

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians: (Week 8 of remote learning)

Students, please watch week 8 video message found on the school website, (“home instruction” page.)

So, students throughout New Jersey have completed 8 weeks of remote learning as of Friday May 15th. As we near the end of May and look at the final month of this academic school year, we realize that our students will be ending this 2019-2020 school year in a very different fashion than ever before. We are feverishly altering end of year activities and plans to meet this new environment to try to give our students as much support as possible.

We had a successful “Rewards Day” last week and plan on another for students to socialize with their peers and have some fun. We have started up several after school “virtual clubs” for some students to enjoy. We are holding another Parent/Guardian Therapeutic Support Meeting this coming Tuesday (May 19th, 3pm) to assist families. We are finalizing plans for virtual graduations to be held in June. Finally, we are looking to initiate other end of year activities which may be possible to conduct “virtually” while gatherings are still prohibited.

The staff at our school have been fantastic at improvising and researching ways to connect virtually with students in this new format of schooling. As much as we yearn to get back to daily “brick and mortar” schooling, we are building our teaching and instructional toolbox with many new tools to prepare ourselves to survive online schooling.



FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

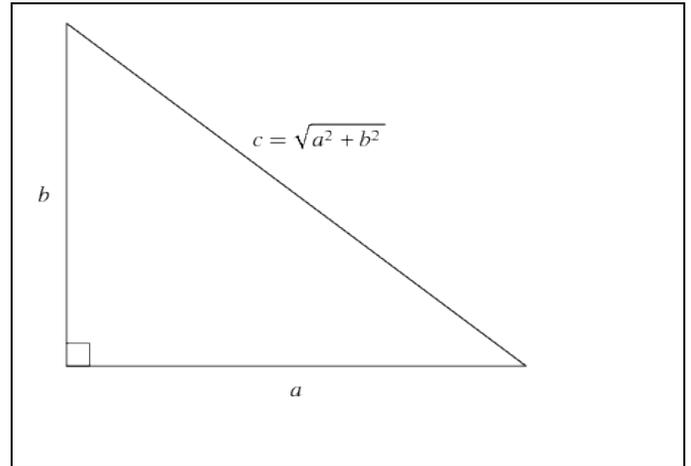
Ms. Gibson’s Environmental Science class ended the week with a friendly trivia match! Students tested their knowledge of habitats and ecosystems, battling for first place and laughing along the way!

Mr. Leichtling’s Language Arts classes concluded their journey with the conspirators Brutus and Cassius at the climactic Battle of Philippi, as depicted in William Shakespeare’s “The Tragedy of Julius Caesar.” Students completed their tracing of major themes through the play, answering comprehension questions, and comparing the script versus a theatrical undertaking. While war may be hell, Shakespeare’s telling certainly is not.



Middle School

Mrs. Burak's Math class started a unit on the Pythagorean Theorem this week. They began the unit by watching and reading articles about the history of the theorem. They also watched multiple videos explaining the mathematical application. Students were required to create an informative PowerPoint given specific requirements and a rubric to follow. They began solving for the hypotenuse using the formula. As one part of the lesson, students watched a video and read several articles about the real-life application of the theorem. They were required to complete a Google Doc explaining which use was most surprising to them and which use is the most relevant in their opinion. Students were also surprised at the many everyday careers relevant to the theorem. Next week, they will continue solving for sides A and B using the formula.



In Ms. Akushie's Social Studies class students are learning about how the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expeditions affected the expansion of the United States. Students used online sources and their text to create a google slide that highlighted important factors during that time period. The project gave them the opportunity to expand on their prior knowledge about the topic and share information with their peers. Next week students will present their projects using Google Meets.



