

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

MOC-FV CSD

October

2019

Special points of interest:

- Start of the Year
- Discount Card Fund-raiser
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Moped Safety Course Offered



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Start of the School Year

The school year has gotten off to a quick start...hard to believe that we are already in October. The staff and students have gotten back into the swing of school and are starting to do some really neat things in their classes. Currently, there are 356 students at the middle school, which is similar to the number of students we had in the building last year. The Fall sports seasons have gotten off to a good start. We are seeing large numbers of students participating in these activities and in the Fine Arts with Band, Choir and Orchestra programs in our building. I know that there are also students that are participating in different activities outside of our school that keep them busy as well. It is great to see our students participating in so many different activities and learning the life lessons that come along with participation in these activities. Thank you for encouraging and supporting your students to participate. Please continue to check in with your student about their grades, homework, etc. As we progress in the quarter, there are more assignments and we start to see students fall behind. We have Directed Study and different independent skill sessions with students to help them stay on top of their grades. We know that encouragement and support from parents goes a long way in helping students stay on top of the various demands they have in Middle School.



Discount Card Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone for your help and support of the Discount Fundraiser Card. This year was another successful year for these sales and students did a great job of earning money for their school. The money raised goes into the Student Activity Fund and helps pay for PBIS activities, various field trips, the Middle School Party night and different activities and opportunities for our students. Those students that earned t-shirts should see these at the end of the month. Because of the nature of the product, they take some extra time to make. I will notify the students and get the shirts distributed as soon as I receive them.



Parent-Teacher Conferences

We will be holding our Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 22 from 4:00pm-8:00pm. These conferences are a time for the teacher, the student, and the parents to communicate about the start of the school year and your student's progress up to that point. Your student's STAR teacher will be contacting you to set up a conference time. In the past, we have had nearly 100% attendance rates for these conferences and hope to see the same results this year. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

6th Grade Literature . . . READ All About It!

By: Mrs. TeGrotenhuis

It has been a terrific start for the sixth graders this year! They have adjusted to our routines at the middle school and have settled in nicely. What a nice bunch of students! In literature class, the students have been learning about the different types of text and even developed their own “bookshelf” of books they would like to read this school year. Many of them have terrific book choices and have even recommended books for me to read! I will be busy reading this year, too!

Our literature class is divided up into three main areas of learning: individual reading, vocabulary, and the current unit. For individual reading, I expect the students to record five entries each week on their reading logs with approximately a total of 80 pages. Time is provided in class each day to record reading from the day before. Students made individual goals as well and are working hard to reach them each week. Please encourage your child to read about 30 minutes daily; this will definitely help them reach their goals!

Our second main area of learning is vocabulary. During the first quarter of school, we will study words from the book *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix. We work quite hard on figuring out the words’ meanings by looking at the **context** in which they are used. We will have three quizzes over these vocabulary words with a final test at the end of the unit. Quizlet is an online program we often use to review and study our vocabulary words, and it can be used at home as well! In addition to the words in our text, we will also begin studying different word parts including prefixes, roots, and suffixes.

The third area of learning within our literature class involves the current unit (topic). A few of these will include novel units, middle ages literature, research, and poetry. Our current unit is a novel unit over the book *Among the Hidden*. During this unit, we will review the elements of fiction, point of view, and learn the stages of plot within a book. Students will create a plot hill and keep notes on the different characters. We will also plan to compare the population law in the book to that of China as we read some related non-fiction articles. The book’s main character, Luke, is the third child in his family in a society that only allows two children per family. During the course of the book, he meets another illegal third child who wants to change the population law in their society by staging a rally at the President’s house. Luke needs to make a decision . . . will he dare to make a change or sit back and let others do it for him? This is the first book in a series of six. Please ask your child what is currently happening in the book. It might spark some interesting conversations!



6th Grade World History

By: Mr. Nonnemacher

In 6th grade social studies, we have just recently finished our first unit of the school year! This unit focused on an introduction to history. It also gave all the kids a chance to share a brief history of their own life. We had a great day in class when we were able to listen to everyone share their story out loud for all to hear. We are beginning our first major unit of the school year, focusing on the civilization and history of ancient Egypt. We will focus on the geography, religion, achievements, politics, economy, and society of ancient Egypt.

It has been a great first month of school for everyone. Also, it has been so much fun to see our 6th graders become accustomed to the middle school!



What a Variety in 6th Grade English!

