

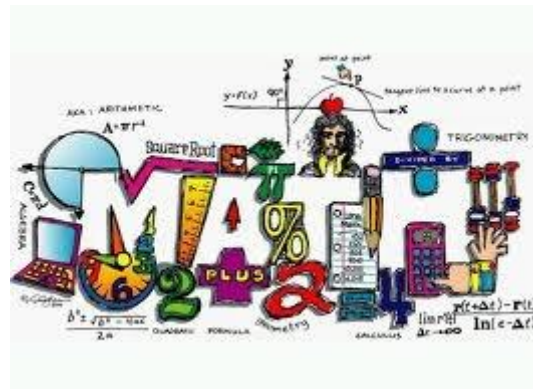
Middle School Newsletter

November 2018

www.rivertonmiddleschool.com

Math by Ms. Napolitano, Mr. Williams and Ms. Streffacio

October has come to a close and semester two begins in two weeks. I need parents and scholars to continue to join me on the journey to success. To achieve this goal, I need the scholars to participate in class, complete their classwork with full effort, stay on task, and be prepared for class with their binders, a pencil, and their completed homework. In addition, I need the scholars to complete their assigned homework each night, complete their projects on time, study for their weekly quizzes, and always try their best. In November, the sixth grade will be focusing on operations with fractions. Furthermore, since the first semester is coming to an end, I need all the scholars to remain driven and focused.



In the seventh grade, the scholars will next be learning about expressions and equations. We will be discussing expressions, words that are used within a text, that makeup word problems. The emphasis is on reading each word in the word problem carefully, locating the key words that tell the scholar which numbers and variables are important, setting up the equation, and finding a solution. It is important for scholars to use the strategies taught such as the associative property, commutative property, and marking up the text when solving these problems to help ensure consistent correct answers. The scholars have completed their project for the month involving a real-world scenario about going to a restaurant. The standards covered will be 7.EE.1, 7.EE.2, and 7.EE.4.

In October we worked on our Geometry Unit. We learned about all the different types of transformations; Reflection, Rotation, Translation, and Dilation. Students learned how to perform each of these transformations on the coordinate plane and how to recognize them on images. Students learned the difference between congruence and similarity and looked at examples of images that have undergone transformations and identified whether the new image and the old image (pre-image) are congruent or similar. The standards that were covered in this unit were 8.G.1, 8.G.2, 8.G.3, 8.G.4, and 8.G.5.

The next unit we are beginning is expressions and equations. In this unit students will learn the difference between proportional and non-proportional equations. Students will learn how to define linear relationships graphically, in a table, and with an equation. The most important component of this unit is the many different real world applications students will see that apply to this concept. As I am writing this message to you, in class students just watched short videos of real life motions and tried to track the motion on a graph to determine if the motion is linear or non-linear.

IXL, Khan Academy, and Learnzillion are all great resources for practice where you can practice by standard.



ELA by Ms. Jackson, Ms. Giordano, Ms. Edouard, and Mr. Antoine

Kudos to our sixth grade scholars!!!! As we embark into the change of the seasons are scholars are growing and expanding their knowledge of skills and thematic elements. With their knowledge sixth grade scholars will be demonstrating their understanding by taking their first sixth grade English Language Arts Interim assessment in November. I am certain that every scholar will do great!! Throughout the month of October, scholars explored informational and argumentative texts with a deep analysis of the genre's structure and components. As we move forward into the month of November, scholars will be exploring character and point of view, through short stories and narratives. We will take an in-depth analysis in the various ways the author reveals aspects of the character through their personality traits as well as physical traits. At home scholars should continue to foster their love of reading through their own independent reading novel. Parents please continue to check Class Dojo for updates!!!!



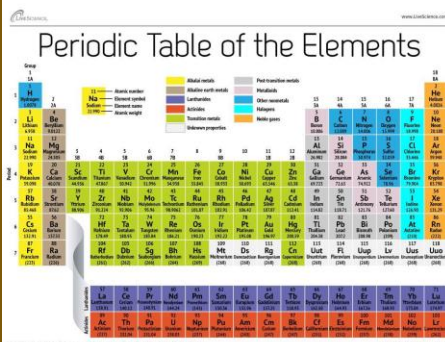
Seventh grade scholars were immersed in analyzing and evaluating the elements of argumentative writing. The scholars had the opportunity to study informational texts, speeches and articles to trace and evaluate arguments and claims as well as counterclaims. The scholars also studied what makes a text informational and how that differs from a fiction text. The scholars had the opportunity to study various informational texts to make meaning of the purpose, claims and evidence incorporated into that text. After the scholars demonstrated a fundamental understanding of what a formal argumentative writing piece should include, each scholar was given an article to trace and evaluate the author's style, claim, counterclaim and evidence. The scholars were then given an outline which assisted them in organizing their ideas and claims based on their given article. Next, the scholars organized their ideas into a rough draft. After that, the scholars took their editing and revising a step further and they learned how to cite evidence from a text using MLA format. Lastly, all papers were revised and finalized into Final Copies based on feedback and were submitted to be graded. The scholars did an impressive job crafting their argumentative essays and understanding the structure and components of a formal argument.

