



Sixth Grade Newsletter



News from the Core Classrooms

English Language Arts: Mrs. VerDow

Is it really the 3rd quarter?! Time flies when you are having fun! Last quarter we completed our Amplify unit that analyzed Roald Dahl's book, *Boy* by writing a multiparagraph essay. This quarter our Amplify unit focuses on the *Titanic*. Students will explore documents and research the events of the *Titanic* sinking. They will be assigned a passenger from the *Titanic*'s list of passengers to research and write narratives from the point of view of their assigned passenger. They will also learn about primary sources, how to determine if a source is credible, respond to writing prompts throughout the unit, and then wrap up the unit with a part essay, part multimedia project. I'm looking forward to exploring and researching the *Titanic* with your student!

Math: Ms. Kolbe

I am thrilled to share the exciting progress our 6th graders have made in math during the second quarter. This quarter, we focused on various algebraic concepts that are foundational for their mathematical journey. Students learned how to simplify expressions with variables, use the distributive property, solve one-step equations using addition and subtraction, and how to write expressions to represent word problems. We also learned to evaluate expressions using exponents and the order of operations, while still mastering our computation of fractions and decimals. As we move into the 3rd quarter, we will continue to delve into equations, word problems, and inequalities for the remainder of Unit 4. After that, we will shift our focus to ratios, proportional relationships, and percent. I am genuinely excited to see the progress your students will continue to make! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your continued support!

Reading: Mrs. Caton

Welcome to the new year! The last quarter was focused on our new Amplify program by finishing up the research/history of yellow fever and diving into the mystery of Sherlock Holmes, "The Speckled Band". The new quarter will focus on studying the Greeks. The Greek myths in this unit explore questions and themes that help us understand the world around us and our role in it. It begins with a Quest familiarizing the students with Greek mythology and builds on the rights and responsibilities of humans in our world. Throughout the unit, students will practice and continue to develop the close reading and writing skills they've been working on throughout the year.

Science: Mrs. Dilcher

6th grade science wrapped up 2024 by finishing our Earth Science unit and beginning our Life Science unit. We have hit the ground running, learning all about cells starting with a little history about Cell Theory. Your students have learned about the scientific pioneers and the scientists who developed this theory which is one of the most basic principles of biology still today! We dove further into cells by learning about the two basic cell types: prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells and how they are alike and different. Yes!, your students have and will be seriously expanding their vocabulary. 😊 We are currently learning about the similarities and differences between plant cells and animal cells and will

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explore the different structures and their functions that make them up. We will wrap up Life Science with the different levels of cellular organization in plants and animals and mitosis. Many students enjoy this unit along with Earth Science the best because they are so hands on. Please take some time to ask them about it. After Life Science we will move on to our Physical Science unit. As always, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I am here to help!

 **CELL-A-BRATE SCIENCE!!!** 

Social Studies: Miss Patterson

Hello, Families! I'm excited to introduce myself as the new 6th grade Social Studies teacher. My name is Ellie Patterson, and I've recently graduated from college this past December. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with your students and look forward to an exciting year ahead. In addition to teaching Social Studies, I'm also the coach for the 7th/8th grade softball team this year. I'm passionate about both education and sports, and I can't wait to see what this year brings! As we move into the 3rd quarter, we will be diving into a variety of engaging topics in Social Studies. Our lessons will include: An exploration of World Religions, learning about Ancient China, and understanding the origins of early civilizations. I'm looking forward to a great quarter and working with your students. Thank you for your support!

Advanced Word Study: Mrs. Kahn

Second quarter we worked with new suffixes, R-controlled vowels, and multi-syllable words that have different syllable types. This quarter we will be introducing accented syllables and vowel teams. If you are looking for ways to help your child at home improve their reading, the newsletters I email for each unit would be a great resource.

Math Lab: Mrs. J. Miller

During the second quarter we spent a lot of time working our way through Geometry and finding area and surface area and volume of many different kinds of shapes. In the next quarter we will be changing our focus to the topic of statistics. We will learn about mean, median, mode, and range as well as various types of graphs. The students have made some real progress, are working very hard and I am seeing confidence build in all of them. Let's keep things rolling in a positive direction over the next quarter of the school year.

Resource Room Math: Mrs. Spicer

During the second quarter, we focused on adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing decimals and fractions with the state approved calculators. We practiced our new fraction skills before Christmas by enlarging recipes, then making the recipes to practice measuring skills.