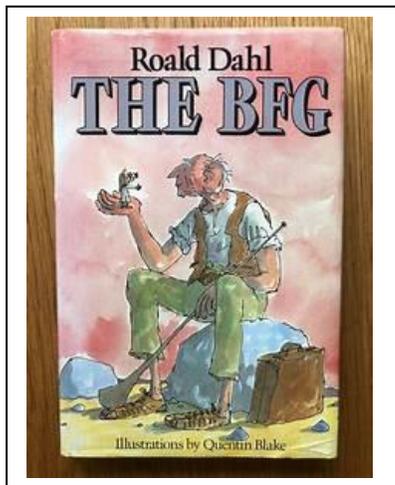
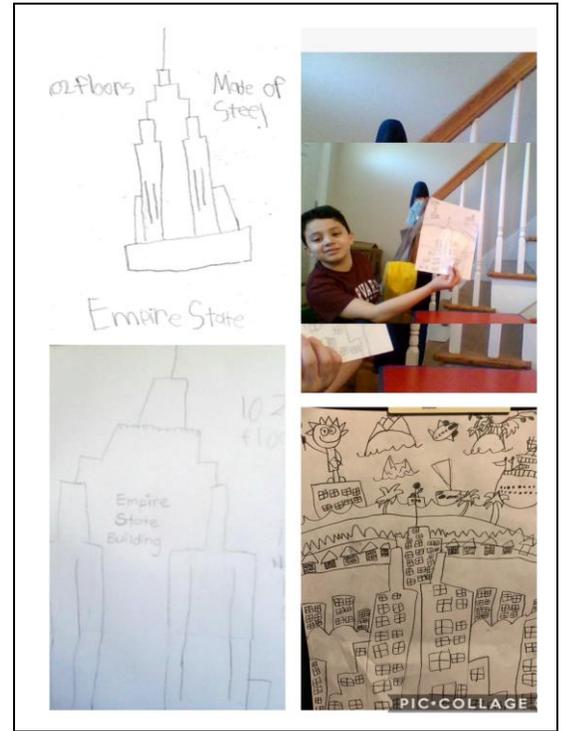
Ms. Small's Science class started a unit on cell division. Students learned that different cells take different amounts of time to grow and reproduce. For example, frog egg cells divide every 30 minutes, while the human liver cell takes over a year to grow and reproduce. Students also read, discussed, and answered questions regarding the functions of cell division (growth, repair, and reproduction). On Friday, they learned about the first main stage of the cell cycle: interphase. Learning about the cell cycle will continue next week.

Ms. Harrison's Science class began studying fossil fuels. The class discussion in Google Meet led to current events regarding the use of gasoline. Students have observed the drop in gas prices. This led to understanding the concept of supply and demand. They understood that there are fewer people driving, as many are working from home. It was wonderful to see and hear that students made this connection from science class to real world examples. The class will continue this unit next week.



Elementary School

Students in Mrs. Sheeley's class began a novel study of "Flat Stanley" by Jeff Brown this week. One day a bulletin board falls on Stanley Lambchop and he wakes up flat. He has some amazing adventures while he is flat. Students used context clues to figure out vocabulary words like gloomy and valuable. Students were also able to find text evidence that showed that Stanley's brother Arthur was feeling jealous. In Social Studies, we visited the Empire State Building and learned that it was built in 405 days. Did you know that from the top of the Empire State Building on a clear day you can see six different states: Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, New Jersey, and Connecticut. We also took a virtual field trip to Disney's Animal Kingdom and rode on Kilimanjaro Safaris and journeyed through Africa's amazing wildlife.



MS. Bailey's students worked on character development in Language Arts. They brought favorite stuffed animals to life by giving them complete personalities, backgrounds and vital statistics. There were some very interesting characters. They also began working on a new character who will serve as a protagonist in a story they will be writing. In Reading, students began discussing "The BFG" by Roald Dahl and imagining what some of the made-up words might mean. In Social Studies they finished field trips of National landmarks located in the western half of the United States. They saw the Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Pearl Harbor, Redwood Forest, Ghost towns from gold mining days, Pueblos, The Alamo, and many others. Students also finished their unit on operations with fractions. It was a fun and busy week! Great job class!!!

