

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-FV CSD

November

2021

Special points of Interest:

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



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, 2021. 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.

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 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, 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, & KTIV



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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.

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More and More Grammar in 6th Grade English

By: Mrs. Jacobsma

We have finished 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. I am tickled by the conversations with kids who had no idea they could write something entertaining and valuable. This is the piece that opens their eyes!

Following this writing, we will jump into another writing unit called Real World Writing. Kids will explore many different types of writing that they might encounter in the real world -- everything from emails and business letters to word games and blog posts.

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. TeGrotenhuis

Students can expect a lot of variety for November in literature class! We are in the final stages of our *Among the Hidden* unit. 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 many different genres, and I am excited to hear about these books!

I am especially looking forward to teaching one of my favorite units which will begin in mid-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 (main idea), and using text evidence.

I would like to complement the students on their individual reading! Many students are doing a fantastic job of meeting our class goal each week, and several of them read beyond our goal! I encourage students to continue reading daily and recording their pages on their reading logs. 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 Math with Mr. Boersma

Parents, I want to say thank you. This particular group of sixth graders have been a pleasure to teach in the first quarter. No group is ever perfect, but as a rule, they have been very respectful, responsible, and hard working. It's been a wonderful first quarter.

We are just finishing up our unit about multiplying and dividing fractions. It's a unique concept because it can be a very difficult concept to understand conceptually but not terribly hard to solve mathematically. Our big push has been trying to get students to understand what $2\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$ actually means, instead of simply "how" to solve it.

Our next chapter will be one of my absolute favorites, Ratios and Rates. There are so many practical applications within these concepts that students can really make use of them in almost any interest, sport, hobby, or household chore. Our challenge is to be able to get them to think with a ratio mindset.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that I encourage you to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about math (or anything else happening at school.) An email is often the quickest way for us to connect, but if you'd prefer to call the school during my free periods, I welcome phone calls as well.

NO SCHOOL~ NOVEMBER 5
Parent-Teacher conferences comp day

6th Grade World History

By: Mr. Nonnemacher

As I write this update, we have just completed our first quarter of the school year! What a fast and furious 9 weeks it was! It's always fun to observe the 6th graders as they realize just how fast the school year goes when we have our daily class rotation and quick 42-minute class periods. 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 students 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. We have been discovering more about the geography and the lifestyles of Ancient Mesopotamia, as well as different leadership styles from kings throughout the time period. Following the Mesopotamia unit test, we will dive into the idea of city-states for our unit project. The kids will be in small groups, and each group will be in charge of developing their very own city-state. This is one of my favorite projects of the year, and I'm excited to see how it turns out for all my different groups. 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!



6th Grade Science

By: Mr. H (Hoebelheinrich)

Over the last month, the 6th graders finished their Engineering Design Process where they were creating catapults. After our first round of designs, we took a look at our data, and compared some of the better designs to some of the designs that didn't work real well. With that information the students designed their 2nd prototype where we saw huge improvements with the distances that our catapults could shoot!

Recently we've jumped into the realm of physical science. We've discussed the history of the atom and how the model of an atom has changed over the course of history. We've also learned about the atomic structure of atoms, and how they can join together to form molecules and compounds.

Over the next couple of weeks we will talk about physical properties of a substance. The atomic structure is important for determining the many properties of a substance. One of those physical properties is the state of matter that an object is actually in. Scientists know that the state of matter is actually determined by how fast/slow the particles are actually moving.



7th Grade Math

By: Mr. Baker

In math we are continuing to learn new math skills every 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 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.

Wiekling's World

By: Mr. Wiekling

The first quarter seems to have passed by so quickly. I am very thankful to be able to work with the 7th grade students. They are a pleasure to have in class. They ask good questions and are actively involved in their learning.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks our Global Studies class will wrap up learning about Human Rights. We have already taken a close look at two different case studies involving human rights around the world - one in Chile and one in Myanmar. Both case studies primarily involved political rights and the ability for people to vote and express their ideas and opinions. Our final case study will examine the Lost Boys from Sudan and South Sudan. While we learn about these boys and their unbelievable journey we will identify groups and organizations that help to fight for human rights around the world. The purpose is to be able to identify what our human rights are, according to the United Nations, and to be able to find opportunities to help those who may have experienced circumstances that have taken away their rights. Our focus is on the small things that everyday people can do in their schools and towns to make the world a better place.

