Andover SCHOOL OF MONTESSORI | Together, we grow

CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Middle School | November 6, 2026
Issue 4

IMPORTANT DATES

11/10	Gather & Give Fundraising Night at The Chateau Family Restaurant
11/11	School Closed: Veterans Day
11/13	All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
11/16	School Closed: Parent Teacher Conferences (Childcare Fun Day available)
11/17	School In Session: Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. (conference care available)
11/20	Grandparents and Special Friends Day
11/24	Pizza Lunch
11/25-27	School Closed: Thanksgiving Break
12/1	Giving Tuesday
12/2	Portrait Re-take and Sibling Portraits
12/4	First Friday Coffee 8:15-8:35 a.m. All-School Meeting 8:45-9:00 a.m.
12/9	ASM Board of Directors Open House 6:00-7:00 p.m.
12/11	Elementary and Middle School Winter Concert 2:15 p.m.
12/16	MS Bring a Parent to School 8:15-9:15 a.m.

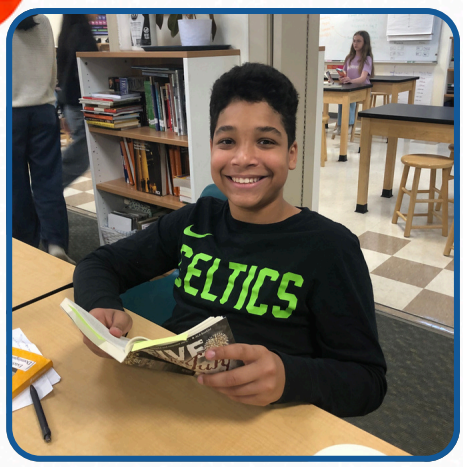
Click here to see the full ASM calendar!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOM



We are excited to share a new collaboration between Andover School of Montessori and the Andover Conservation Department! Through this partnership, our Middle School students are helping to clear and expand the trails behind our school, making our beautiful natural surroundings more accessible to our community. The Andover Conservation Department will support these efforts while sharing valuable expertise in forestry and environmental conservation. This project reflects our Montessori philosophy of hands-on, real-world learning while supporting our school's vision of community engagement and service. As students work together to care for our natural environment, they are developing practical skills, gaining an appreciation for environmental stewardship, and making a lasting contribution to our school community. We look forward to coming together as a community on Sunday, November 15, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to continue this important work. We hope you will join us!

LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM



Literature Circle

Over the past two weeks in Literature Circle, students read and discussed Washington Irving's classic short story "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" in anticipation of Halloween, exploring its place in American history and the development of American literature. We also made connections between Irving's story and our second novel of the year, *Five 4ths of July* by Pat Raccio Hughes, examining how both works reflect aspects of early American history, culture, and identity. Through these discussions, students continued to build their understanding of the historical and literary context surrounding the texts.



Grammar

In Grammar, students reviewed their past three vocabulary lists in preparation for the Unit One review. They also continued practicing how to identify compound parts of sentences and worked on combining sentences and strengthening paragraphs with compound subjects and verbs. In Writer's Workshop, students completed the drafts of their Explanatory Essays and are preparing to begin revising. Students will focus on strengthening their ideas, improving organization, and making thoughtful word choices as they work toward polished final drafts!

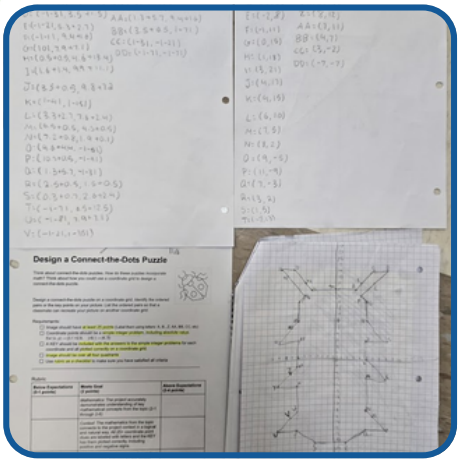


History

Over the past two weeks in History, students completed a research project exploring the 13 English colonies of North America. Each student researched an assigned colony within the context of its region (New England, Middle, or South), investigating its founding, economy, and migration patterns. Students also created maps highlighting important geographic and historical features, towns and ports, neighboring colonies, and Indigenous homelands. By sharing and comparing their research posters, students developed a broader understanding of colonial America and the similarities and differences among the colonies.

