

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

We return! I'd like to extend a hearty "Welcome Back!" to our students and staff after a restful Spring Recess. It's very surprising to think that our 3rd Marking Period is quickly coming to a close. This school year is seemingly disappearing before our very eyes.

A common theme of my introductory messages has been reflecting on a sense of "normalcy". I am happy to say through the tireless efforts of our Center School staff, we are beginning to return to some familiar extracurricular programming. In the next few weeks, we have a few Explorers Club events, a "Bike and Hike" activity, as well as a trip to Iron Peak Sport and Events Center in Hillsborough planned. You may read about these events and more throughout the PNL this week!

-Mr. Erhardt

PTO

There will be a PTO meeting on **Wednesday, April 14th at 7 PM**. Please note the later meeting time. We are looking to see if this will be more convenient for more families to attend. Some items on the agenda this month are upcoming events such as our Walk-a-Thon and Teacher Appreciation Week, as well as another book fair! Please contact Marcia Lees to RSVP and receive the Google Meet link.

mlees@center.school

Upcoming Parent Therapeutic Meetings

A reminder that our next Parent Therapeutic Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 15th at 7 PM**. Led by Dwayne Lumbsden, the topic will focus on the LGBTQ population.

In addition, following this meeting our next Parent Therapeutic Meeting will take place on **Thursday, April 22nd at 7 PM**. Also led by Dwayne Lumbsden, the topic for this meeting will focus on Social Media.

If you'd like to register for either meeting, please email Dwayne Lumbsden, dlumbsden@center.school, Kristen Cantillon kcantillon@center.school, or call **908-253-3870** ext. 325 or 326.



SAVE THE DATE!



LEARN ABOUT TRANSITION SERVICES

TUESDAY, 7:00PM

APRIL 13TH

ZOOM MEETING

LEARN MORE ABOUT...

- TRIAL WORK EXPERIENCES
- JOB SOURCING
- JOB COACHING
- AND MORE!

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FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

Elementary School

Elementary School students put their Disney knowledge to the test during our “Disney Pictionary” and “Guess the Disney Song” games! In Social Studies, students continue to work on their state projects. After completing their graphic organizers, students are using a rubric to guide the creation of their 3-D “New Jersey Float”.

In Mrs. Sheeley’s class, students learned about the characteristics of an Expository text and some of the text features found within an Informational text. Students read about the forces of magnets and how we use them this week in “Magnets Work!” Text-to-self connections about magnets were *strong* this week and our students could name many ways in which magnets are used.

In Ms. Ruskuski’s class, students used “Blooket” (a quiz-based game) to review different math skills. Students also enjoy listening to the book “the Crayon Man” by Natascha Biewbow. This book talks about the true story of Edwin Binney, the inventor of Crayola Crayons. Then students talked about how Edwin showed growth mindset and words to describe him. Students used words such as *imaginative*, *creative*, and *determined*.



Middle School

Mrs. Burak's Language Arts class eased back into academics after the spring break. Creative and thought-provoking prompts were posted all week. One example was: "If you could try a new experience what would it be?" Some of the responses included learning programming, learning how everything in the world works, going to Ireland, and skydiving. An idea for the skydiving adventure was using a camera to document the sights and experiences.

Another prompt was "You must help me buy either a game system, PC, or an animal...which one and why?" It turns out Mrs. Burak needs to get a cat, a dog, and a TV! The reasons given encouraged her to make these purchases. It was interesting to see the responses and reasons why these prompts were answered the way they were.

In Mrs. Akushie's Science class, students are learning about the characteristics of animals such as their Kingdoms, survival skills, and habitats. Discussions ensued on how animals survive and a graphic organizer was used to distinguish the differences between animals that are carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores.



Mr. Duffy's Math students finished their unit on percentages. Students learned about the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percentages. Our mathematicians learned how to model percentages, and how to calculate a missing part, missing whole, or missing percentage using proportions. They also practiced using this knowledge to solve real-world problems, such as calculating how much an item cost if a person paid a certain amount of money for it with a 7% sales tax.

Ms. Small's Science class began their unit on Environmental Awareness this week. Students read and discussed an article on conservationism. Additionally,

students identified ways in which they currently engage in sustainability, and what they can do to help the environment going forward.