By: Mrs. Jacobsma

Here is the overview of sixth grade English. We do lots of different things every week, in fact, every day! You have hopefully seen examples of all these things.

Most every week we will do spelling. We take a spelling pretest on Mondays, and the students practice the words they missed for Tuesday. On Wednesday and Thursday, the kids can choose two practice activities from a long list of suggestions. Finally, on Fridays we take another test over the words; that score goes in the grade book.

Most days we also touch on a grammar skill. Right now we are finishing an intense look at basic sentence structure. We begin to understand why it is important to follow the standards of our language when communicating. Texting language only works because we all first understand the basics of standard English. There will be many short, intense grammar units throughout the year; each ends with a formal "test" that needs to be passed with proficiency to meet the benchmark. There will be retakes of those tests for anyone who needs extra time and help to do so.

Finally, all of these skills come together in writing projects. The focus of sixth grade English is to help your student become a confident writer. Though he/she may never pursue writing as a career, they will feel comfortable enough to tackle whatever writing assignments come their way. We do many, many drafts of pieces. Some of those will be finished, published pieces; others will remain drafts.

You can help your child by checking in with them often. They will also need help studying for spelling and grammar tests and revising and editing their writing. I hope you enjoy watching their writing skills develop; I know I do! And, as always, contact me if you have any questions. I would also encourage you to visit my facebook page Mrs's J 6th Grade English. I update that site with news, assignments, due dates, and helpful information pertaining to both class and STAR activities!



6th Grade Science

By: Mr. H (Hoebelheinrich)

Since the beginning of the school year, the 6th grade students have adapted well to the middle school setting. Science is much different than other subjects in the fact that we do a lot of hands on activities with unique objects that they normally would not use. Therefore, it is very important that we understand how to act in a lab setting to ensure that no one is injured in the science classroom. After understanding the why behind behaving well in my class, we practiced gathering data by using observation skills, and the Metric System. This was a hands on unit, because the best way to learn how to measure is to practice measuring. The 6th graders are now able to find length, volume, temperature, and mass of certain things using the metric system.

We're halfway done with the first Engineering and Design Process for the year. The students are learning the process through creating and designing their own unique catapult. This is a great way to end the first unit because they are using the Design Process, finding measurements/data, and learning how to work in a safe lab environment.

What's to Come?

After the Engineering Design Process the 6th graders will jump into the world of physical science. What makes everything up? How do 100 atoms off of the periodic table create everything we see in the world today? What are chemical changes? How do particles move based on the state of matter they are in? How does this change with pressure? Temperature?

7th Grade Literature

By: Mrs. Vermeer

It's been an exciting start to 7th grade literature! We have spent a great deal of time getting to know each other and working through class expectations. Each class section has been great! They are hardworking and eager to ask questions to clarify thinking. Just an overlook at this year we will focus on 6 main units that meet Iowa standards. The kids are most excited for our last unit called "Fear Can Do What?"

Currently we are working on completing our first writing piece in our first unit of "The Value of Reading." The students have realized that we have a luxury being able to read. From this we have had many great discussions about things we are thankful we have as well as reflecting on what other's don't have that we take for granted. We used two different texts for this unit and they were *Nightjohn* and *Miles to Go Before I Read*. Both pieces focus on groups that don't have easy access to education. As we wrap of this unit I hope the students still see how fortunate we are.

Our next skill we will be working on is Fiction Signposts. We have completed the Nonfiction Signposts and the students did an awesome job working to understand these signposts. More importantly how they will benefit their reading this year. We will start Fiction Signposts within the next couple of weeks and our goal for these is to help build our reading comprehension. While learning these signposts we will also be working on different Greek/Latin vocabulary root fixes as well as different short stories within our class textbook.

I am so excited to see what these students will accomplish this year! Keep up the positive attitude and hard work!



7th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Vande Kieft

We are off and running in 7th grade science so far this year! Each class period (or Team as we like to call ourselves) started the year reviewing the various types of lab equipment that we would be using during 7th grade.

The Lab Equipment Unit was followed up by the Measurement Unit where students were able to familiarize themselves with the lab equipment that we use for measurement. In these labs each Team member practiced reading liquid volume in a graduated cylinder, determining temperature in degrees Celsius, measuring length in meters, centimeters, and millimeters, calculating the volume of both regular solids and irregular solids, and determining if Double Stuff Oreos really have double the amount of filling by measuring mass. During the Measurement Unit, each Team discussed the importance of the SI or metric system to their daily lives.

