

RLMS Curriculum Corner May/June 2019

Counseling/Dean Curriculum Corner - May/June 2019



As the end of the school year approaches, it can be difficult to focus on the road that lies before us, rather than the finish line. While utilizing the “light at the end of the tunnel” can be a great motivating force to help students, teachers, and individuals buckle down and power through to the home stretch, it can also lead to “checking in” to summer a little too early... Therefore, it seemed fitting to share the following article, “Ten Ways to Finish the School Year Strong” from the CNT blog to help rally our students to finish strong:

1. Set Goals

Setting goals for yourself both personally and academically will help you stay on track. Whether your goal is to get straight A’s or pass your AP tests, make your own goals and try your absolute best to achieve them.

2. Stay Organized

Staying organized will prevent you from losing or forgetting about assignments. Keep track of your assignments and test dates in a planner or calendar to stay organized and prepared for upcoming final projects and tests.

3. Don’t put off responsibilities

Slacking and procrastinating are just ways of putting off responsibilities. Putting off school-related responsibilities will leave you scrambling and stressed at the last minute. Do what you need to do when you need to do it, and you will be well on your way to finishing strong!

4. Remember what you’ve worked for

It may help to remind yourself of all the hard work you’ve put in this year. One bad performance on a final test or project could undo all of your efforts for a certain letter grade.

5. Get motivated

It is time to get motivated! Whether you have to bribe yourself with rewards or create penalties for not trying your best, do whatever it takes to stay motivated and beat “summer fever!”

6. Take advantage of the nice weather

As the weather begins to get nicer, you don’t have to stay cooped up inside studying. Get creative by studying and doing homework outside instead!

7. Take a time out

Don’t forget about taking time out of your day to regroup and simply have fun! This will help you stay focused. Giving yourself breaks for fun is good for your sanity and attention span.

8. Adjust your attitude

What is your attitude right now? Are you feeling down? Can you not wait for school to end? Simply adjusting your attitude to be more positive can make an incredible difference!

9. Take care of yourself

Taking care of yourself by eating well, exercising and getting the proper amount of sleep will help you remain focused.

10. Focus on the finish line

Visualize your finish line- and your goals- and focus on that. The school year is almost over- you can do it! Start a countdown, and don’t worry- the end is near.

(<https://www.collegenanniesandtutors.com/blog/title/10-Ways-to-Finish-the-School-Year-Strong>).

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World Language - May/June 2019 Curriculum Update

French/Spanish

6th Grade Level 10A Spanish and French

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

7th Grade Level 10B Spanish and French

Students have learned about various vacation destinations in the target culture and are presenting them to their classmates. As a supplement, students are continuing to read a short novel entirely in the target language related to travel. We will continue to work on the four skills: reading, listening, speaking, and writing in preparation for the common district final exam to be taken early in June.

8th Grade Level 20 Spanish and French

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

The common district final exam will be in June.

UA- Art/Computer/FCS/Health/Music/PE- May/June 2019 Update

Art Department

The RLMS Annual Art Show is on display in the main lobby from now until May 22nd. Please join us at our evening reception on May 14th from 5-7 pm to view the work and celebrate our artists! We are so proud of all of the hard work and beautiful artwork created by our students this year!

ART 6th:

6th graders are wrapping up their drawing unit. They have drawn some very beautiful and realistic animals using their new knowledge of shading and value. They will be moving onto a design unit where they create a series of prints using the linoleum block printing method. Students will spend a few weeks on this unit, then progress onto the final unit in 3D form - Giacometti inspired plaster sculptures.

ART 7th:

7th grade students have just completed a unit in color theory and have painted beautiful kaleidoscope style paintings. They are moving onto their 3D unit in which they will create clay animal sculptures inspired by the Oaxacan artists of Mexico. They will learn a variety of sculptural techniques and methods to create these sculptures. Students will end the year with a drawing unit in self-portraiture.

2D ART 8th:

Mrs. Woron's 2D art students have just completed their unit in pen and ink drawing, and are now moving onto acrylic painting. Students have selected images and are learning and applying a variety of painting techniques and methods - gradients, scumbling, dry brush etc. Students will be working on these until the end of the year.

