

May 22, 2020

Hello 7th Grade Families,

Please enjoy reading about what happened this week in 7th grade!

Advisory - Nayantara & Advisors

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

English - Larry

Over this past week, we've come to the concluding chapters of *The Book Thief*, which we will finish next week. At that point, students will work on the final activity, which will be their answer to the book's essential question, "Are We Worth It?" Students were asked, through a number of prompts and questions, to express their thoughts and feelings about the coronavirus experience. This time has been a monumental adjustment for everybody, and their voices will help us all to better understand the effects these months have had.

Health - Justin

This week in Health we have two different options for class. I have been gathering student feedback for weeks now, and with overall wellbeing in mind, I have created an optional live class this week. All of the students that want to join the live session on reproductive health may do just that. If for any reason a student does not want to join (and there was enough data to support this), there will be an asynchronous assignment posted on the portal. My goal is to create a space where students want to engage in such a conversation. It is not to make anyone feel more anxious in such uncertain times. Therefore, the assignment posted online will focus on emotional wellbeing. I hope that you are all safe and taking care of yourselves, we will get through this together.

Math - Monique

This week students have been able to work as a group as they typically would in school with the use of breakout rooms. I enjoyed hearing the conjectures being made by a few students about their equations from this week's problem. We discussed how to identify positive and negative slopes in a graph and an equation. We also are incorporating the y-intercept into our equations and seeing that all linear graphs don't go through the origin. Instead of $y=px$, we are looking at the variables of $y=mx+b$. With more practice, students will be able to make the connection that the variables p and m in both equations, represent the slope.

Peer Leadership - Zimmer

We continued planning our video challenge in PELE this week. In the last few minutes of class we opened up the room to discuss how we're feeling about the end of the school year. Hard to believe we only have a few weeks left!

Physical Education - Alyssa

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. 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.

Science - Alba

This week we began brainstorming ideas for our individual Egg Drop devices. The class met in small groups during our Tuesday meeting for a peer review of three rough drafts. On Wednesday, we went over Tinkercad and its uses to create the blueprint for the device we chose to build. This blueprint will be uploaded onto a shared folder. Friday we dedicated our class going over the height for our drop once the design has been built, and began discussing the possibility of running some tests before the final drop. The Calhoun Egg Drop is a tradition that will continue even while we are apart. Stay tuned for more info!

Social Studies - Irene

This week we studied Article V of the Constitution. We learned about the amendment process and why it is so difficult to change the Constitution. We also took a deep dive into learning about our nation's first president, George Washington, and the precedents that he set that endure today. We even took a virtual tour of Mount Vernon! We continued our current events conversation, and students shared their concerns about Covid-19, Donald Trump and the state of bees. Students had many feelings to share and process. Please continue to ask your child how their #QuarantineJournal is coming along.

Languages

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 took a virtual trip to Latin America to go in search of some of the biggest open markets around the world. From *Mercado Central* in Chile which is the biggest supplier of seafood around the world, to visiting *El Mercado de Guadalupe* in San Jose, Costa Rica, where “everything you can think of” is sold, students learned about these markets which are integral parts of Latin society and great resources of tourism and commerce. We focused on learning topics related to food, currency, bargaining, items of clothing, and how to use interrogative words to ask, search, and buy items sold at the markets. Listening and comprehension exercises were used at the end of the activity to assess the students' comprehension of the video.

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.

Strings - Luke & Kiwon

The 7th grade strings students are working on their final project that will be due June 1. Proposals were due this week and they are individually working on their projects. We are looking forward to all their creative ideas!

Winds - Ben & Brian

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.

Electives

Art in the City & Sculpture - Amy

This week students in 7th and 8th grade art classes continued to explore the work of Yayoi Kusama. Students used class time to work on creating a still life drawing/painting or create an Infinity Room diorama. We met in Zoom for class and had a virtual studio session. Many students have already shared their work and it's looking great!

Fiber Arts - Amy

This week Fiber Arts students looked at the work of Emil Lukas. He creates "paintings" by layering thread over canvas. Students are now creating a work of art using thread, yarn, string, twine or anything similar to create a drawing, sculpture or painting of their own. This work can be 2- or 3-dimensional. I'm looking forward to seeing what they all come up with!

Piano - Kevin F

In piano class we added the D chord to our collection. Students are to work on moving between the chords learned thus far (C,F,G,Am, and D7) in hopes to play Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours."

Playwriting - Ed

Students continue to cast and read aloud their original scene work in class for group feedback. Students are working independently on their latest writing exercise, the "Buster McGill" assignment. The [MS Playwriting Padlet](#) is available to the Calhoun community for viewing past and developing student work. Students have the option of participating in an online improvisational acting workshop led by professional improv performer and teacher Nick Kanellis (Tuesdays & Thursdays, at 1:40pm).

Spring Scene Study - Ed

Students began recording their scenes and monologues in online sessions throughout the past week, their scene partners and the director via Zoom and Screencastify. Students have an assignment: to record their scenes and monologues independently at home and to email their footage to the director. We will begin editing footage together in the week ahead. Students have the option of participating in an online improvisational comedy workshop led by professional improv performer and teacher Nick Kanellis (Tuesdays & Thursdays, at 1:40pm).

Ukulele Class - Kevin F

In ukulele class, students have continued working on our rendition of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

Enjoy the long weekend of nice weather, sunshine and family!

- Alyssa