During the Measurement Unit, we have also been tracking a current phenomenon, hurricane season, and its impact on the United States and neighboring areas. Each team has formulated various questions about hurricanes, tracked any disturbances in the northern hemisphere, and compared hurricanes to tornados that touched down in the area recently. This has been a great opportunity to question and learn more about the world around us!

Currently, we are in the midst of our Engineering Design standards designing and testing Marshmallow Shooters to see which group can design the most effective shooter using a plastic cup, some tape, and a balloon. Each group will undergo multiple trials to see if they can create a shooter that is not only accurate but can also project a marshmallow the farthest. While you are in the building for conferences, stop by the display case outside of my classroom to see what the 7th graders have created.



7th Grade English

By: Mrs. V.R. (Mrs. Van Regenmorter)

Welcome to 7th grade English. My name is Linda VanRegenmorter, but I'm more commonly known as Mrs. VR. I have started my twenty-eighth year of teaching 7th grade English, and twenty-seven of those years have been in the MOC-FV Middle School. First, I'd like to thank you for helping your child have the necessary supplies for my class—a green binder with 5 dividers inside, loose leaf paper, pens and pencils. These supplies really make English class run more smoothly, and more importantly, they help your child stay organized and be successful in my class.

In 7th grade English, the school year started with explanations about spelling, DEP (Daily Editing Practice), class procedures and expectations, etc. In 7th grade students have a list of 25 spelling words each week, and the test over them will be on Fridays, unless we have a shortened week. Then the test will be on the last day of that week. The final spelling tests at the end of the week are worth 70% of your student's spelling grade, so it is very important that they study the words and are prepared for the final tests at the end of each week.

After taking care of all the beginning-of-the-year business, we moved on to the "Listening Unit." Students learned the difference between hearing and listening, evaluated their own listening, learned strategies to improve their listening, and did some listening activities. Of course, one of the unit's goals is to have students use what they learned about listening in all their classes during the school year.

Since completing the "Listening Unit," we have moved onto the "Sentence Structure" unit. Writing in complete sentences, and varying our sentence structures for fluency is the basis for all writing; therefore, it is only logical that we start with this unit. A few summers ago, the three middle school English teachers attended classes to learn a new way of teaching students how to write complete sentences and use a variety of sentences when they write. This method is called the "KU Sentence Writing Strategy". It starts with the basics and then moves students on to more complex sentences. With the use of the "KU Sentence Writing Strategy," I really hope to see students improve their writing by having complete, correctly written sentences.

Thank you for taking the time to read the middle school monthly newsletter. The newsletter is a great way for you to stay informed of what's happening in 7th grade English and in the middle school. The school year is off and running, and I'm anxious to see this year's 7th graders use the English language better as we progress through this school year.



7th Grade Math

By: Mr. Baker

What an exciting start to the year! I have enjoyed getting to know the students and getting the students acclimated to the expectations required in 7th grade math. The students have been adjusting to new teachers, a new schedule, and a new homework policy. Together we have already learned a lot and had some fun in the process. I am reminded daily what a joy it is to be surrounded by good people who care about learning!

In 7th grade math we are "off and running" with what is known as a "daily routine". They have caught on quickly and appear to enjoy the structure of the consistency of our math class periods. The first couple of weeks were mostly a review with some added questions to provide new challenges. Some students have taken their first test and others will be taking their first test shortly. Hopefully the 7th graders can get off to a positive start!

I look forward to getting to know each student and discovering their struggles and gifts as they pertain to math. Thanks for all of your support at home, and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Wiekling's World

By: Mr. Wiekling

Wow! What a year it has been already! I met some of you at the open house at the beginning of the year, but I wanted to take this time to introduce or reintroduce myself to you all. I am in my seventh year of teaching at MOC-FV middle school and I have really enjoyed the year so far. My wife, Kari, and I live in Orange City. We have three boys who are 5, 3 and 1 year. They are definitely keeping us busy!

It seems like the year is flying by and we are covering a bit of ground in social studies. Since Iowa has adopted new social studies curriculum standards I have been working to implement them into the class. Honestly, they are pretty interesting standards that should help students make connections between events, ideas, and people of the past to contemporary events. So far the students have identified different elements of geography and have learned what type of questions to ask when learning about a new place. Our students have also spent time analyzing and evaluating different sources of information. We have discussed the challenges and benefits of learning how to evaluate the source of information we use. In the coming weeks we delve into the state of Iowa and examine Iowa's role as a global player in a variety of contemporary issues like agriculture, trade, and immigration.