Students in Mr. Friedrich's class have been studying Claude Monet - creating a series of studies from Monet's haystacks using chalk pastel, oil pastel, and paint. They will also be moving on to making acrylic paintings that will bring them into the end of the school year.

3D ART 8th:

8th grade 3D art students have been working on their hand built coil pottery for the past month. They are finalizing their forms and applying embellishments. Pottery will be fired and then students can apply glazes. While their pottery dries, students will be creating slab constructed bowls that feature textures or relief sculpture. These bowls will be glazed as well.

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 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 terrific projects. Each project is graded and sent home!

COMPUTERS: Mr. Boocks

6th Grade:

Students began with an introduction to Typing Pals, an online typing skills training and practice software program. Each class starts with time spent typing ending with a Friday test of each successive skill level. Students are graded on Accuracy more than Speed although those with speed difficulty will be encouraged to try to move faster. Sections of class time are given over to more general skills learning about various Google and Microsoft products. Students have created a Letter to an official or role model, will be collaborating on a class wide calendar project, and will finish with various other Graphic based projects.

COMPUTERS: Mr. McAleese (Mr. Mac)

6th Grade :

Students began with an introduction to Typing Pals, an online typing skills training and practice software program. Each class starts with time spent typing ending with a Friday test of each successive skill level. Students are graded on Accuracy more than Speed although those with speed difficulty will be encouraged to try to move faster. Sections of class time are given over to more general skills learning about various Google and Microsoft products. Students have created a Letter to an official or role model, will be collaborating on a class wide calendar project, and will finish with various other Graphic based projects.

Family and Consumer Science

FOOD LAB: Mrs. Lori Kempton (Ms. K.)

6th Grade: For our first unit students will learn the importance of proper measuring techniques while exercising their kitchen math skills. Students will bake a healthy cookie with their lab teams while practicing good teamwork along the way. Next students will learn knife skills and

knife safety while cutting peppers, tomatoes and peeling, coring and slicing apples. We spend time analyzing what they current eat from a box and how to properly read a food label to make healthy choices.

7th Grade: Students begin planning 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, french toast and scrambled eggs. Students will plan, collaborate and use teamwork for each lab.

8th Grade: Students are currently learning how to be creative through using recipe adaptations. They get to eat the foods they love while changing them to be healthier. Students prepare a healthy carrot cake from scratch utilizing the food processor. They will shred carrots and process their cakes. After they bake their cakes they will decorate with their new cake decorating skills. We will use cake tips, turntables and offset spatulas. Students will take home a single layer cake to share with their families.

The next unit will foster independent cooking as they prepare a multicultural dish with their lab teams. They select a country to research, choose a recipe, order the food while staying within a budget and then prepare the item. We share each countries dish as they present their countries. Next it's time for indoor grilling while we make a healthy Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad from scratch. Then we are off to the computer lab to research vitamins and minerals.

SEWING LAB: Mrs. Flashman

6th grade: Proud of their pillows



After learning how to make scrunchies in the sewing room, the Cramer sisters have been making them at home. They're now selling them to benefit a worthy charity. Good for them! There are many opportunities in the sewing lab to help others. Making pillowcases for children hospitalized while undergoing cancer treatments is just one.

7th grade: Proud of their boxer shorts





8th Grade:

Circle of Friends is a club that joins exceptional students with caring students of all grade levels. Mrs. Delahunt and Mrs. Kulas are the staff leaders. The sewing lab is facilitating a quilt being made where each student makes a block. The club logo is the embroidery quilt block shown here. We are excited to hang the finished quilt in the hall. One of the talented 8th grade sewing students, Mia von brauchitsch, has offered to sew it together.

7th grade will soon choose their 8th grade electives. If sewing and creating with fabric interests them then I hope they will choose fabric art. In addition to a quilt, students could choose to make PJ pants, a jean skirt, a bag, wallet, stuffed animal, etc.

Health Department

HEALTH - Mr. Dickenson

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

Health 7th: Topics for the rest of the year include alcohol, marijuana, coping with death, birth, vaping, a tobacco review, and family communication.

Health 8th: For the remainder of the year we will learn about abstinence, an HIV review, abusive relationships, marijuana, vaping, suicide prevention, depression and love.

