

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-FV CSD

| |
|------|
| May |
| 2022 |

Special points of Interest:

- Finishing The Year Strong
- Important Dates
- End of the Year Field Trips
- Thank You



Important Dates

- May 2-6 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 11 – School Nurse Appreciation Day
- May 17 – 6th Grade Field Trip to Hawarden
- May 18 – 7th Grade Field Trip to Sioux Falls
- May 19 – 11:15am Early Dismissal for Tulip Festival
- May 19 – Bump Up Day
- May 20 – No School Tulip Festival
- May 24 – 8th Grade Field Trip to Okoboji
- May 25 – Last Day of School – 1:15pm Early Dismissal

Finishing the Year Strong

As we wind up the school year, it is important that students continue to work and attend school. There are a lot of great opportunities to learn and collaborate during the month of May. Below are some ways that you can encourage your student to “Finish Strong”, and may be helpful when you have conversations with them.

1. Stay Organized – “Be Proactive”. Staying organized will help prevent you from losing or forgetting about assignments and tests.
2. Don’t Put Off Responsibilities – “Put First Things First”. Do what you need to get done first, and then do what you want to do. Now is no time to let up.
3. Get Motivated – “Begin with the end in mind”. Plan your month and see yourself completing the school year on a “high note”. Now is the time to get motivated. Help get the most out of each day and stay motivated so you can beat “summer fever”
4. Adjust your attitude – what is your attitude right now? Simply adjusting your attitude can make a big difference in how you see the finish of the school year
5. Take Care of Yourself – “Sharpen the Saw”. Make sure that you are eating good, getting enough rest, and taking advantage of the nice weather. You will need the best version of yourself in order to “finish the school year strong”.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| 6th Grade | 2-3 |
| 7th Grade | 4-6 |
| 8th Grade | 6-8 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

End of the Year Field Trips

The end of the year class field trips are scheduled for the middle and end of May. Expenses for these field trips are covered by the Discount Card Fundraiser profits. Specific information regarding the trips will be provided to your student prior to the trip. The dates and locations for our field trips are:

- May 17 – 6th Grade to Big Sioux Recreational Center*
- May 18 – 7th Grade to Sioux Falls*
- May 19 – 8th Grade to Okoboji*



6th Grade Math

By: Mr. Boersma

The sixth graders have been doing a wonderful job during the first part of the fourth quarter. We recently finished up a unit about statistics. As I looked at their final quiz scores, it occurred to me that the vast majority of students really have a tremendous understanding of sixth grade statistics. I've been so impressed with the way these students handled this chapter. We did a very interesting project using the weights of their backpacks as our data.

For our final unit of this school year, we are going to return to a concept we studied earlier, Expressions and Equations. Our final unit will be focused on a topic called functions. We will introduce the concept with a fun video called Crazy Taxi. From there, we will discuss inputs and outputs, graphing, dependent versus independent variables, and a few definitions along the way.

As we wrap up the school year, I'd like to tell you thank you. Thank you for all the work that you're willing to do to allow your son/daughter to be successful. Thanks for helping them with their homework, for helping them study, or contacting their teacher for extra help when needed. This particular group of students have been incredible to work with. From early on I could tell they were an outstanding group of young people and I have been impressed with them all year long. Have a great summer!



The Push to the End--6th Grade English

By: Mrs. Jacobsma

The end is quickly approaching, and yet there is so much left to do. The best academic thing you can do for your child right now is to encourage him/her to keep moving forward. As easy as it is to spend evenings outside, the school day will come again tomorrow. In English, we have many items left on our academic list. Spelling continues for two more weeks! We begin May with persuasive speeches! The last week of the year will bring self assessments of each student's progress and how they fared on our district's essential learnings. As always, please contact me at the middle school if you have questions.



6th Grade Science

By: Mr. Hoebelheinrich (Mr. H)

The 6th graders have finally started the final unit in science. In this unit we look at the different systems of the body and how they interact with one another. We started a "Trauma" simulation which takes them through the life of an emergency room. What vitals do nurses take, what tests do they run and why? While going through this process we take time to learn about the different systems of the body. It's a unique experience for the kids because they learn about the systems and how they interact with one another, but they also get an inside look at different medical procedures that happen in hospitals and how those procedures are linked to different systems of our body. The goal is to determine how the different systems work together to create a live full functioning organism. Once we are done learning about the different systems and how they interact, we will complete the year with the dissection process of an earthworm, and a fetal pig. The goal of this process is to compare and contrast the different systems of earthworms and pigs, but to also see these organs, tissues, and organ systems found within two different organisms that we learned about in class. As stated in my email that I sent out a few weeks ago. We will be using videos, nursing students and medical "dummies" to practice/learn about a few of these medical procedures that are done. If there is going to be any problem that I should know about your child dealing with these "experiences" please let me know.