Some examples of ideas from students were turning off the lights when they are not being used, taking shorter showers, carpooling, walking/biking/scootering instead of driving when safe, picking up garbage, and planting trees. At the end of the week, students enjoyed a viewing of two episodes of the nature documentary *Our Planet*. Students will begin their Environmental Awareness project next week.



High School

This week the students in Language Arts Literacy 11 continued to make great strides to meet and surpass their writing goals. The class focused on how to appropriately share an opinion in written form. The students used “DOGO News” to locate an article they found interesting and used the provided outline or thinking map to guide and organize their thoughts. An additional focus of the assignment was for the class to refine their writing as well as remaining aware of national and global issues. The lesson concluded by each student reading their article summary out loud, thus each student learning about several current events around the world.



Ms. Gibson’s Environmental Science classes are continuing their work learning about the different ocean zones. This week they explored the Sunlight Zone, Twilight Zone, Midnight Zone, and the Abyss. Students were fascinated to discover how water pressure changes the deeper you go into the ocean. In class, students watched a variety of documentary clips that provide a real-life glimpse into this fascinating environment. The classes then compared the different animal adaptations that are needed to allow life in these extreme depths.

Ms. Gonzalez’s English 1 classes had the goal to study the literary element of “theme” and to read the science fiction short story Of Missing Persons by Jack Finney in “Unit 2 - The Unknown” of our Globe Literature textbook. The lesson focused on understanding how to relate an author’s purpose to theme and recognize different methods for developing theme. Activities to prepare for the short story included a study of the author’s biography, vocabulary, and a pre-reading writing assignment. Also, Simon and Garfunkel’s “The Sound of Silence” was played to reflect on the lyrics that touch on the loneliness and anonymity in modern life, which is one of the themes in Finney’s short story Of Missing Persons. During the reading, an analysis of the short story was conducted where examples of “theme” and “the unknown” were identified.

Ms. Gonzalez’s Spanish 1 class worked to identify, pronounce, read, and write the subject pronouns and words to express actions using the present tense of “-ar” verbs in Spanish. In Spanish 2 class, the goal was to identify, pronounce, read, and write the words to express actions using the present tense of “-ir” verbs in Spanish. The unit concluded with the reading of a cultural article on the different styles and musical traditions of the Spanish speaking countries.

Mrs. D’Alessandro’s period 3 Algebra class certainly puts the ‘FUN’ in FUNctions!! This week, through investigating a problem situation, they have learned about relations and functions, can distinguish between them, and identify domain and range. Their interest, enthusiasm and participation has created a lively and productive learning environment!

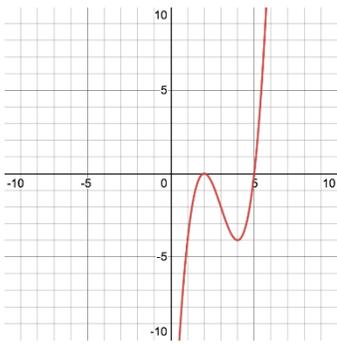
Function Notation

$$f(x) = 2x$$

f is the name of the function

This tells you that x is the input

Tells you what the function does (this function multiplies the input values by 2)



Students in her period 7 Algebra 2 class continue their study of exponential functions. Here is one student's work on a city's population decline using *Desmos*. Students are noting the key features of their graphs and comparing them to other functions explored earlier in the year.

Mr. Cardona's Geometry class is looking to continue their adventure in *Classcraft* by mastering the art of transformations of geometric figures.

Using the Cartesian Plane, students were able to create and manipulate figures using specific, rigid transformations of translations and reflections. With these newfound abilities, our heroes look to take on the challenge of their next quest head on.



Mrs. Eachus' classes worked with "Quick-Writes" this week completing #4 and #5 from the list in Google Classroom. Additionally, they practiced specific skills from the IXL Action Plan to support reading and writing. Literary Techniques, such as essays and themes, were reviewed with the completion of text authored by Thoreau and Emerson. Learning about eponymous words was featured in one of the classes. At this time, all classes are preparing to read new novels beginning next week. This includes a variety of pre-reading tasks, vocabulary, and connections to History. Each class will read an age/grade appropriate novel from our Language Arts Literacy Curriculum: House on Mango Street, Journey to Topaz and 1984.