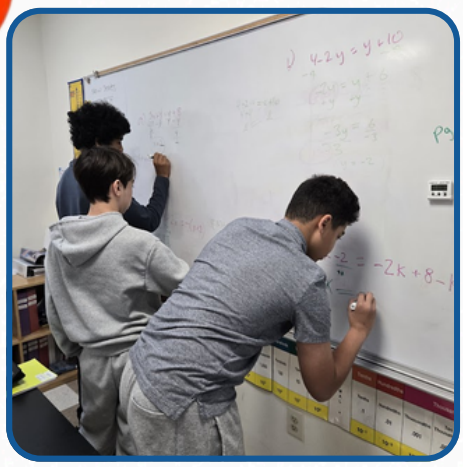
LEARNING IN OUR CLASSROOM

Math



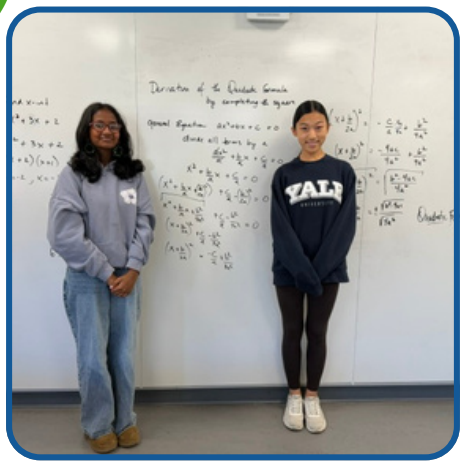
6th and 7th years used absolute value to find the distance between two points that lie on the same horizontal or vertical line on a coordinate plane as well as solved real-world mathematical problems involving distances on the coordinate plane. They also learned to find side lengths and perimeter of polygons on the coordinate plane. They worked on a project that involved creating a connect-the-dots puzzle using coordinate points on a coordinate plane. Rather than just give the points, they had to create clues, using what they know about integers and absolute value. They used the rubric and project guidelines to check their work before turning it in.

Algebra I



When given a linear or quadratic equation or a contextual situation, some algebra students are learning to set up and complete a table, plot the points, and draw the graph using an appropriate scale. They are using the graphs and rules to analyze a contextual situation with a limited domain and identify common errors in scaling and plotting points. Other students are finishing up systems of equations and finding the point of intersection. All of them are learning the basic graph needs and how to check their answers appropriately. They recognized that a solution is a value that makes an equation true, which sometimes means they have one solution, infinite number of solutions, or no solutions.

Algebra II



Sudents have been deepening their understanding of quadratic functions by exploring the quadratic formula and the connections among standard, vertex, and factored forms. A highlight of this work was deriving the quadratic formula themselves through the process of completing the square. Rather than simply memorizing a formula, students worked through the algebraic steps to understand where it comes from and why it works. They then applied the formula to solve quadratic equations, explored real and complex roots, and learned how the discriminant helps predict the number and type of solutions. Students also practiced converting between the three forms of quadratic functions, identifying key features of parabolas, and determining which form is most useful for solving different problems. The emphasis has been on developing a deeper understanding of the mathematics rather than simply memorizing procedures.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS



Science

In science class, students were able to choose a project to show what they know about types of bonds. They had to do a bit of research on their own to demonstrate covalent and ionic bonds, trends in the periodic table, and metallic bonds. Some students created brochures, some created a script and a video, and others created a rap song. After turning in their project, and completing a virtual lab on bonding, students began the next chapter about chemical reactions.



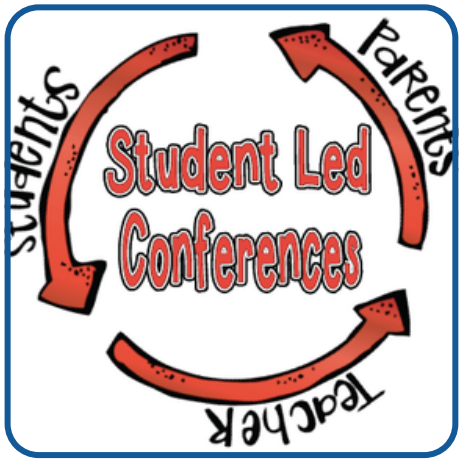
Land Study

As part of their weekly Land Study program, our Middle School students worked together to prepare their garden beds for winter. They cleared the beds, added fresh compost and loam, and covered the soil with hay to protect it during the colder months. Through this meaningful work, students are learning the importance of caring for our environment, taking responsibility for shared spaces, and contributing to the beauty and sustainability of our school community.



Business Collaborative

The Halloween Fair was a success! Following the event, our Middle School students reflected on what went well and discussed ideas for next year. They counted the money raised, wrote thank-you cards to families who donated baked goods, counted the candy corn, and prepared an announcement for Friday's All-School Meeting. Through this experience, students developed skills in leadership, teamwork, financial responsibility, and event planning while contributing to our school community.



Looking Ahead

Student-Led Conferences are coming up on Monday (11/16) and Tuesday (11/17). Please make sure to sign up for them soon. There will be no school on Monday, and Tuesday will be a regular school day, with some conferences held after school. Student will be completing a reflection and leading their conferences.