

6th Grade PTO Report

10/1/2015

Social Studies: Students are exploring the essential question: How do geographers show information on a map? Students started off the year by learning basic map skills such as reading maps, understanding longitude and latitude, and identifying the continents and oceans. Students will explore different types of maps such as physical maps and physical features, climate maps, population maps, and economic activity maps. Using all these foundational geography skills, students will explore how geography impacts the development of culture and daily life across the globe.

Science: Students are beginning their study of Planetary Science. We have finished collecting evidence for how we know the Earth is round. The students are also exploring what causes day and night. Students will be collecting data about the moon, while studying the causes for the seasons. We will explore how the angle of sun heats the earth, how the earth's tilt impacts seasons, and how the length of the day can cause temperature changes. Writing about what they have learned from multiple sources will also be a focus during the study of seasons. Students will need to support their claims with evidence from the texts. The moon will be our next area of study.

Language Arts/Literacy: We are working on the essential question: How can identifying key details help me to better understand what I read? Students have been participating in whole group discussions, independent and group stations, and guided reading to develop their understanding of key reading and writing skills. They have also used many online resources to further support classroom instruction and concepts. Students are currently reading fiction and nonfiction text to make inferences and identify the central idea and supporting details. At the end of the quarter, they will use these skills to develop an informative writing piece. We have incorporated online tools like Google Classroom, Brain Pop, Flocabulary, and Compass Learning to provide students additional resources and instructions. We are also using the Holt textbook Elements of Literature to read the short story "The Dog of Pompeii".

Math: Students are continuing to work on the essential question: How can algebraic and numerical expressions help represent and solve real world situations? Students will be writing and evaluating algebraic expressions. Students worked in small groups studying a real world situation, and creating numerical and algebraic expressions to represent that situation. They will also be solving expressions with exponents. Using this background knowledge, students will be using the Properties of Numbers to know when expressions are equivalent. Moving forward, we will be learning how to solve one-step equations. Students are continuing to complete their additional practice and homework using the online Digits program.

Announcements/Recommendations:

All 6th grade students are required to complete a book project each quarter using one of the selected Rebecca Caudill novels for his/her literacy class. A letter was sent home with your child at the beginning of the quarter explaining this project. Projects are due on Friday, October 16th.

Encourage your children to work on Compass Learning at least 20 minutes per day at home. Remind them to bring headphones to school in order to work on Compass Learning or other technology related learning tasks.

7th Grade PTO Report

10/1/2015

Date: September 24 - October 30

Regular Math: Students have been working on ratios and exploring how ratios can be used to find unit rates and using ratios with fractions. Our ratio unit will be finishing at the end of September. In October, our focus will be on Proportional Relationships.

Accelerated Math: Students started off the year working on adding and subtracting rational numbers. Students explored absolute values and learned how adding and subtracting works with the use of a number line. In the month of October, students will work with Multiplying and Dividing Integers.

Language Arts and Literacy: Students have been working diligently on skills such as identifying the main idea and supporting details, composing concise summaries, and mastering how to make logical inferences and predictions. Over the next few weeks, they will be applying these skills by immersing themselves in an Informational Mystery Unit where they will study real-life and historical mysteries. Students are also working on informational writing and projects. They will practice and perfect citing textual evidence, conducting online-based research, and utilizing higher-level transitions and word usage to develop their writing.

Social Studies: Students have been studying what makes up a civilization during the Mesopotamian unit. We will also be looking at Sumerian inventions that we still use today, and how the Sumerian society has affected all other civilizations. After the Mesopotamian Unit, we will be focusing on Egypt and the Egyptian contributions to the world today.

Science: Students have been exploring the scientific method and applying it to a paper-airplane experiment. Students designed and built their own airplanes, and then went outside and analyzed flight patterns and how far the planes were able to fly. Students gathered data and developed their own conclusions. Next, we will learn about the characteristics of living and non-living organisms. We will be using microscopes to examine and identify organisms that demonstrate characteristics of life. It is an exciting time in 7th grade Science!

Announcements/Recommendations:

- Please make sure your children have headphones for their classes. We use many programs that require our students to listen to video segments or instructional activities, and the headphones help with noise control.
- Every quarter our team nominates 24 students who display a specific citizenship quality. This quarter we are looking for students who display kindness and helpfulness toward his/her peers. Encourage your children to help other people everyday!