US History 1 studied persons of interest, battles, military strategies, and leadership styles from the Civil War. Students will present their Civil War projects on Monday and collaborate for an assessment on Tuesday. From there, we move on to 'Reconstruction'.

Dr. R's MathLab class has been exploring the connections between multiplication and division as well as the meaning of the phrases "how much more" and "how much less". Dr. R's Algebra 2 class has been learning algebra 2 as an experimental science by using the Desmos graphing calculator (see figure below) to explore the graphs of polynomials. Dr. R's Algebra 1 classes have been exploring the graphs of linear equations and the properties of real numbers. One Algebra 1 class has been using breathing exercises to calm them when they get anxious about classwork.

Home Economics students continued working with money this week, concentrating on Budgets. They learned what a budget is and why it is important to keep and stay within a budget. Several videos helped learning about budgets, such as the "It's a Money Thing" video series and Cyberchase's "Balancing Act". Students discussed sources of income and expenses we might have, and identified budget categories and items that belong in each category, followed by a sample budget and a sorting activity.

Transition

Transition students continue to visit job sites with Bridges to Employment. This week students visited ShopRite in Bridgewater. At ShopRite, students spoke with different employees and toured each department of the store. Students toured the different departments of ShopRite and spoke about potential areas of employment. The students enjoyed the tour and really loved being around all that food! Our store, Thrifts and Gifts, continues to be an on-site work environment for our students. Transition students are

learning about proper customer service, different pieces of inventory and how to answer questions relating to products in the store. As the weather warms up, Thrifts and Gifts will begin to see more and more customers.

Money Management and Consumer Math students continued working on breaking down, understanding and paying bills. Students worked on everything from a Veterinarian bill to ordering food from a delivery service. Students continue to build their knowledge of bills, expenses, and all the financial responsibilities that they may see in their future. Our students have done excellent this week!

Music

A big shout out goes to Mr. Dulak, our woodshop teacher for collaborating with the music department's practicing conducting skills for the Elementary Students, Mr. Dulak made batons for each student they could practice how to be a conductor. We had a lot of fun learning about the time signatures, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time. Each time signature has its own unique style of conducting.

Middle School students worked on drumming skills, and also had fun playing word association games to name songs or lyrics of songs with that particular word in it. Students capped off the week playing online musical games with Inside the Orchestra and Chrome Music Lab. Students were able to create their own musical pieces and then experimented with Spectrogram which gives a visual representation of sound.

High School students continue work on their instruments and took a trip back in time to the Medieval Period of music. Music during this time was either secular or sacred. Instruments during this time period included bagpipes, recorders, vielles, shawms, psalteries and last but not least... the Hurdy Gurdy! What a name! The Glee Club met on Thursday and had fun singing songs together.

Health/Phys. Ed.

This week in Physical Education: After a much-needed week off, the High Schoolers jumped right back into their weight lifting unit. Utilizing their weight training logs the students were able to track their progress and see how much they have improved, even after the week off. Elementary students learned the importance of exercise and how all the systems work together while working out.

In Health, Middle Schoolers started learning about the different systems in the body, including skeletal, endocrine and more. Did you know a baby has more bones in their body than a fully grown adult?

Industrial Arts

Welcome back to Industrial Arts!!! After a restful Spring Break, the students were eager to jump back into their projects. We are deep into the assembly phase, with multiple students adding finishing stains to their projects! In addition to the hands-on work, we have been discussing common materials that can be found in a professional woodshop, and have been practicing finding the volume of lumber by measuring and multiplying the three dimensions: Thickness, Width and Length.



Art



This week in Art, Elementary students started priming/painting their wooden boxes made in Woodshop with Mr. Dulak. The Middle School worked on large, colorful, cut out letter initials. High School students -most of whom work remotely- worked on a variety of Easter related projects or individual assignments.



Literacy Support

College Prep Language Arts Literacy students continues work with Independent Reading and writing a summary. Word Study is progressing, and the aim is to complete the Sadlier text by year's end.

