

Middle School Classroom Newsletter October 30, 2023

CALENDAR

- 11/1 In-House Field Trip:
 Hagerman the Math
 Magician (LE, UE & MS)
 2:00 p.m.
- 11/2 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 11/3 ASM Spirit Day
- 11/3 Pizza Lunch
- 11/3 PACE Parent Coffee
 Meet-Up & Meeting
 8:15 a.m. (American Room)
- 11/3 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room)
- 11/3 Pizza Lunch
- 11/3 PACE Diwali Celebration 3:30 p.m. (American Room)
- 11/5 Open House for Prospective Families
 11:00 a.m.
- 11/9 Grandparents & Special Friends Day
- 11/9 Pizza Lunch
- 11/10 School Closed

Click here to view ASM's calendar!

Our Classroom



Students preparing garden beds for garlic planting during STEM class.



Watching Flocabulary's *This*Week in Rap during Current

Events class.



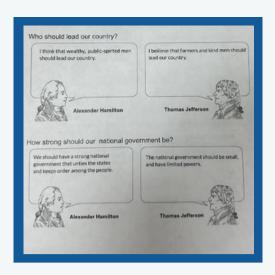
Playing a *Kahoot!* review game with student-created questions during Science class.



Middle School Students announcing the Halloween Fair during our All-School Meeting.

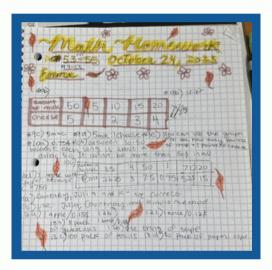
Humanities

In History, students have been closing out the unit about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. This week, we moved onto a new unit called "Launching a New Republic." We have been engaging in class games, and had a simulation for CH 11 when discussing Jefferson vs. Hamilton's viewpoint. Students have been actively taking notes, discussing major themes, and playing games to retain and remember the information. The history homework is primarily about connecting big ideas and themes. During MMUN, students are working with partners to complete our "Food for Thought" organizer. We are also starting our longer project, which is the position paper, for which students will do extensive research and come up with a resolution to an international event.



Pre-Algebra

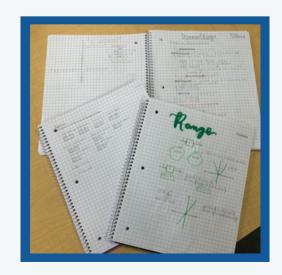
Seventh-Year students are continuing our investigation into ratios, proportions, and percentages. A major theme of this unit is distinguishing between part-to-part and part-to-whole ratios in comparisons. Students will continue to practice this skill through the completion of note-taking and in-class practice problems, specifically word problems. Our recent investigations have involved creating equations to represent the pattern of proportionally related variables, in both tabular and graphical representations. As we progress through this unit, students will solidify their understanding of proportional reasoning, and recognize situations in which it is appropriate to solve the problem.



Algebra

As we near the completion of our functions unit, students are delving into the domain and range of functions and expressing them through interval notation. By analyzing equations or graphs, they can articulate the function's domain and range. Grasping the beginning and conclusion of a function becomes crucial, especially when it mirrors real-world instances. Take, for example, a bacteria population that experiences exponential growth; it's essential to pinpoint both its initial count and the stage at which it diminishes following antibiotic treatment. Throughout this unit, students support each other by sharing their thinking, checking for and listening to disagreements in strategies, asking questions and helping each other find ways to explain ideas.

Students are set to undergo a unit assessment on this topic next week. To equip themselves, they're compiling comprehensive study guides that include all the unit's concepts, enabling them to review and identify areas needing further attention.





Language

In Literature Circle, students have completed reading Five Fourths of July and held our third Socratic seminar, which is an in depth discussion of the book based on the themes. We were fortunate enough to have a virtual meeting with Pat Hughes, the author of the book, where students had the opportunity to ask questions about the plot, and a career in writing. The next book we will be starting is The Making of America: Alexander Hamilton. In Vocabulary, students are working to complete exercises in chapters 4 and 5 of their textbook, correcting their answers as they work and creating vocabulary flashcards to solidify their understanding of new terms.

Science / STEM

In science class, students are diving deeper into their exploration of The Periodic Table of Elements. Our most recent lab investigation allowed students to use their knowledge of elemental properties to create a hypothesis and gather experimental data about characteristics of metals and non-metals. We are now learning about different types of bonds that form between elements, and the periodic trends that influence the formation of these bonds.

In STEM class, students have planted garlic in our raised beds in preparation for the spring. Students were also introduced to orienteering, which is a race to find different control markers using a map and a compass. We reviewed the parts of a compass, and how to orient yourself and follow directions using a compass.



Looking Ahead...

We are so thrilled to have had another successful Halloween Fair run by our Middle School Students. It was so lovely to witness all of their hard work come to fruition, and students should be very proud of the business they are building this year! We will continue to work during business collaborative hours to plan fundraising events for the Middle School trip to the MMUN conference in New York, as well as other volunteer opportunities within the school.