Read All About It . . . 6th Grade Reading

Page 3

By: Mrs. TeGrotenhuis

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of the school year already! I have truly enjoyed this group of sixth graders; they have made the year memorable in so many good ways!

Our literature classes are currently reading the novel, *Freak the Mighty*, by Rodman Philbrick. One area of focus is character analysis as we observe how characters change throughout the course of a book. Students are also learning many new vocabulary words as they continue to work on developing meaning from context clues. I've been reading this book for several years with sixth graders, and it quickly becomes a favorite as we all enjoy the unique friendship that develops between two completely different characters. We will continue to do a mixture of reading aloud, small group reading, and individual reading while working on specific reading strategies.

Depending on how long it takes us to read our novel, our last activity of the year will be the creation of a brochure "advertising" one of the books the students read this year. These will be used the following school year to entice the new sixth grade students to pick up a new book! I sincerely hope the students will have time to complete this.

Like always, students are expected to read about 30 minutes daily – even when the weather finally gets warmer outside! I appreciate all of you who encourage your child to read each day. I have so many students who love to read, and this certainly makes my job easier. Thanks for all you do to help!



6th Grade World History

By: Mr. Nonnemacher

I feel as though I can hear the chants coming down the hallway each day... "One more month! One more month! One more month!" What a blessing it is to be able to get another full year in at this wonderful middle school! The kids have been such a blast in social studies and if you ask them, I hope they can say they had as much fun learning from me as I had teaching them! I am looking forward to these last few weeks for continued fun in the classroom learning just a little bit more about this subject called World History. We will finish our year talking about Ancient Rome and their rich history. When we get to the last day at the end of May, I know for certain that our kids will be able to say that they earned a break!! Thanks for all your support at home in studying for tests, making sure homework gets done, and just providing general support for your 6th grader(s) during this very fast and very busy school year. I will soak up these last 20+ days and then look forward to seeing them come back next year as 7th graders!!



On behalf of the entire faculty and staff at the Middle School, a SINCERE thank you to all of the parents, students, and families who have graciously blessed us with treats throughout this school year.

Wednesdays quickly became a day to anticipate and enjoy! It also became a day to gather, chat a minute or two, check in with one another, smile, and be grateful for one another and our caregivers, all of YOU!

While our waists may be a teeny bit bigger than they were in August, it was well worth it for the joy, anticipation, and deliciousness you brought to us each week this year!

Our gratitude. May you have a blessed summer!

MOC-Floyd Valley MS Staff and Faculty

7th Grade English

By: Mrs. Van Regenmorter (Mrs. VR)

Since the last newsletter, students in seventh grade English have begun another project. Students are working with partners to create a book that tells about "The ABC's of 7th grade English." In the book, there is a page for each letter of the alphabet. Students needed to find something that we learned about this year that begins with that letter. On each page, they must display the letter, an explanation that tells what they learned and know about this, and a picture or illustration that represents the item and its explanation. They also will create a front cover, a title page, and a back cover for their books. As I write this newsletter, students are working on the pages. When the pages and covers are done, they will need to put their books together without using staples!! Consequently, students will need to find creative ways to bind together the pages of their books. In the past, I've seen students use needles, thread, ribbons, rubber bands, twist ties, key chain rings, and many more items to make a binding. This project gives students a great review of twenty-six things we learned this year, and an opportunity to be creative. I can't wait for their books to be done so I can read all of them!

When the ABC books are completed, students will begin their final unit for the school year, which is the End-of-the-year Self-assessment. For this unit, students complete a final assignment that asks them to assess their school work, tests, writing, and overall performance during seventh grade English. In addition, they will look at some work that is in their sixth grade portfolios. Students will analyze their growth from sixth grade to seventh grade by responding to essay questions. They will use both their sixth and seventh grade portfolios that contain writings, tests, and projects to help them self-assess and formulate answers to the self-assessment questions. It's always eye-opening for students to see how much they have grown and developed as students, writers, and individuals since sixth grade!

Thank you for reading the Middle School newsletter and for staying informed about what your son or daughter is doing and learning in school. Also, thank you for the privilege of teaching your child this year. It is so fun and rewarding to see students grow in their abilities and character.