Next week, the Short Stories unit begins, using the text Characters in Conflict. The first entry is "The Birds" by Daphne du Maurier. Yes, you read it here first! The classic film, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, originated with du Maurier. An Introduction to Film Study will highlight Marking Period 4 as students compare and contrast classic literature with some of the award-winning classic films!

Speech

All the students in the Speech and Language Program appeared rested and happy to rejoin their peers in school. Students have been reading a host of different passages and stories across all the grade levels. In Elementary, one student began reading Dinosaurs Before Dark by Mary Pope Osborne, taking a journey into prehistoric times, while another student in the High School was overwhelmed and surprised by the twists and turns in the book, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon.

A Middle School student began examining two articles, “Confetti Girl” and “Tortilla Sun” that expressed tensions between the main characters -teenagers- that differed from their parents. All the students are learning how to identify important information in their reading selections and are asked to provide textual evidence to support their positions. A few of the students are reading Social Inference Stories and are learning how to interpret body language, explain a variety of idioms used, and provide solutions to the problems in the story.

OT

Students continued to engage in a Spring-themed Sensory Diet this week. They completed an interactive Memory Match Game paired with Yoga poses and also completed an “Egg Matrix” where they had to place pictures on a grid based on multiple characteristics of the egg to work on their visual discrimination, and other perceptual processing skills. Students also continued their work with *The Zones of Regulation* Curriculum. Each student was given over 30

different self-regulation strategies and they began to sort them into 3 categories: “Helps Me a Lot”, “Helps Me a Little” or “Doesn’t Help Me at All”. Everyone did a great job thinking about how each strategy was helpful or not helpful to them and this led to some great conversations about self-regulation!



Therapeutic Dept.

High School students focused on communication. Many students admitted that they have a hard time telling others how they feel. The students believe that by revealing their true feelings, they will be seen as rude, disrespectful, or not caring. We discussed that communicating how you feel lets someone know what’s going on and allows for more of an understanding of one’s behavior and/or feelings at that moment. Not saying how you feel only creates misunderstandings and leads to assumptions about them.

Students had a better understanding of why it is better to communicate their feelings and how this can improve relationships with peers but more importantly, prepare them for real life situations once they graduate and interact with others in the real world.

School News

Pretzel Fundraiser

It is a pleasure to report that the Student Council’s Philly Pretzel Fundraiser during the month of March was able to raise \$420.00! Great work from each of the members of the Student Council that participated in the fundraiser and thank you to everyone who purchased pretzels.

Field Trip Information

All High School students will have the opportunity to attend an upcoming field trip to Iron Peak Sports and Events in Hillsborough, NJ. Students will be able to participate in the following events at this brand-new facility: ninja ropes courses, rock climbing, sports/games, and playing in the arcade. All those interested in attending should return the permission form to Mr. Miller by next Tuesday, April 13th.

Fallout RPG

Welcome back, Vault Dwellers! This is Mr. Dulak, here with a special announcement. After a brief hiatus, we are pleased to announce that the Fallout RPG Club will be continuing with myself as the advisor for the remainder of the 2021 school year! The students gathered for a brief 20 minute meeting this week, and are excited to return to the Post-Apocalyptic Wasteland! We will be having our first official session this Tuesday, April 13th from 4:00-5:30 pm on Google Meet. Let the games begin!!!



We are still collecting...

Soles4Souls
Shoe Drive by TCS Student Council



SOLES 4 SOULS

**ACCEPTING ALL SHOE SIZES!
NEW OR GENTLY USED!**

**COLLECTIONS WILL BEGIN MARCH
8TH AND END APRIL 30TH**

Donations will be distributed
to those in need, both locally
and globally.

Important Dates:

Tue. April 13th	Transition Services Information Session 7 PM
Thu. April 15th	Parent Therapeutic Meeting 7 PM
Fri. April 16th	Third Marking Period Ends
Mon. April 19th	Fourth Marking Period Begins
Thu. April 22nd	Parent Therapeutic Meeting 7PM
Fri, April 23rd	High School Trip- Iron Peak
Thu. April 29th	Career Day- High School

Sincerely,

Daniel Erhardt

Daniel Erhardt
Principal