

Grades 1&2 -Maria Gibson

This week in Math:

Daily Practice (all grade levels): Adding by tens and counting by tens.

1st Grade: We are learning about fact families.

2nd Grade: We are learning about place values and how to group numbers into different formats. Unifix cubes and visual drawings are a great tool to use and demonstrate!!

This week in Language Arts:

ELA Centers: Choral reading with Ms. B. Writing with Ms. Brinks and Phonological Awareness with me on the carpet. Students are working hard and improving these crucial skills for language development.

Wit & Wisdom Curriculum (All Grades): We are on Lesson 13 and read the Rough Face Girl and Big-Foot Cinderella this week which students really enjoyed. We analyzed the story elements, learned new vocabulary and discussed character traits effectively.

Social Studies: We are reading about Civics, Government and Citizenship. This week focused on caregivers, their job and their role.

Science: Animal & Plants Superpowers. We watched and discussed animal traits they inherit from their parents and animals' ability to camouflage.

We are a strong and energetic class this year that will discover many new and exciting skills!!

Grades 3&4- Natalie Shoptaw

We spent the first two weeks practicing norms, procedures, protocols, and reminding of expectations. We reviewed basic 2nd grade grammar, introduced the chrome books and Google Classroom and other fun things. Kids have been out of school for over a year and as such had grown rusty on standard protocols; completely understandable.

Our 3-4 class contains quite a number of students that come from elsewhere (outside of TRCS), several of whom have pre-existing 504s or IEPs. Our new special ed provider, Courtney, is great to work with!

We have jumped into both our Wit and Wisdom curriculum and Bridges Math with both feet.

We are looking forward to partnering with the junior high in the upcoming Buddies program. About 3 weeks each month, on Fridays, Buddies will read Studies Weekly together. This will be great scaffolding for my students who are not yet up to grade level reading. After the reading the buddies will work together on the social studies written work contained in Studies Weekly.

It is wonderful to be in the classroom again!

Grades 5&6- Dani Krebs

This has been an exciting few weeks for the 5th and 6th graders. We are delving more deeply into the REACH goal of empathy and learning what that means about ourselves and others. We watched a 9/11 video of how the attacks allowed people to feel empathetic and give back to their community, and we are making cards for a children's hospital in Illinois. I am going to be mailing the cards next week. My goal is to spend two weeks per REACH value to really try to understand what each REACH value means.

The 5th and 6th grade had our first Buddy Friday and it went amazing! We teamed up with the 1st and 2nd grade class and read Scholastic magazines. This week we are going to build buildings using spaghetti and marshmallows.

We are getting into the swing of things academically, and I am really enjoying Wit n Wisdom. The topics that they talk about go hand in hand with our REACH values, so the students are learning curriculum and behavior at the same time. We started Studies Weekly in history and the students seemed really excited about the crossword puzzle. I completely understand because I love puzzles too.

In specials we are going to start reading a play about dragons and wizards and princesses. The students want to perform in front of other classes so we will see how they do!

Until next time,
Dani Krebs

Grades 7&8 -Michael Lang

This first month of our class has been filled with many learning opportunities. Rule #3 in our class is "Mistakes are Mandatory" and we're learning to embrace our mistakes and improve our skills and knowledge as a result. We're so thankful to have Ms. Sofi, who has been an integral piece of getting and keeping everything rolling smooth. Each day of the week, we start with using different news sources to keep up to date on all the happenings, from the local water crisis to keeping up on the stock market for our Investment Project each Wednesday. We also

take some time in the morning to practice our art skills and have already made multiple pieces of art to contribute to the other classes, including REACH posters and number lines.

Our current studies in the Humanities (ELA and History) focus on the founding of our country. Our current novel study is the first book in a three-part series of historical fiction, set during the American Revolution and designed to provide the opportunity to explore multiple perspectives. This series provides many excerpts from documents written during that time period, which allow us to see the way of thinking almost 250 years ago. We'll begin learning about the founding documents of our country in the coming weeks.

We are taking a blended approach to mathematics this year. Our class is receiving tiered instruction that allows access to all grade level standards, from those pre-requisite skills that some of our students need support with, to the higher Algebra I standards for some of our higher achieving mathematicians. This joint learning experience allows us to continue to support each other in the learning process, while still giving everyone the individualized attention they need.

We've just begun learning about life science and are exploring the foundation of all living organisms, cells. We're very excited to begin taking trips later this semester to study our local marine ecosystem and apply our new knowledge to our community.

Lastly, a small portion of our class has set forth on an elective project to renew our playground. We're very excited to be in the planning phase of acquiring materials and constructing a new perimeter. We're very thankful for the amazing opportunity this provides to give back to the school community with our hard work.