



Eighth Grade Newsletter



News from the Core Classrooms

English Language Arts: Ms. Diehl

Three quarters down, one to go! As we approach the end of the Holocaust and meaning unit in Amplify, students will write their third essay of the year, which will be our second informative/explanatory essay. After state testing we will explore varying forms of creative writing. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out! ellydiehl@gafe.fairfieldunion.org

Math: Mrs. Young

This quarter in 8th grade math students will be working on a geometry unit. We will discuss angle measurements, transformations, and Pythagorean Theorem. I think this will be a welcome change for most students. After testing, we will be working on some end of year projects involving statistics. This quarter in algebra students will be working on exponential and quadratic equations. We will discuss exponential growth and decay with some fun activities. Quadratic equations will move us closer to the end of year and the excitement of making rockets for the fourth nine weeks. Please talk with your child about supplies for their rocket project! We will start this after testing. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at deborayoung@gafe.fairfieldunion.org.

Reading: Mrs. Gatton

It is amazing how quickly this year has progressed. We are approaching the testing window for reading assessments and have been reviewing with released test questions and other materials to prepare for April 2nd & 3rd. After testing we will begin reading *The Space Race* unit in Amplify. I anticipate great discussions as we work through the articles. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at deboragatton@gafe.fairfieldunion.org

Science: Mrs. Thomas

The year is buzzing right along! The 4th quarter brings with it the state testing season and we are ready! The next couple of weeks will be spent reviewing the knowledge we have gained over the course of this school. We will then dive into an Egg Drop Challenge and a Sail Car Competition. Please reach out if you have any questions at rachelthomas@gafe.fairfieldunion.org

Social Studies: Mr. Miller

As we continue our "journey through history" we will be focussing this quarter on our country's early development and struggles with this new form of government. Looking at Washington's role as our first president, the peaceful transition of power, the War of 1812 and the beginnings of western expansion known as "Manifest Destiny", building up to the Civil War. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please email me at jamesmiller@gafe.fairfieldunion.org

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Advanced Word Study: Mrs. Khan

Fourth quarter we will continue working with vowel teams for the next unit. We only have two units left in our curriculum, so I am hopeful to finish it this school year! I am proud of the growth I have seen from these students since we started the curriculum in 5th grade. I cannot believe it is the final quarter I have with these students. I can't wait to see what they will do in high school!

Math Lab: Mrs. Miller

Spring is finally here after a long cold winter. The sun is so nice to see! As we head into the last quarter of the school year I would like to stress the importance of staying focused in class every day. We have finished working on function tables and started working on systems of equations over the last couple of weeks. We will be spending much of our time in the remainder of the year doing these systems of equations and hopefully spending some time reviewing skills we will need for the transition to High School. Make sure you keep up with your school work as the days get longer and warmer!

Resource Room Math: Mrs. Murdock

This quarter, we will expand our understanding of functional math concepts related to fractions. Our focus will include reading fractions on a tape measure and understanding dry and wet measurements in cooking.

Learning to read fractions on a tape measure is especially valuable for students interested in trade skills programs, as it is fundamental for careers requiring measuring equipment. Additionally, working with fractions in cooking—dry and wet measurements—helps reinforce mathematical skills, provides practical real-world applications, and builds confidence in the kitchen.

We will conclude the nine-week period with restaurant math, covering essential topics such as ordering food, calculating tax and tips, applying discounts, and determining totals.

We will continue our classroom economy, providing students opportunities to strengthen their money management skills. laciemurdock@gafe.fairfieldunion.org

Resource Room Reading: Mrs. Grubb

Welcome to the 4th quarter. Students will read, organize, and use evidence from the text to analyze the theories about yellow fever transmission and evaluate which claims are supported by evidence and which claims are not. Based on their evaluation of the team's current evidence, students identify and explain which theory of transmission is most supported by evidence.

Wilson Reading: Mrs. Khan

Fourth quarter we will be continuing reading and writing multisyllabic words with different syllable types. This is getting challenging as we add prefixes and suffixes to these multi-syllable words. We will continue to practice using 'Y' as a vowel in single and multisyllable words. I am hopeful to finish this unit by the end of the year. I cannot believe it is the last quarter we have together at RMS! I have enjoyed getting to see the growth from 5th grade to 8th grade. I can't wait to see where high school takes them!

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News from the Encore Classrooms

Art: Ms. Henderly

Eighth graders are currently finishing a watercolor unit. Watercolors tend to be so relaxing. Ms. Henderly is going to miss this unit! The fourth 9 weeks will be filled with paint and clay units as well as some smaller projects focusing on sharpies, origami and 3D relief sculpture. Students will also be finalizing their portfolio of art for the 4th 9 weeks.

Band: Mr. Kitchen

We are going to continue expanding on all aspects of playing that we have been working on (intonation, tone quality, breath support, etc), while also preparing new repertoire for our spring concert.

We introduce having bi-weekly playing checks to monitor your progress as we move through the rest of the year. The progress you all have made on your instruments has been incredible and I am so excited to continue that trend!