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



8th Grade English

By: Mrs. Oolman

In the car? Ask your student some of these questions. At a ball game? Ask some other parents around you these questions. At the supper / dinner table? Ask your son or daughter some of these questions. The answers will tell you what we've been up to in 8th grade English this first month of school! I promise it will be a lot of fun listening to the answers!

- o What color are you?
- o What is your personality name?
- o What is a growth mindset?
- o Once the above questions have been answered, ask the following: What does any of that have to do with you and your learning?
- o How many words on a spelling test each week and where do those words come from?
- o When are spelling tests given?
- o What's in your English portfolio?
- o What's a bell ringer?
- o What did you write down for Mrs. Oolman's "What do you want to learn this year?" survey question?
- o Are you reviewing cursive?
- o How have you used NoRedInk so far this year?
- o What was the extra credit you could have completed?
- o What is a rubric for writing and how does it work?

Thanks for sharing your son or daughter with me. It's been a pleasure getting to know him or her.



8th Grade Literature

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By: Mr. Boone

We are off to a great school year, and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your child. I consider teaching your child a true privilege and enjoy their enthusiasm each day. We have hit the ground running the first few weeks of school by setting the foundation for learning in eighth grade by strongly encouraging and providing opportunities for independent reading. I am confident this foundation will help your child become a better reader, thinker, and writer.

The last two weeks we have focused on Notice and Note Signposts using the novel *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. Signposts are important signs or signals found within the text that help readers comprehend and engage with the text. For each signpost there is an anchor question that needs to be answered. The anchor questions are challenging and help readers think deeply about the text. My hope is students would begin to find more value and enjoyment in their independent reading when they are able to engage and become active in their own reading.

In vocabulary we have been studying root words accompanied with prefixes and suffixes. We have done numerous activities including flashcards, writing sentences, identifying synonyms, and applying the word in context. We also have used Vocabulary.com, Kahoot, and Quizlet as online resources to help students review the words. Please keep encouraging your child to review their vocabulary words daily.

Individual reading is a key component to building successful readers. Throughout the week I offer a number of opportunities to free read (Take Time for Ten) and offer a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) period for 25 minutes once every cycle. I will continually encourage all students to read a variety of genres and find a genre they specifically enjoy. Please encourage your child to keep reading and find a genre they enjoy.

We will begin our first novel unit for the year beginning in two weeks. We will be reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. This book is set in Oklahoma during the 1960s. We will set the stage for the book by watching short video clips about the 1960s and reading articles on real-world issues presented in the book. During this novel we will focus on literary elements and reading comprehension strategies. We will also discuss and research real-world issues presented in the book – teen violence, socio-economic status, and stereotypes. I am excited to begin this novel and begin discussing these real-world issues with your child.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve your child and look forward to meeting you in the future.



“Our Corner of History”

By: Ms. Van Wyk

We’ve had a great start to the school year in my classes by diving into the beginnings of American and World History!

In the 8th grade, we have recently finished examining the different European explorers (Balboa, Cabot, Columbus, Magellan, etc.) and the exchange of goods and ideas that they shared with the Americas. With our Exploration Unit drawn to a close, we are now turning to the creation of the 13 Colonies and their development into distinct regions of the future United States. We have also enjoyed our Current Event time on Fridays where students are tasked with picking a news event that has happened during the week and sharing it with the class. I have enjoyed re-connecting with the 8th graders and look forward to the school year ahead of us!

Please continue to encourage your students to do their best on their assignments and engage themselves in classroom activities and discussions! It really is the best way for them to get the most out of class and to do well on their assessments! As usual if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me!

8th Grade Science

By: Mrs. Hoogveen

Biodiversity in Ecosystems around the World

The eighth graders have settled into the school routine and things seem to be going fantastic!!

For the first couple of weeks in science, the 8th graders have spent time reviewing lab equipment, lab safety, and using basic lab equipment. These are basic skills necessary to function in a science classroom.

We are following the new Next Generation Science Standards. We will not be using a textbook but rather using multiple resources to guide us through our different topics. Much of what we will be using will be accessible through Google Classroom.

Our current topic is biodiversity. We are building on their 7th grade ecosystem model that they made. Students have been placed into groups. The teams have decided on an actual ecosystem somewhere in the world to explore. They currently are spending time learning about the abiotic, biotic, limiting factors, and how humans impact their ecosystem in positive and negative ways. To wrap up the unit, the teams will put together a poster to hang in the hallway for everyone to view. If you get a chance stop by, check them out.

