

RLMS

NEWSLETTER

From the Office

I hope this communication finds you and your family happy, healthy, and ready for the cool fall weather. It is hard to believe that the first grading period of the school year is already coming to a conclusion. We feel we are off to a great start this fall. Students seem to be settling into the routine of school and are hitting their academic stride. Last week marked end of the first quarter of the school year. The end of the first quarter was Friday, November 4th. Grades will be finalized in Skyward on Wednesday, November 9th. We will be notifying any parents of students that are failing courses and your child's required attendance at Warrior Remediation. Our Middle School Remediation is scheduled for November 15th & 16th from 3:30-5:30 pm. This is an opportunity for students to finish any late or missing work, finish projects, and retake any assessments. Teachers will be doing grade changes for students who have demonstrated improved understanding and achievement.

Students continue in our ILA Intervention/Extension Period at the beginning of the school day. We continue to monitor student progress and will be doing the FastBridge Screener again in January.



At that point, we will look at FastBridge Data and determine student needs. We will share that information with parents again at that time.

I continue to mention attendance in my communication with you as parents. Throughout the Covid Pandemic, our school attendance took a major hit based on the health care recommendations and quarantines. This has severely affected the learning of students and we feel it is critical to get our school attendance numbers back to pre-pandemic levels. I would ask that you work with us to get your students to school consistently. In addition, please look at family vacations and try to schedule around our breaks at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, Easter, and Summer Break. Lastly, it is also important to bring medical appointment documentation to our attendance secretary, Paige Poehls, following those appointments.

Please contact the Middle School office with any questions or concerns that you may have. Our goal is to ensure that students continue to make progress toward their personal, academic, and social goals.

5TH GRADE



In science, the students investigated the solar system. We focused on Earth's place in our galaxy and understanding the layers of our atmosphere. We will be starting to investigate how the Earth heats and cools as well as energy/heat transfers.



We are in the midst of our second math unit on Multiplying using U.S. Traditional Multiplication and Partial Quotient Division. The students have been working hard to apply their skills through various lessons, activities, and challenging home links. We also completed a 2 day escape room applying our skills of multiplication through mazes, decoding, matching, and more!



In language arts, students are finishing up their first writing unit by writing an opinion paragraph. Our next unit will be a reading unit titled "Watch Out!" where students will be reading fantasy novels. They will be assigned a book for the unit and be asked to read a specified amount of pages each day. Students will be discussing their books in guided reading groups with their teacher. Important concepts in this unit are: figurative language, summarizing, inferencing, setting, and components of fantasy.



In social studies, students finished our first two units of "The First Americans" and "The Age of Exploration." We will be moving to "Settling the Colonies in North America" where students will learn and discuss the early European colonies.



6TH GRADE



In language arts, students just finished their first reading unit on making connections and are now writing persuasive letters. 6th graders are working very hard on their writing and are building good claims and backing their claims up with evidence. Student letters will be mailed home to parents and guardians and a response is optional.



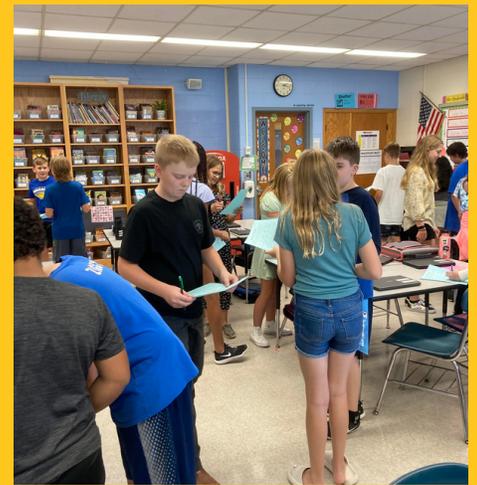
In sixth grade Mathematics we started the year working on whole number and fraction fluency. The ability to fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers from 1-12 makes solving so many types of math problems easier. The ability to recognize equivalent fractions and manipulate fractions will lead to future success when we introduce ratios and percents. Currently, sixth grade Mathematics is discovering visual representations of dividing fractions. They are practicing the computation and application of fraction and mixed numeral division. Next up, they will use their new findings to apply it to fractional "Order of Operations."



During the first quarter of Life Science, students have learned about the similarities and differences of types of cells. They have used microscopes to identify organelles with cells. Students are now reciting the "Levels of Organization" of simple to complex organisms. They now understand that cells make up tissues, tissues make up organs, organs work together to create organ systems, and our interacting organ systems make up what we are, a multicellular organism. Next week, sixth grade students will be digging into the intriguing world of the Nervous System and how neural signals are sent throughout one's body. Earth Science and weather is just around the corner!



For social studies, students are researching a country in Africa or the Middle East. Student's research will be turned into projects and presented in front of the class. It's fun to see all of the creative ways students can present their research findings!



