

**Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:** (Week 9 of remote learning)

Have a relaxing Memorial Day Weekend! We have completed 9 weeks of remote learning and from my perspective, we all have been as successful as possible in maintaining an educational

Memorial Day is a day during which we honor and mourn those who have died while serving in our country's military. This year, this annual day of commemoration will look different across the country as people will be limited in gatherings. Yet, even though this is another life-altering effect of our present health crisis, we can still remember and celebrate those men and women who have paid the ultimate price to make and keep our country the best place to live protecting our freedoms and liberties. As we commemorate the day this year and no matter how you do that, I would suggest that the meaning of "sacrifices" carries more weight today to all of us as we reflect upon our present lives.

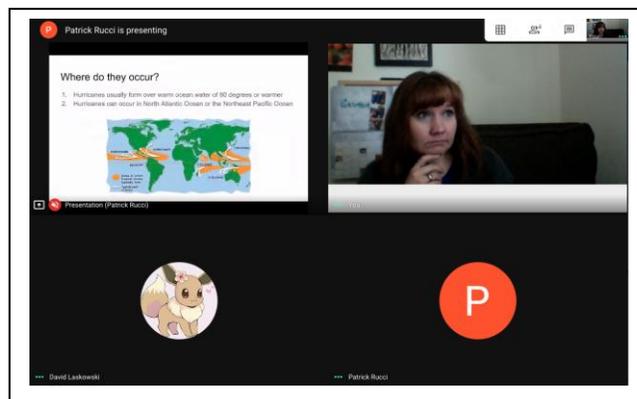


## **FROM THE CLASSROOMS:**

### **High School**

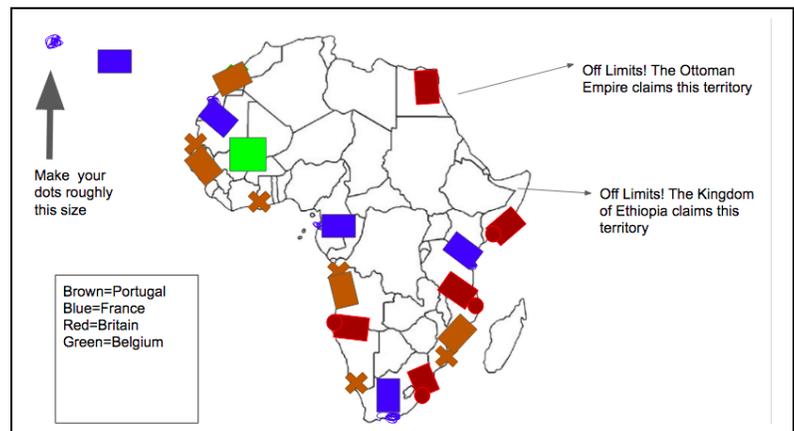
Ms. Gibson's Applied Science Classes completed their Weather Unit with a Google Slide Presentation on Hurricanes. Each student worked diligently to create a unique presentation about these powerful storms.

TCS Science students have been balancing four distinct academic responsibilities during May. First, they completed Lab #16: "pH Scale: power of Hydrogen, power of Horticulture". Second, they chose their respective "Adopt a Sci Guy/Gal" in preparation for their last of four presentations the week of June 1st. Third, our science students continued to make daily observations of their chosen seeds, applying data from Labs #15 : Soil Types & Lab #16 above to their Botany Buffet field diary. Finally, students were sent two Google Classroom links: one highlighting promising vaccine therapies and the other illustrating how coronavirus enters human cells. These two links, from the "Wall Street Journal" and "Barrons", will form the basis of optimistic, research-based class discussion at a time when our students may need it. Again, thank you parents for ensuring your teen's daily online attendance.



## Students in Mr. Miller's World

History classes began their "Scramble for Africa" activity late this week. This activity serves as a simulation of the mad dash that European nations participated in to claim land on the African continent during the 18th and 19th centuries. For the simulation itself, the classes had to substitute the usual use of the classroom whiteboard with a google slides presentation that all students had access to edit. Each student was assigned a specific European country and was given directions as to what land they could occupy during each round of the simulation. Students did a great job adapting to the changing of typical procedures for this activity. You can see a completed "Scramble for Africa" simulation map below.



Mr. Leichtling's LAL classes began their exploration of a new unit: Biographies! Students began studying four different styles of personal writing and determining their distinctions. They've been connecting these with past reading experiences and historical figures they are already familiar with. Finally, students took on an internet scavenger hunt, using Google, Learning Ally, and other sources to find new examples of each type.

