

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-FV CSD

November

2019

Special points of interest:

- Weather Related Late Starts and Early Dismissals
- Winter Dress
- Veterans Day Program
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Middle School Party Night
- Book Fair Thank You

Giving Thanks



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Weather Related Late Starts and Early Dismissals

Winter weather will soon be here and that means the possibility of late starts and/or early dismissals. Please talk with your child about what they should do in the case of an early out or late start. Typically, it puts the students at ease when there is a “plan” for these situations. If school is dismissed early, it becomes a challenge to get phone messages to everyone at the end of the day. On a two hour late start, the doors to the Middle School do not open until 9:55am.

If school starts late, all of the following will NOT MEET: My Choice, any before school meetings with teachers, athletic or fine arts practices, and no breakfast will be served. 8th grade students will still have their exploratory classes at the high school on late start mornings.

If school dismisses early because of weather, all of the following will NOT MEET: all practices & games, and any after school meetings and clubs.

Weather related information is available on the school website, through the school Twitter page, and will be on the following Radio and TV stations:

Radio:

KSOU 93.9FM and 1090AM in Sioux Center

KIWA 105.3FM and 1550AM in Sheldon

KLEM 99.5FM and 1410AM in LeMars

KDCR 88.5FM

TV Stations:

KMEG, KCAU, & KTV



Winter Dress

While inside the Middle School it is always “72 and Sunny” the temperatures outside of our building can be a different story. Students are encouraged to have warm clothes with them. There are situations where students may end up outside of the school (ie. Fire Drills, loading school buses, etc.) when the wind chills and actual temperatures can become dangerous if students are exposed to them for a duration of time. Students riding the school bus are encouraged to have pants in the event that there is an accident/situation with the school bus. The purpose of this is to keep students safe when the temperatures start to drop. Thank you for your help with this.

Veterans Day Program

The MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School will once again host a Veterans’ Day program. This year, our program will be on Monday, November 11, 2019. This program is put on by the Floyd Post #200. The program will be in the New Gym at the Middle School and will begin at 10:15am. The public is welcomed to attend.



More and More Grammar in 6th Grade English

By: Mr. Jacobsma

We are finishing the voice writing unit--the scary story narrative. I LOVE this piece of writing because it ignites hope in so many kids that writing could be a valuable skill for them! They learn through this unit that they CAN write and maybe even enjoy it.

Following this writing, we will begin a grammar unit on punctuation. We will hit these rules with intensity and swiftness. In about a week, we will cover the unfamiliar rules and review the tried and true ones we've used for years.

Then we'll head into a short writing unit about keeping a writer's notebook. We'll look at why, how, and do some journaling, of sort.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. tjacobsma@mocfv.org.



Read All About It ... 6th Grade Literature

By: Mrs. TzGrotenhuis

November will be full of activities for sixth graders in literature class! As the first quarter comes to an end, we will wrap up our unit on the book *Among the Hidden*. We will then focus on specific literary terms and devices that authors commonly use within literature. Additionally, we will begin working on our first quarter book shares, explaining the plot lines of a favorite book to classmates. The students have been reading some intriguing books, and I look forward to hearing about these!

One of my favorite units to teach will begin in November: a non-fiction unit centering around young heroes. In addition to learning about Malala, a 15 year-old girl who stood up to a deadly terrorist group in Pakistan and also won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, we will also learn about other young people who have faced adversity and positively affected those around them. During this time, students will work on close reading skills, finding the central idea, and using text evidence.

I encourage students to continue reading daily and recording their pages on their reading logs. Most students are doing a nice job at this and enjoy the freedom to read books of their own choosing. I will be challenging the students to read from different genres second quarter in order to expose them to different authors and types of books. Please encourage your child in this area! Thanks for all you do to help!



6th Grade World History

By: Mr. Nonnzmacher

We have finished up all of our material for the Ancient Egypt Unit, and the kids are going to put all of their knowledge to the test with a unit test. I tell the kids every quiz and test that we have, "This *could be* the easiest quiz or test you take all school year." My expectations for my students are that they listen and interact in class, stay caught up with their homework, and study when it comes time for studying. If they can consistently do those three things, I firmly believe that each test could be the easiest test they take all year. Following our unit test, we will spend a week comparing Ancient Egypt to Modern Egypt. They will use everything they have learned to combine and compare that to what is going on in the country today. They will be researching using Chromebooks, textbooks, and materials from the public library to complete this project. They will need to insert all of their research into a presentation platform such as Google Slides, Prezi, etc. I look forward to seeing what they come up with!

As always, we continue to make an effort to make others smile. We write down our Grateful Comments on a daily basis, and I provide an opportunity for my students to fill someone else's bucket. If you are a parent of a 6th grader, please ask them some of the things they are grateful for, and check if they have filled someone else's bucket recently! Go Dutch!

