

Minneapolis Grade School Volume 5 , Issue 1 September 2022



6th Grade Classrooms Begin School Year with MGS LIONS PRIDE Projects

Project-based learning activities are a great way to teach students about internal and external character traits and work habits needed to succeed in school, life and in future careers.

During the first week of school, 6th grade teachers launched MGS LIONS PRIDE-building activities to help students get off to a positive start. After introducing the grid shown to the right, teachers and students discussed the five character traits listed and began brainstorming ideas and setting expectations for the school year. These traits are to be demonstrated not only in the classrooms, but also school-wide. Each classroom teacher then followed up with specific projects where students were able to create and demonstrate the PRIDE traits. In Mrs. Rensink's classroom, students created "Positivity" posters, shown in the examples below and on display around the school.

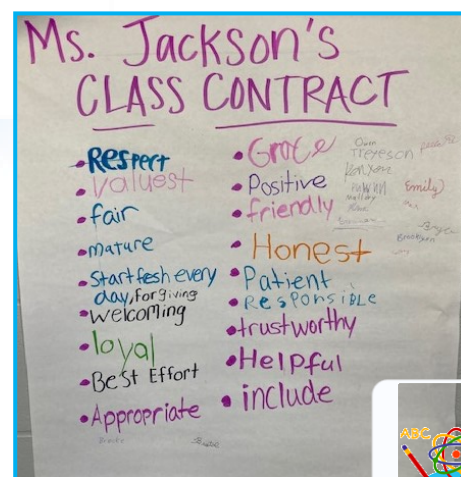
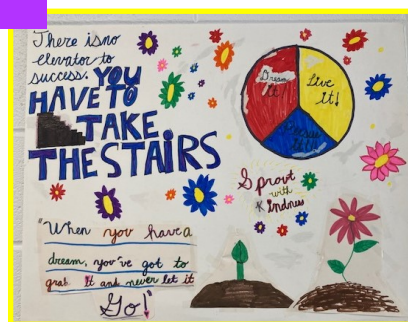
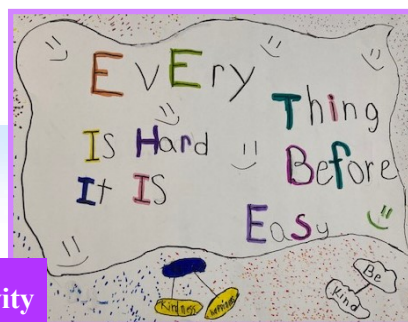
MGS LIONS-PRIDE					
	Classrooms	School Grounds	Passing Periods Before & After School	Technology	MGS Staff
activity					
respect					
integrity					
perseverance					
academic excellence					

Mrs. Harris had all 6th grade students participate in an "Integrity" game called "Flinch". The rules are simple. 1. No talking. 2. Make a clean throw and catch. 3. Students who flinch or break any other rule are out. Mrs. Harris tells students that no one is policing the game, and as the teacher, she is just observing. Most kids break one of the rules but don't eliminate themselves in order to be one of the last few standing. At the end of the game Mrs. Harris picks a winner. Instead of choosing one of the students remaining in the game, she selects someone who showed the best integrity regarding the rules. Mrs. Harris commented that, after a few rounds, everyone is much better at policing themselves. Discussion following the game included talking about what it feels like to know someone who broke a rule and didn't do the right thing and what message that sends to others. They also discussed the idea of taking care of oneself. If all students follow the rules and take care of themselves, there are no worries. Mrs. Harris stated, "It's a simple game they enjoy, but it sends a great message [about Integrity], too.

To emphasize the character trait of "Respect," Mrs. Jackson had students make informative video skits designed to show ways students could show respect for others. Teachers also led discussions on how students could set and focus on behavioral, personal and academic goals, do their very best work, and make good choices throughout the school year and throughout life. Reflecting on the information gathered from their projects and compiled on their PRIDE grids, students used positive character traits to help create a Classroom Social Contract which every student then signed.



Positivity Posters



5th Grade Participates in Ag Awareness Day

Real-world learning is a big motivator in Project Based Learning. Most students respond positively when they have opportunities to tackle challenges or investigate issues that extend beyond the classroom walls. One example of this type of learning experience is the annual Ag Awareness Day set up and presented by the Ottawa County Farm Bureau, with the help of Minneapolis high school FFA members.

In preparation for the Ag Awareness activities, MGS 5th grade teachers received a large bag of information from the Ottawa County Farm Bureau. They were asked to distribute the information to students so they could come prepared with questions for the presenters at the annual Ag Awareness Day, held on September 1, 2022, at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds.

