

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-FV CSD

December

2020

Special points of interest::

- Hour Of Code
- 8th Grade Service Project
- Middle School Holiday Concert
- Online Bookfair Thank You



Inside this issue:

6th Grade	2-3
7th Grade	3-5
8th Grade	5-7

## Middle School Holiday Concert

The Middle School will be hosting its Holiday Concert on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00pm. This year we will hold our concert at the MOC-Floyd Valley High School New Gym. Attendance will be limited to two spectators per performer. We ask that the gym be cleared out after each group performs in order for us to allow for room to social distance. Masks will be required for all spectators who attend. We plan to livestream this concert and will send this information out prior to the concert. A tentative schedule for the concert is below:

7:00pm 6th Grade Band/Choir perform  
 7:20-7:35pm Transition 6th Grade and spectators out of the gym, and transition 7th Grade Band, Choir, Orchestra and spectators into the gym.  
 7:35-8:10pm 7th Grade Band/Choir and Orchestra perform  
 8:10-8:25pm Transition 7th Grade, Orchestra, and Spectators out of the gym, and transition in the 8th Grade and spectators into the gym  
 8:25-8:45pm 8th Grade Band/Choir perform

## Hour of Code

On Wednesday, December 9, our students will be participating in the Hour of Code. During the Hour of Code activity, our school will stop what we are doing and take one hour to learn about computer coding and participate in various activities. Computer Coding is a skill that anyone can learn and is one that is in high demand. This event is an opportunity for students to learn to write code, problem solve, nurture creativity, and prepare students for possible careers. In addition to these activities, students are encouraged to access self-directed tutorials on Code.org to keep learning more and more about computer coding. For more information on the Hour of Code, you can visit <http://hourofcode.com/us> and [www.code.org](http://www.code.org).

## 8th Grade Service Project

The 8th graders will be conducting a canned food service project in December. Students will be collecting canned goods, paper products, personal hygiene products and boxed goods to take to the local food pantry in Orange City. Our goal is to help local families in need. All students are invited to participate, not just the 8th graders. Items may be brought to the Middle School and placed in one of the receptacles located throughout the school. Thanks in advance for your help with this project.



Winter Break  
 December 22—January 4  
 Schools Resumes  
 January 5, 2021



## 6th Grade Science

Mr. H (Hoebelheinrich)

We've finally finished our Physical Science unit that we started right after our Engineering Design Process unit. We talked about where the idea of "atoms" came from, the history of the atom, and the atomic structure. We then jumped into how these particles move, and how we can manipulate those particles to move faster/slower, come together/spread out, etc. I was very pleased with the overall test that we completed. It consisted of seven real world application problems dealing with the different topics we discussed in class! What's to come? I'm excited to start our Earth Science Unit after Thanksgiving break. How/Why does Earth's surface change? Here are some key topics we will discuss over the next few weeks.

1. How Earth's Materials Change the surface of Earth. (Rock Cycle)
2. Plate Tectonics & the Continental Drift Theory - we will be looking at pieces of evidence that scientists have discovered to prove the continental drift theory.



## 6th Grade Math

By: Mr. Boersma

The sixth graders are working hard on a brand new unit called Ratios, Rates, and Unit Rates. This unit is being taught by my student teacher, Tanner Machacek. He is doing a very nice job and the students are responding well. This is one of my favorite units that we teach all year because there are so many "real-world" applications. Anything from mixing paint to creating recipes, ratios are everywhere. It's fun for me to see kids make those connections and then start to solve realistic math problems centered around ratios. That proportional thinking is really helpful as they progress in both math and science.