Ms. Livell's LAL classes have been putting the final revisions on their biographies. Students look forward to presenting final products after the break. History classes concluded the week with videos and activities about Memorial Day history and traditions. All had a blast playing Kahoot to test our knowledge about the fun facts we learned.

This week Mrs. D'Alessandro's Precalculus class completed the lesson on working with rational exponents. Students are now capable of working with problems involving positive, negative, zero, and fractional exponents. When students return from the long weekend, they will start investigating exponential functions involving growth and decay, applying those exponent rules.

Mrs. D'Alessandro's Geometry class completed a unit on Congruent Triangles and will be investigating Volume and Surface Area next. Another group completed the volume unit and will begin a study of right triangles. In Algebra 2 students have been simplifying radicals (not approximating...There's a difference!) and will be applying that skill as they begin to solve quadratic equations algebraically. They will then check their solutions graphically using Desmos.

Again, I would just like to compliment my students on their continued hard work and positive spirit as well as thank them for the many laughs we share in class.

Dr. R's Consumer Math class has been diligently working on filling out deposit slips and learning associated vocabulary like currency and coin.

Dr. R's Precalculus class is continuing work on the fine points of logarithms.

Some of Dr. R's Algebra 1 class has moved from solving individual equations to solving systems of equations.

Dr. R's Algebra 1 Part 1 class continues to practice solving equations of different types. Some are solving proportions, some are solving equations using pictures, and some are solving equations using symbols.

## Middle School

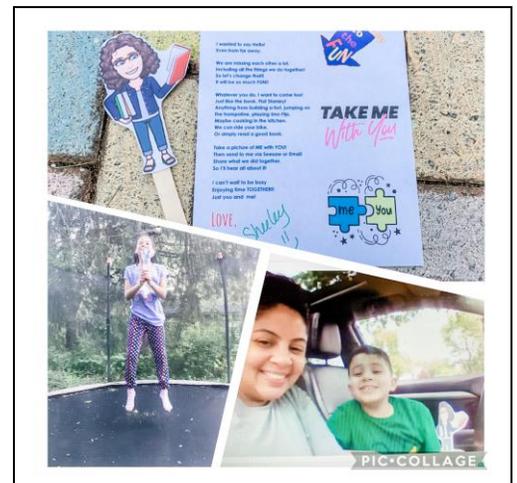
As Memorial Day approaches, the middle school students are partaking in a variety of activities that remind them of the significance behind this special day of remembrance. In Language Arts, students were given Memorial Day related prompts to help them reflect on the holiday. Students wrote about why this holiday is important as well as family members who are veterans. In Social Studies, students worked on a Memorial Day trivia worksheet. They answered questions such as "What was Memorial Day originally called?". This exercise required them to use researching skills to find the answer. Students also read and discussed the similarities and differences between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. In Math students used various types of graphs and various forms of data collections to complete a math based Memorial Day worksheet. This activity required everyone to figure out which day of the week Memorial Day would fall on in any given year. They also used the graphs for comparison. Some students used their math time to practice mathematical skills on IXL. Everyone had the opportunity to discuss some of the activities they will be doing with their family during Memorial Day weekend. All the students enjoyed a break from the usual academics while learning about Memorial Day.