It really does seem like we're falling into a good groove as the year progresses. I would like to encourage everyone to keep working hard and giving their best efforts on all homework assignments, projects, and tests. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at bwiekling@mocfv.org.



7th Grade English

By: Mrs. VR (Van Regenmortel)

The seventh graders have been busy in English class. During first quarter we did the following units: Listening Unit, Capitalization, Simple & Compound Sentences, and Complex Sentences. After learning strategies we can use to be good listeners, we 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. They have written some paragraphs in which they focused on correct sentence structure and using a variety of the kinds of sentences we learned about. Varying the kinds of sentences in writing creates fluency, which makes writing flow and enjoyable to read.

As we enter the second quarter, we will move onto . . . punctuation. This tends to be the most dreaded element of our English language. However, 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.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

I would like to say “Thank You” for your participation in the Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences. These conferences are a great opportunity for parents, students, and teachers to communicate about the student’s academic and social progress so far. We understand that schedules are busy and we truly appreciate you supporting your child’s education by attending P-T Conferences.

7th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Vande Kieft

Why do I have blue eyes? Why do you have brown hair? Can you roll your tongue? The 7th graders will be investigating the answers to these questions in November 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 will be exploring various traits that they have inherited from their parents and comparing those traits with their teammates. During this unit, we will be conducting investigations to isolate DNA from various fruits, determining the importance of DNA in expressing who we are, and predicting the probability of various genotypes and phenotypes for potential offspring. Within the unit on genetics, we will also be looking at the occurrence of mutations and its effects on different organisms. Students will gain 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 will explore 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 kick off our Earth & Space unit by determining the age of the Earth. During our examinations of the facets of the Earth, we will take a journey to the Grand Canyon on a virtual trip to explore the various rock formations and fossils. Each Team will use these features to understand how scientists determine the age of the Earth. We will then begin looking past the Earth by 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.



7th Grade Literature

By: Mrs. Vermeer

The Signpost Unit is officially done, and the kids are excited. This is a challenging unit as it is really focusing on giving the kids more tools in their reading tool belt to make them better readers. It challenges them to think in different ways and to apply what they have read and thought about to their own lives. I am very impressed with how they have been able to build a deeper understanding of a variety of text.

We completed another mini unit before we get into our research unit. Our mini unit was another short story out of our 7th grade textbook. We focused on two different skills conflicts and vocabulary. The story, *Old Sly Eye*, has many different conflicts as the young boy faces hardships on the frontier. The story also uses a variety of vocabulary that are not as common in our vocabulary today. The students did a great job apply the vocabulary words in different ways as well as taking different scenarios and determining what type of conflict it was.

As Quarter 1 ends we will begin a much longer unit that will take place the whole 2nd Quarter focusing on researching. In this unit students will be taught how to research and then how to present their research to others in an engaging way that captures the audience's attention. This unit challenges students as it's a new way of thinking and presenting information to others.

New quarter also means new reading goals. We are increasing our page goal to 600 pages or 3 to 4 books for the quarterly goal. I have no doubt the students will be able to achieve this goal, given how well they did achieving the previous quarter goal.

Keep up the amazing work 7th graders and you will have a successful year!



8th Grade English

By: Mrs. Colman

First, I want to share with you how very pleased and impressed I was with students' projects at the end of their last unit. They were tasked to choose a way to show me what they learned! They had a list of ideas, but were also able to come up with their own ideas for the project, too. I had everything from brain models, posters, wooden signs, Powtoons, Google Slide Shows, to paintings, and 3D models. Absolutely exquisite work! Many of these AMAZING projects can be found in the hallways in the lower level. I hope you can find some time to stop and view some during conferences.

Since finishing up the Colors / Mindset / Grit unit, we started a mini-unit on what we called "scaffolding information". This is information that "scaffolds" or holds up our writing and speaking in English. We began by reviewing the use of quotation marks and underlining in our writing. From there, we reviewed the eight parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections). Once those were mastered, we tackled the ten punctuation marks (period, colon, semi-colon, question mark, exclamation mark, parentheses, quotation marks, hyphen, comma, and apostrophe). After some practice tests, reviewing using worksheets, and practicing on Quizlet, students were given tests. Tests needed to be passed with a C or above, or retakes were given.

