

December District Newsletter

Insights from Mr. I – News from the Superintendent

Hello Mustang families. I hope everyone was able to have something that resembled a Thanksgiving with their families and that everyone is staying healthy. This has been a tough year for everyone, including myself. It was great to spend time with my family, but at the same time it was nowhere near what it usually is. My brother and his family were missing due to Covid along with my son and his family. I certainly do look forward to seeing everyone together again and tomorrow would not be soon enough. Our PVO family has taken some hard hits recently with the passing of Elvin Huls, Eric Hill, and Victor White II. Please keep their families in your prayers and take some time to look at those around you and appreciate what time we do have with them and to make every second count.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to have one of my favorite gatherings within the PVO District, our Holiday Meal. The fact that all of our families take the time to come to the schools to spend time with our kids makes that day very special to me personally. Hopefully we will be able to get that back on the calendar for next year!

Please continue to watch your emails for updates. We are trying to pass along accurate information as fast as we can to our families. Our goal is to get all students back in the building as soon as we safely can. When that will be is a fantastic question, but I do hope it will be sooner rather than later.

Thank you and take care.

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Note: All Calendars Posted on Website



Prairieview – Ogden Mustangs

Mrs. Burch's 4th Grade at North Elementary

Wow! I cannot believe we are halfway through the second quarter! I am so proud of the fourth graders and how well they have adjusted to our current schedule. They continue to work hard and look forward to the next assignment and project.

Here are a few of the things we are currently working on this quarter.

Math - Properties of Multiplication and Division Rules, along with Factors and Multiples. Next, we will be multiplying with one digit numbers.

Social Studies - We have completed several activities and readings about the Mayflower and the Pilgrims' voyage. We will conclude our study with our Mayflower STEM Project. In December, we will work on our "Christmas Around the World" research project.

Reading - This fall we have completed a novel study on The Chocolate Touch. The students really enjoyed this novel! We are currently reading Because of Winn Dixie. This novel is always a favorite among the students!

Science - The students have enjoyed learning about weather this fall. We have completed several Webquest research projects. The students have learned a lot about bats as well!

We will continue to work and have fun doing so in fourth grade!

Thanks to the students and families for their hard work and support!

Here are a few pictures you might have already seen on Facebook! They highlight some of our STEM work this quarter!



Prairieview – Ogden Mustangs

Mrs. Stewart's 4th Grade at South Elementary

Google classroom has been quite the learning experience for both students and this teacher, but I believe it has been one of the few good things that has come out of this year so far.

Math—I am very proud of the gains our students have made in math. Even through this year's challenges, our students have not wavered in their learning. They have stepped up to the challenge and are taking charge of their own learning. Way to go 4th grade.

Reading—We just finished reading Stone Fox and our Holocaust books. For Stone Fox, we made dioramas for details. Some students re-wrote the last chapter for a better outcome and others wrote a puppet show depicting a scene from the book. We watched the movie "Stone Fox" and wrote a compare/contrast paper. Wow! I am impressed with our students' writing and reading comprehension. For our Holocaust books, students presented their book talks live to their class and then again on zoom for their other classmates. It was exciting to see students that we haven't seen for a long time.

Social Studies—We have been learning about the presidents and what each president is known for. We have made some connections when discussing this year's election. We are working on our 50 states and their capitals.

Science—The class is about to finish up their life science unit. We have had labs, projects, and played games to learn about habitats, ecosystems, producers/consumers, and animal structures. Students are anticipating our chemistry unit that is coming up next.

Language—Students could use everyone's help remembering to capitalize and punctuate. We will keep at this all year, along with other grammatical pieces of language. We incorporate writing into our reading and social studies and it helps us to make connections which increases our understanding.

Announcements

Two quarters down, Two to go! This is bittersweet to me.

I want to give a shout out to all those who have gone the extra mile to ensure their child's or children's education and social welfare. What a year to remember. We are all part of history and how we face our challenges and encourage others and it will show through our children. Thanks parents, students, grandparents, child care providers, older siblings, school staff, and teachers.

"The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you."

B.B. King

"I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday."

