around the globe. They will next make pizza dough from scratch and enjoy an individual pizza. Students mince, chop and simmer as they prepare their marinara sauce for their pizza. Next we will use the Cuisinart 5:1 Grills and 8th graders will make a healthy Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad while honing in on their knife skills. Students will then head to the computer lab to research on our virtual library as they learn where their food comes from.

SEWING LAB: Mrs. Flashman

6th grade:



7th grade:

Students enjoy making extra projects such as pillows, scrunchies, hats and lanyards.



8th grade Fabric Art:

I am as proud of Rosie as she is of herself because she did something that has not previously been done in class. Rosie sketched her images and then created those images from Fabric! She created an heirloom using a different medium ! fabric. Notice the beautiful rose embroidery as well. Nicely done Rosie!



Health Department

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

Health 6th: This month we will be finishing the last 3 weeks of the marking term with information on marijuana, inhalants, puberty and the reproductive systems.

Health 7th: For the remainder of the month we will be learning about coping with death and loss, birth, family communication, conflict resolution, and vaping.

Health 8th: For the remainder of the month we will be learning about marijuana, coping with depression, suicide prevention, and healthy relationships.

Music Department

Music-BAND:

Band 6th: Mr. Jeffryes

Students in 6th grade Band have been busily working on many new musical compositions as well as starting a new music technique book. The new compositions are:

Eclipsys, Top Secret, Coldwater Creek, Handclap, and Happy

These compositions incorporate all of the new rhythms, notes, key signatures, and musical concepts presented in the new technique book. All band students have much music to practice at home and should be practicing at least three to five times per week. By doing so, they will develop skills which lead to more enjoyment of the music that they play. We look forward to you hearing their progress at the May 15th concert.

Band 7th: Ms. Brion

In 7th grade band we are finalizing preparations for our scales test on the Ab, C major and Bb chromatic scales which will take place the week of March 18-22nd. All students should check infinite campus to see how many lessons need to be made up within the next three weeks before the close of the marking period. We have been using technology in the band classroom more through classcraft, google classroom and now flip grid so students can upload submissions of their scales tests.

If you have not picked up a three ring binder, sheet protectors and dividers for your band student to replace their folders – please do so. Our folders are quickly deteriorating!

Band 8th: Mr. Bilotta

Students are continuing to prepare spring concert music. Students will have another performance-based assessment this month on selections from their spring concert music. We have several students who are also going above and beyond by participating in the 8th Grade Honors Band at FLHS. We also have one student, Yegor Noskov, who is representing RLMS at the Connecticut Music Educators Association Western Region Middle School Music Festival

this month at Wilton High School, performing with the jazz band on piano. We are extremely proud of all our Bulldog Band students representing RLMS Band beyond our building.

Contact Mr. Bilotta: mbilotta@fairfieldschools.org

Band website: rlmsgrade8band.weebly.com

Music-ORCHESTRA: Mr. Kroqi

Orchestra 6th: Students are making a remarkable progress in technique, tone and tone quality, music reading skills and music symbol recognition.

We have started with the scales test. So far, the students that have taken the test have scored very high. We will finish the test in the next two week. Besides, small group lessons are focusing on the “Sound Of Innovation” book 2, and on the solos from Suzuki book 2. Orchestra is playing three pieces, Mystical Quest, Telemann Sinfonia and Emperor’s Waltz. Another piece will be added shortly.

Orchestra 7th: The main focus remains reading from “Sound of Innovations” book 2 and solos from Suzuki books. In the preparation for Spring Concert, Orchestra is currently playing, Jupiter, Mystical Quest, Spring, A Baroque Concerto. More pieces will be added. This is a very strong group and we will continue to built up ensemble skills like tone, dynamics, following the conductor and more.

Orchestra 8th: Main focus remains reading music, extensions and positions. We are currently working on Essential Elements, green book, and many pieces: “Abduction from the Seraglio”, “Jupiter”, “Overture to William-Tell”, “Spring”, “Suite from Harry Potter”,. Small group lessons will continue to work on scales, technique and solos from Suzuki book 3 and 4.

Preparations for the Educational Trip to Austria-Slovakia-Germany are in full swing. Students will be performing 3 side-by-side concerts, 2 in Vienna and one in Vorau. There are many interesting activities and visits planned. More updates regarding the trip will be send out very soon.

Music - CHORUS: Mrs. Lafond

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

Technology Education Department

TECH ED: Mr. Boocks

Technology Education 7th:

Students have finished notepads and creating movies. They are now moving on to the last few days with me, where we are honing creativity and problem solving skills by completing design challenges.

Communication 8th:

Students have created board games, photo manipulation and animated movies. As we move into our last two weeks together students will be coding using SCRATCH and finishing the semester building and programming NXT Robots.

Transportation 8th:

Students have progressed through their first Engineered drawing, crafting a detailed drawing of a propeller-driven vehicle which they then fabricated and testing. This will give them the skills to create on their own a detailed drawing for a mousetrap vehicle to be built and tested next week. They are currently completing the creation of a Trip slideshow with spreadsheet and charts for costs, details about 3 different modes of transportation and a few tidbits about cultural and fun things to participate in. Some have begun presenting their slideshows and all will be done tomorrow.

TECH ED: Mr. McAleese:

7th Technology Education (Mr.McAleese):

Students have fabricated a memo holder box and notepads in the Materials Processing Lab. In the Lab, students have gone through a Safety Lesson on proper etiquette and use of tools and machines, especially the inherent risks in a shop environment, the least of which is ruining clothes and shoes with spilled stains, polyurethane and glue (fair warning). Students measured, laid out and cut 6 separate uniquely shaped pieces of wood which were then assembled into a box. In the graphics portion of Mr. Boocks' class students designed and fabricated their own pads to go IN the box. Students have learned Sketchup CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) software to draw a keychain that will be 3D printed. These two simple lessons expose the students to additive manufacturing, adding material to make something, and subtractive manufacturing, removing material to make something.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr.McAleese):

Students have progressed through their first Engineered drawing, crafting a detailed drawing of a propeller-driven vehicle which they then fabricated and testing. This will give them the skills to create on their own a detailed drawing for a mousetrap vehicle to be built and tested next week. They are currently completing the creation of a Trip slideshow with spreadsheet and charts for costs, details about 3 different modes of transportation and a few tidbits about cultural and fun

things to participate in. Some have begun presenting their slideshows and all will be done tomorrow.

8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

Students have been researching, designing, and beginning the fabrication of independent projects as well as the research and fabrication of a slideshow about a famous inventor. As they find they have downtime they can move back and forth between working on their slideshow and fabricating various elements of their Independent projects. Some students are making longboards, others shelving units. All students utilize the skills learned while making their letter plaques at the beginning of the semester. They are all now capable of using band saws, scroll saws, drill presses and various other tools. As well, they are all versed in the various tools and materials used in “finishing” a product (paint, stain and/or polyurethane).

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

Take a look at what we are doing!