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## Elementary School

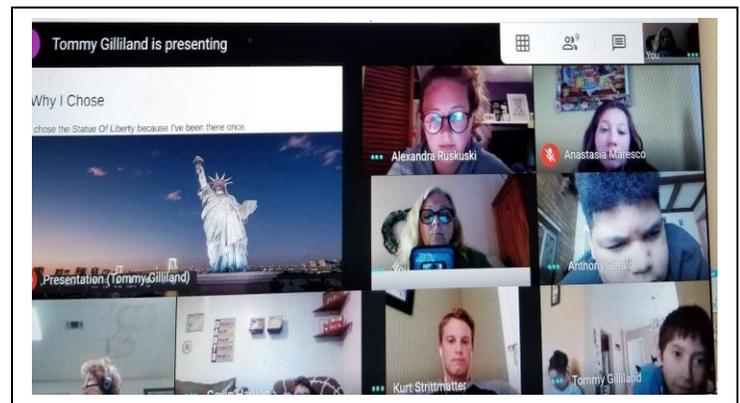
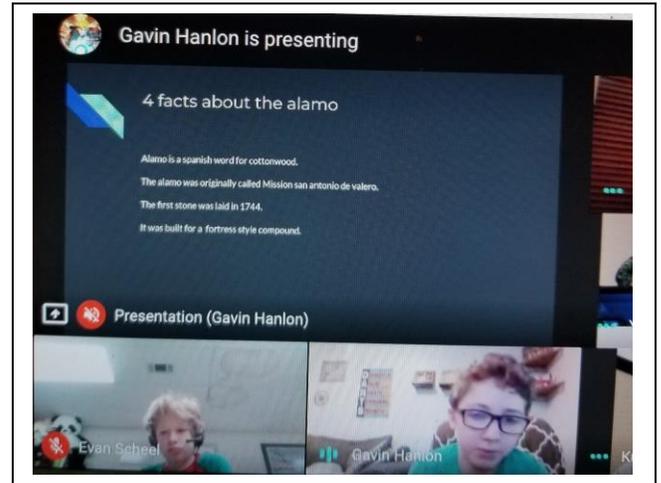
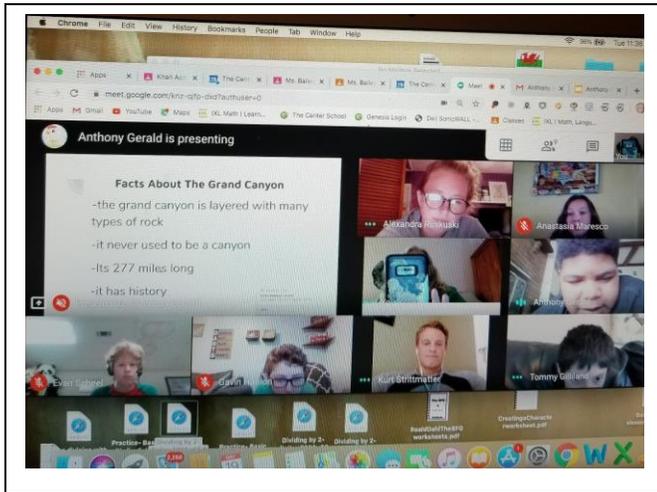
Students in Mrs. Sheeley's class finished up their novel study of "Flat Stanley" this week. Students completed a four-box retelling in which we sketched, drew, or wrote about the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Students then worked to analyze inside and outside character traits of the main character, Stanley. Thinking about inside character traits can be tricky because we cannot see these traits. Our amazing scholars were up to the challenge. They described Stanley as brave and adventurous because he was mailed in an envelope to California and he was willing to pretend to be a painting to help catch the sneak thieves. Students received a "Flat Mrs. Sheeley" in the mail this week and shared some fun adventures with her. Flat Mrs. Sheeley jumped on the trampoline, had ice cream, played soccer (and lost), went to speech class and took a healthy walk.



Students also spent time doodling with author Mo Willems. Some students shared that they love to draw because it is fun and relaxing. We finished up our Social Studies unit on national landmarks with trips to Mount Rushmore and The Golden Gate Bridge. Did you know that 90% of the stone carving of Mount Rushmore was completed with dynamite? This fact surprised us.



Ms. Bailey's students finished their unit on U.S. Landmarks and symbols. Each created a project in Google slides and gave wonderful presentations this week! They also began creating protagonist characters for their stories.



## Speech and Language

Many of the students in the Speech and Language Program researched and discussed the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day. They learned that Memorial Day is a day to honor the military personnel who died while serving their country and Veterans Day is designated as a day to honor the living Veterans who served in the military during wartime and peacetime. They also learned about "The National Moment of Remembrance Act" which Congress passed in December 2000. Some of the younger students explored the many irregular verbs we have in our English language. A few Middle School students continued working on vocabulary, and expanding their sentences with adverb clauses and prepositional phrases. With the support of the Speech Department, the Life Skills students read a story about a boy named "Brad" who learned how to make a "Budget" and design a plan to pay for all of his expenses using his allowance.



## Phys. Ed.

MS PE students continued to do great workouts! Thursday students tried a new workout called Zumba which is a mixture of cardio and dance. Students did great and had a fun workout!

## Art

All students executed artwork honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military protecting our liberties.



