

May 22, 2020

Hello 6th Grade Families,

As we inch closer to finishing this school year, the 6th grade team has been reflecting on the growth and accomplishments we've been fortunate enough to be a part of with this group of students. In the coming weeks, we'll be sharing information about special workshops that will be offered for MS students during the last week of school that will provide fun, community-building memories to take us into the summer.

Please enjoy a look back at the week!

Advisory - Nayantara & Advisors

This afternoon in advisory, clusters and superclusters played some online games to bring us into a well-deserved long weekend.

English - Chelsea

In English, 6th graders learned more about their superhero alter egos and started planning out how they'll introduce themselves as their characters. Their creativity and enthusiasm for this project has been so exciting! While reading *Harbor Me*, students have been able to take more responsibility for their own knowledge and understand as they read more independently. This is allowing them to connect more deeply to the novel's characters.

Health - Alyssa

This week students began working on their nutrition, sleep and physical activity project. Students will be keeping a log for three consecutive days of the meals and snacks they eat, how much activity they are doing each day, and the amount of sleep they got each night. Next class, we are going to use the logs to compute how many calories we are inputting and how many calories we are outputting. This will help us understand how our bodies are using the calories we are eating and how much we need to move each day to keep a healthy body weight as we grow and develop.

Life Skills - Jessica

This week we jumped back into our study of their developing brains. Sixth graders explored how the prefrontal cortex works with our executive functioning. We learned that EF refers to the brain's traffic control center and is still developing in young people until they are in their 20's. Executive functioning helps us to do things like plan ahead, stay focused, regulate emotion, think flexibility and creativity, and monitor our own learning.

Math - Kevin

We wrapped up with more area formulas this week. We investigated the differences between the area of trapezoids and parallelograms and finished our discussion on quadrilaterals altogether. Despite the unpredictable nature of this end of year, this sixth grade has done a commendable job of working and adapting through it. Look for us to apply these 2-D measurement skills in a fun park planning project.

Physical Education - Nick

We are continuing with our daily physical activities. On Monday, students received a new list of five different workouts, ranging from Zumba to a Pilates core and abs workout, as well as cardio and low impact HIIT workouts. 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

This week in science we started our final unit: ecology! We began by discussing what the basic needs of all living things are on Earth. By looking at the biotic and abiotic factors for life, we connected our knowledge of climates to how organisms adapt to fit a niche in various environments. We then took a bottom-up view of how ecosystems are organized, from the individual organisms to the entire biosphere of Earth. Eventually, we will look at how food chains create relationships between different forms of life.

Social Studies - Gloribel

The long-lasting Zhou dynasty of ancient China was our focus this week. We discussed how China grew and fractured into states, then made connections to the major philosophies and religions that emerged. Coming up, we are going to continue learning about China's development as we move into the Han and Qin dynasties. In the end, we will have learned the major dynasties that ruled over China and the significant role they hold in Chinese history present day.

Woodshop - Mike

We're moving into the world of digital drawing and kids are experimenting! Open ended experimentation is a great way to begin learning the basics of a program and, like with any other tool, the quality of practice has a pretty strong connection to the speed at which a skill or tool is learned. Our first intentional project on the digital drawing program will be to design a logo for themselves. We'll use these designs to talk about proportion and construction in 2-dimensions, and will eventually combine all our new skills and bring them to actual woodshop project design.

Languages

Mandarin - Yutong

This week students submitted another food journal entry and tracked their eating habits in Mandarin. Students also learned more about telling time and talking about different parts of the day. They practiced telling time in reading, writing and speaking. Students continued to do a great job teaching a sentence each to the class that they learned from a Chinese learning app.

Mandarin - Jia

This week we introduced a MovieTalk *The Right Way*. By studying the story students are practicing high frequency words and phrases such as “to play, hang out,” “can, may” (used to ask for a permission), “must, have to,” etc. During Zoom meetings, students engaged in interpreting the story, competing in the Quizlet Live game and in the Kahoot tournament. Assignments involved practicing words in Gimkit and Quizlet, answering questions in Edpuzzle, and self-recording of the story on Seesaw. More advanced learners were encouraged to narrate the video by adding voice overs.

Spanish - Linda

This week we learned about school! These Duolingo lessons were designed to enhance the students' bank on vocabulary, while focusing on simple structures, with a focus on gender of the noun and adjective agreement. While learning about subjects learned in school, and items that they could find in a school setting, students were able to properly form concise sentences, including verbs conjugations in the present tense related to activities they do at school such as *escribir, leer, comprender, and estudiar*.

Music

Chorus - Alison

Students have started work on their final composition project for the year. This week, students were asked to choose a poem—either written by the student or written by a published poet—and focus on creating a melody from the words of the poem, instead of focusing on writing lyrics. In our live classes, we listened together and discussed an example of what this might look like: a sung version of the poem “Still I Rise,” by Maya Angelou.

Woodwinds & Brass - Ben

This was our last week of formal playing assignments in the 7th grade. We will now shift focus to our video projects, which are due next Friday, May 29. The following week will be an opportunity for students to have a final meeting with their instrumental teacher and for finalizing all rental situations.

Strings - Kiwon & Luke

This week 6th grade strings met and played a note-naming game. Many students are doing prep for an at-home concert and shared the programs they created.

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