**WHEN WRITING A
NOVEL A WRITER
SHOULD CREATE LIVING
PEOPLE; PEOPLE NOT
CHARACTERS. A
CHARACTER IS A
CARICATURE.**

What brings a character to life? Scholars in the eighth grade will be beginning our unit where we will be exploring and analyzing how writers use point of view and details to bring their characters to life. By learning characterization and point-of-view, a reader can better understand the rationale and motivation of the characters through dialogue and incidents, throughout the story. Scholars will be reading literature that highlights clear examples of complex characters and the manner way incidents impact their rationale.



Science by Ms. Grant, Ms. Shakes and Ms. Scott



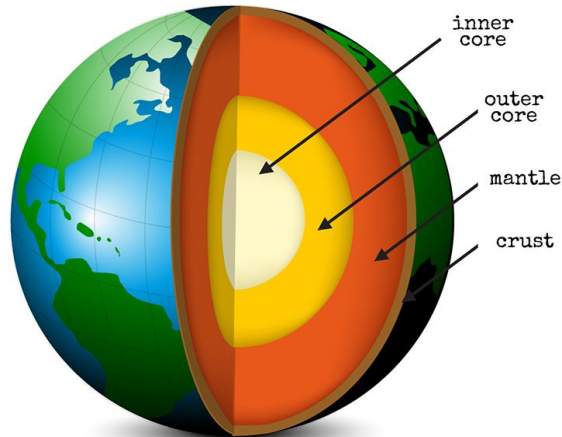
A standard periodic table of elements, color-coded by groups. It includes element symbols, atomic numbers, and names. The table is organized into rows (periods) and columns (groups). A legend on the left side identifies various categories: Alkali metals, Alkaline earth metals, Transition metals, Lanthanides, Actinides, Noble gases, Halogens, and Other nonmetals. The title 'Periodic Table of the Elements' is prominently displayed at the top.

Our six grade physical scientists finished up their solids, liquids and gases unit, this month they will continue their journey learning about elements and the periodic table. The scholars have already completed an element project which served as a discovery driven introduction to elements and the periodic table. During this month, the scholars will be able to see the modern model of the atom, identify the parts that make up an element, explain the importance of the periodic table, in regards to element information, and understanding how elements are created. The scholars will also learn about the metals, non-metals and metalloids in the periodic table as well as their respective locations. Next, they will start learning about Acids, Bases and Solutions.

The seventh grade students will be continuing to design and conduct scientific experiments to test whether or not their hypothesis is a belief or true. Exciting times are ahead for seventh grade because we will be investigating the plant and animal kingdom. Investigating the diversity of living things integrating viruses, bacteria protists and fungi. The plant kingdom of gymnosperms and angiosperms will be touched upon with plant chemical response to growth and development.

8th Grade has started a new unit on Earth Materials. We examined the layers of the Earth and have focused on the study of the Earth's crust. Scholars examined properties of minerals and the rock cycle. We did hands-on activities to model the formation of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. Scholars demonstrated the formation of sediments, the compaction into sedimentary rocks, and the heat and pressure applied to make metamorphic rocks. We also melted samples to show the formation of extrusive and intrusive igneous rocks. Being familiar with various rock types will lead us into our study of the geologic history of the Earth.

LAYERS OF THE EARTH

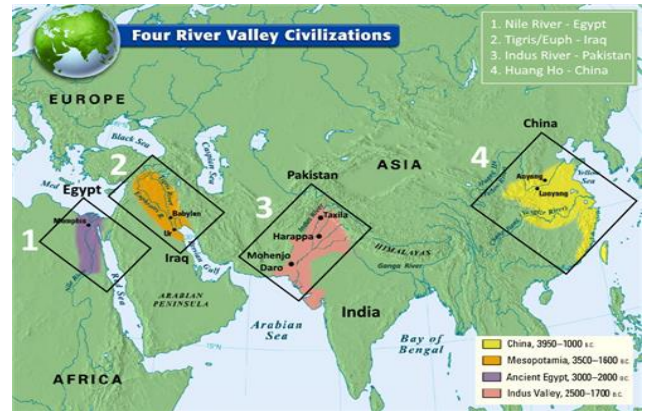


The eight grade scientists will finish learning about diffusion and osmosis and will complete an assessment on cell structure, function & transport to show understanding of these concepts. Students will use their understanding of cell transport to complete their first of four required labs for this living environment class, which is, Diffusion through a Membrane. Students will then learn about the chemical compounds in the cell and use their understanding of this to learn about other cellular processes such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration. The scholars will be able to use visuals and videos to further aid them in their understanding of these concepts. They will also be able to engage in hands on learning to better understand these concepts.