On the day of the event, all students watched a demonstration of a working cattle dog. Students were then divided into 5 smaller groups and assigned a leader from the MHS FFA. The high school leaders escorted each group to one of ten agriculture-related stations, where students actively engaged in each real-world projects for approximately 15 minutes before rotating to the next station. A lunch was provided by the Farm Bureau, and at 1:00pm students from Minneapolis, Tescott and Bennington were combined and divided into 3 groups to learn about power line safety, drones, and natural resources/conservation. The Ag Awareness activities concluded at 2:30 after a full day of meaningful projects relating to agriculture education and awareness.



Ag Awareness Day



“Getting to Know Us”

Mrs. Smith’s 5th grade students gathered information about their classmates in order to compare similarities and differences that make each one unique. After discussing the scientific method for collecting data, they looked at the patterns of each classmate’s fingerprints. Their findings were recorded on a worksheet. Using the data they had collected, Mrs. Smith taught students how to create a graph, using concepts such as the 2 axis, range and labeling. The teacher and students then worked together to create a graph which illustrated the results of the data they had compiled.

BACK TO SCHOOL BINGO

Has a brother	Green	Can do a cartwheel	Like Math best	Plays an instrument
Has Blue Eyes	Has a dog	Likes cookies	Read 5' or more books this summer	Left handed
Loves Pizza	Can wink	Likes KU		

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Three main fingerprint patterns: arch, loop, whorl

Use the 10 cards to collect fingerprints and determine how many of each pattern you have. Record your findings in the table below.

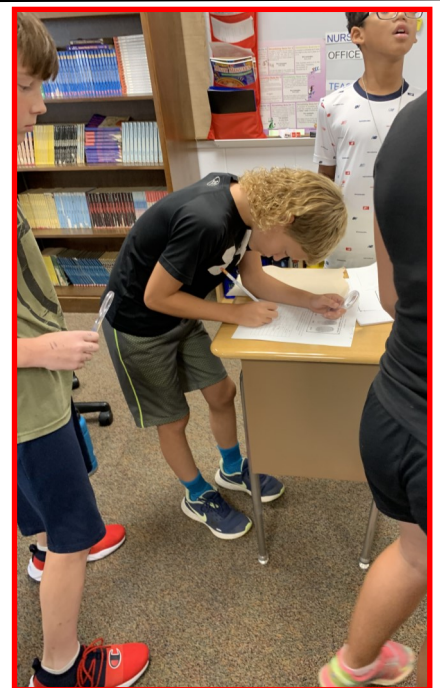
Pattern	Number of Fingers
Arch	
Loop	
Whorl	

Consider: what are the similarities and differences between the patterns?

1. How many fingers have each pattern?

2. If you could be any three characters or famous person, who would you be?

3. What kind of music do you like to listen to?

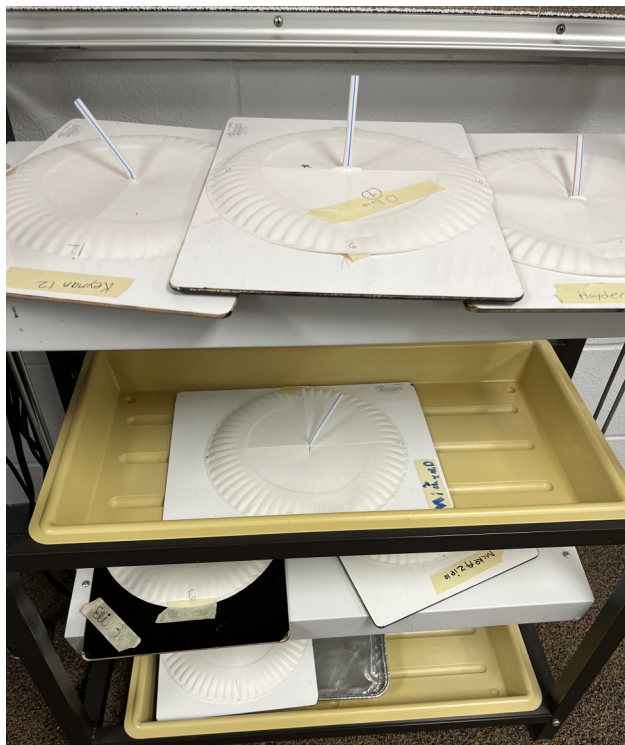
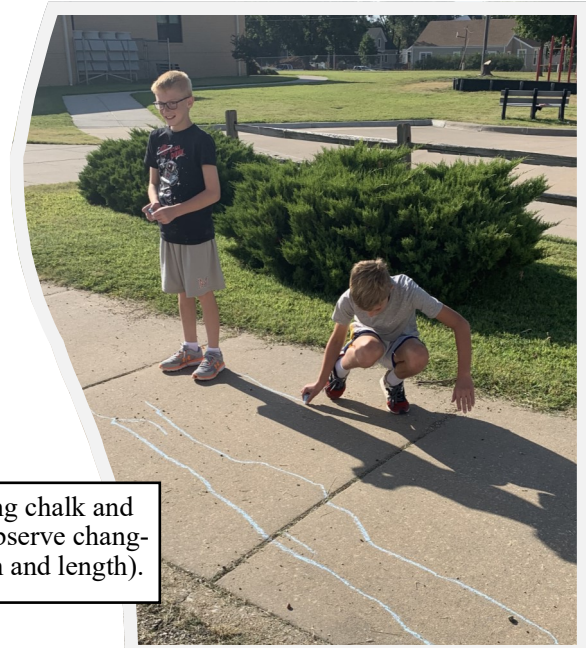


