

May 29, 2020

Hello 7th Grade Families,

We are in the homestretch! Please enjoy reading about what happened this week in 7th grade!

Advisory - Nayantara & Advisors

This week Middle Schoolers participated in a Spirit Week assembly run by our school-wide Spirit Planning Committee. We were treated to a visit from some Upper School student-athletes and we shared what we love about Calhoun. Thank you to our dedicated planners and to everyone who participated in the many events that were offered this week.

English - Larry

We completed *The Book Thief* this week, and students are now going to work on the final activity, which asks the essential question of the book, "Are we worth it?" They've also been writing their reflections about this time of the Coronavirus, which have been fascinating to read. We can always learn from the kids. They will do a reflection on their year in 7th grade English next week.

Health - Justin

This week we are focusing on our well-being. This assignment will be similar to the asynchronous one from last week, because many students showed up for our live class. Emotional well-being is the focal point, with some emphasis on the power of positive emotions and optimism.

Math - Monique

This week the students watched a few tutorials on linear functions. To begin wrapping up our unit, we played a Kahoot game. The students were very enthusiastic about the game and at the same time were able to see where they had some gaps in their understanding of graphs, tables and equations of a linear function.

Peer Leadership - Zimmer

We continued our check-ins this week. We started within, identifying where we landed on a "mood meter," and then broke into small groups to reflect and share in response to two prompts. We ended class with a review of our video collaboration, which we hope to have time to finish before the year runs out! Fingers crossed.

Physical Education - Alyssa

We are continuing with our daily physical activities. On Monday, students received a new list of five different workouts, ranging from 90s dance party workout to a legs and cardio workout, as well as workouts for volleyball and basketball players. 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 students focused on building the egg-drop device of their choice. By now, most of the 3-D designs are up and some videos have been uploaded. I love what our kids are doing with this project; they are finding ways to figure things out and involving family members in the construction process and the actual drop. It is gratifying hearing in the background siblings, parents and caregivers giving "thumbs up" when taking the egg out of the contraption.

Social Studies - Irene

This week we learned about Thomas Jefferson, the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition. We read primary and secondary sources about this period, including a letter from Jefferson to Lewis, diary entries of Lewis and Clark, and an 1804 speech from Lewis to the Otoe people. We considered questions like: How has the history of Lewis and Clark been told? What was the relationship like between Sacagawea's family and Lewis and Clark, and how do we define respect? We also dedicated class time to discussing the tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis. Students shared their questions, thoughts and feelings in discussions on Zoom and in written form. Students had many feelings to share and process about it all. Please continue to ask your child how their #QuarantineJournal is coming along.

Languages

Mandarin - Jia

In Mandarin, we are currently learning some basic phone language, how to invite someone to an activity, and how to accept and use three different ways to decline an invitation. By studying a conversation, students are practicing high frequency words and phrases such as "to invite," "how about it," "have free time," "busy," etc. In Wednesday's Zoom meeting, students engaged in interpreting the conversation and acting out the activity words. Assignments involved practicing words in Quizlet and reading the conversation.

Spanish - Linda

This week in Spanish we focused on learning numbers from 100 and higher while practicing vocabulary related to math such as the name of the mathematical symbols addition and subtraction. The use of interrogative questions such as *cuantos* and *cuantas* served to differentiate quantities while paying close attention to their specific use as it pertains to the gender of nouns. Students were asked to verbally solve simple mathematical operations that focused on correct pronunciation and sequence of numbers while discussing the costs of certain clothing items. This helped to connect this topic to our Outdoor Markets lesson from last week. As a cultural piece, we briefly discussed the metric system which is universally used in the Spanish speaking world.

Music

Chorus - Alison

Students finished up their final composition project for the year, using a poem as the basis for their lyrics. In our live classes, we listened together and discussed a few different musical examples of the poem "[i carry your heart with me (i carry it in]" by e e cummings. Students explored how speaking a poem out loud might help them create a melody, and they discussed how different melodies or instrumental parts can make the poems feel or sound completely different.

Strings - Luke & Kiwon

Strings musicians are finishing up their independent projects, due Monday. We will share in class on Tuesday.

Winds - Ben & Brian

This week our 7th graders worked to put the finishing touches on their video projects! Next week, students will continue working with teachers on instrumental technique as we wrap up the year. All students are encouraged to keep instruments over the summer, but there is also information available about returning them for those who choose to do so.

Electives

Art in the City & Sculpture - Amy

This week students looked at a few different emotional works of art and considered how artists convey feeling through, color, line and composition. They spent time outside of class looking at and responding to the painting [Separation](#) by Edvard Munch. Students wrote about a time when they may have felt the same way as the man in the painting and about how they dealt with those feelings. Next, they will be creating a work of art around the themes “loss and separation” or “joy and connection.”

Fiber Arts - Amy

Fiber Arts did not meet this week due to Memorial Day. Students should be continuing their work using thread, yarn, string, twine or anything similar to create a drawing, sculpture or painting of their own. This work can be two- or three-dimensional. I’m looking forward to seeing what they all come up with!

Piano - Kevin F

Students are continuing their work on Vance Joy’s “Riptide.”

Playwriting - Ed

We missed our usual Monday class due to the holiday weekend, but students are working independently on completing their latest writing exercise, the "Buster McGill" assignment. We will review this work in next Monday's class. The MS Playwriting Padlet is available to the Calhoun community for viewing past and developing student work: [The MS Playwriting Class Padlet](#). 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 continue to independently record and submit additional footage of their scenes. We have begun editing footage together and hope to be releasing previews of select scenes in the week ahead, in advance of the completed video project. 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 weekend with your families!

- Alyssa