

December 13, 2022

Teacher Updates for the Board

Maria Gibson, Grades 1-2

Good afternoon Board Members,

Our morning meetings are looking at the character trait of Trustworthiness as well as working on our daily practices of addition with double digits and regrouping and writing sentences with vocabulary words. The ELA centers are choral reading from the reading A-Z program with Ms. Skiver: (Level D) Clouds, The Drum, (Level K) The Buffalo Soldiers (Level T).

In the writing center Group 1 are writing in sight word mini books and writing sight word sentences. Group 2 and 3 are writing paragraphs from creative writing prompts.

In the Wit & Wisdom curriculum we are on a Module called Creature Features. We are finishing the lessons on 'Seahorses, the shyest fish in the Sea.' This week we are beginning 'What do you do with a tail like this?' Both books teach us about writing informative paragraphs, new vocabulary, fluency reading and the main topic and key details of the text.

We are on Unit 2 in the Math Bridges Curriculum . First Grade students are working on using addition and subtraction strategies that involve counting on. Second Grade students are working on place value and addition with double digits and regrouping.

In science we are looking at a unit on Night Patterns. We are using flashlights to look at the big dipper. In social studies we are looking at geography and landforms and physical characteristics. Art occurs every Thursday. We are making paper bag reindeers this week.

Mrs. Gibson

Naltalie Shoptaw, Grades 3-4

We are finishing another of our Wit and Wisdom books, "Shark Attack!" by Cathey Dubowski, and will be moving on to read Giant Squid. The Sea Module has been very engaging for the students.

This year we are implementing the GreatMinds (creator of Wit and Wisdom curriculum) new digital teaching resource, InSync. I've been using it successfully in the classroom. Initially, I was questioning how the kids would engage with video lessons delivered by another teacher (but on the Smart Board). It turns out, the students are just as engaged as when I delivered the exact same lessons. We have the same great whole-class discussions and spirited conversations. I find that using InSync saves me time in the preparation of the lessons I normally do on weekends, and when delivering lessons, allows me the luxury of pausing the video to underscore, or reteach anything the kids need. The students are now accustomed to "getting ready for Ms. Fitzwater's lesson" and seem enthused.

We recently did a class-wide PBL lesson: making your own math game board. I found some recorded lessons on how to create and play various math games. The games were as deep and mathematically thought provoking as our Bridges Work Places games. The kids were THRILLED to make the game boards themselves

on construction paper. Ms. Huerta laminated the boards for everyone, and we will be playing the games until break, at which time they will be sent home (for possible gifting - act surprised if you get one!). The instructions are loaded in our GC if anyone wants to check them out.

Danielle Krebs, Grades 5-6

The students have been working on writing a summary about how boys as young as 14 got involved in the Civil War. In math the 6th graders are learning about volume, and the 5th graders are learning about equivalent fractions. The 5th graders are learning several different techniques on how to add fractions with different denominators. Their favorite method is my tried and true "Krebs Method."

The students filled the rice jar December 5th, and voted on watching the movie "The Bad Guys."
Have a great break!

Mike Lang, Grades 7-8

Our junior high class is currently very engaged in our winter projects and activities! We are taking these few weeks between breaks to demonstrate some of the skills we've learned this semester and sprinkle in a few new opportunities to learn.

Our core subjects are going very well. We're spending our Humanities periods presenting our Space Exploration Essays from earlier in the semester and taking some diagnostic assessments. The presentation is a great opportunity for students to practice their public speaking and listening skills. The diagnostic will provide a chance for students to see their growth throughout the semester and give Mr. Lang an idea of where our strengths and weaknesses are, as a class. Our math curriculum has aligned with art and culinary for our Food Truck Project. Students are developing a food truck, including a name, logo, and menu. They will work with percentages to calculate revenue and supply ordering and design their food trucks during art. We also came up with ideas for in class recipes that don't require cooking, in order to give us the chance to make some of our own delicious snacks for our middle school dance on December 10th. We made our own veggie trays with ranch, balsamic, and a sesame ginger dressing, as well as some tasty sweets, such as chia seed pudding, brownie batter dip, and a no bake cheesecake. Lastly, we're focused on Physics and Newton's Laws of Motion in Science. This is a fun science that has everyday applicability and teaches us a lot about the world we live in and we just learned about Newton's Three Laws of Motion.

In addition to our core academics, our other subject areas continue to provide great learning opportunities. We're learning some new dance moves in PE and practicing for different styles of music. We're still practicing our typing and investment skills and participating in circles, which gives our class the chance to get to know each other a little better during Life Skills. We've also been able to practice some mindfulness exercises, such as gratitude and savoring, which will be great skills for the future.

As always, I'm so appreciative of this supportive community we have. Looking forward to a great last week before break and an awesome 2023!

-Mr. Lang