

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-FV CSD

December

2021

Special points of Interest:

- Middle School Holiday Concert
- End of Qtr. 2/ Semester
- Hour of Code
- Weather Related Late Starts and Early Dismissals
- Winter Dress
- 8th Grade Service Project
- Bookfair Thank You



Inside this issue:

6th Grade	3-4
7th Grade	4-5
8th Grade	6-7



Middle School Holiday Concert

The Middle School will be hosting its Holiday Concert on Monday, December 20 at 7:00pm. We will hold this concert at Christ Chapel on the campus of NWC. This is a neat opportunity for our students, as they get to perform in a larger venue. Seating will be tight, and we would ask that you make room at the concert so all in attendance can see the program.



End of Qtr. 2 / Semester 1

The end of the 2nd Quarter and Semester 1 will be on Tuesday, December 21. Students will want to have any late work, missing work, etc. turned in before they leave for the Christmas Break. Report cards for Qtr. 2 /Semester 1 will go home with students on Friday, January 7, 2022. If your student plans to be gone before the break, please have them communicate with their teachers so they can get assignments completed before they leave. Thanks!



Hour of Code

On Wednesday, December 8, 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

**No School ~ Winter Break
December 22 - January 3
Classes Resume January 4, 2022**



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 on what they will 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, 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, as well as 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, & KTIV



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.



8th Grade Service Project

The 8th graders will be conducting a canned food drive 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.

Lots of Loot Discovered at the “Books are the Treasure” Book Fair!

Ahoy, Bookaneers! Thank you so much for your support of our middle school book fair! Because of your interest in books and enthusiasm for reading, the goal set for our fair was exceeded. Thanks for encouraging and celebrating reading! More “reading loot” will be arriving soon in the middle school library for our students!

6th Grade Reading . . . Read All About It!

By: Mrs. TeGrotenhuis

Page 3

Our sixth-grade students have been reading so many great books and have given me more titles to add to my own list. I have enjoyed seeing their book choices and watching them progress as readers. Please continue to encourage your child to read daily and fill out his/her reading log. By December 21, 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. Many of our students, in turn, share how thankful they are for a school like ours.

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. I am always anxious to read this piece of writing!

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. Most students know the storyline of this classic tale, but we will also examine the historical time period during which it was written to gain a better understanding of the author's intent.



6th Grade Social Studies

By: Mr. Nonnemacher

We have started our Ancient Egypt Unit! This is always one of the most enjoyable and interesting units of the school year for us in 6th Grade Social Studies. We've already learned a little bit about the pyramids and we got to spend a couple of days taking a virtual "tour" of the desert of Egypt along with the Nile River. After Thanksgiving break, the kids gained a number of new vocabulary words to add to their arsenal. We talked about multiple different pharaohs of Egypt. Some were men, some were women. Some were good, some were bad! My expectations for my students during this unit and all units 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 unit should be a successful unit for them.

Following our Egyptian unit test, we will spend about a week comparing Ancient Egypt to Modern Egypt. They will use everything they have learned and combine and compare that to what is going on in the country today. They will be researching using Chromebooks, textbooks, and materials from the school and 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. I continue to challenge each student to write down a "Grateful Comment" on a daily basis, especially as we near the holiday season. Please take some time to ask your son or daughter some of the things they are grateful for! Go Dutch!

Growing and Changing in 6th 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 was 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!



7th grade English

Mrs. VR (Van Regenmorter)

The 7th graders stepped up to the challenge of commas! I am very happy with how they dug in and worked hard. Ninety percent (90%) of the 7th graders in my English classes passed the test with proficiency and do not need to take a retake test! These results are fantastic! As I wrote in the last newsletter, "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." Therefore, we have started our next unit, "Writing A Personal Narrative." 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. My plan is to have students complete their rough drafts before Christmas break, and when we return from break, they will do their revising, editing, and producing of the final draft. By the end of the unit, students will have a final personal narrative that I hope they are proud of writing and that I'll look forward to reading!

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. Each student in our school is a blessing.



7th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Vande Kieft

In December, the 7th graders are will be exploring the vastness of space in our Earth in the Universe Unit. To kick off our exploration, we will be investigating our Big Question, "How can we predict eclipses?" To help us find the answer to this question, the 7th 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 7th 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 to view the various aspects of the Universe.

7th 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 7th grade, but can also be a fun one. I want to encourage students to finish strong before the Christmas break!



Wiekling's World

By: Mr. Wiekling

Another month has come and gone and the holidays are right around the corner. As we finished up our unit covering human rights, we transitioned to a new region of the world to study. Many of the countries we learned about while covering human rights were from the sub-Saharan Africa region. During the month of December we will be taking a closer look into this part of the world.

Sub-Saharan Africa is quickly playing a larger role in the globalized world. Their populations are growing quickly, their resources are in more demand, and governments around the world are investing in infrastructure throughout the region. It is likely that this region of the world will continue to grow in its significance.

We will take the time to learn more about the physical geography of the region in order to identify valuable resources like oil, cobalt, and diamonds. We will also try to make the connection between resources, trade, scarcity, and competition.

Finally, as we wrap up our unit on Sub-Saharan Africa, we'll take a closer look into the global issue of food supply. As we learn about our global food supply we'll examine how the countries of the world are working together in order to produce enough food for all people and adequately distribute the food to all who need it.

It has been a real pleasure working with your student so far this year. Thank you for being committed to the academic success of your student.