Our next chapter will begin in December. This unit will continue the ideas of ratios to decimals, percents, and fractions. We will do a lot of conversions and also a lot of "percent of a number" discussions. If you ever shop at Kohls, you've probably done this exact math problem. When you receive the coveted 30% off coupon and you apply that to an \$80 coat, you're doing Percent of a Number. Again there are many real world applications to this mathematical concept.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies

By: Mr. Nonnemacher

As I write this update, I am preparing for an extended break with my own family as well as my extended family. This is such a wonderful time of the year for so many of us. I trust that you all can find some time to rest, relax, and recharge in an effort to attack this winter with positive thoughts and ample energy! We are in the midst of our Mesopotamia unit in World History. I think my favorite part of this unit is seeing many of the kids' faces when we start talking about Abraham and Moses as part of this civilization. So many of the kids know those two in a different light, and they never would have thought that individuals such as them would "cross" over into our area of study. Following our Thanksgiving break, we will have a significant vocabulary quiz that the kids have been studying and working on for over a full week. We will also be discovering more about the geography and the lifestyles of Ancient Mesopotamia. Following the Mesopotamia unit test, we will dive into the idea of city-states for our unit project. Normally, the kids would be in small groups, and each group will be in charge of developing their very own city-state. In this time of COVID changes, we will likely alter how we do this project, but I'm certain it will still turn out really well! As we have learned in this unit, city-states are self-governed, so it will be very interesting to see some of the rules and regulations that the kids come up with for their city-state!



Merry  
Christmas



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading . . . Read All About It!

Page 3

By: Mrs. TeGrotenhuis

Parents, thank you for encouraging your child to read daily! I have seen much progress and many great book choices. I am looking forward to reading books that students have suggested to me in the next while. Please continue to encourage your child to read daily and fill out his/her reading log. By the end of December, your child should have read at least three different types of genre for the second quarter. Thanks for all you do for our students to help them succeed!

During the month of December, the sixth grade literature classes will complete a non-fiction unit about young heroes. We have been reading about one of the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winners, Malala Yousafzai. Malala is a young girl from Pakistan who was shot by a terrorist group for standing up for her belief in the right to be educated. Students have been introduced to vocabulary such as *oppressive*, *terrorist*, and *refugees*. In addition, we have been working on a variety of non-fiction reading and writing skills including finding the main idea and using text evidence. Students have learned that we often take our own education for granted when we learn about what Malala and her friends have been through simply to learn. In fact, most students were reminded of last year when they were not allowed to attend school because of the Covid shutdown. I enjoyed hearing them talk about how much they like our school and appreciate their teachers. We really do have great students!

Because it is difficult for us to relate to Malala's world, the students will also read short articles and view short videos about other young heroes right here in the United States. These young heroes made an impact in their community and prove that all of us can do things to positively influence others. Near the end of this unit, the students will construct a piece of writing in response to what they have learned about these young heroes. This piece of writing is definitely one of my favorites to read!

As we get closer to Christmas, we will read a dramatic version of the story *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The students will enjoy reading this classic tale out loud in class while we discuss the literary elements of mood and theme as well as character development in Ebenezer Scrooge.



## Growing and Changing in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English

By: Mrs. Jacobsma

We've looked at multiple ways writing plays a part in the everyday world of adults. Then the students explored some of those styles and purposes in their own writing. This unit is entirely on the computers!

Following the real world writing unit, we will return to grammar and ramp up our writing skills. We will examine the basic structure of good sentences and then reconstruct our writing style with more complex and compound writing! Our next major writing assignment will be a hero essay where we look at what it means to be an everyday sort of hero. We'll choose someone who has made a significant impact on us and interview them. Then we'll create a tribute essay to honor them!



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

By: Mr. Baker

What a fun start we have had to our year in math! I can't believe how fast it is going and all that is being learned. In math we are learning about equations and inequalities, or better known as pre-algebra concepts. While some people may view algebra and variables as a foreign language, I would like to encourage both students and parents to approach this chapter with a great attitude. Great effort will be necessary in this chapter as we learn new concepts, and I know that a great deal of learning will occur if everyone carries a learning mindset. This may be the most difficult unit we learn during 7<sup>th</sup> grade, but can also be a fun one. I want to encourage students to finish strong before the Christmas break!

## 7th Grade Literature

By: Mrs. Vermeer

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter has flown by and now 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter is underway. The kids are working hard and coming with a positive attitude every day to class. I appreciate their willingness to be challenged and their ability to adapt to change.

