

June 5, 2020

Hello 7th Grade Families,

We made it! Please enjoy the last update of your child's 7th grade year!

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### **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 - Larry**

During this last week of school, the 7th graders finished up some of the important and extended writing work. These included their Coronavirus reflection, *The Book Thief* final activity, and a reflection on their year in English class. Their work on the first two items will be put into publications, which will be on the Calhoun website. I'll let you all know when they come out! Thanks for your children for these past ten months!

### **Health - Justin**

In our last health class of the year, the students completed a questionnaire and reflection on the major topics discussed this year. I want to take a moment to also celebrate their efforts and shout out all of the hard work that was submitted. I wish everyone a restful and positive summer vacation.

### **Math - Monique**

One of the most important things we can take the time to do is reflect. As we wrapped up our conversation about linear functions, students were able to spend time reflecting on their math experience with distance learning this trimester.

### **Peer Leadership - Zimmer**

Wednesday was our final Peer Leadership class of the year! For our weekly check-in, students were invited to privately reflect using a visual mood grid. We also named that things are not "as usual" right now and held space for the varying impacts of the racism and courageous activism on display around us. Students reviewed and started our final journal assignment, and some are choosing to finish the video project we began last month. As I shared with them at the end of class - it's been a joy to work with this group. Thank you.

### **Physical Education - Alyssa**

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. Seventh 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. Enjoy the summer and stay active!

### **Science - Alba**

It has been a bittersweet week. This being our last one and not being able to do so many hands-on activities like we are used to doing at school has definitely been challenging. That is why seeing the 7th graders egg-drop videos come together was a very heartfelt moment for me as an educator.

## **Social Studies - Irene**

This week we learned about the Stonewall riot and studied the history of Pride month. We made the bridge between uprisings that we see happening now and the uprising in our city in 1969. We talked about civil unrest and how it can serve as a catapult for progress and change. Students were also eager to continue to discuss and process the protests against police. We learned about the history of the Black Lives Matter movement and shared their thoughts about the All Lives Matter slogan. Please continue to ask your child how their #QuarantineJournal is coming along.

## **Languages**

### **Mandarin - Jia**

In 7th grade Mandarin, we reviewed topics we have learned this year. 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**

We finished our last class of the year by taking our final Spanish test. The test was a summary of several topics learned throughout the year such as the verb *ser*, nouns, descriptive adjectives, possessive adjectives, regular *ar* conjugations, likes and dislikes, and vocabulary related to the family. The test consisted of identifying family members, describing their relationship to the student, a physical description, a personality trait, and things that this person likes. I am thankful for the hard work the students demonstrated during these past few challenging months.

## **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.

### **Strings - Luke & Kiwon**

This week we shared our final projects. To those who presented: great work! We wish all of you a wonderful summer and we can't wait to be making music together again.

### **Winds - Ben & Brian**

Thank you to all 7th 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.

## **Electives**

### **Art in the City & Sculpture & Fiber Arts- Amy**

This week art students considered how we can use art as a tool to prompt change, question the status quo, or make commentary on injustice. We looked at work created for and around Black Lives Matter as well as art by activist artists Favianna Rodriguez and Emory Douglas. While we do not have any more classes together,

students are encouraged to create their own work for social change. This could be a story, a comic, a play, a poem, a drawing or painting. Here are links to resources that can help with this process:

- [Center for Cultural Power](#) video
- Free graphics from [Just Seeds](#)
- [Black Lives Matter Coloring Book](#) and [Black Lives Matter posters](#)
- [Printmaking with Favianna Rodriguez](#) video

### **Piano - Kevin F**

In piano class we began working on the melody to “Megalovania.”

### **Playwriting - Ed**

In our final class of the trimester, students participated in an improvisational comedy workshop led by professional improv performer Nick Kanellis. The MS Playwriting Padlet will soon be updated with additional student work; when completed an email “heads-up” will be sent home to students and their families: [The MS Playwriting Class Padlet](#). I proposed an **optional** over-the-summer playwriting assignment, and will email students with details in the days ahead. I will make myself available online over the summer to review, discuss, and direct the scene work of interested students. Stay tuned!

### **Spring Scene Study - Ed**

We continue to edit student video footage. The class performance project "Quarantine Scenes" is scheduled to be released online to students, their families, and to the Calhoun community by the end of June. A link to an online Padlet was released to members of this class and to the MS community last on June 3. This online site contains a show poster, a description of our class project, and a link to a preview trailer scene from the project: [The MS Spring Scene Study Workshop Padlet](#). In our final class of the trimester, students participated in an improvisational comedy workshop led by professional improv performer and teacher Nick Kanellis.

### **Ukulele Class - Kevin F**

In ukulele class, students have been given the opportunity to revisit any of the songs we have worked on this trimester using the curated YouTube playlist sent on the chat.

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We are looking forward to a fun-filled two days of workshops next week to close out the year! Enjoy the weekend with your families and enjoy the summer!

- Alyssa