7th Grade Literature

By: Mrs. Vermeer

7th graders are amazing. We are in the heart of our research unit, and they are doing an amazing job. They are learning so many new skills on how to research, prepare arguments, cite information, and take a variety of notes that further their understanding. This unit tends to be the more challenging one of the year, and the kids are proving that this won't stop them from doing their best. We have completed our first major project with our research unit being our infographic. The partners create an information picture that share their research in a creative way to grab the audience's attention. I was thoroughly impressed with all their creations. Our ending goal for this unit is for the students to record their own TEDTalk about their research topic. We plan to record our TEDTalks on our own the 1st week of December. I am looking forward to watching their videos and seeing how they present their information.

To wrap up 2nd quarter we will be working on a couple of different Christmas related projects. In class we will be comparing two Christmas stories and how they are connected even though they were written many years apart. The 2nd project will be our quarter two book project where we will be reading a variety of texts in the form of a Tic-Tac-Toe and completing different projects based off their reading choices. This will be an individual project and they will get some class time to work on it.

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 were fortunate to have the opportunity to commemorate Veteran's Day. Each student was asked to interview a veteran and ask them questions about their service. Furthermore, they 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. For some, it is a big challenge speaking publicly in front of their peers, and I am glad that they had the opportunity to work on this important life skill in a positive environment. It is also my hope that 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.



8th 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 concluded the unit with a school day dedicated to The Outsiders. Students chose to dress as a greaser or Soc for the day.

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.
2. Explore the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent in the face of oppression of others.
3. Think about the use and abuse of power and the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organizations, and nations when confronted with civil rights violations.
4. 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. Independently reading daily 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!

8th Grade English

By: Mrs. Oolman

Page 7

As mentioned last month, students have been given the opportunity to present twice to classmates in our unit that is just wrapping up. The first was entitled Six-Word Memoir (an entire STORY in just six words!). These were so fun to listen to! The second presentation was called the Me Collection speech because the item shared told the class about who they were as a person.

During the Me Collection unit, we did four pre-writing pieces in an attempt to narrow our topics and choices. Next we learned the “Rule of Three”--how including three things in a paragraph, speech, or piece is easy for an audience to remember. We spent time drafting our pieces of writing, and then we did a mini-lesson on writing good titles. We also included dialogue in this narrative. Final drafts have been turned in and are being assessed at this time. We spent time learning about how to write speeches, creating introductions and conclusions, and creating useful notecards. You may want to ask your son or daughter if you can read their piece. They are nicely done! Take an interest and take some time to listen to them share what makes them who they are!

Giving these presentations has also provided a great opportunity for kids to learn about one another and to appreciate their similarities and differences. This has been a great connection to our Second Step / Social Emotional Learning program as well.

In addition to writing and preparing for speeches, students have been active in the No Red Ink program learning about Commonly Confused Words such as principal / principle, weather / whether, and its / it's. This work in No Red Ink is the precursor to our next unit on “Troublesome Words”. Students will again be doing a couple presentations. One will be done independently, and the second will be completed with a partner.



8th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Hoogeveen

Here are a couple of questions we have attempted to answer in 8th 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 8th 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 pros and cons 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 selective breeding 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.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 4:15pm BBB vs. Sioux Center 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	3 1:15pm Early Dismissal	4
5	6 Qrt. 2-3 week Grade Check 4:15pm BBB vs. Sheldon 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	7	8 Hour Of Code Activity	9 4:15pm BBB vs. Rock Valley 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	10 1:15pm Early Dismissal	11 Youth Girls BB Tourney @ Multiple Locations
12	13 End Exploratory Cycle 3 4:15pm BBB vs. LeMars 7 th (A) 8 th (H) School Board Meeting	14 Begin Exploratory Cycle 4	15	16 4:00pm BBB vs. Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7 th (H) 4:15pm 8 th (A)	17 1:15pm Early Dismissal	18
Makerspace Activity in the Media Center						
19	20 7:00pm MS Holiday Concert @ NWC Christ Chapel	21 Winter Begins End 2 nd Qrt. End 1 st Semester.	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School	25 Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	
No School ~ Winter Break Classes resume Jan. 4, 2022						

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						New Year's ¹
²	³ No School	⁴ Qrt. 3 Begins	⁵	⁶	⁷ 1:15pm Early Dismissal	⁸
⁹	¹⁰ Strong Foundation Honor Band @ Sioux City East	¹¹	¹²	¹³ 4:15pm GBB vs. Sioux Center 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	¹⁴ 1:15pm Early Dismissal	¹⁵ Youth BBB Tourney
¹⁶	¹⁷ Martin Luther King Jr. Day 4:00pm GBB vs. Sergeant Bluff-Luton 7(H) 8 th (A)@4:15pm	¹⁸	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹ 1:15pm Early Dismissal 4:15pm MS Wrestling @ MOC-FV MS	²²
²³	²⁴ 4:15 GBB vs. Boyden 7 th (A) 8 th (H) 4:15 MS Wrestling @ Rock Valley	²⁵	²⁶ 4:15pm MS Wrestling @ Sibley-Ocheyedan High School	²⁷	²⁸ 1:15pm Early Dismissal	²⁹
³⁰	³¹ 4:15pm GBB vs. Sibley-Ocheyedan 7 th (H) 8 th (A) 4:15pm MS Wrestling @ West Lyon High School					