Students in Fifth Grade Create Sundials and Use The Scientific Method to Analyze and Collect Data

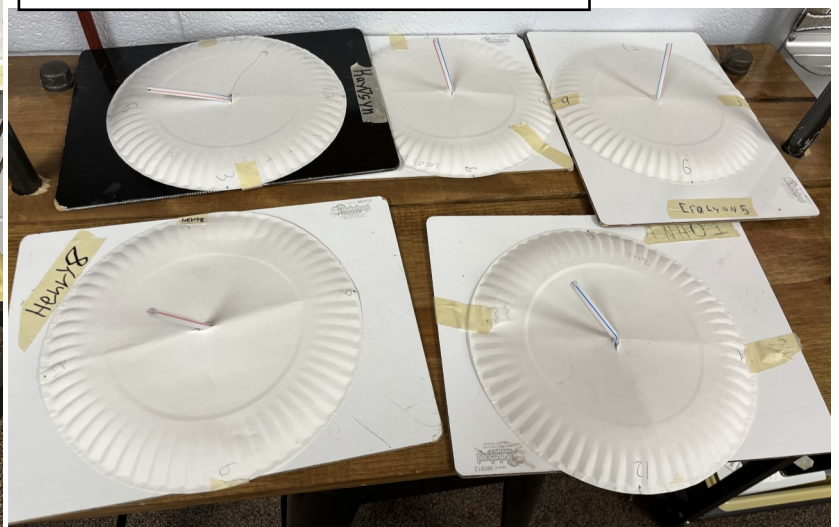
Fifth grade students made sundials in order to observe patterns and analyze data based on what they discovered using the scientific tool they had created. The gnomon on the sundial was made using a straw positioned on a paper plate to point to the North. The plate was labeled with different times of the day (12:00, 3:00, 6:00 and 9:00) The students went outside to begin their investigation by finding patterns and changes in the length and direction of shadows at the different times. They collected measurements (in inches), lengths and positions of the shadows (directions). Data was recorded on a worksheet and was later used to create a bar graph, using mathisfun.com. The students' observations were used to draw conclusions and identify patterns and relationships. Students then shared their findings with the class.











Initial investigation using chalk and a partner to mark and observe changes in shadows (direction and length).



Sundials made by 5th grade students



TO MAKE THIS THE BEST
SCHOOL YEAR

- 1 PLAN HEALTHY LUNCHES 
- 2 FAMILY DINNERS 
- 3 DRESS FOR SUCCESS 
- 4 SET UP A SLEEP ROUTINE 
- 5 GET TO KNOW YOUR TEACHERS 
- 6 CREATE A DISTRACTION-FREE LEARNING AREA 
- 7 TALK ABOUT BULLYING 
- 8 ASK YOUR KIDS ABOUT THEIR CONCERNS 

Wash Your Hands

Before you:

- Eat
- Cook or touch food



After you:

- Go to the bathroom
- Cough or blow your nose
- Touch pets
- Play outside
- Are with someone who is sick



Wash Germs Down the Drain

1. Turn on warm water.
2. Rub soap on both sides of your hands and fingers and around your nails.
3. Sing "Happy Birthday" twice while washing your hands, about 20 seconds total.
4. Rinse the soap off your hands, then turn off the water.
5. Dry your hands with a paper towel or air dryer.



KidsHealth

KidsHealth.org

Washing your hands **keeps germs away** from you and people around you.