In Mr. Everett's class this week, students began reading "Charlotte's Web" for guided reading and learned about the author E.B. White.

Reading/Literacy Support

Science Fiction stories are a hit with some of the students who enjoy having a 'twist' at the end. Increased interest in the material contributes to better accuracy and fluency. Students have been able to demonstrate their literal and inferential comprehension, vocabulary and identification of the literary elements. Other students are selecting to research their favorite authors. They are able to choose the project to exhibit their research skills (3 sources) and write a biographical essay or conduct a 'mock interview' by presenting at least 8 questions and then answering them. Finally, Elementary students are continuing to expand their identification of high frequency words, spelling and decoding of short and long vowel patterns, and listening comprehension. Students are learning the meaning of idioms that are found in their stories and agree that some expressions are just funny!

Phys. Ed.

High School students started learning about fitness trends from the 1990's starting off by doing 3 different Tae Bo workouts. Tae Bo is a workout that combines martial arts and HIIT to get the body working and the blood pumping. Not wanting to be left out, the Elementary followed the High School's lead and performed their own Tae Bo for kid work out.

Middle School Phys Ed students were introduced to the high intense workout of Tobata where students engage in 20 seconds of workout with 10 seconds of rest. It was challenging but students rose to the occasion! Great work this week!

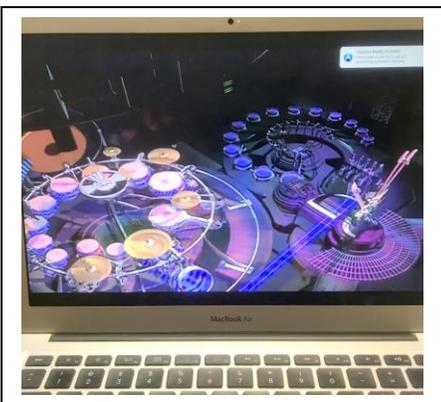
Art

This week in Art class (5/11-5/15/20) Elementary students began work on a series of integrated line projects. Middle School students began work on Aboriginal animal drawings. The High School students continued earlier work on finely integrated line drawings or a project of their choice.

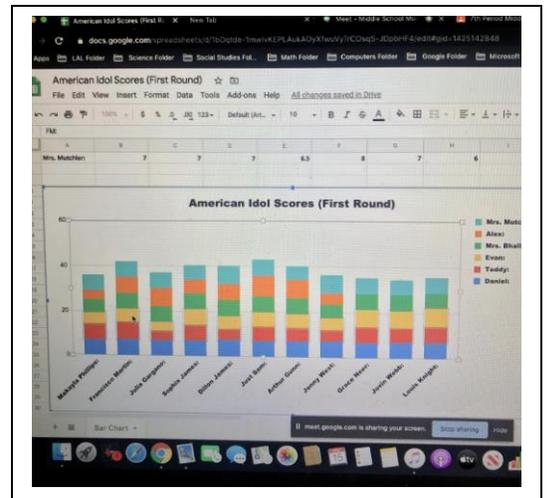


Music

In music class this week Elementary students got out of their seats and danced to Freeze Dance. Then we got out our drum pads and practiced 4 bar drumming and then each student performed a 4-bar pattern for the class to echo. We ended with drumming to “We Will Rock You”.



“This Is American Idol” Middle School students listened to excerpts of American Idol contestants and then we graphed our scores to see how we compare with the voting.



Our High School students reviewed the Elements of Music which included Pitch, Rhythm, and Melody. We then watched an Animusic video and answered guided questions about the video.

Woodshop

Woodshop has become so enriching and exciting! Some students have had new kits delivered to them. They vary between aircraft carriers, country cottages, 3D motorcycles, remote control stem cars, carousels, and Lego ice cream trucks. All students have been excited to see what will arrive next and how they will assist each other during class.