Social Studies by Mrs. Victor, Mr. Bruning, and Mr. Dayan

This month we will continue to learn about the Ancient River Valley Civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere. Scholars will make connections and see the patterns of development from the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras to the early Sumerian civilization in Mesopotamia. With history we are always linking the past and the present to better understand and appreciate the significant opportunities created over time. For example, comparing the education of children in Mesopotamia at about 3000 B.C. with education today; Hammurabi's Code of Laws then and our democracy; and the use of hieroglyphs and computer icons.



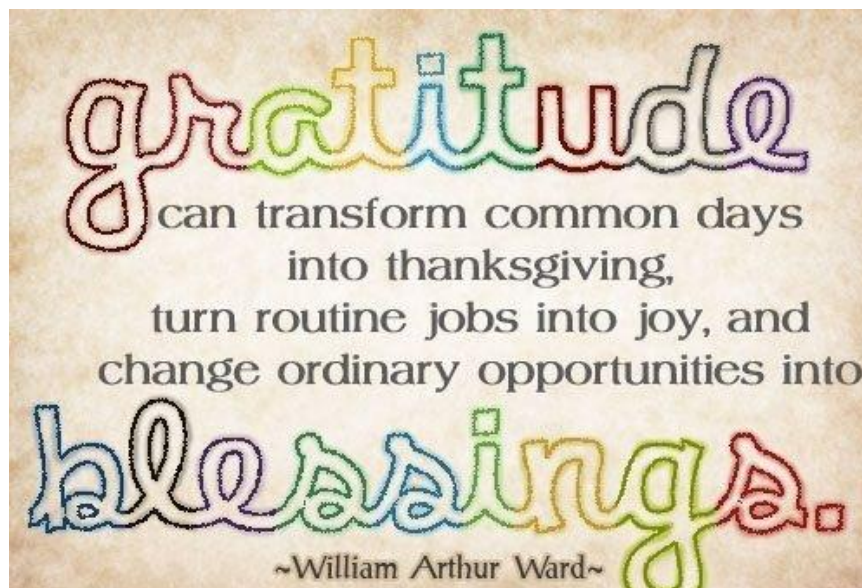
Seventh grade scholars will focus on the European Age of Exploration and colonization of the "New World." Scholars will be able to describe how explorers sailed the Atlantic and then came into contact with indigenous Native American groups of North America. Scholars will discuss how European powers like Spain, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands vied for land in the "New World." Scholars will track the development of European colonies in North America, especially Britain's claim on the east coast. Scholars will recognize the importance of the 13 British colonies as they will form the foundation for the ultimate formation of the United States of America. In addition, scholars will follow major current event stories like the United States midterm elections. November is shaping up to be an exciting month in Social Studies!

Our eighth-grade scholars continue to immerse themselves in relevant texts, multimedia clips, and images to uncover the causes, complexities, and results of the Civil War. Scholars have taken a hard look at our nation's tragic past when slavery was accepted and protected by the Constitution. Scholars are expressing themselves through the written word. I have witnessed the sharpening of writing skills on a grade wide level. Our scholars are deconstructing informational reading texts and responding with strong textual evidence, keen analysis, and wonderfully vivid language that paints a clear picture of the circumstances the enslaved faced here in America.





November's Moral Focus: Gratitude



Reminders:

- ECA Presentation, Wednesday November 7, 2018
- Parent Teacher Conference, Wednesday, November 14, 2018 & Thursday November 15, 2018
- No school for scholars:
 - ❖ Tuesday, November 6, 2018: Election Day
 - ❖ Monday, November 12, 2018: Veterans Day
 - ❖ Thursday & Friday, November 22-23, 2018: Thanksgiving
- Please make sure scholars are dressed in uniform each and every day. Scholars consistently not in uniform will receive an infraction letter.
- All parents are invited to participate in our Moral Focus presentations. Please come out if you are available.

November Effort Creates Ability Recipients

Sixth Grade

Trinity Lightfoot, UCLA
Elijah Jack, UCLA
Elan Bolasingh, UVA
Caydence Davis, Chicago
Melody Raphael, UCLA
Brianna Lindo, UVA

Seventh Grade

Naomi Summerlin, Duke
Alicia Williams, Duke
Eniola Olasehinde, Emory
Melanie Harris, Duke
Atiyana Spurgeon, Cambridge
Christopher Mitchell, Emory
Jennifer Chicaiza, Duke

Eighth Grade

Jared Wallace, Johns Hopkins
Kaylen Howard, CalTech
Ceniya Crosby, Brandeis
Deanna Rodney, Johns Hopkins
Emerley Parker, Johns Hopkins