In the third quarter, we will be moving on to geometry and word problems. For word problems we will break them down using the T.I.P.S. strategy to help solve them.

Resource Room Reading: Mrs. Culver/Miss Dalrymple

Hello, hello! This year has zoomed by and it is hard to believe the school year is already halfway through! Students have been working hard and are making great progress academically. We have

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recently started a unit from the Amplify curriculum on the Vikings from Norse mythology. Students are introduced to the seafaring warriors from Scandinavia known as Vikings. Students will also learn about the culture, beliefs, and everyday life of the Norse people. I am looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring!

Wilson Reading: Mrs. Kahn

This quarter we focused on reading and writing multisyllabic words with different syllable types. This quarter we will continue practicing that skill while also introducing using 'Y' as a vowel, and new sounds for 'A' and 'I'. Each of them work so hard to continue improving their reading skills and I am so proud of how much work they have put in since 5th grade and I cannot believe they are 8th graders!

News from the Encore Classrooms

Art: Ms. Henderly

I enjoyed the first semester with all my students and I am looking forward to meeting my second semester classes! I am excited to explore the world of art with you during this semester! I teach 6th, 7th and 8th grade art at Rushville Middle School. The intent of this course is to provide you with the following: 1.) Ability to comfortably communicate through your own unique art style. 2.) The opportunity to apply critical and creative thinking. 3.) Many opportunities to create artwork both individually and collaboratively in a studio environment. In this course we will use a variety of mediums as we explore "creativity" within the world of art. I am excited to work with RMS students and showcase your artistic talents! Please remember that all students should be bringing their sketchbooks to class every day.

Music: Mr. Savage

The year has been flying by! I am so proud of all of the band and choir students. They had a great holiday concert back in December! Our next concert will be in May, stay tuned for more information.

I welcome all of our new students who will be in General Music this semester. We will be learning how to read music, as well as about different musical styles, cultures, and instruments. Students will not need additional materials for this class.

Career: Mrs. Phillips

The second nine weeks were very busy for students in career class. They started off by completing some self-assessments to get a better understanding of their interests and aptitudes and how they best learn. They also discovered the world of XELLO, our online program that has provided them with engaging activities to build on their skills, knowledge, and plans for their future success. Students have also explored the different career clusters and career pathways and have learned about the importance of soft skills in the workplace (organization, time management, problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork) and how having those soft skills can help them throughout their lives. Students completed

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their final projects by creating a career portfolio that included information about their goals and future plans.

Current Events: Mr. Sullivan

Hello everyone! I enjoyed my first semester with the group of students that I had. I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did. Starting on January 21, I will be welcoming a new group of students into Current Events. We will be discussing events, people, and topics that are affecting the modern world we live in today. Can't wait to spend the semester with you all.

Tech: Mrs. McCoy

During the second nine weeks in tech, students focused on organizing data and storage by managing Google Drive and exploring different file types. They gained more of an understanding of devices and networking, learning about the internet's fundamental workings, hardware, and reviewing Chromebook components. We worked on coding and problem solving, practicing block coding online. Throughout the quarter students created digital portfolios to document and reflect on their learning.

Wellness: Mrs. M. Miller - Greetings! I am the Wellness teacher. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you, this spring semester. We will build on the life skills crucial to understanding ourselves and how we learn, developing a positive self-image, taking responsibility for our actions and improving relationships with the people around us! Especially those that we might find are hard to get along with. Additionally, we will continue to focus on character traits and strengths and how they apply to our lives.

Other News

Art Club:

Students in the Art Club have met several times with Ms. Henderly during the first semester. They have explored a variety of mediums and will be focusing on the world of clay and wheel throwing over the next few months. Please see Ms. Henderly for more details if you are still interested in joining the Art Club and coming to the workshops. The details are below for the upcoming workshops.

UPCOMING ART CLUB WORKSHOPS

When: 2/9/25, 3/19/24 and 4/16/25

Time: After school until 4:00 PM

Where: Room 203 with Ms. Henderly

Leo Club: Over the next few months, our Leo Club members will be busy spreading kindness and making a positive impact in our school community. To kick things off, we'll be organizing a Valentine Grams fundraiser, where students can purchase special messages and treats to send to friends, teachers, or loved ones. All proceeds will support our community service projects. Additionally, we'll be working on a heartfelt project: making fleece tie blankets for our very own kindergartners. These cozy creations will provide warmth and joy to our youngest students, showing them how much they're cared

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for. We're excited to combine teamwork, creativity, and generosity to make this season meaningful for everyone!

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