Middle School Classroom Newsletter September 29, 2023

## CALENDAR

9/30 Andover Day 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Downtown Andover
10/5 Pizrza Lunch

10/6 No School - Professional Development Day

10/9 No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day

10/12 Portrait Day
10/12 Parent 2 Parent Speaker 7:00 p.m. (American Room) Jack Agati presents: Birth order: How Your Place In the Family Affects Your View of the World

10/13 ASM Spirit Day and Pizza Lunch

10/13 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup and Meeting
8:15 a.m. (American Room)
10/13 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room) Sixth Years' Spanish Class: Central American Artists

10/18 Parent to Parent Event 7:00 p.m. Pike School Viewing: Screenagers Under the Influence

10/20 All-School Meeting 8:45 a.m. (American Room)

10/20 Pizza Lunch

## Our Classroom



Students taking part in Socratic discussion in Writer's Workshop.

"Cellfies" completed by
Middle School students and teachers to get to know each other more.


Collecting soil samples for testing during our most recent STEM class.


An updated photo of our hydroponic plant stands.

## Humanities

In Humanities, we are continuing our study of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students played a Jeopardy game to prepare for their assessment and their competitive spirit was in full swing between the seventh and eigth grade teams. Students are reading the text, taking notes, and answering corresponding questions in the TCI online workbook. During MMUN we studied the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the corresponding articles. Students are exploring the foundation for how the United Nations operates and they will begin the research for their topics in the coming weeks.


## Pre-Algebra

Seventh-Year students have demonstrated mastery of comparing and ordering positive and negative rational numbers, locating them on a number line, and relating direction and distance to a number line. Recent lessons have focused on the use of the Commutative Property for addition and multiplication, as well as the Distributive Property to simplify expressions and solve problems. A foundational knowledge of these properties will allow for student success as we continue to study the order of operations in computations (PEMDAS) to complete our first unit.


## Algebra

Students are exposed very early on in this course to real-life situations where growth is not necessarily linear. In our study of mathematical functions, the main objective is for students to fully describe the key elements of non-linear graphs. For example, students should be able to identify the shape of a graph and explain whether it is increasing or decreasing, identify the domain, range, $\mathrm{x} / \mathrm{y}$ intercepts and determine if a graph has a maximum or a minimum. As we progress through this unit, students will come to realize that graphs have the ability to convey narratives and can serve as models for various real-life situations.



## Language

In Literature Circle, students worked on making Character Trading Cards to show the character traits, feelings/thoughts, and actions for four different characters in the book we are reading Five 4ths of July. In Grammar we are studying Effective Sentences and Word Choice. This includes incorporating colorful language and eliminating run-on sentences. Lastly, students made flashcards for the next chapter in Vocabulary, in order to prepare for their upcoming quiz. They are contininuing to expand their knowledge of new words and definitions.

## Science / STEM

In science class, students are continuing to solidify their understandings of the foundations of chemistry and states of matter. The completion of our first lab provided students with hands-on experience making quantitative observations, such as recording the mass and volume of various objects, and using these measurements to calculate density.

In STEM, students are becoming experts on factors that affect soil quality, and the importance of healthy soil to a garden and overall environment.


## Looking Ahead...

We are excited to continue the exercises on self-awareness, selfmanagement, relationship skills, social awareness, and responsible decision making that students originally participated in during our trip to The Leadership School. These activities provide students with engaging opportunities to connect with their peers, and reflect on how to apply lessons learned from these experiences to other situations they may face.