Career: Mrs. Phillips

During this quarter, students completed personal inventories to determine their likes and dislikes, favorite subjects and how those subjects connect to possible future careers. They focused on updating their XELLO (online career portfolio) profile as they will work through lessons such as: Determining their Skills, Exploring Career Matches, Self-Advocacy and Making the Transition to High School this quarter. Students took a field trip to the Fairfield Career Center to explore options as they prepare to enter high school. This was a great opportunity for them to have a personal experience as they map out their future plans. Additionally, students will also be focusing on creating a cover letter, resume, and reference sheet during the fourth quarter. This quarter will also incorporate topics of learning such as teamwork, leadership, appearance and hygiene, and communications.

Choir: Mr. Gregory

Three quarters of Choir has come to an end! We had a very successful Winter Concert and will now be starting to prepare for the end of the year concert. A few of the 7th/8th graders recently just performed in this years Spring Musical Shrek which just happened in March. The students will continue to build on their singing abilities, music literacy abilities, and learn more challenging music. The students have a final end of the year concert on May 7th at 6:00pm in the High School auditorium.

Finance: Mrs. Jennifer Miller

In the world of finance we are beginning a unit on savings. We will be building good savings habits, savings vs Checking, Opening a savings account and the power of compound interest over simple interest. As the days get longer and warmer, please don't forget to keep up with your schoolwork. Let's end strong!

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Gym: Mr. Boucher

Our focus this semester will be learning and developing skills to improve and enhance our overall level of fitness. We will be participating in a variety of sports and activities for health, enjoyment, challenge, self expression and social interaction.

Health: Mrs. Leitnaker

Wow! The third quarter flew by! In Health class, students explored important topics such as **Decision-Making Skills, Physical Fitness, and the Importance of Exercise**. As we move into the fourth quarter, we will cover a variety of essential topics, including **Nutrition, Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Personal Hygiene**, and wrap up the year with **Summer Safety**. I'm excited to finish the year strong and continue helping students make healthy choices!

Human Geography: Mr. Sullivan

WOW! It felt like yesterday we just started the 3rd quarter. As a class we spent a major part of the quarter talking about the power of politics in Human Geography. The students learned about different forms of government but also hopefully gained some new knowledge about our political landscape here in The United States. In the fourth quarter we will dive into economics and discuss how our economy affects much more than just money in our lives.

Multimedia: Mrs. McCoy

During the second nine weeks in multimedia, students explored movie making by creating school news segments, music video remakes, and Lego projects. They learned animation techniques using Google Slides. Additionally, students worked on a vacation budget project and created commercials, applying their planning skills. They also used pixel art, which is a blend of art and tech.

Robotics: Mrs. McCoy

During the second nine weeks in robotics, students were introduced to coding basics, learning key vocabulary and completing interactive activities on code.org. They worked with the EV3 robots, learning basic movements and navigating simple obstacle courses. Students applied their skills in engaging challenges and completed a Lego League mission, combining coding and robotics to solve real-world problems.

Wellness: Mrs. Marcia Miller - Greetings from Wellness! This spring semester is flying by. We will continue to focus on character traits and strengths and how they apply to our lives, especially focussing on our individual top 5 character traits. With this information, we will have a better understanding of ourselves and how we learn, develop a positive self-image, take responsibility for our actions and improve relationships with the people around us! Especially those that we might find are hard to get along with. This last quarter of the year we will have a movie study that we will do that directly correlates to social and emotional wellbeing and character strengths. Additionally, we will complete our Character Hall of Fame project.

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Other News

Art Club: Ms. Henderly

Students in the 8th grade Art Club have met throughout the year. We have had an awesome time creating artwork together! The last Art Club workshop for the year will take place in a few weeks.

UPCOMING ART CLUB WORKSHOPS

When: 4/23/25

Time: After school until 4:00 PM

Where: Room 203 with Ms. Henderly

Leo Club: Mrs. Phillips

Leo Club Members are currently collecting stuffed animal donations as they work to provide the Columbus Children's Cancer Clinic with stuffed animals as the cancer center is depleted of stuffed animals. So far the Leo Club has received 32 stuffed animals and our goal is 50. Additionally, the students have been providing our school community support by emptying recycle bins for the building as we support and help our custodial staff. Our last project of the year will be our fleece blankets that we will be making for our Pre-K students. This is a special project for us. This year has been a great year of giving for the Leo Club. I am very proud of our Leo Club members and their commitment to their school community.

Power of the Pen: Ms. Forsythe

Rushville Middle School earned the Sweepstakes Award, which is the highest honor in the Power of the Pen at the Ohio University Regional Competition. The combined efforts of both teams, 7th and 8th, topped eighteen schools who competed at the Ohio University-Lancaster campus on Friday, March 7th. We will house the trophy at our school.

The following students **advanced** to the prestigious Power of the Pen State Tournament, sho

Grade 7:

Pearl Baker

Addyson Borah

Rylee Montgomery

Layla Paxton

Grade 8:

Jordyn Hanna

Alaina Leonard

Kate Springer

Ella Truax

Mia West

The state tournament will take place at Ashland University on May 22nd.

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