This year I am working to include more speaking opportunities for students. As we begin our next writing assignment, there will be two speaking assignments included in the unit. I encourage you to listen and give suggestions or advice or ask questions as needed when students are practicing / preparing for these at home. Thanks for partnering with me on this! As always, I am thankful to be employed at MOC-Floyd Valley. Hope you have much to be grateful for as well.



8th Grade Literature

By: Mr. Boone

In 8th grade Literature, we are currently reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Throughout the book, we will be analyzing characters using five key elements of character analysis – traits, motivation, conflict, point of view, and relationships. I have divided the novel into four sections. During each section of three chapters, students will learn new vocabulary, answer reading guide questions, and connect the novel to other text including informational text and poetry. Throughout the book, students will be creating a body biography project within their groups. Each group will choose a character to analyze, create a life-sized image, and provide details of the character in twelve different categories. Students will practice identifying textual evidence, paraphrasing, and citing.

Also, we are focusing on how characters reveal themes. After each chapter, students are given excerpts of the chapter and in groups they identify how each of those excerpts support the five "big ideas" in the book. Our five big ideas in the novel are divided communities, empathy, preserving childhood innocence, self-sacrifice and honor, and individual identity. This is a challenging task for students, yet I am impressed how they have analyzed the literature and are continually improving. At the end of the novel, they will use this analysis to write a thematic essay on the novel.

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.

Finally, I want to continue stressing the importance of independent reading. Practicing and learning to enjoy reading is 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 Science

By: Mrs. Hoogeveen

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In middle school we are using the Next Generation Science Standards as organized by the Iowa Core. 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 of the 1950’s. 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 past causing sea levels to rise, 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!



Our Corner of History

By: Ms. Van Wyk

In 8th grade American History, we have just finished studying the first groups of European settlers who came to North America. We have learned about where they settled and more importantly why they chose to migrate to America. Students discovered that settlers came for many different reasons: to spread their faith, to seek riches, to obtain glory, etc. In our Document Based Question assignment, students had the opportunity to read the direct words of the earliest settlers. Taking the role of detectives looking for evidence, the 8th graders studied the documents for clues about the relationship between Europeans and Native Americans. To present their findings, students got into groups and recorded video essays reporting what they had learned. With two tests under our belt, students have also been practicing important skills like time management, using study tools, and written expression of big ideas. Coming up in November, students will begin their inquiry projects that will explore topics related to Veteran’s Day. These projects usually foster some great conversations about the sacrifices made by service members on behalf of our country and I encourage you to check in with your student as we get closer to the Holiday for an opportunity to hear what they have been learning about in class!

Middle School Party Night

Thank you to everyone that attended the Fall Party on October 29. The expenses for the event were covered by funds raised from the discount card fundraiser. Thank you to Jammin Entertainment for providing the music for the event.

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Election Day End Exploratory Cycle 2 NWICDA 8 th Honor Choir @ LeMars 4:00pm-8:00pm Parent Teacher Conferences	3 Start Exploratory Cycle 3	4	5 No School	6 NWIBA Jr. High Honor Band Concert at Storm Lake
7 Daylight Saving Time Ends	8 5:00pm School Board Meeting	9	10	11 Veterans Day Veterans Day Assembly	12 1:15pm Early Dismissal	13
14	15 Qrt. 2 3 Wk. Gr. Check 4:00pm BBB vs Sergeant Bluff-Luton 8 th (H) 4:15pm 7 th (A)	16 4:15pm BBB vs Sioux Center 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	17	18	19 1:15pm Early Dismissal	20
21	22 8 th Gr. Bowling Activity 4:15pm BBB vs Boyden 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	23 7 th Gr. Bowling Activity 4:15pm BBB vs Sibley-Ocheydan 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	24 No School	25 Thanksgiving No School	26 No School	27
28	29 4:15pm BBB vs Central Lyon 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	30 4:15pm BBB vs LeMars 7 th (H) 8 th (A)				

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 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)	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 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						