7th Grade Math

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By: Mr. Baker

In math we are continuing to learn new math skills each day. I feel like the pace has ramped up and keeping caught up with assignments is essential to their current success. Recently we just finished up chapter two which dealt with integers. We used several real life examples of integers, played some fun games including Coordinate Battleship, and used different scenarios to remember how to handle adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers. We are now working our way through chapter three dealing primarily with fractions. A new step is added each day, which makes understanding the homework the night before very important.

I want to also thank you for all your support, encouragement, and assistance you have provided your son or daughter during the first quarter of school. Overall, the students have done a great job so far this quarter, and I look forward to working with each of them the rest of the year.

The material will continue to get more difficult, so encouraging your son or daughter through some upcoming frustrating moments will benefit them greatly. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



7th Grade Literature

By: Mrs. Vermøer

First quarter is quickly wrapping up. It's hard to believe that we are this far into the school year already. We have completed many units and have learned a great deal.

We have just finished up learning the last of the fiction signposts and are eager to put them to use. We will begin working on our fiction signpost project where the students will identify the signposts from their individual reading book. After this project, we will incorporate signposts through the rest of the year in order to identify different things from text.

In the first quarter we have also finished up our book project. For this quarter we wrote a letter to an author or character about a book they wrote and the impact the book had on their lives. The students did a great job sharing their favorite parts of the book and what grabbed them in as readers. I was very impressed with the questions the students had for the author/character.

Currently, we are wrapping up our first unit of Greek/Latin root fixes. The students have studied the roots as part of a word and are able to identify the meaning of others based on finding the root. We have three units in total to complete and will pick up with more vocabulary in later spring. In our next short unit we will be studying conflicts and the different types of conflicts found in stories. From here we will read a couple of stories and practice identifying conflicts. The next big unit we are on that takes us up to Christmas break. This unit will focus on identifying bias writing. The bias unit is very thought-provoking and will challenge the students to be open as readers but still critical of everything they read. I am looking forward to see how the students respond and what they will take away from this unit.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

I would like to say "Thank You" for your participation in the Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences. We had a 98% attendance rate this year, which is fantastic. I would like to thank the parents that provided food for our teachers during these conferences; it was much appreciated. As parents, you are one of the most influential people in your child's life and your participation in conferences displays your belief that education and your child's educational progress is important. Thank you for continuing to support your student and their academic progress.

7th Grade English

By: Mrs. VR (Van Regenmortel)

The seventh graders have been learning all about sentences in English class. They started with simple and compound sentences, making sure they know how to find the subjects and verbs and how to check if a sentence is complete. Next, the students moved on to learn about complex sentences. They worked hard with much repetition, so they are able to use different kinds of sentences in writing. Varying the kinds of sentences in writing creates fluency, which makes writing flow and enjoyable to read.

We are close to finishing our study and practice of sentence writing, and next we will move on to reviewing and learning some new things about capitalization. The capitalization unit is not very long, so after the capitalization test, we will move on to . . . punctuation. This tends to be the most dreaded element of our English language, but we will accept the challenge by taking on the most challenging punctuation mark first—the comma. After commas, we will continue to learn about other punctuation and its correct use in our writing. At the end of the punctuation unit, there will be final test, but the actual test will be if they are able to punctuate their own writing correctly. This “test” will occur for the rest of the year as we continue to write. The reason we learn how to correctly use punctuation is to make our writing easier to read and understand.

Once again, I thank you for taking the time to read the middle school newsletter. By reading our newsletter, you stay informed, and it also gives you opportunities to talk with your son or daughter about school and what they are learning. Thank you.



Wiking's World

By: Mr. Wiking

It is hard to believe that the first quarter has already passed! It seems like time is flying by, but I suppose that happens when you are having fun. During the past month we have learned about and discussed our culture and the influences of religion, economy, and government. I am looking forward to the coming weeks ahead when we will take on some real world global issues like human rights and globalization. These big ideas are often seen and heard on the evening news but not always shared at a grade level appropriate for our students.

I anticipate our students will have plenty of questions, insights, and new learning opportunities. The goal is to provide our students with new understanding into global issues and to promote an awareness of different ideas they could encounter as they become more involved citizens.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at bwiking@mocfv.org

Middle School Party Night

The Fall Party Night will be held on Friday, November 8 from 7:00-10:00pm at the MOC-Floyd Valley Middle School. This party night is for MOC-Floyd Valley students only and there is no fee to attend. The expenses for this evening are paid for by the Middle School Discount Card Fundraiser that we held earlier this year. There will be board games in the media center, movies and snacks in the cafeteria area, ping-pong in the fitness room, basketball and other games in the New Gym, and a dance in the Old Gym. During our Fall Party Night, the dance area will be for 7th and 8th grade students only. The dress code and other school rules are applicable at this event. The south doors, by the gym, will be the official entry and exit doors for the evening. The doors will not open until 7:00pm and students should arrange to be picked up promptly at the conclusion of the event. Hope to see everyone there!