We are currently in the middle of our Author's Bias unit and has it presented a new challenge to them, that they are handling very well. We have spent a great deal of time understanding what bias is and working with identifying it in examples I have provided them. Overall, they have a great grasp of this and now we are working on identifying bias in articles, from the media, and social media. The one thing that has shocked the students is the amount of bias that is in our every day lives. As the unit continues, we will spend more time analyzing how two talking about the same topic interpret facts. The final for this unit consists of analyzing two authors talking about the same topic. The challenge from this will be the students identifying the differences with little help from me. I do provide them with topic choices, questions, and articles to help their thinking. This project will challenge their thinking and get them to understand author bias in our world.

To finish 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, we will end with reading some Christmas stories. With the stories we read we will spend time learning vocabulary, the authors, and the stories histories. This unit typically provides some enjoyment and a little bit lighter thinking after such a challenging unit.

With the quarter ending before break we will also be working on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Book Projects. This project has a lot more freedom for the students in that it just needs to be creative. I would like to see the kids showcase whatever creative talents they have. At the end we set up a classroom art gallery and view all their projects. As they go around, they have a challenge of leaving some positive notes for the other kids. Reminder the new Quarter 2 reading goal is 500 pages!

Keep up the great work you guys are doing awesome! I appreciate your positive attitudes.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English

Mrs. VR (Van Regenmorter)

Since the last newsletter, the seventh grade English students have been reviewing and learning some new things about capitalization in the English language. After they completed several practices about capitalization, they took a test to show they proficiently know capitalization at a seventh grade level. After capitalization, we moved on to learn about a third kind of sentence called the complex sentence. Students learned about dependent clauses and independent clauses and how they work together to make a complex sentence. Of course, students needed to apply their knowledge by practicing and writing complex sentences correctly. We recently took a test over these kinds of sentences, and most of the students did a great job!

After Thanksgiving break, the seventh graders will start the "Personal Narrative Unit." A personal narrative is a true story about an experience that happened to the person who is writing it. We will learn the elements of a good narrative and look at examples of a personal narrative. We will work through the five steps of the writing process and focus on four traits of good writing: voice, content, organization, and conventions. By the end of the unit, students will have a final personal narrative that I'll look forward to reading!

Once again, thank you for taking the time to read the middle school newsletter and stay informed about our school. Each student in our school is a blessing.



## 7th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Vande Kieft

In December, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders are exploring the vastness of space in our Earth in the Universe Unit. To kick off our exploration, we are investigating our Big Question, "How can we predict eclipses?" To help us find the answer to this question, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders will track the phases of the moon each day to analyze its effect on the probability of eclipses. This will lead to our discussion about the 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 create actual eclipses and moon phases using a 3-D "moon" and light source.

The focus of our exploration will then shift to what lies beyond the Earth, Sun, and Moon within our own Solar System. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders will read various scientific articles to better understand what lies beyond Earth, our Solar System, the Milky Way Galaxy, and out into the universe. To analyze how small the Earth truly is in comparison to the Sun and the rest of space, each class period will create their own Solar System Scale Model. First, they will be creating a scaled version of a feature of the Solar System that they and a partner will research. Finally, we will then travel through our Solar System in a Virtual Reality tour using Google Expedition where we will be able to view the various aspects of the Universe.



### Elephants, Tigers, and Books, Oh My!

Thanks so much for supporting the middle school online book fair! The Scholastic Dollars earned from the book fair will be used to purchase library books.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra & Algebra 1

By: Mr. Mow

In Algebra 1, we have been working hard on learning how to apply linear equations and learning the fundamentals of how bivariate relationships work. Most are now figuring out how to really pay attention and learn the major concepts instead of simply trying to copy what I do. Keep reminding your student if they are struggling understanding, to please ask questions and I will gladly help!

In Pre-Algebra, we are just finishing up our unit on simplifying expressions and solving equations. Up next after Thanksgiving break will be linear equations. This will be a challenging unit, so please encourage your son/daughter to ask questions if they need to!

### 1:15pm Early Dismissals:

Friday, December 4

Friday, December 11

Friday, December 18

December 22 ~ End of 2nd quarter/1st Semester

## 8th Grade English

By: Mrs. Oolman

So, what have we been up to in English class? Students are reviewing KU Sentence writing strategies and refining their knowledge of compound, complex, and compound-complex sentence construction. This unit will prove invaluable as students continue to write for English and other content area classes.

