

Grades 1 & 2 - Maria Gibson

We are enjoying our morning meeting discussing caring and empathy as well as working on our daily practises of subtraction and vocabulary words.

The ELA centers are working effectively with choral reading with Ms. B, a writing center with Ms. Brinks and phonological awareness with me. We have read through all the Cinderella stories in Wit & Wisdom, discussed the story elements and completed several story maps and I feel confident that the class is able to understand these concepts. We have completed this module and next week will move onto the next.

We are on Unit 3 in the Bridges curriculum. We enjoy the variety of whole instruction and workplaces and how they relate to each other in a fun and collaborative way. Currently, first grade are looking at the commutative property and second grade are working through picture problems.

We are looking at mystery science and plant adaptations. This class is very knowledgeable about science and conscious of the environment and students enjoy discussing their ideas and experiences.

I have also started a handwriting workshop in the afternoons where we are practising our writing skills.

Mrs. Gibson

Grades 3 & 4 -Natalie Shoptaw

Ms. Huerta and I are working hard to bridge learning gaps of varying sizes, particularly in math and social skills. It's an exciting challenge.

Students are: writing their first essay this week; received the first directed painting lesson; drafted the first pen-pal letter; loving the Liberty's Kids American History lessons (additional to the standards based social studies in Studies Weekly); excited about the Mystery Science lessons, and fun lab activities from CA Academy, Exploratorium, and other sources.

This year, I've put the cursive lessons in video format so as to serve remote learners along with seat-based. It seems to be working well, and students like being able to work at their own pace.

In previous years I did the lessons live, would run out of room on the board and have to erase, causing great angst for a few. Problem solved.

Thank you all for your volunteer service!

Grades 5 & 6 -Dani Krebs

Hello board,

Last week was spirit week and we had a blast! We decorated leaves for the fall and hung them around the room. Our word last week and this week is achievement, and we are exploring how hard work helps us achieve things.

We had another scientist zoom in, and he was a biologist who studies evolution in fish. He was very interesting and the students loved to discuss how we could design a machine that could travel deep into the water. It was so great to see them taking what we have been studying in class, which is engineering and technology, and applying it to how we study fish.

In English we are continuing to study how westward expansion affected the Native Americans. We have narrowed the topic down to one specific tribe, the Nez Perce and we are going to be reading a book about them.

I hope you all had a great weekend. Until next time.

Dani Krebs

Grades 7 & 8 - Mike Lang

October is rolling strong and our class is running at full strength. We're learning more about how to learn together and respect each other's processes. We've been able to continue to enjoy our morning art and our class just finished a color collision project that yielded some AMAZING pieces of artwork.

We are currently finishing up our assessment from the first class novel, *Chains*, and analyzing historical documents, including the Constitution, from various perspectives. Our approach is to understand how different factors, such as race and gender, affected your status in the late 1700's, as our nation was formed. We're beginning to understand how our government operates and what rights are granted in the Constitution, both the original articles and the Amendments. This allows us to truly identify what were the most important rights through the first couple hundred years of our nation.

We just finished our first math project, where students created a poster, presentation, or comic strip to explain our rules of integers and exponents. The students made some awesome pieces and are honing their ability to explain the process within mathematics, which will allow for a much deeper level of understanding as we move forward into more rigorous material. We've also been studying cells and genetics in Science and now understand how organisms function and how information is passed from parent to offspring. We're going to apply this knowledge to many different types of large and small organisms, hopefully being able to study our local whale populations that migrate through in the upcoming month.

Our construction committee is preparing a final proposal for the playground perimeter and our newly founded art committee is working hard on a mural for the front of our school. Our entire student body had the opportunity to contribute and this will be an amazing piece of art to display the talent and community we feel so strongly about at Three Rivers. In addition, we're working on developing a good habit over 21 days and practicing our ability to reflect on mistakes and learn how to improve.

I am thankful everyday for this class and the opportunity I am afforded to be here teaching. I look forward to sharing some of our work with the board at a future meeting.