8th Grade PTO Report

10/1/2015

Social Studies: We just finished learning about the American Revolution. Our next topics include the Civil War, Westward Expansion, and the Industrial Revolution. We are working on understanding the different cultures and belief systems in the United States. We are discovering the motivation for people coming to the United States and finding the American Dream. We are learning that the American Dream from the past and the American Dream from today are similar. The students are learning from primary sources on how and why people made the choices they did. We then take that information and use it to support our reasons on how we have become the nation we are today. We will continue to use Google classroom and TCI. Both are great ways to see what is happening in class and to check your child's progress.

Science: We are beginning our Chemical Interactions Unit, which will continue until Winter Break. In science, students put their observations and inferencing skills to work while participating in lab experiences. Through a series of exciting experiments, the students recently determined what substances combined to make up an unknown mystery mixture! This lab was an incredibly successful start to our Chemistry Unit and there are more exciting times ahead! Future topics include different types of matter and elements, reactions between different types of matter, and phase changes.

Regular Math: We are working on the Expressions and Equations unit. Students will be solving two-step linear equations by combining like terms and using the Distributive Property. By the end of the unit, students will be able to solve equations with variables on both sides of an equal sign and identify how many solutions an equation has. After solving two-step

equations, students will be working with exponents. They will be learning about square roots, cube roots, exponent rules, and working with numbers in Scientific Notation. Parents and students can check for homework assignments on www.pearsonrealize.com.

Accelerated Math: We recently finished our first unit on Expressions and Functions. This unit included simplifying expressions with the distributive property, combining like terms, adding and subtracting polynomials and evaluating with function notation. Our current unit is Linear Functions. Students will know how to identify x and y intercepts, find the slope of linear functions and graph linear functions. For extra help at home, please visit my slobaloo site for additional math resources. [MsSuriano'sSlobaloo](#).

LA/LIT: We are continuing to work on writing Informative essays, while focusing on thesis and tone. Building background knowledge on topics is essential to support ideas on a topic. We are working on finding relevant information from reliable resources that are not biased. Using our MAP scores to guide us, students will also practice finding theme and text evidence in different types of texts, while increasing using texts that increase in complexity. Teachers use students' MAP strands (informational text, vocabulary, literature) to provide customized instruction that meets students' learning needs. Some other literacy skills we are practicing as lifelong readers include predicting, clarifying, visualizing, connecting and summarizing. Also, we are using Newsela.com to help support Lexile ranges (students' reading level from the MAP assessment) and reading informational text (non-fiction).

Announcements/Recommendations:

Students should be reading a minimum of twenty minutes each night.

Each student should come prepared to math class with a calculator.

Our first field trip will be Friday, December 11th to see "A Christmas Carol" at the Metropolis Theater. Additional details are forthcoming!

Encore PTO Report

10/1/2015

Art:

8th grade art students are beginning to learn 2-Point Perspective and will end the quarter learning how to draw with different materials, while showing value in their artwork

7th grade art students are beginning to create 2-Point Perspective drawings and will end the quarter with learning how to enlarge an image by using a grid

6th grade art students are working on a 3-D art project creating their own candy box and will end the quarter creating a print using linoleum

Band:

The bands are off to a very good start this year! All rehearsals/group lessons are in full swing, and Jazz Band information will be sent home soon. Congratulations to the nine band students who represented Chippewa at the recent VanderCook College HonorFest Band in Chicago. Symphonic Band members selected to perform were: Emma Halverson, flute; Angela Lawson, cornet; Eleanor Bechtold, french horn; Jameson Beckman, french horn; Belle Gerstmayr, french horn; Kyle Nowak, euphonium; Airaf Karim, percussion; and Lethrese Rosete, percussion. The District 62 Seventh/Eighth Grade Bands from Chippewa, Algonquin, and Iroquois will be performing in the Maine West Marching Band Night on Thursday, October 13th.

Drama:

7th Grade Drama is working on telling stories with vocal expression to make the story exciting to the listener. Students are writing short stories and reading them with vocal expression for their peers. We will discuss how to move across a stage and how to direct movement if you were the director. Students will write and perform an infomercial for a specific product with a partner. At the end of the quarter, students will work with partners or a group to perform short, memorized scenes in front of the class.

8th grade Drama is writing original scenes and performing for the class. Our next unit will be on improvisation. The unit will begin with games and activities that promote improvisation and conclude with students performing improvised scenes with a partner in front of the class. The quarter will end with a movie trailer project. Students will write short scenes for their movie trailer, record and edit with an iPad, and then show their trailers to the class.