In addition to learning how to write different sentence “formulas”, students are gaining strength and confidence in utilizing punctuation accurately in their more sophisticated writing. We will enjoy constructing preposition poems while learning about the role of prepositions in sentence structures.

As we near the end of our KU writing instruction and practice, a final test will be given in the form of a writing assignment. Students will use a photo of their own to make inferences and create a “truism” about their photo choice. Once this is done, they will write a 10-sentence piece (using the sentence formulas they’ve learned) to share their truism. I loved reading this piece last year, and I’m sure to enjoy it again!

As always, I am thankful to be employed at MOC-Floyd Valley. Hope you have much to be grateful for as well.



## 8th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Hoogeveen

*Here are a couple of questions we have attempted to answer in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science:*  
**“How do we track the changes of organisms over time?”**

Last month we uncovered information about fossils. We compared ancient fossils to modern animals which helps us track changes over time.

Earlier in November, the students explored how organisms in a short time can change quickly when their environment changes. Three examples were given. First, bird beaks in the Galapagos Islands changed when their food source changed because of a drought then a few years later a flood. Second, pocket mice of the Sonoran Desert (Arizona) changed color from white to black when volcanic basalt invaded the area. Lastly, dark Peppered moths began to occur more often when pollution from burning coal affected the environment in Europe.

### **How are humans changing genetics and what impact is this having?**

Currently, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes are synthesizing information about how technologies have influenced the inheritance of desired traits in organisms. The first step was to understand the history behind biotechnology and why we continue to practice different forms of this. Next, we focused on different forms of selective breeding, their desired outcomes, and the possible negatives associated with them. The new gene-editing technology being done to keep some pigs small was the third topic of discussion. Cloning was successful in 1996 with sheep. Recently, the Chinese have cloned monkeys in hopes of doing research to cure Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Disease. We talked about some pros and cons of cloning a pet. Did you know that most of the bananas we eat are cloned? We investigated what a GMO was and how that relates to some of the different foods we enjoy such as Clementine oranges and Honeycrisp apples. Our last topic of discussion was the reality of editing the human genome for medical purposes and possibly creating enhancements for babies.

**Next up—Waves.** We will be delving into sound waves in December with many different hands-on activities to learn about waves and how sound waves work for us.



## Our Corner of History

By: Ms. Van Wyk

In 8th grade History, we have just begun our unit on the War for Independence which we will begin with the Declaration of Independence. Prior to this, we spent time discussing the American electoral process, and students even ran for president in an online game called Win the White House. Later in the month, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to commemorate Veteran's Day. Each student individually researched topics connected to the military, including various memorials, wars, and the stories of several Medal of Honor recipients. Following their research, eighth graders shared their findings with the rest of the class through a brief presentation. It is my hope that as a result of our classwork, these students came to better appreciate the role of service in the armed forces and the cost of the freedoms we enjoy in the United States.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature

By: Mr. Boone

The 8th grade literature class is finishing *The Outsiders* unit by writing a thematic essay. Over the past two weeks, we have discussed how characters are vehicles of theme. We have learned that characters are complex and have troubles, which reveal motifs, and how motifs reveal themes. From our work together, we created a list of five big ideas in the book, which include divided communities, empathy, individual identity, self-sacrifice and honor, and preserving childhood innocence. In a thematic essay, each student will demonstrate their ability to identify a theme, write a thesis statement, and incorporate textual evidence by using direct quotes effectively. Please ask your child about the motif, theme, and textual evidence they have chosen for their essay. I have been impressed with the students' hard work and excellent thinking throughout the book and look forward to reading their essays. We will conclude the unit with a school day dedicated to *The Outsiders*. Students will choose and be assigned to dress as a greaser or Soc for the day, and we will celebrate the day by having 1960s drive-in food – hamburgers, fries, and ice cream sundaes – and watch the movie in the afternoon.