The next short unit will be focused on how our climate is changing and how those changes are impacting various ecosystems.

By mid-October, the 8th graders will be 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. We will also discuss ways humans have genetically changed organisms to create desired traits and how this may affect our world.

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

The Scholastic Middle School Book Fair is Coming! Get ready for the **ULTIMATE EXPEDITION: QUEST FOR COOL BOOKS !**

When: Thursday, October 17 through Wednesday, October 23

Where: Middle School Library

The book fair will be open during the school day and during P-T Conferences.

Some of the books that will be available for purchase include . . .

Popular titles for teen and young adult readers
2019-2020 Goldfinch Nominees and Children's Choice
Nominees
Special Value books
Cook Books
Adult Best Sellers
Books with Movie Tie-ins
Picture books for the youngest readers



Moped Safety Course Offered

Date: Friday, October 4, 2019

Time: 1:30pm-6:00pm

Place: Middle School

Cost: \$45.00

Sign up by the office if interested



General Music at MOC-FV MS

By: Mrs. Hallberg

Every morning the music room is a very busy place for the MS Music Exploratory students. If you drop in during 6th grade, be prepared to move! The first unit that they cover is a dance unit. Students spend 6-7 days doing a variety of dances: American square dance, Mexican folk dance, line dances. They go on to explore dances from around the world. Each student chooses a country and creates a presentation about ethnic dance from that country. The second unit for 6th grade is learning to work with a baritone ukulele. This instrument is like a small guitar, tuned like a guitar, but only has 4 strings instead of 6. Students learn to play simple melodies and are introduced to chords.

During the 7th grade class, we start with guitars. Students learn about a variety of guitar styles. They spend most of the unit with hands on work playing guitars. They learn to pick out simple melodies and some basic chords and strumming. After that we look at a wide variety of careers that are connected with music. Students sometimes are surprised to learn how many jobs can involve music without needing to sing or play a note. We do an overview of 70 different careers ranging from music therapist, to music attorney, to movie sound mixer.

The 8th grade class is usually a fairly noisy place to be! Students use their time for project based learning. Each student spends time on a project involving music. This can range from creating a presentation about a music style, different ways that music has been influential in history, or even music and the human brain. Many students follow a hands on option, and spend time learning guitar, ukulele, keyboard/piano basics, or exploring new music with their band or orchestra instrument. You will hear everything from honor orchestra music to a beginner learning "Jingle Bells" on the piano.

The sound never stops in our music room!

Important Dates

1:15pm Early Dismissals:

Oct. 4

Oct. 18

No school Friday, November 1st.

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 End Exploratory Cycle 1 4:15pm FB vs Sioux Center 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	2 Start Exploratory Cycle 2	3 7:00am My Choice 4:15pm VB @ MOC-FV 7 th & 8 th (H)	4 1:15pm Early Dismissal Professional Development	5 Moped Safety Course 1:30pm-6:00pm
Maker Space						
6	7 6 week Gr. Chk. 4:15pm VB vs Boyden 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	8 4:00pm CC @Cherokee 4:15pm FB vs Sheldon 7 th (H) 8 th (A) 4:15pm VB vs LeMars 8 th (H) 7 th (A)	9	10 7:00am My Choice 9:00am Relevant Speaker Assembly	11	12
13	14 4:15pm VB vs Sioux Center 7 th (H) 8 th (A)	15 Financial Literacy Assembly(8 th gr. only) 4:00pm CC @Sibley Golf and Country Club 4:15pm FB vs West Lyon 7 th (A) 8 th (H)	16	17 7:00am My Choice 4:00pm-8:00pm P/T Conferences	18 1:15pm Early Dismissal 4:00pm CC @ Landsmeer Golf Club	19 NWIBA Junior High Honor Band Auditions
20	21	22 4:00pm-8:00pm P/T Conferences	23 MS Orchestra Festival	24 7:00am My Choice 7:00pm MS Band, Orchestra, Chorus Concert	25 End of 1 st Qtr.	26
Red Ribbon Week						
27	28 Begin Qtr. 2	29 MS Boys BB Begins 3:30pm 1 st Qtr. Grades Due	30	31 7:00am My Choice 1 st Qtr. Report Cards sent home Halloween		
Maker Space						
Red Ribbon Week						

November 2019

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