Abraham Lincoln

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Ms. Maxwell's 5th Grade Class

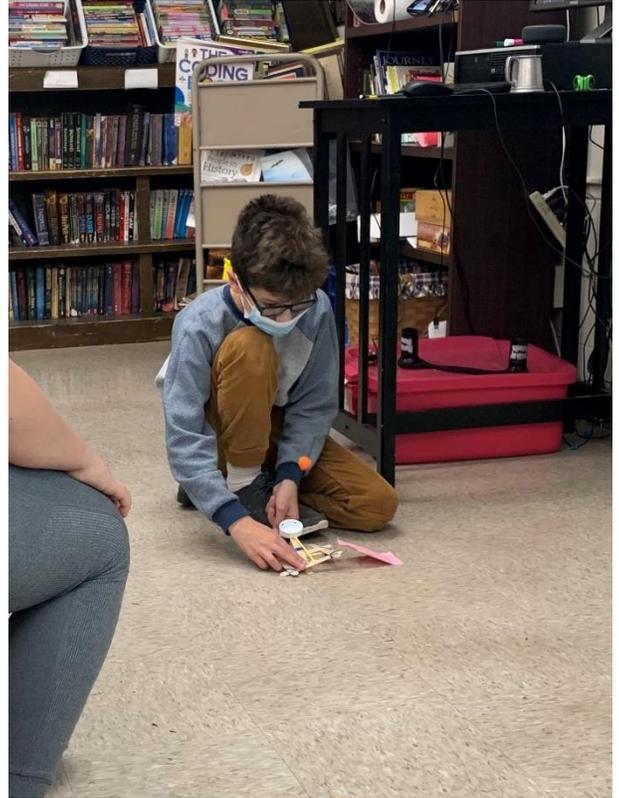
The fifth graders have done an extraordinary job of adapting to our new “normal”. This class of 27, with one full-remote student, has been a happy, hard-working, adaptable, fun, helpful, and agreeable little family. We have managed to learn fifth grade curriculum at the same time as learning ALL the new technology.

Our big wrap up to our Force and Motion unit was “Punkin Chuckin”. The class constructed catapults and then “chucked” candy pumpkins. The designs were similar but had personal touches. As they were demonstrating, their classmates were helpful and offered constructive criticism to make improvements. Everyone got theirs to work, but Lucas and Jamison tied for the furthest launch. Fifteen feet is a long way to chuck a pumpkin!

Colonial America, the Pilgrims, and the Salem Witch Trials are the topics we are wrapping up in social studies. Reading The Witch of Blackbird Pond is a fifth grade favorite and Covid hasn't changed that! This novel combines entertainment with actual events and situations from that time period. It helps reinforce the facts from our social studies book with interesting details of that time.

In ELA, the fifth graders researched other pandemic flus from the past. They learned how they are similar to and different from Covid. One interesting fact that was discovered is that man flus are somehow linked to the H1N1 virus strain! They are still in the editing stage, but the outcome is looking good.

We've accomplished a lot and I know this fifth grade class is ready and willing to meet whatever challenges 2021 brings them.



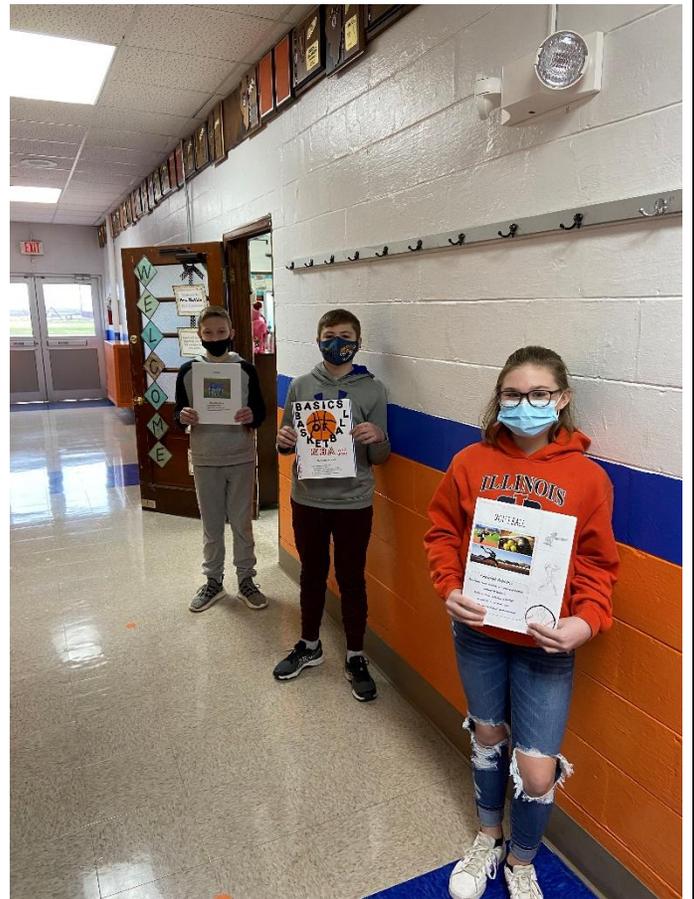
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Junior High Reading

Covid nor a new schedule can keep the students at the junior high from making incredible progress in reading class this year.