Following *The Outsiders* unit, the 8th grade will begin with an introduction to the Holocaust. The 8th grade English and Literature classes share the Holocaust unit. The 8th grade English class will focus on reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* play and critically viewing *The Diary of Anne Frank* movie. In Literature, we will begin with a timeline activity, where students will study and analyze events before, during, and after the Holocaust. Students will learn to use a variety of mediums to conduct research, so they are prepared to identify a Holocaust topic, research the topic, and present all they have learned to their class. Students will need to identify a unit goal to provide a foundation for their research and a purpose for presenting their information to the class. The goals for the unit are below.

### Unit Goals

1. Develop an understanding of the causes and effects of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping. Explore the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent in the face of oppression of others.
  2. Think about the use and abuse of power and the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and nations when confronted with civil rights violations.
- Develop an appreciation for democracy. Democracy needs to be appreciated, nurtured, and protected.

Please continue to encourage your child to independently read for twenty minutes or more each day. Now that we are finished with our class novel, we will get back into our Take Time for Ten independent reading habit each day. Independent reading on a daily basis is a key component to your child's improvement and success as a reader. Thank you for encouraging and setting aside time each day for your child to read. If you are looking for Christmas gift ideas for your child, giving them books is always a great option.



# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1		2		3	4	5
		4:15pm BB-B vs LeMars 7 <sup>th</sup> (H) 8 <sup>th</sup> (A)		7:00am My Choice  4:15pm BB B vs Sioux Center 7 <sup>th</sup> (A) 8 <sup>th</sup> (H)	1:15pm Early Dismissal	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Qrt. 2 6 week grade checks  4:15pm BB B vs Sheldon 7 <sup>th</sup> (H) 8 <sup>th</sup> (A)			7:00am My Choice  4:15pm BB B vs Rock Valley 7 <sup>th</sup> (A) 8 <sup>th</sup> (H)	1:15pm Early Dismissal	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Exploratory Cycle 3 Ends  4:15pm BB B vs LeMars 7 <sup>th</sup> (A) 8 <sup>th</sup> (H)	Exploratory Cycle 4 Starts  MS Holiday Concert		7:00am My Choice  4:15pm BB B vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7 <sup>th</sup> (H) 8 <sup>th</sup> (A)	1:15pm Early Dismissal	Youth Girls IBL Tournament @Multiple Locations
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Winter Begins	End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr./ 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	No School	No School	Christmas Day  No School	
Winter Break						
27	28	29	30	31		
	No School	No School	No School	No School		
Winter Break						



# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<sup>1</sup> New Year's Day No School <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">Winter Break</div>	<sup>2</sup>
<sup>3</sup> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">Winter Break</div>	<sup>4</sup> No School Professional Development	<sup>5</sup> <b>School Resumes</b> Start 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	<sup>6</sup> Qrt. 2/Sem.1 Grades To Office	<sup>7</sup> 7:00am My Choice	<sup>8</sup> 1:15pm Early Dismissal Qrt. 2/Sem.1 Report Cards Go Home	<sup>9</sup>
<sup>10</sup>	<sup>11</sup>	<sup>12</sup>	<sup>13</sup>	<sup>14</sup> 7:00am My Choice Strong Foundation Honor 6th Grade Honor Band, SC East 4:15pm GBB vs Sioux Center 7 <sup>th</sup> (H) 8 <sup>th</sup> (A)	<sup>15</sup> 1:15pm Early Dismissal	<sup>16</sup> Youth Boys BB Tourney @Multiple Location
<sup>17</sup>	<sup>18</sup> Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 4:15pm GBB vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 8 <sup>th</sup> (A) 4:00pm 7 <sup>th</sup> (H)	<sup>19</sup>	<sup>20</sup>	<sup>21</sup> 7:00am My Choice	<sup>22</sup> 1:15pm Early Dismissal	<sup>23</sup>
<sup>24</sup>	<sup>25</sup> 4:15pm GBB vs Boy den 7 <sup>th</sup> (A) 8 <sup>th</sup> (H) 4:15pm WR: MS @Rock Valley Elementary School	<sup>26</sup> Qrt.3 3 Week Grade Checks	<sup>27</sup>	<sup>28</sup> 7:00am My Choice NWI MS & HS Honor Orchestra Festival MS Wrestling @ South Obrien	<sup>29</sup> 1:15pm Early Dismissal Exploratory Cycle 4 Ends	<sup>30</sup>
<sup>31</sup>						