7th Grade Math

By Mr. Baker

What a fun year of seventh grade math! We will finish our 7th grade math year learning about volume and surface area.

I wanted to say thank you for all of your support of your son/daughter and me. I am confident the growth your son/daughter has displayed will carry them forward into 8th grade math. Have a wonderful summer!



LAST DAY
of
SCHOOL!
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

May 25-1:15pm Dismissal

7th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Vande Kieft

In April the 7th graders continued their exploration of genetics and mutations in the Plants vs. Animals Unit. This unit really allowed the 7th graders to get their hands dirty by planting two variations of corn seeds to observe and compare their growth in relation to environmental factors and genetic characteristics. In order to gain a better understanding of how specialized structures help plants reproduce, the 7th graders investigated the structures of flowers during a lab dissection. By examining these organisms first hand, the students were able to see how environmental factors and other animals play a significant role in the reproduction of plants. To compare the similarities and differences of plants and animals, each Team compared the likelihood of survival in populations when organisms have the ability to adapt to their environment. During our discussion of animal adaptations, the 7th graders participated in a lab that allowed them to put their beaks to the test. In this lab activity, each student used various tools that represented diverse types of bird beaks to attempt to locate and consume different food items to experience the importance of adaptations in relation to survival. Our investigation of adaptations will lead us into an investigation of how animal behavior plays an important role in reproduction and survival. Finally, the 7th graders will analyze the importance of photosynthesis and respiration in an organism's ability to survive and reproduce.

As a conclusion to 7th grade Science, the students will combine everything that they have learned in the Ecosystems Unit. Within this unit of study, each Team will examine populations in various ecosystems and how each organism interacts with others. The 7th graders will also discuss the importance of resource availability by looking at the migration and survival of various species. By referring back to the Plant vs. Animal Unit, the students will investigate how energy flows from the Sun to producers, to various consumers, and finally to decomposers in a food web. The final project for 7th grade and the finale of the Ecosystem Unit will consist of an Ecosystems Project that will allow each student to personalize and construct their own ecosystem to represent everything that they have learned this year in 7th grade Science. To celebrate all of their hard work and success, each Team will enjoy an Ecosystem Extravaganza where we will observe and admire everyone's projects.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to work with your children each and every day. It has been a memorable year in 7th grade Science!!

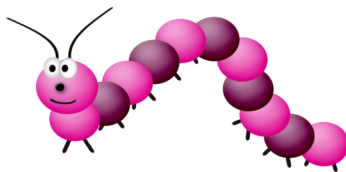


Wieking's World

By: Mr. Wieking

The spring time always seems to fly by. Our students have done a wonderful job throughout the school year. So far we have read, researched, and discussed new places, people, and events. Our students have asked good questions, connected ideas, and thought critically about difficult topics. As April ended and May approached our students explored the issues of migration, population growth, and financial literacy. These are big issues that connect the people of the world and embody the idea of a global citizen. There is little doubt that the world will continue to become more interdependent and our students will play a significant role in shaping the future.

Like always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach me at the middle school or by email at bwieking@mocfv.org Have a great Summer!



8th Grade English

By: Mrs. Colman

Page 7

8th grade English is currently working on reading and writing poetry. These are some of my very favorite pieces to read because it is more creative in nature. The introductions the students write also share a great deal of insight into each student, his or her dreams, and his or her talents and interests.

The year will wrap up with a few very short units.

- 1. Team- teaching Black History (reading and writing) with Mr. Boone.**
- 2. Poetry and literary terms reading and writing.**
- 3. Signing up for courses with HS Guidance Counselors (4-yr. plans)**
- 4. A self-evaluation of student growth in writing and speaking over the course of three years in the Middle School.**
- 5. Thank you note writing.**
- 6. Formal letter writing where students will introduce themselves to the HS Principal and their freshman English teacher.**

The end of the year tends to come RUSHING at us! I want to take this newsletter opportunity to thank you for a few things. One, thank you for sharing your son or daughter with me this year. It has been fun to watch this group grow! They have learned about leadership in many ways and have tried putting into practice speaking up for themselves and others. Two, thanks for taking a genuine interest in your son or daughter's education and for partnering with me from home. Your support means a lot and goes a long way as well. Best wishes for a safe and happy summer and a smooth transition to FRESHMAN year!