HEALTH - Ms. Maline

6th Grade: We will be continuing the Drug Unit which will include Tobacco/vaping, Marijuana, Alcohol and Inhalants. At the end we will talk about and generate our personal list of our “Natural Highs”. We will then start our unit on Puberty. Officer Kovacs will be talking to the students about Bullying and Online Safety May 22nd and 23rd.

7th Grade: We will be discussing Popularity, Rumors and Accusations and Online Safety. Our extensive Diversity Unit will follow. We will then discuss Family Life, Death and Dying. On May 21st, students will have a speaker from Bridgeport Hospital who will do a presentation on smoking and vaping.

8th Grade: The Who I Am Projects will be shared. We will continue discussing Relationships. The following topics will be covered: Sexual Harassment/assault, Abstinence, HIV- AIDS, Date Rape Drugs, Love Vs Infatuation, Alcohol, Depression and Suicide Prevention.

Music Department

Music-BAND:

Band 6th: Mr. Jeffryes

The 6th grade Concert which also features the Chamber Orchestra is on Wednesday, May 15th in the RLMS auditorium at 7pm. Band students need to arrive by 6:30 in order to warm up and tune their instruments. Mr. Jeffryes sent home a letter last week with all of the details including what to wear. Please read the letter carefully and let me know as soon as possible if there are any concerns. This is basically the final exam of the year for these talented, young musicians. In addition, the Beginning Band students who began playing in October will be joining the Band for this special performance.

All students are very busy practicing notes and rhythms that they tend to miss. They are focusing on the dynamics and intonation issues that pose a challenge within each composition. The level of difficulty of the concert music is noticeably greater this Spring than it was in the Winter Concert. The students individual and collaborative work is paying off. I am proud of the accomplishments that these students have achieved this year.

Band 7th: Ms. Brion

Our 7th grade Spring concert is right around the corner! The band will be performing on Tuesday, May 14th, at 7pm in the RLMS auditorium. The Chamber choir also performs at this concert. All band students need to meet in the band room at 6:30pm in order to warm up and tune. Please see the concert letter that was sent home for more information about our dress code, etc.

Please note that the RLMS Jazz Ensemble will perform at the 8th grade Spring concert on Monday, May 13th. All Jazz ensemble students should meet in the small band room 132 at 6:15 to tune and warm up.

The Fairfield memorial day parade will take place on **Monday, May 27th**. Please RSVP for your band students by sending back the permission slip if your child WILL be attending, or a quick

email stating that they will not attend. We are hoping for a nice, full band marching at the parade and will be sending out more detailed information about the day, as soon as we receive it from the parade marshall. Also a quick thank you for all the tee shirt order forms! Any questions? Please reach out any time! jbrion@fairfieldschools.org. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our concerts and the parade!

Band 8th: Mr. Bilotta

Students continue to prepare for end-of-year performances by refining individual technical skills as well as ensemble-based skills. Below are the important dates/events coming up this month:

Spring Concert: Monday, May 13th @7PM in the RLMS Auditorium - you will be receiving an informational letter regarding all the details for this concert in the very near future.

Memorial Day Parade: Monday, May 27th - you will be receiving a letter with all the information about what to wear, where to be, what time, etc. very soon. Permission slips were due on Friday, May 3rd, so if your child has still yet to turn one in, please do so as soon as possible. [Click here for another copy of the permission slip.](#)

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. See you all at the spring concert!

Mark Bilotta

Contact Mr. Bilotta: mbilotta@fairfieldschools.org

Band website: rlmsggrade8band.weebly.com

Music-KEYBOARD: Mr. Albright

Keyboard 6th:

Students continue developing playing skills, focusing on using both hands together at the same time. Beyer Etudes are helping students strengthen both playing and reading skills. Our end-of-year project, "WWWWW" (Who, What, Where, When, Why) gives students an opportunity to share/present to class information about their favorite artist/band/singer/composer.

Keyboard 7th:

Students continue developing playing skills, focusing on using both hands together at the same time. Beyer Etudes are helping students strengthen both playing and reading skills. Our end-of-year project, "WWWWW" (Who, What, Where, When, Why) gives students an opportunity to share/present to class information about their favorite artist/band/singer/composer.