OT

This week in Occupational Therapy students participated in a variety of fun and functional activities such as Grid Design Copying, folding shirts, identifying emotions, PlayDoh activities, movement-based activities, and many more!

The OT staff also enjoyed working with the Life Skills classes on learning how to perform the functional task of writing a check!

Bistro

Bistro students analyzed numerous pieces of kitchen equipment for identification, safe use, and clean up. Students studied various recipes as they are gearing up for cooking from their homes next week. In addition to cooking, students will have to use their time wisely, have an appropriately set table, and clean up. Lastly, table manners regarding the appropriate way to eat (or not eat) food that is disliked was demonstrated and discussed.



Career and Financial Planning / Career Exploration

Career Exploration and Career and Financial Planning classes are walking through what it is like to have their first days and weeks at a new job. Students learned about meeting new co-workers and how to tackle the thoughts of being nervous. Emotional intelligence was analyzed. In addition, students are learning about the importance of having and referring to a company's employee handbook.

Career Exploration

In Career Exploration, we explored different careers by watching and discussing a Curious Kids video about a variety of jobs that people have. Some of them were Lego sculpture artist, cowboy, a gluten/dairy free caterer, marine biologist, cotillion dance instructor, veterinarian, and mosquito biologist. We also learned all about different kinds of engineers by watching and discussion a Crash Course Kids video, "What's and Engineer". In addition to doing some math word problems dealing with money, the students also completed an online o*net interest profiler. If you would like to take your own interest profiler, use this link <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>

Life Skills

In Life Skills, we continued working with money, starting with a virtual trip to The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, also known as the "Money Factory". We read "Alexander Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday" and learned how easy it is to spend your money.

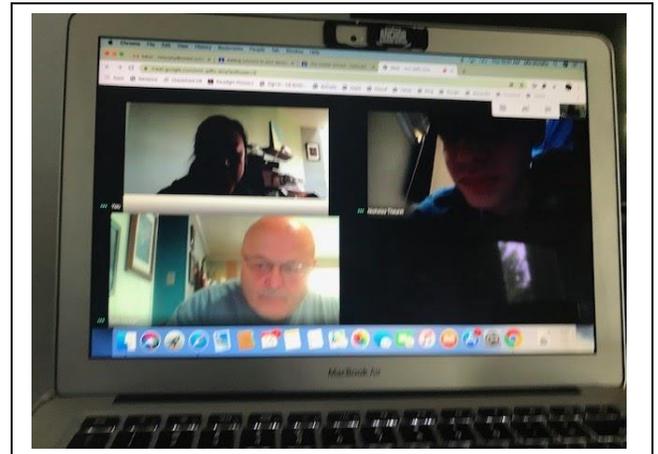
Therapeutic Dept.

This week, High School students discussed their daily lives during the quarantine. Some students talked about different projects they are doing around the house. Some students talked about how they are thankful that the weather is getting nicer so that they can go outside more often. Some students are content with continuing to play video games all day. All students were encouraged to go on walks with their families, take their pets for walks, and get some fresh air. Students were also shown trailers for a few different movies that we will be implementing into the groups during the next several weeks. As always, our weekly groups are a great way for students to socialize with their peers, talk about what is bothering them, and be able to share what is on their mind.

Mrs. Gorski's Middle School Groups discussed the "May Mindfulness" presentation that she had posted for students to review when feeling stressed. The purpose of this presentation was for them to learn some additional strategies to have in their toolbox when coping with anxiety and stress. They reviewed a few of the slides from the presentation together and discussed how this may or may not work for them and why. Peer Mentors reviewed clips from a movie that they all chose in last week's session "Forrest Gump". Students were asked to watch the movie and present a five-minute clip of their favorite part of the movie to the group. This was followed by a discussion about the clip that they chose and why they chose it.

Transition

This week, students began exploring G-suites; starting with putting together and presenting their own presentation using Slides. Also, Counselor Mr. Savage popped in for a visit.