8th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Hoogeveen

To make Newton's 3 laws more relevant, we applied the laws to their reality of driving a car. Our labs were tied into learning the laws, testing the laws, and watching videos of how Newton's 3 laws apply to driving a vehicle. Newton's first law of inertia is why we have headrests, seatbelts, and airbags in the car. The second law relates the force of a car to its acceleration and mass. A car full of their friends has more force and takes more to slow down. Newton's 3rd law is known as the action - reaction law. We learned a bit of how cars are designed to help save the passengers with collisions. We looked at how speed can be a big factor when collisions occur. The last portion of this section investigated the if my speed triples, the distance required to stop increases 9x.

April was severe weather safety month, and we learned about how our atmosphere is a battle ground between warm and cold air. We learned about the complex ways water flows through our atmosphere and underground. The 8th graders created a poster to show many different steps to the water cycle and how our Sun is the engine that begins the process. When the air cools all sorts of crazy things happen as water returns to the surface and gravity takes hold to try to return some of it back to the ocean.

The next atmospheric battle will be how our air masses form and the results of when warm and cold air collide. Throw in a little bit of how the ocean affects our atmosphere and things start getting evening crazier. Now set all this in motion as the Earth spins throwing air into different wind belts and ways the air spins in the northern hemisphere as opposed to how it spins in the southern hemisphere. So many different battles occurring at the same time in our atmosphere. Who knew?



8th Grade Literature

By: Mr. Boone

8th grade Literature students are currently reading their black history novels and engaging one another in meaningful conversations. Students provided input and were placed in to book clubs. Once the book clubs were formed, each group chose from one of the novels below to read.

- * *Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper
- * *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- * *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- * *Fire from the Rock* by Sharon M. Draper
- * *Lions of Little Rock* by Kristine Levine
- * *The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- * *Turning 15 On the Road to Freedom* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery
- * *Nightjohn* by Gary Paulsen

Through this unit we are focusing on how to read and think about historical fiction. Students are identifying and learning new vocabulary found in their book, while documenting important passages on their VIP log. These logs guide them in conversations about their book. Also, students are learning to orient themselves to a historical fiction text, aligning the events of the novel to historical events, and learning how the characters respond to trouble and adversity. We use the following questions to help guide their reading:

1. What's the character's backstory?
2. What do moments of trouble reveal about the person?
3. What's new for the character
4. The character could have . . . but they . . . This show that . . .
5. What is the historical conflict?
6. What role does the protagonist play in it?
7. What's happening that's new?
8. What's the backstory of the conflict?

At the conclusion of the novel, each student will write a book response in the form of a reflection by answering our essential question, "How does an agent of positive influence demonstrate courage amid adversity?" Students will choose one of the quotes below, or identify one of their own, and explain how the ideas of courage relate to a character in their book. Students will provide textual evidence from the book, along with examples from their own life.

He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life. ~ Robert Frost



"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." ~ Nelson Mandela

"Courage is the ability to do the right thing, all the time, no matter how painful or uncomfortable it might be." ~ Tony Dungy

I am enjoying watching students show an enjoyment for their reading and engaging one another in their book clubs with rich conversation. I look forward to reading their responses and seeing their final projects.



May 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Plan B 4:30pm MS Track @Central Lyon | 4 | 5 Cinco de Mayo Plan B 7:00am My Choice 4:00pm MS Track @LeMars | 6 1:15pm Early Dismissal 4:30pm MS Track @Okoboji School Lunch Hero Day | 7 MS Band to Pella Tulip Time |
| Teacher Appreciation Week | | | | | | |
| 8 Mother's Day  | 9 MS BSB & SB Practice Begins 5:00pm School Board Meeting | 10 7:00pm MS Choir/Orchestra Concert @MS | 11 Plan B | 12 | 13 1:15pm Early Dismissal | 14 |
| Benchmark/Diagnostic Testing Week | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 6 th Grade Field Trip to Hawarden | 18 7 th Grade Field Trip to Sioux Falls | 19 5 th & 8 th Grade Bump up Day 11:15am Early Dismissal | 20 No School | 21 |
| Tulip Festival | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 May PBIS Assembly | 24 8 th Grade Field Trip | 25 End 4 th Qrt./2 nd Semester End of Exploratory Cycle 7 1:15pm Early Dismissal/ Last Day of School | 26 Teacher In-Service Day | 27 Teacher In-Service Day | 28 |
| Summer Break | | | | | | |
| 29 2:00pm Commencement | 30 Memorial Day  | 31 9:30am MS BSB @Sheldon | | | | |
| Summer Break | | | | | | |