

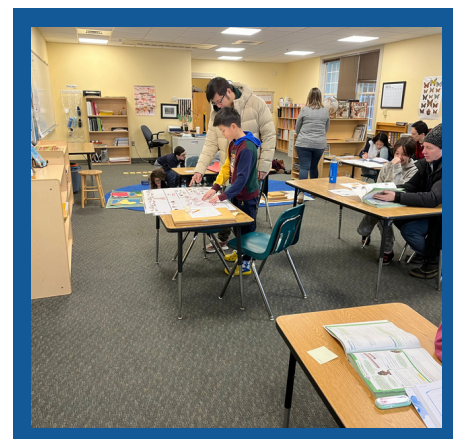
CALENDAR

- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/16 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m. (American Room)
Pizza Lunch
- 2/16 Re-enrollment Agreements Due
- 2/19-23 February Break
- 2/26 School Resumes
Founders' Day Celebration
Breakfast for Families
8:15 - 8:45 a.m.
- 2/26-3/1 Founders' Week Auction
- 3/1 PACE Parent Coffee Meetup
and Meeting
8:15 - 8:45 a.m.
American Room
- 3/1 All-School Meeting
8:45 a.m.
*Founders' Day Award
Announcement*
- 3/1 ASM Spirit Day
Pizza Lunch
Women's History Month
Begins
- 3/7 Pizza Lunch
Science Fair
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- 3/8 No School - Professional
Development Day
(Childcare Fun Day Offered)

Our Classroom



What an exciting two weeks we have had in Upper Elementary! Thank you to all of the parents that joined us for Bring a Parent to School day last week. The students were very excited and proud to show off what they have been working on. We also had our last collaborative classroom on February 2, finishing a month of learning all about microscopes and the differences between plant and animal cells. Students stained onion cells and cells from their own cheeks to observe the differences first hand.



With Valentine's Day coming up next Wednesday February 14, we wanted to remind everyone that candy of any kind is not allowed in school. If your student would like to bring in Valentines to exchange with their classmates, please make sure that they bring in enough for everyone in both classrooms (25 total students) and note that they should not contain food of any kind.

With winter weather upon us, please help your student remember to bring in an appropriate jacket and winter gear. We go outside for recess as long as the temperature with wind chill is above 20 degrees. When it starts to snow, students will be required to wear snow pants and boots to play in the field and other non-plowed areas.

[Click here to view
ASM's calendar!](#)

Math

In math, the fourth years presented their division unit projects and fielded questions about the math they used as well as their design choices for each project. We are rapidly making our way to our division unit review assessments and are hard at work reviewing our division strategies and word problem steps. In geometry, we are learning to use our geometry formulas to calculate the surface area of some of the 3d objects we built earlier in the year.

In fifth year math, students have been delving deep into the realm of fractions. They have been honing their skills in identifying common denominators, converting fractions to equivalent denominators for addition and subtraction, and adding mixed numbers. To demonstrate their understanding, students have been tackling challenging word problems that require them to apply their fraction knowledge. In Geometry the fifth years have been exploring equivalencies by starting with a non-rectangular shape and creating equivalent rectangles. They have worked with triangles, rhombi, trapezoids and regular polygons.

The sixth year students have moved on from simply evaluating algebraic expressions and have learned how to manipulate expressions using different properties. While they were already familiar with the Commutative and Associative properties, the Distributive property has been a new challenge for everyone. In Geometry, the sixth graders have been working on their culminating project for their circle unit.



Language

Fourth year students have wrapped up their study on articles and have moved on to identifying and using demonstrative adjectives in sentences. They have been practicing locating these descriptive words and understanding how they are used to point out specific nouns. The fourth-year students are also working on their creative narrative writing assignment. They have been focusing on strengthening their stories' rising action and using dialogue to make the climax of their writing more engaging. In literature circle, the fourth years are working their way towards the end of *Maroo of the Winter Caves*. With the novel being set 10,000 years ago, the students have engaged in some great discussions about how the lives of the characters differ from their own.

