

June 5, 2020

Hello 6th Grade Families,

It's been such a joy to share all the wonderful projects, stories, and presentations during this period of distance learning. Please enjoy a look back at the last week of 6th grade!

Advisory - Nayantara & Advisors

This week we met as a Middle School to learn more about choices for electives for next year. While we don't know exactly what our electives schedule will look like next year, it was inspiring to hear about all the choices our students have.

English - Chelsea

We had such a great last week in English! We finished up *Harbor Me* together and had a wonderful discussion talking about the importance of the topics in the book, what we connected with, and what we felt needed more attention. In our last class on Thursday, we had our Superhero Project share which allowed students to show the fun, creative work they did for this assignment. We talked about the importance of being supportive and aware of the bravery it takes to share your creations, so it was so heartwarming to see the "clapping" reactions on Zoom and the sweet, supportive comments in chat after each project was shared. It's been wonderful teaching the 6th grade this year and I hope they're all proud of how far they've come as students and everything they have accomplished.

Health - Alyssa

Students spent the last health class finishing their calculations and reflections for their 3-day nutrition, sleep, and physical activity logs. Students then reflected on their year in health and what skills they can use in the future.

Math - Kevin

And with that, we bring math for the year to a close! We wrapped up our unit on three-dimensional measurement with some more practice with surface area and volume, as well as a movie that gave some plot and flair to the explanation of the differences between dimensions. And lastly, once more to the 6th grade, thank you for making me laugh, think, and grow every day. Great job this year.

Physical Education - Nick

We are continuing with our daily physical activities. On Monday, students received a new list of five different workouts, ranging from a Pilates full-body workout to a Zumba workout, as well as workouts for stamina, speed, and agility. Sixth graders should try to complete at least two workouts for the week, though one per day is even better. On Friday, students completed a Google Form to share their workouts. As always, the goal is to keep our students active and moving for at least 20 minutes per day.

Science - Zach

For our final week of 6th grade science we focused our time on developing our food web projects. We went into more detail about the types of consumers that exist in an ecosystem, like herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. We also briefly talked about how certain organisms can produce their own food without sunlight and how other ecosystems can thrive without traditional photosynthetic creatures. To end our year, we bid farewell with a Kahoot quiz on how well we know our science class and inside jokes!

Social Studies - Gloribel

This week in social studies, we focused on the Great Wall of China, specifically, why it was built and its significance throughout ancient China's history. Aside from discovering it was declared the longest wall in the world in *The Guinness Book of World Records*, we learned that it ensured a great source of protection for the people living in the Northern parts of China. Our students were intrigued by its design and the tactics used in defense. They became very curious to find out how it became ruled by the very people the wall had tried to keep out!

Woodshop - Mike

Do you enjoy hamburgers? I decided on a bit of a pivot for our class when talking to a friend of mine who is a graphic designer. He is responsible for the logo, signs, and menus of a prominent and delicious burger spot in New York. Given we had this example of an adult who makes a living designing great things, how about giving the class a design challenge? Students received the task to come up with a logo for a burger shop called Burger Shop (or veggie burgers, and any clever names were encouraged). The results are fantastic! While we did not get to work in the shop this trimester, and that was a serious bummer, we did some really cool work that would not have been available in regular circumstances. I have to say, you all in the 6th grade are on point, hopefully I'll see some of you in my electives!

Spring Scene Workshop - Ed

We continued to edit student video footage. The class performance project "Quarantine Scenes" is scheduled to be released online to only students and their families by the end of June. A link to an online Padlet was released to members of this class and select members of the MS community. This online site contains a show poster, a description of our class project, and a link to a preview trailer scene from the project. This link is only accessible to folks with an @calhoun.org email address (our students and faculty). A separate invite link to the preview trailer will be emailed to actors and their families. In our final class of the trimester, students participated in an improvisational comedy workshop led by professional improv performer and teacher Nick Kanellis.

Languages

Mandarin - Yutong

During the last week of Mandarin classes, students verbally presented their food journal examining the healthiness of their diet. We also played quiz games on Kahoot! and Gimkit to review vocabulary and grammar structures that we've covered this year in a fun interactive way. The class then discussed the Chinese myths they were studying in social studies class. Students also learned a children's folk song "The Little Dragon Tale." Last but not least, the class learned new sentences of various topics from their student-teachers.

Mandarin - Jia

We read the book *Three Pandas* and played a Mandarin game Spywatch Lex. Students were engaged in interpreting, translating and playing games during Zoom lessons. Assignments involved practicing words and translating sentences. I encourage students to continue to use the Mandarin website to maintain their skills during the summer.

Spanish - Linda

After studying several themes such as travel, restaurants, school, and grocery shopping in Duolingo, students were asked to tighten any loose ends or unfinished work in these topics and have their work completed before

the end of the week. If anyone is unsure about the work that they have submitted, please contact me for specific information. Thank you 6th grade for all your work this year.

Music

Chorus - Alison

In live chorus class this week, we spent some time talking about the ways that music is a space for refuge and joy in times when we feel hopeless about the state of the world, especially in light of the events of the last few weeks. As part of our conversation, we listened together to an arrangement of the spiritual and protest song, "We Shall Overcome." As we look toward next year, students also shared out ideas and feedback based on their experiences in chorus this year, both online and in person.

Woodwinds & Brass - Ben

Thank you to all 6th graders who submitted a video for our school wide project! We hope to have something to share in the coming week. The talent and resiliency of our Calhoun students was on full display. Please be in touch with any questions or concerns as we head into the summer.

Strings - Kiwon & Luke

This week in strings we met and shared our final projects/home concerts. We are so proud of our musicians and wish everyone a wonderful summer!

I hope you have a wonderful weekend! Please reach out with any questions via email at hannah.scarritt-selman@calhoun.org.

Sincerely,
Hannah Scarritt-Selman