Keyboard 8th:

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Music-ORCHESTRA: Mr. Kroqi

Grade 6th: It is Concert time again. Grade 6 will perform on Wednesday night May 15th. We have only a few rehearsals left for the Spring Concert. We will continue to focus on individual and ensemble skills. Music selections for this concert are Telemann Sinfonia, Emperor Waltz and Mystical Quest.

Spring Concert starts at 7:00pm. Students must stay until the end of the concert.

High Note Festival is on Thursday May 30. **We need some more parent chaperones.** Please let me know if you are available to help. Thanks.

Orchestra 7th: Spring Concert for grade 7 is on Tuesday night May 14. On the last rehearsals we will continue to focus on the individual and ensemble skills. Orchestra is sounding great. I am sure it will be a great performance. Students and I are very excited. Music selections are “A Baroque Concerto”, “Jupiter”, “Mystical Quest” and “Brigid's Fire”.

Spring Concert starts at 7:00pm. Students must stay until the end of the concert.

High Note Festival is on Thursday May 30. **We need some more parent chaperones.** Please let me know if you are available to help. Thanks.

Orchestra 8th: Spring Concert will be on Monday May 13. Students and I are very excited. They sound great. Music selections are “Spring”, “Jupiter”, “Abduction From the Seraglio”, “Themes From Moldau” and “Finale-Overture to William Tell”.

Spring Concert starts at 7:00pm. Students must stay until the end of the concert.

High Note Festival is on Thursday May 30. **We need some more parent chaperones.** Please let me know if you are available to help. Thanks.

This is their last performance in Middle School. They have been terrific. I'll miss them all.

RLMS Chamber Orchestra: Performance on the Spring Concert will be on Wednesday May 15. Right after the grade 6 orchestra. Music selections are “Brandenburg Concerto No. 3” “Pirates of Caribbean”. Students are allowed to leave after the performance.

Spring Concert starts at 7:00pm. Only grade 6 students must stay until the end of the concert.

High Note Festival is on Thursday May 30. **We need some more parent chaperones.** Please let me know if you are available to help. Thanks.

Music - CHORUS: Mrs. Lafond

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

Chorus 6th: It's that time of year again! Concert season is upon us and the 6th grade concert is on Wednesday May 15th at 7:00 pm. For more information, please click on the website, which will direct you to the chorus page. Students are learning about concert etiquette from the audience and performer's perspective and reviewing choral techniques that singers use during a performance. After the concert is over, students will continue their music theory studies in chorus class. The end-of-year assessment for all full-time chorus students will be given on Thursday May 23rd.

Chorus 7th: It's that time of year again! Concert season is upon us and the 7th grade concert is on Tuesday May 14th at 7:00 pm. Chamber Choir will perform on this evening as well. For more information, please click on the website, which will direct you to the chorus page. Students are reviewing and practicing concert etiquette from the audience and performer's perspective and reviewing choral techniques that singers use during a performance. After the concert is over, students will continue their music theory studies in chorus class. The end-of-year assessment for all full-time chorus students will be given on Friday May 31st.

Chorus 8th: It's that time of year again! Concert season is upon us and the 8th grade concert is on Monday May 13th at 7:00 pm. For more information, please click on the website, which will direct you to the chorus page. Students are reviewing and practicing concert etiquette from the audience and performer's perspective and reviewing choral techniques that singers use during a performance. After the concert is over, students will continue their music theory studies in chorus class. The end-of-year assessment for all full-time chorus students will be given on Friday May 31st.

Technology Education Department

TECH ED: Mr. Boocks

Technology Education 7th:

This new batch of students is finishing notepads this week. We will be turning our attention to problem solving activities, and how to hone problem solving skills. Students will be creating towers and testing the for structural integrity.

Communication 8th:

Students have created their own board game, and are now working on “Twisted Tales”, a stop motion film activity. They will finish the semester by building Lego robots, face swapping using photoshop, and other graphical manipulation projects that the students choose.

Transportation 8th:

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

TECH ED: Mr. McAleese:

7th Technology Education (Mr.McAleese):

The class started out with a lesson in general safety in the Materials Processing Lab (MPL) and moved on to specific lessons on the proper use of each machine. Additional machine lessons will be added as we progress through more and more complex parts of their main project. Students will learn 3D Drawing using a Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) program called Sketchup. They will draw a 3D model of the memo holder box, and if time allows will 3D print a keychain of their own design.