7TH GRADE



Seventh Graders have had a successful start to the 2022-2023 school year. During the first semester, students have either science or geography. In Geography, students spent the first few weeks learning how to read, create, and understand maps using a variety of skills including longitude and latitude. Acting as "Urban Planners," students used their creative minds and skills to design their own towns. Students are currently studying Human Geography and different cultures around the world. Students are currently working on an inquiry project that looks at movement patterns throughout the world.

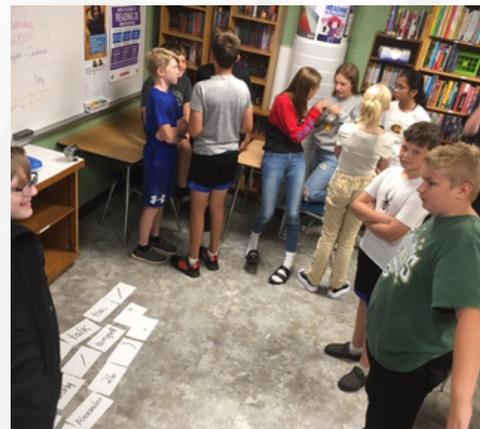


Math classes have completed working with integers and rational numbers (negative and positive fractions and decimals) using all four operations. They now have started to talk about simplifying and solving expressions and equations. Accelerated Math has completed 5 chapters so far.

Students practiced using the Metric System to make accurate measurements with length, mass, volume and temperature. We described changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of matter of a pure substance when heat energy is added or removed. Students analyzed data to identify physical and chemical properties of substances and provide evidence to determine if a physical or chemical change has occurred. When observing molecular images, students learned to recognize how the particles in an element, molecule, compound, and mixture are different. Lastly, students used a model to describe that when a chemical reaction occurs chemical bonds are broken and the amount of matter stays the same.



Language Arts began the year with a study of novels written in verse format. They are now honing their writing skills in an essay to persuade a fictitious Mount Rushmore committee to choose their nominee as a fifth face.



8TH GRADE

The eighth grade students are off to a great start this year!

In Math 8, we completed a unit on solving equations and are currently working on some Geometry topics including transformations, angle relationships, and parallel lines cut by transversals. In Algebra, we have been working on solving, graphing, and writing equations and inequalities. Students are working hard to meet our grade level standards and become productive problem solvers.

In Language Arts, we began the year with a reading unit, *Alliances*, and we shared a read aloud by Alan Gratz, *Projekt 1065*. Students independently read a self-selected book club book emphasizing the unit's theme (*Flipped*, *Endangered*, *Legend*, *House Arrest*, or *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*). There were six formative assessments to assess students' skill levels in reading literature followed by a summative assessment of those same standards. Our first writing unit is a Persuasive Product Review, and students selected their own topic (business, technology, restaurant, or a product). At the end of the unit, which will, also, be near the end of quarter one, students will submit a three-paragraph product review, which will include three main reasons and up to nine supporting details. Continue working hard, 8th graders

We will continue to work on our grade level standards. In math class, we will be moving into some units on graphing and writing equations and solving systems of equations. History students will continue to investigate our nation's history through the end of the Civil War. We are looking forward to a fun and educational year!



In Science, students are just finishing up their Physical Science unit which focused on Newton's Three Laws of Motion, along with The Law of Conservation of Energy which included various forms of energy and energy conversions. We are now moving into Life Science with an emphasis on the importance of photosynthesis and cellular respiration.



After exploring colonization and beating the British in the American Revolution, US History will be diving into the construction of the US Constitution. Students will be focusing on the foundations of our nation and learning more about the three branches that make up our federal government.



STUDENT SERVICES

From the Nurse

As we wrap up the first term of the 2022-2023 school year, RLASD has put in protocols for illness and more specifically COVID-19.

In general, any student or staff member who is experiencing illness should stay home. Fever over 100.5, frequent diarrhea, continuous vomiting, spreading rash, or severe pain that prevents a child from concentrating or participating in classroom activities. Ask yourself "Will your child be able to participate in regular classroom activities despite their current symptoms?". If the answer is "no" they are too sick to come to school!

If your child is ill with symptoms that could be related to COVID 19, the current recommendation from the CDC and Wisconsin Division of Public Health is to test for COVID 19.

If the test is **NEGATIVE** and symptoms are mild (do not meet the guidelines above), students are encouraged to attend school. If the test is **POSITIVE** – Contact the school nurse to report the positive test results. The person should remain home for 5 full days from the onset of symptoms (Day 0 is the day symptoms started).

If the person who was exposed remains symptom-free they may continue to attend school. If they develop symptoms they should remain home and be tested for COVID 19 and follow the steps above under COVID-19 diagnosis.



Upcoming Events

November 23-25: No School

Thanksgiving Break

November 29: Choir Concert

December 6: 6th Grade Band Concert

December 23-January 2: No School

Winter Break