School News

Clubs & Activities

Student Virtual Bingo

Elementary School Bingo Night is May 18th 5-6pm. Please RSVP to Ms. Gibson (cgibson@center.school) no later than May 17th.

Trivia Night

All School Trivia Night will be held on May 29th.

HS Explorers

On June 6th from 1pm - 2pm, the High School Explorers will be participating in a Scavenger hunt. For more information please contact Ms. Gibson cgibson@center.school.

Pride Club

Relaunched this week with a record high meeting turnout for this year. Students shared their thoughts and experiences in the LGBTQ+ community and worked to build the club into a support system they would want to see and be part of. New students are always welcome to join! We meet on Wednesday afternoons from 3-4pm. Students can access the club through Google Calendar.

Dungeons & Dragons Club

The Dungeons & Dragons Club resumed this past week. Students met for a Session Zero, wherein they scheduled out which meeting day, between Tuesdays and Thursdays, worked best for them and had the opportunity to give their thoughts and interests in how a role-playing game should proceed. Members worked constructively to build a game world they would enjoy. Members were given a sampling of the fantasy world their characters would inhabit: an island country called "Brandisi", a place modeled after 18th century England and Scotland, with temperate weather, rolling hills, and a pre-industrial society.

High School Spanish Culture Club

The Afterschool High School Spanish Culture Club joined a Google Meet on Tuesday, May 12 from 3:00-4:00pm. We participated in fun activities from our homes to celebrate Cinco de Mayo (the anniversary of the Battle of Puebla that took place on May 5, 1862 between the Mexicans and the French, which commemorates Mexico's victory that day). First, students watched a Cinco de Mayo video on Edpuzzle and learned about the Mexican historical event. Then, they watched the video, "Behind the Doodle: Celebrating Lotería!" and learned about Lotería (Mexican Bingo Card Game). Afterwards, students played the online interactive Google Doodle game, Lotería, that celebrates the traditional Mexican bingo card game. To end the Club Meet, everyone watched a festive and musical Mexican Mariachi Flash Mob video.

To continue the Cinco de Mayo celebration, the High School Spanish Culture Club will join a Google Meet on Tuesday, May 19 from 3:00-4:00pm when we will be making quesadillas and Mexican Paper Flowers from our homes. We may even end up doing the Virtual Mexican Hat Dance! So, grab your tortilla chips and salsa and meet us for a fun time!

Materials Needed:

- A. Your child will need these materials if you would like them to make a Mexican Flower.
 - 4 pieces of two different color tissue paper (8 pieces total), chenille stem/pipe cleaner, ruler, scissors
- B. You will need the ingredients to cook a quesadilla and choose the method of cooking your quesadilla (see attached link and video). A parent, guardian, or assigned adult needs to be present with your child while participating in the cooking portion of the club session to assist and supervise them.

Making Quesadillas Using a Quesadilla Maker I will be demonstrating and making quesadillas from home using a Quesadilla Maker; however, there are many different ways to make quesadillas -- even in the microwave. Check out the link below for more information. <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Quesadilla>

I will be sending your child a Google Meet Calendar Invitation to the Spanish Culture Club next Tuesday, May 19. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions.

rgonzalez@center.school

Spirit Week

May 18-22



Spirit Week	
Monday 5/18	Mismatched Day
Tuesday 5/19	Dress like a Pirate Day
Wednesday 5/20	Tie- Dye Day
Thursday 5/21	Patriotic Day Wear Red, White and Blue
Friday 5/22	TCS Skip Day Take the Day Off, You Deserve It :)

Brought to you by Student Activities

IMPORTANT DATES:

Mon. May 18	Elementary School Virtual Bingo 5pm-6pm
Mon. May 18- Fri. May 22	Spirit Week- AGAIN!!!!
Fri. May 22- Mon May 25	No School- Memorial Day Weekend
Tue. May 26	Back to remote schooling
Fri. June 19	Early Dismissal, Last day of school.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal