Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Middle School | September 2026
Issue 1

IMPORTANT DATES

10/2	First Friday Coffee 8:15-8:35 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
10/6	Head of School Coffee 8:30-9:30 a.m.
10/8	Portrait Day Pizza Lunch
10/9	School Closed: Professional Development Day (Childcare Fun Day available)
10/12	School Closed: Indigenous Peoples' Day
10/16	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
10/21	Screenagers: Generation AI showing 6:30-7:30 p.m.
10/23	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
10/23	Lower Elementary United Nations Day Luncheon 12:00-1:00 p.m.
10/25	Open House for Prospective Families 11:00 a.m.-1:00p.m.
10/30	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m. Halloween Fair 3:30-5:00 p.m. (no Enrichment)
11/6	First Friday Coffee 8:15-8:35 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
11/11	School Closed: Veterans Day
11/13	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m. Lower Elementary Field Trip: Museum of Science

Click here to see the full ASM calendar!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOM



CHEWONKI



Our week-long trip to Chewonki was filled with opportunities for team building, leadership, exploration, and personal growth. Throughout the week, students stepped into leadership roles, explored the natural world, and learned practical outdoor skills such as starting a campfire, cooking meals over an open fire, and setting up tents.

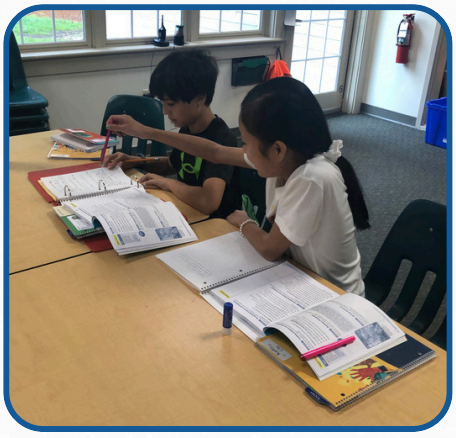
There was also time for reflection and simply enjoying one another's company. Students had the opportunity to get to know each other in new ways, and some of the most memorable moments came from gathering around the campfire, playing games, laughing, and building connections as a group.

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM



Literatrure Circle

We began the year in Literature Circle by building a classroom community around reading, discussion, and thoughtful analysis. Students shared their summer reading and offered honest reviews of their chosen books before discussing *Chains*, connecting its themes to concepts we will explore throughout the year in U.S. History. We also began our first assigned text, *Children of the Longhouse*, and started exploring Indigenous societies in North America before European contact, building important historical context for the year ahead.



Grammar & Writer's Workshop

In Grammar and Writer's Workshop, students have begun preparing for their first vocabulary quiz and have practiced using their new words in meaningful contexts through written exercises. In Grammar, students reviewed the essential elements of a sentence and practiced distinguishing complete sentences from fragments. They also learned to identify and use the four kinds of sentences—declarative, imperative, interrogative, and exclamatory—strengthening their understanding of sentence structure and variety.



History

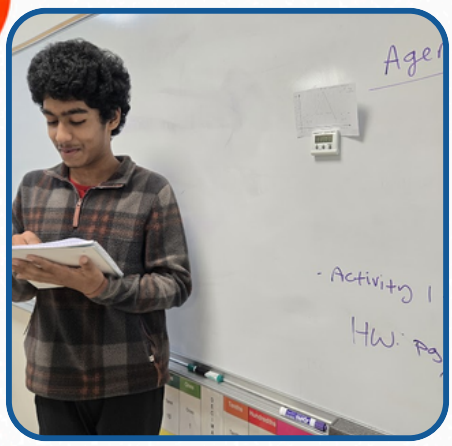
Students have begun their study of U.S. History by investigating the rich diversity of Indigenous societies across North America before European contact, exploring their varied cultures, traditions, environments, and systems of government. They have also examined the Protestant Reformation and its impact on European religion, society, and politics, building important context for understanding the era of exploration and early American history.

Math



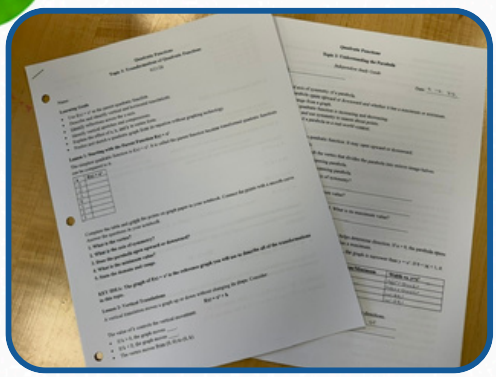
In 6/7th grade math, students spent the first week reviewing operations with fractions and decimals. They used a model and an algorithm to add, subtract, and multiply decimals. They used estimation to determine whether an answer is reasonable and solved decimal problems in real-world situations. Students also divided multi-digit whole numbers and decimals through the thousandths. They reviewed hot to multiply fractions and applied those skills to multiply mixed numbers, as well as divide fractions. In the picture to the left you can see a student solving a review problem on the board!

Math: Algebra I



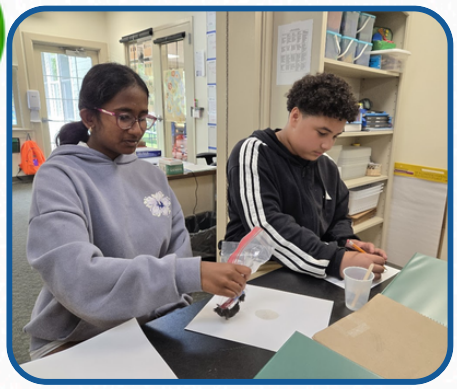
In Algebra, we began chapter 1 in their CPM books, which introduced students to several of the mathematical concepts on which this course is based. We established norms and talked about group roles and teamwork. This photo shows Ronak (group facilitator), explaining to the rest of the class what his group discussed about the graph on the board. They determined two pieces of information for the axes. Students also extended tile patterns and generalized the geometric descriptions of the pattern. They reviewed the elements in the xy-coordinate system and were formally introduced to a linear function.

Math: Algebra II



In Algebra II, students have been studying quadratic functions and their graphs, called parabolas. They have learned how to recognize quadratic patterns and identify important features such as the vertex, axis of symmetry, maximum and minimum values, and intercepts. Most recently, students have been learning how changes in a quadratic equation affect the location, direction, and width of its graph, allowing them to predict what a parabola will look like before graphing it.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS (AND CHEWONKI)



Science

In the first few weeks of science class, students were introduced to matter. They learned how to take detailed guided notes, and use their textbook as a resource for homework completion. Students described what makes up matter, the properties of a mixture, and the units used to describe mass and volume. They determined the densities of different materials in several different labs and whether a given liquid is more or less dense than water. Students also compared and contrasted physical and chemical changes, giving examples.



STEM

In Land Study, students began the year by processing the garlic and onions that were harvested from the garden this summer. They also weeded the garden beds and harvested the following: tomatoes, summer squash, strawberries, potatoes, and mint. Students were also introduced to the Navation Games (orienteering) curriculum. They learned about boudaries and how to navigate through the cones from start to finish depending on the scenario given.



Business Collaborative

Students began their first middle school business of the year by preparing for Pizza Fridays. They brainstormed ways to advertise and market, then began creating posters and flyers. After hanging them up around the school, some students even visited classrooms to make an announcement as well as make an announcement at the first all-school meeting. Students also started a Farmer's Market, selling potatoes, onions, and garlic that they grew in the garden this year!



Looking Ahead

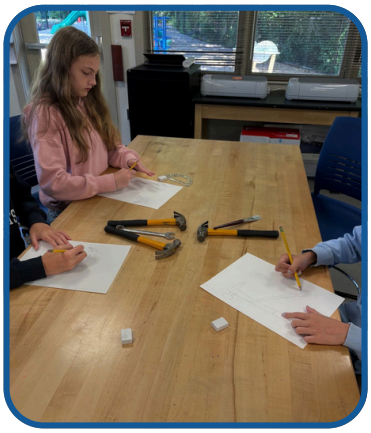
Please join us for our Chewonki Presentation on Friday, **October 2** at 8:45 a.m. Our students are excited to share highlights from their week away, reflect on their experiences, and talk about the new skills, challenges, and lessons they brought home with them. Hear about Chewonki through the students' own voices and discover what made this experience so memorable!.

