

November 14, 2023

Teacher Updates for the Board

Grades 1-2, Mrs. Gibson

Good afternoon Board Members,

Our morning meetings are looking at the character trait of courtesy as well as working on our daily practices of sight words, word families and math concepts..

The ELA centers are choral reading from the reading A-Z program with Ms. Heather reading (Level C) Get In, (Level E) Carlos's First Halloween and (Level K) Gorillas.

In the Wit & Wisdom curriculum we are continuing the module called Powerful Forces. We have just read Brave Irene and created a story map describing the characters, setting, problem and resolution.

We are on Unit 2 module 2 in the Math Bridges Curriculum . First Grade students are working on adding and subtracting using dominoes. Second Grade students are working on place values of hundreds, tens and ones.

In science we are looking at plant traits and survival. In social studies we are looking at important documents such as the Bill of Rights and The Constitution.

Art occurs every Thursday. We are painting cats and making turkey hats.

Mrs. Gibson

Grades 3-4, Ms. Natalie

Students tackled a 4-paragraph essay about how Galileo helped people learn about space. They were asked to use the TEE strategy in each of the paragraphs and construct the essay using Painted Essay format.

Some students did very well, completing 4 well-formed paragraph; some students wrote all four paragraphs into one giant paragraph (standard not yet met). A few students refused to embrace the task regardless of accommodations offered. After the writing, students created a construction paper "frame" for their essays with designs to support their essay. The finished products are proudly on display in our classroom.

The plan for STEAM night for our 3-4 classroom is to offer 2 different sculpture making activities while running Kahoot games.

Thank you for spending your free time volunteering to help our school!

Grades 5-6, Mrs. Krebs

Hello everyone,

This month the 5/6 class has had a great time learning how trash and plastic affects our oceans and communities. We have had two successful beach clean ups, and the next time Sue comes in we will start discussing our plans to create an informational board which will be placed somewhere that the public can read it. We already watched a documentary about how an elementary school in New York helped get plastic free lunch days in their cafeteria, and even helped change a law about styrofoam!

In addition, we are gearing up for our field trip to Santa Rosa next Thursday and to see the "Super Scientific Circus" at the Luther Burbank Center. We will go with the 3/4 class to the Center, and then meet up with the 7/8 class to go to Scandia. Then we have fall break. We are busy busy busy!

Have a great week everyone!

Grades 7-8, Mr. Lang

Our class has done very well to own their education and drive their learning!

We have done a lot of experimenting recently with UDL, Universal Design for Learning, which allows students to access and demonstrate their knowledge and skills in various methods. As we wrap up our first class novel, *Chains*, students have been able to answer questions from a novel study, write chapter summaries, and perform skits, which have shown off some awesome acting (and sound effect) skills. In Mathematics, students have been using a combination of guided physical and digital notes, hands on manipulatives, our Big Ideas textbooks, Khan Academy, and our awesome PeerTeach program to learn all their new concepts. Throughout our history lessons, students have been given options to use various online articles and educational videos, combined with our Holt US History textbooks and some fun dramatizations, to learn about our country's founding years. Lastly, we've been able to use our HMH Dimensions Science textbooks, supplemented with some hands-on labs and our awesome PEEC adventures, to learn about Life Science.

In addition to adapting our core curriculum, we've been having some great choices for our additional classes. We continue to start each morning with a choice of nine mindfulness and movement activities, as well as finish with one PE class each week of a class choice of game, in addition to learning various sports throughout the week. Our electives class provides us the choice of community project to work on, as we solve community problem, and life skills is giving us the chance to research our desired careers.

We're very excited for our field trip this week with Ms. Natalie's and Ms. Krebs' classes to Sonoma State and SRJC, as well as a fun afternoon stop at Scandia for lunch and some games.

This class continues to show potential to grow and I'm excited to continue to foster that.

- Mr. Lang

TIDES Program

We are finding a good rhythm in TIDES 2.0! M-Th average attendance is about 30-35 students, and Friday is about 35-40 students. Ms. Rali is a reliable and super helpful assistant, and the students feel very comfortable with her! Mr. Dennis helps on Fridays with snack preparation and support during activities. Ms. Mindy and Ms. Heather have been taking turns helping for the first few hours on Friday for our larger activities, and they are strong leaders for these sessions, I couldn't do it without them!

Daily, students are getting a mixture of healthy and balanced snacks from the food bank and supplemented by purchasing orders from Costco with the ELOP funds. Academic Time is now separated into two groups to accommodate many high needs. After a long recess, 1st/2nd graders join Mrs. Adams for academic time and are supported by volunteer helpers from 3rd-8th grade. Various activities are offered during this time, with a focus on completing Mrs. Gibson's assigned homework packets on Monday, a math focus on Tuesday, a writing focus on Wednesday, and a reading focus on Thursdays. Oftentimes we do big/little buddy reading on Thursdays and they love it! The 3rd-8th graders then come in for academic time as the 1st/2nd graders go back out to recess with Ms. Rali. The academic time for the older group is more fluid as I allow them to work on work they need to complete from their class, and I also offer other core subject activities for those who do not have missing assignments. I've also been offering hands-on STEAM related activities such as building a bridge, spooky science (baking soda and vinegar explorations), and food fun with 10-frames. We've also had a student-led drawing lesson by one of our 8th graders which the littles were very excited about!

Fridays are a beast of their own, and have been jam-packed with engaging and extended learning opportunities. Some highlight activities we've had in the past month are Volleyball from our sports program; making paper airplanes; building paper 3D haunted houses; croquet; science Zooms through Varsity Tutors on Serpents, and Sharks and Rays; making positive message posters that are hung around the school; learning about bats and making their own flappy bat; food art fun during snack time; handstand and cartwheel clinic, weaving yarn bracelets; and building rubber-band powered cars!

Lastly, I'd be remiss not to mention the fun students are having in the digital world! With our ELOP funds, we purchased licenses for the TIDES students for a gamified-math program called Prodigy. They absolutely love it, though I make sure to balance their screen time with outdoor play and academics. They also enjoy Class Dojo's DojoIsland, a free SEL community building program that allows them to safely interact with each other in a digital world. They create their own avatar and have individual and team building challenges to participate in. it's a great way to learn and practice digital citizenship skills. Students have also been enjoying creating their own digital music through Google's free Chrome Music Lab site. Thank you to Mrs. Krebs who so graciously allows the TIDES students to use the 5/6th grade Chromebooks.

A few photos are attached as well! Next up is focusing on designing and rolling out our first Saturday Academy... tentatively planned for Dec. 2nd. Looking for volunteers to share their passion for an hour or so with our student community! Contact me if you are interested!

A BIG THANK YOU to Ms. Morgan who is constantly supportive in every way for this newly revamped program!

Please see images on the next page....

TIDES 2.0 Highlights Fall 2023