In the fifth-year literature circle, students are currently immersed in the novel "Lions of Little Rock." They have been actively engaging in literature circle discussions, where they work in groups and take on various roles to deepen their understanding of the text. Students have been making predictions, illustrating images from the story, identifying unknown words, summarizing the text, and practicing other key literary skills. In writing, students have nearly completed their suspense writing unit, producing our longest and most complex writing project to date. With each draft completed and only the exciting conclusions left to craft along with their edits, students are looking forward to sharing their final narratives. In grammar, we have continued our study of adjectives and adverbs, using sentence diagrams to help us understand how certain words operate differently depending on the sentence context.

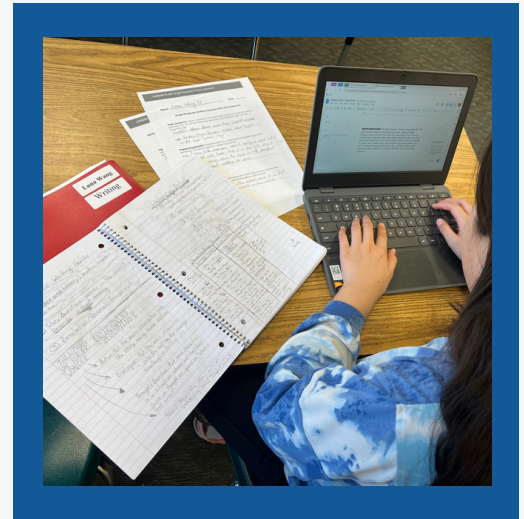
The sixth year students have been crafting creative narratives on a range of topics, using either first or third person point of view. They have been honing their storytelling skills by incorporating essential elements such as exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and conclusion. For literature circle, we are wrapping up our study of *Stamped* with a research project on different Civil Rights policies, incorporating our knowledge of citation formatting and the proper introduction of quotes from our grammar studies.



Cultural and History

In History, the sixth grade students are studying the physical geography and landscape of Europe. They are reading and taking notes in class and are looking at maps and learning new vocabulary related to their studies.

In fourth and fifth grade cultural class, students have started learning about ancient Homo Sapien groups. They use the framework of "Fundamental Human Needs" (clothing, shelter, nourishment, philosophy, etc.) to learn how each group of ancient Homo Sapiens lived and thrived. Students started with the most ancient Augnicians and the Gravettians. They will continue looking at more recent groups.



Science

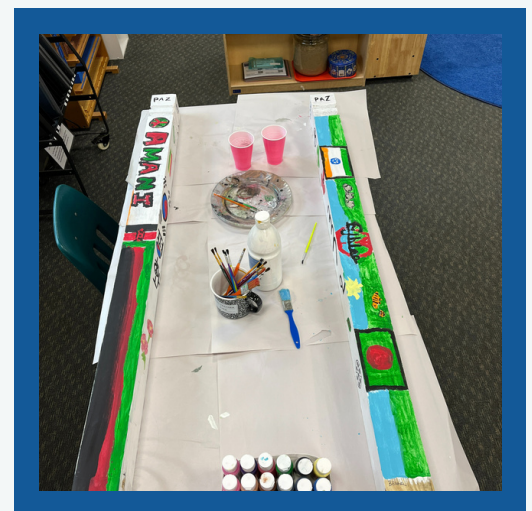
In science class, we completed a fun unit studying the taxonomic orders of fish by making species facts go-fish cards and playing some games of go-fish to review our facts. We then did interactive quiz games on our Chromebooks based on the facts from everyone's cards. For our current Amphibian units, students are working in groups to prepare their poster presentations of different amphibian orders.



Founders' Week Auction

During Founders' Week (February 26 through March 1), ASM will host an auction! This event will help our school raise funds for our Founders' Fund for Teaching Excellence; which is an endowment focused on continued professional development opportunities for ASM faculty and staff. The students have been working on our classroom's auction item and it has been exciting to see them working together to create a unique item for one lucky family to take home. We can't wait for you to see!

Get ready to bid on this exclusive creation representing the 2023-2024 Upper Elementary classes!



[Click here for more classroom photos!](#)