INTEGRATED ARTS

Art

Middle School students explored the Pop Art and Dada art movements and how artists elevated everyday objects as subjects worthy of artistic attention. They analyzed the work of Neo-Dada artist Jim Dine (b. 1935), examining how he used familiar tools as symbols of his childhood and personal memories. Inspired by Dine, students selected everyday tools of their own to draw from life using charcoal. They practiced careful observation, proportion, and shading while exploring how ordinary objects can become meaningful works of art.





Music

This September, Middle School students started the year by reviewing classroom routines and expectations and looking at the big picture of what we will be working on throughout the semester. Students also set goals for themselves in music class for the year. Due to field trips and holidays, we only had one music class this month, so students are looking forward to getting started with the Tone Chimes in October.



Physical Education



Middle School has been working on strength and conditioning, with increased running time followed by quick strength exercises such as planks and push-ups. We've also started reviewing basketball skills and playing games while practicing our school expectations. We've discussed the importance of participation and teamwork, and we're looking forward to more game play!

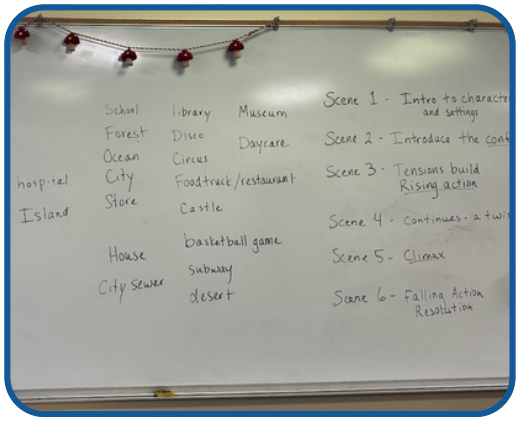
INTEGRATED ARTS

Spanish

The first class with Middle School students started with an activity called 'Hola! Un poco sobre mí...' (Hello, a little bit about myself...). In which they introduce themselves, writing down all the knowledge they carried from previous years and speaking out loud to practice the language pronunciation. We review knowledge of days of the week, months, seasons, birthdays, dates, animals, colors and foods. They were happy to know we will be working in everyday life situations in Spanish soon, such as recipes or instructions for games.



Theater



Middle School has had a productive September in Theater class. They hit the ground running, creating ideas for the plot of their original play. Working in small groups, students were presented with a series of scenarios designed to get their creativity flowing, and then expanded upon these scenarios with their own ideas. After establishing interesting settings, students explored how these scenarios would play out in their proposed settings, creating characters along the way and imagining the drama that would unfold. Scenarios included "The Rules Have Changed," "The Day Everything Went Wrong," "The Thing Nobody Was Supposed to Find," and "A Door That Wasn't There Yesterday." Students then presented and proposed their ideas to the class, and we look forward to narrowing down the possibilities and focusing our efforts as we continue developing the play.

Social Emotional Learning & Executive Functioning

This year, our Middle School students will continue to focus on Executive Functioning (EF) and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in fun and meaningful ways. We will talk about how our brains work, how our feelings can impact our day, and the different tools we can use to help ourselves as we work through their academic responsibilities. Through games, conversations, and hands-on activities, students will practice skills like recognizing and handling emotions, making a plan, getting organized, solving problems, and thinking flexibly. As the year continues, we will build a toolbox of strategies students can use at school and at home as they continue as confident, independent learners.

WAYS TO HELP



We are excited to celebrate United Nations Day on Friday, October 23! Students will celebrate cultures from around the world through their research, food, and family traditions. Students are also encouraged to wear traditional clothing that represents their family's heritage.

Families can contribute a cultural dish to our potluck luncheon. Please use the linkb elow to sign up.

Potluck Sign-Up