7th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Vandz Kieft

Why do I have blue eyes? Why do you have brown hair? Can you roll your tongue? The 7th graders have been investigating the answers to these questions along with our Big Question: Why do offspring with the same parents look different? During science class as part of the Genetics and Heredity Unit. Each Team has been exploring various traits that they have inherited from their parents and comparing those traits with their teammates. During this unit, we have been conducting investigations to isolate DNA from various fruits, determine the importance of DNA in expressing who we are, and predict the probability of various genotypes and phenotypes for potential offspring. Within the unit on genetics, we have also been looking at the occurrence of mutations and its effects on different organisms. Students have been gaining a better understanding of the common mutations that they may have or find around them in nature while determining if those mutations pose a potential harmful, beneficial, or neutral effect. Finally, we explored the new area of science, epigenetics, to see how much the environment plays a factor in the genetics and growth of various organisms.

In November the 7th graders will be exploring the vastness of space while working to answer our new Big Question: "How can we predict eclipses?" in the Earth, in the Universe Unit. To help us find the answer to this question, the 7th graders will be tracking the phases of the moon each day to analyze its effect on the probability of eclipses. Each class will also examine movement of the Earth, Sun, and Moon and its importance to Lunar and Solar Eclipses and the various phases of the Moon. To gain a better understanding of how the movement of the Earth, Sun, and Moon create these phenomenon, we will be making our own actual eclipses and moon phases using a 3-D "moon" and light source.



8th Grade Literature

By: Mr. Boonz

In 8th grade literature, we are currently reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Throughout the book we will be working on reading strategies and signposts, which help us make connections, inference, synthesize and determine the importance of the text. Since the book is filled with action and many teenage applicable life issues, we have had great class discussion. Students have been divided into teams of 3 to 4 and are given team roles in which they need to prepare and bring to their conversations. The discussion roles focus on students generating higher-order discussion questions, making connections, and determining important passages in the book. The following is a list of five essential questions we are processing throughout the book:

1. How do social groups play a part in school?
2. How does someone's appearance affect how others view him or her?
3. How do you define the word "family"? Does a family mean different things to different people?
4. What do you think contributes to violence or bullying among teenagers? What can be done to prevent teen violence or bullying?

After finishing the book, we will be watching the video and writing a final essay. I believe watching the video is a great way for students to compare the visual image of a movie to the visual image they have created in their mind while reading the book. During this novel I have been proud of their willingness to think deeply and wrestle with difficult questions.

Finally, I want to continue stressing the importance of independent reading. Practicing and learning to enjoy reading is absolutely essential to improved reading rate, accuracy, and comprehension. I want to encourage parents to engage their child in a conversation about *The Outsiders* or an independent reading book.



8th Grade English

By: Mrs. Oolman

We have tackled and mastered troublesome words! Words such as to, too, and two. There, they're, and their. Quiet and quite. Accept and except. Students did a fantastic job learning these words. We are now working on applying their knowledge and skills in real situations; this is more of a challenge.

Up next? Students are reviewing KU Sentence writing strategies and refining their knowledge of compound, complex, and compound-complex sentence construction. This short unit will prove invaluable as students continue to write for English and other content area classes. One of our writing pieces during this review is a Preposition Poem. It's pretty easy to write, but does ask kids to reflect and focus on an event or space that's important to them. Fun to read!

We've used our Chromebooks in many ways in English. We have completed bell ringer reviews, written our rough drafts, worked collaboratively on revising and editing our pieces of writing, and we've used a program called NoRedInk for reviewing and learning new grammar and writing concepts. This program allows students to practice their grammar and writing skills related to their personal interests like sports, celebrities, and music. Even more, NoRedInk provides immediate feedback and differentiated lessons for those needing more or less practice on a concept. Students work at a pace set by them. Tutorials are provided when learners get "stuck". Mistakes are corrected and students go on! Each student has an account connected to mine, and I can track progress on homework, practice, and quizzes. NoRedInk has already proven to be a fantastic resource for our students! In addition to NoRedInk, students find the Google Classroom works well for taking spelling tests, reviewing for tests and quizzes, and for getting information / instruction from teachers! Quizlet has been a great program to use to create reviews for tests. The Chromebooks are pieces of educational equipment and have been a true blessing for which we are super grateful!