8th Transportation Tech (Mr.McAleese):

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

8th Manufacturing (Mr. McAleese):

The class started out with a lesson in general safety in the Materials Processing Lab (MPL) and moved on to specific lessons on the proper use of each machine. Additional machine lessons

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

7th Technology Education (Mr Richards):

A group of students has just finished their presentations on the Universal Systems Model and is turning their attention towards working in groups to solve design challenges. Additionally they are working with these teams to hone their collaborative and interactive skills as part of larger lesson on the importance of teamwork in developing good technological solutions.

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

It has been a year full of many achievements for all students and we are in our final games unit which involve both indoor and outdoor games.



8LM May/June Update

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

Math PA: The Pre-Algebra students will be learning about systems of linear equations, including the different methods for solving a system, special cases, and how this topic can be applied to real-world situations. Then in June we will finish up the year by preparing for a taking a final exam.

Math Algebra: The last unit for the Algebra classes is Linear Modeling, which consists of analyzing correlations between real-world data sets and finding a line of best fit to model that data in order to make predictions. Students will complete a group project in this unit, which they will present to their classmates. In June, the Algebra students will prepare for and take a final exam.

Math Geometry: In Geometry, students are completing a unit on circles, discovering and using the relationships among circumference, arc length, total area, sector and segment areas, and lengths and angle measures formed by chords and tangents. The students will then take a final exam in June.

Science: In Science students are currently studying molecular concepts of chemistry. Upon completion of the chemistry unit they will begin an engineering design challenge unit.

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

Crew 6 LMS- May/June Update

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

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

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

Social Studies -Currently, grade 6 Social Studies classes are in the trenches of WWI and WWII. We are finishing our study of Europe and will be moving on to Unit 4, South Asia. Before moving on to our last unit of study, students will be administered the Spring District Argumentative Writing assessment. Our last unit will involve the study of India's geography, history and culture. We will be wrapping up the year with a culminating brochure activity in which students will present to the class. The students will choose a country in the regions studied this year. The focus of the brochure will be to have the students research the culture, geography, and history of the country chosen and decide if it is a place to visit or provide aid.

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

7LMS - May/June 2019

Language Arts: We have completed our whole class novel *The Outsiders* and have begun writing narrative vignettes practicing and playing with literary devices to move our plot line, keep the reader engaged, and enhance our writing. We will close the year with book clubs using Historical Fiction choices and responses and compiling an electronic Portfolio to reflect our progress as we move to eighth grade. Happy summer~

Math: Pre Algebra 7 - Students will be starting our unit on Systems of linear relationships. The focus of this unit is on developing a conceptual understanding of the connections between algebra and geometry in viewing systems of equations. Students explore situations where

multiple solutions are possible and write equations to represent these situations. Graphing is also used to explore solutions to system of linear equations.

Math 7 - Students will be working on our probability unit. The overarching goal of this unit is to learn how to make predictions and decisions using knowledge of probability and expected values. Initially, students need to develop an understanding of how numbers represent the likelihood of an event occurring, with higher numbers representing a higher likelihood up to the maximum of 1. Students will have the opportunities to calculate likelihoods of simple probabilities, and then run trials to determine experimental probabilities and compare those to the theoretical probabilities.

Science: In May, 7th grade science will be exploring the human body. First, students will investigate muscles and bones including testing their eye muscles, looking at different types of muscles under the microscope and comparing bones. Second will be the digestive system. Students will map out the entire digestive system and compare the pH of various household products. Finally, students will explore the cardiovascular and respiratory systems where they will learn how to take their pulse and see how different activities change their heart rate. In June, students will delve into ecology and the natural world around them. They will create and interpret food webs and chains and see how populations change under various conditions. The unit will culminate with a field trip to a local estuary to explore local flora and fauna as well as test water conditions.

Social Studies: The Geography classes are having an action packed May. We are starting out with a major research project entitled “Issues for a Changing World.” As a part of this 3 week project, students are immersing themselves in the process of conducting research, keeping track of resources, and writing an argumentative piece. The project will end with class debates. Towards the end of May and in June, students will learn about South American culture & geography.