FACS:

6th grade: The nutrition unit has concluding, and the sewing unit is off to a great start. We have learned how to thread and knot a needle, how to sew using a running

and overcast stitch, and how to sew on a button. We are finishing our sewing samples this week. We will be starting our projects by the end of the week. We will apply the sewing skills we have learned to successfully complete a sewing project by the end of the quarter.

8th grade: We have been learning about safety and sanitation in the kitchen. Students walked around the classroom and identified different safety and sanitation hazards that could potentially cause an injury or a food borne illness. Next, we will be discussing lab procedures that students will use to successfully complete in class labs for the remainder of the quarter.

IT

6th graders are starting their websites. In a few weeks, they will begin to learn coding using the programming language Scratch, combined with CS-First videos.

7th graders are currently working on their coding unit where they are learning Scratch, JavaScript, or HTML/CSS. In a few weeks, they will begin an open-ended inquiry unit into one aspect of how technology has affected their lives.

LMC:

This year, Chippewa's LMC is excited to establish a new digital citizenship curriculum. The Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum empowers students to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly in our digital world. These 21st-century skills are essential for students to harness the full potential of technology for learning. Back again this year will be our guest speakers from the Des Plaines public library. Each month we have an LMC lunch book club where we get to talk about new and exciting books. Also, this year we will have a visit from an actual author, Liesl Shurtliff, on October 23rd thanks to our PTO!

Music:

6th Grade Music is finishing up rhythmic accuracy of whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes. After, they will begin performing songs on glockenspiels by reading simple music. We will discuss improvisation and begin to improvise on glockenspiels to a steady beat. After improvising, we will discuss musical questions and answers. (Teacher asks question then students answer: clapping only. Add unpitched percussion. Student-Student question/answer: unpitched percussion. Student-Student question/answer: glockenspiels). Students will also begin moving to music (Movement activities that get the students responding to music by moving their bodies.) We will end the quarter with simple melodic compositions with glockenspiels.

7th Grade Music: Students have just finished their general overview of music history from Medieval to Romantic. Students are writing about their understanding of the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods.

8th Grade General Music: Students have just finished a presentation that focused on history, style, and different composers. Students are creating a mock concert where they, as a group, decide on bringing a famous artist to a Chicago venue. They represent four musical jobs - Concert Producer, Band Manager, Marketing Agent, and Stage Director.

Orchestra:

Cadet Orchestra- Pedagogically a second year player is still considered a “beginner.” We are continuing to establish good technique and build upon the foundation that was set last year. The students’ current learning targets revolve around playing with good intonation, having proper left hand technique, and learning new notes.

Symphony Orchestra: We are working hard to prepare for the upcoming Inaugural Des Plaines Orchestra Festival. We will be performing a piece with students from the other D62 middle school orchestra as well as a piece on our own. This festival will showcase the string orchestra culture that is thriving in our area. The student’s current learning targets focus on reinforcing proper technique and playing in the Baroque style.

Spanish:

Eighth grade Spanish students have learned all of their vocabulary for unit four. This vocabulary included sports, pastimes and places around town. The students are now learning about the verb *ir* which means “to go”. They are learning how to say where they are going and what they are going to do.

Seventh grade Spanish students have completed the vocabulary for unit one. They now can say greetings, farewells and courtesy phrases in Spanish. The students are currently learning about nouns and articles. This topic includes information on noun gender and plurality.

PE/Health PTO Report 10/1/2015

The Physical Education Department is currently in its flag football unit, which integrates with the running unit.

In flag football, students are learning the roles of offensive and defensive players, working on pass patterns, and football strategies. In 6th grade, students are focused on the proper football throwing form, while 7th grade students focus on leading receivers to their left or right. 8th grade students focus on throwing over the defense leading receivers during fly patterns.

Our running program is designed to have students challenge themselves during cone counts. A cone count is a timed run on a quarter mile track, lined with ten cones equidistant from one another. Cone counts build in three-minute increments starting off at three minutes, increasing to six minutes, followed by nine minutes, and ending at twelve minutes. This system allows for students to work at their own level. Students try to beat their previous scores to help improve their personal level of health.

Helpful Physical Education Tips:

We will have Physical Education classes outdoors through the first quarter. Students are allowed to bring in sweats to help keep warm. They can keep sweats in their Physical Education locker, along with their stick or roll on deodorant. ☺