Whenever students are absent (be it a whole day or just for an appointment), we as a team ask that they (and you, as parents, too) consult the website for a list of assignments made. Additionally, many of us post information right into Google Classroom. Students should also be checking this resource when absent. Thanks for working with us to stay caught up and "in the know".



"Our Corner of History"

By: Ms. Van Wyk

In 8th grade, we are currently covering what life was like in the 13 Colonies. Students will be creating their own visual project (either a comic book, a storyboard, a magazine, or an infographic) to illustrate what life was like in one of the three colonial regions. Each region of the English colonies had its own peculiarities and benefits, and I have enjoyed seeing them grow more contemplative about the origins of our nation.

American History this year has been challenging students to work on independently preparing for assessments outside of class. Please continue to encourage your students to create study tools like flashcards or Quizlet, and to engage themselves in classroom activities and discussions! Those are some of the best ways to get the most out of class! As usual if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me!



8th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Hoogveen

In 8th grade, we have transitioned from Earth science to the new Next Generation Science Standards. We will not be using a textbook but rather using multiple resources to guide us through our different topics. Much of what we will be using will be accessible through Google Classroom and the Internet.

“How has natural processes and human activities changed Earth’s climate?”

The eighth graders just finished up exploring our changing climate. We used NASA’s websites that have been tracking a variety climate-related topics. We noticed several trends that have been occurring since the Industrial Revolution. First, of all the greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide has experienced the most change. Second, globally, the northern hemisphere’s temperature has risen the most. Third, our glaciers are melting at a very fast pace and that our natural “air conditioning” may be gone and very difficult to replace. We researched natural causes of CO₂ emissions to see if they have significantly caused changes. Lastly, we explored options that each and every one of us can do to reduce our impact. After all, small steps make big changes.

“How do we track the changes of organisms over time?”

We are just delving into fossil formation, how fossils become exposed, what clues fossils give us about the past, and how fossils are similar and yet diverse. We will explore how fossils show that animals change due to a variety of reasons, such as; devastating destruction of habitat, extinction of prey, plate tectonics, and more.

In November, the 8th grade science classes will be synthesizing information about how technologies have influenced the inheritance of desired traits in organisms.

Most of the students are completing their homework on time. Homework is a vital part of classroom instruction and reinforcement. I am very appreciative of you reminding your son / daughter to be responsible young adults. Thanks!

The Ultimate Xpedition Book Fair Wraps Up an Exciting Trek

Thank you so much for your support of our middle school book fair! Because of your quest for books and enthusiasm for reading, the goal set for our fair was exceeded. Thanks for encouraging and celebrating reading! An avalanche of great reads will be arriving soon for our middle school students!



November 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 No School Teacher Comp Day | 2 |
| 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends | 4 | 5 8th Grade Honor Choir Election Day | 6 | 7 7:00am My Choice | 8 1:15pm Early Dismissal 7:00pm-10:00pm MS Party Night | 9 NWIBA Jr. Honor Band Concert |
| 10 | 11 Veterans Day 10:15am Veterans Day Program | 12 | 13 | 14 7:00am My Choice | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Qtr. 2~3 Week Grade Check 4:15pm BBB Vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7 th (A) 8 th (H) | 19 4:15pm BBB vs Sioux Center 7 th (A) 8 th (H) | 20 | 21 7:00am My Choice Opus Honor choir @ Ames | 22 Iowa Junior Honor Orchestra 1:15pm Early Dismissal | 23 |
| 24 | 25 4:15pm BBB vs Boyden 7 th (A) 8 th (H) | 26 4:15pm BBB vs Sibley-Ocheyedan 7 th (H) 8 th (A) | 27 No School | 28 Thanksgiving Day No School | 29 No School | 30 |

December 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 4:15pm BBB vs CL 8 th (A) CL Activities Center 7 th (H) | 3 4:15pm BBB vs Le Mars 7 th (H) 8 th (A) | 4 | 5 4:15pm BB: B/8th Vs Sioux Center 7 th (H) 8 th (A) | 6 1:15pm Early Dismissal | 7 |
| Makerspace | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 Qtr. 2 6 week grade check 4:15pm BBB vs Sheldon 8 th (A) 7 th (H) | 10 | 11 Hour of Code Activity | 12 4:15pm BBB vs Rock Valley 7 th (A) 8 th (H) | 13 | 14 |
| 9 | 16 4:15pm BBB vs Le Mars 8 th (H) 7 th (A) | 17 7:00pm MS Holiday Concert @NWC Christ Chapel | 18 | 19 4:00pm BBB vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7 th (H) 4:15pm 8 th (A) | 20 1:15pm Early Dismissal | 21 |
| 10 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| No School | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
| No School | | | | | | |