The 7th grade class read *Holes* during the first quarter. This novel is written at an easier reading level, but is used to help the students transition to the expectations of content area classes. Even though the students were zooming in during their days of remote learning, the students were still able to complete the character analysis, plot diagrams, and projects throughout the novel. Some of these projects include a brochure attempting to convince others to “Choose Camp Green Lake” (the setting of our story) and they also created a sound track for the novel as their final cumulating assignment. During the second quarter the students studied nonfiction text structures and created their own nonfiction magazine in which they had to complete research and writing in formats that followed the five different nonfiction text structures that were studied. Now, we’re reading *My Brother Sam Is Dead* that coincides with our Revolutionary War unit in social studies! The cross curricular content is incredibly valuable.

The 8th graders have been busy as well, completing the dystopian novel, *The Giver*, during the first quarter. This classic novel pushed many students in this class outsider of their comfort zone because it is a genre many students would not naturally choose—which makes it even more valuable! Just like the 7th grade, this 8th grade class handled the work associated with this novel very well in our hybrid/zoom model. After finishing this novel, the 8th graders read several famous short stories including *A Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allen Poe. Now, the class is reading realistic fiction novel, *Tangerine*. We will be working on this novel through the end of this quarter.



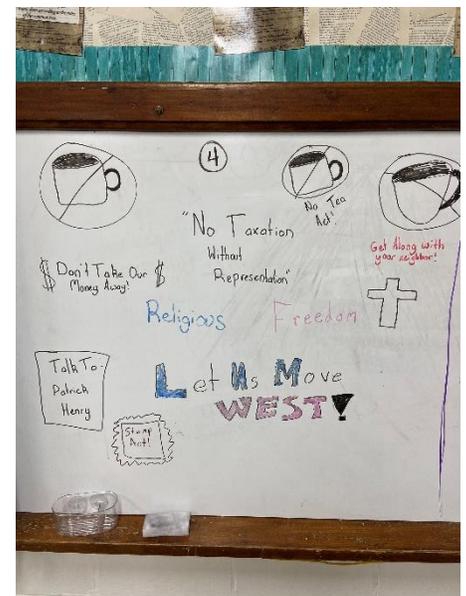
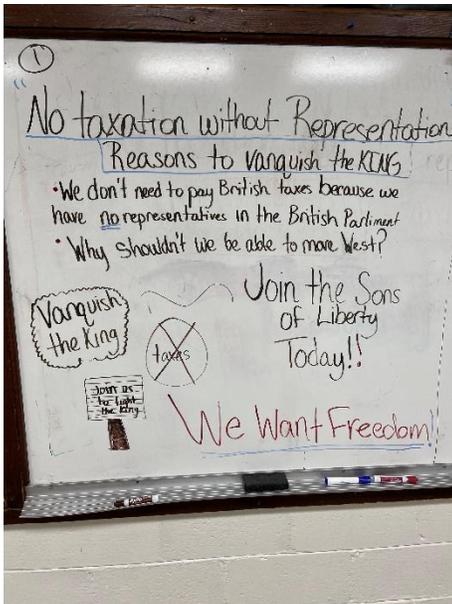
Students display their nonfiction magazines created during the 2nd quarter in 7th grade reading.

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Junior High Social Studies

The 8th graders are moving full-steam-ahead into each chapter of our American History curriculum. This year these students are tasked with the daunting challenge of preparing for high school history courses even though they have missed a lot of curriculum due to remote learning in the spring and then being faced with only two days of in-person instruction each week in our current schedule. Social studies is one of the few classes that does not meet through zoom because of our current JH schedule. HOWEVER, you would NEVER know any of this if you were to ask these 8th graders about what they know about U.S. history! They are making great strides in our curriculum and I'm SO proud of their hard work and the extra effort they are putting into the work outside of class. The 8th graders started the year focusing on the development of our government following the writing of the Constitution, but we've already made it to the election of 1824 and the presidency of Andrew Jackson. The Civil War unit is right around the corner!

The 7th graders are currently focusing on our unit about the causes of the Revolutionary War! This is one of my favorite time periods in U.S. history! We're learning about the Sons of Liberty, the Boston Massacre, the taxes imposed on the colonists, and the battles of Lexington and Concord. This unit will be a springboard into the next chapter that will focus on the Revolutionary War! It will be an exciting and interactive end to the semester!



The pictures above are examples of the 7th graders' protest whiteboard posters. The students made these posters after learning about the Sons of Liberty and their efforts to unite the colonists against British rule.