## Music

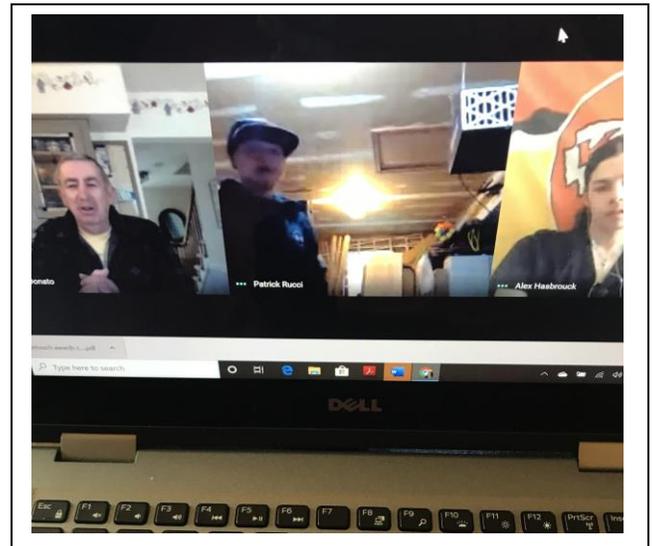
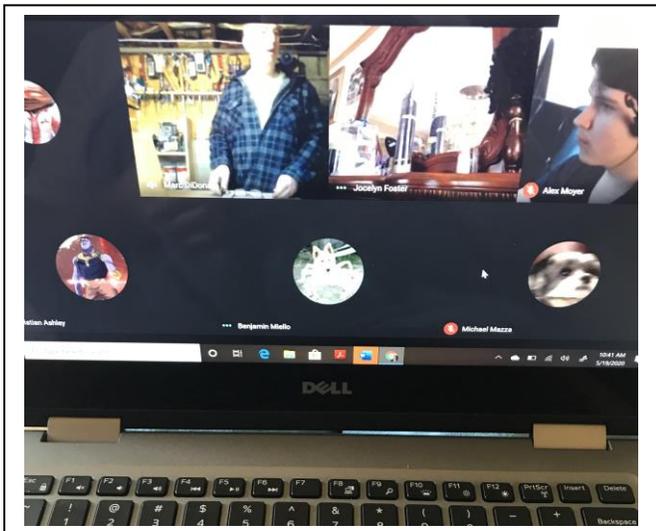
High School students watched a video about the life of JS Bach then answered questions related to the reading of Bach. Some High School students are also working on their PowerPoints on Time Periods in Music. Middle School completed the graph on American Idol and compared our results with America's votes.

In Elementary School students played Freeze Dance, tapped with rhythm sticks, and practiced drumming with drum pads. Students have also been invited to participate in our Virtual Variety Show. I am very happy to see that our students are excited to be a part of this end of the year celebration of our students' talents.



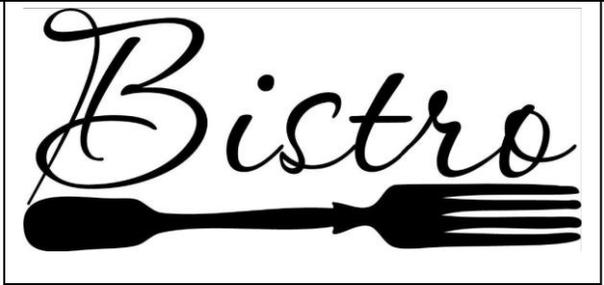
## Woodshop

Virtual field trips to Mr. D's workshop and a fellow student's workshop were informative and inspiring for all. The student workshop tours will continue next week as well. Kits also continued to be worked on. More pics of kits to come soon!



## **Bistro**

Bistro students were finalizing their recipe analyses and are gearing up to have everything “mise en place” - a fancy French word for “everything in its place”. Next week we will be cooking all 4 days so each student must have everything ready to start and be completed in the 20 minutes we have. There is excitement in the air and visions of deliciousness.



## **Career and Financial Planning / Career Exploration**

Career Exploration and Career and Financial Planning finished doing applications and are continuing to focus on what starting at a new job entails. Emphasis was placed on getting along with others, solving new problems, dealing with customers, following schedules, and using time wisely.

### **Career Exploration**

In Career exploration we also worked with money, determining the change received when purchasing multiples of an item and paying with a specified amount, and learning about budgets. We read about twins who want to save money for a car, examined their income and expenses to determine if they could afford a car in two years, and figured out what they need to do to achieve their goal.

### **Life Skills**

In Life Skills we continued with money, learning about budgets. We watched videos about budgets (Cyberchase- Balancing Act) and read a book about a boy who creates a budget, Brad Needs A Budget. We learned how to make a budget and the importance of balancing your income and expenses. We thought about things we would like to save money for when we create our own budgets.

### **Therapeutic Dept.**

Mrs. Gorski's Middle School girl's group had an open discussion about loneliness and how it affects us all in different ways, especially during this pandemic. Some of the students spoke of their loneliness even though their house is filled with people. Some spoke of being the only child in the house and the loneliness of not having anyone their age to speak to. This was followed by discussion about their new appreciation for the one thing that they used to complain about all of the time...school! Mrs. Gorski's boys group conducted a tutorial on setting up a virtual game for the group to play together in our next session. This was a student request and it was nice to see the students take a lead by using their creative technology skills to share with the other group members and suggesting an activity that they will all enjoy!

High School students expressed their frustration and anger over the pandemic and how they cannot hang out with their friends, go to a mall, visit waterparks, or plan a summer vacation. In some towns if they are seen by the police with a group of their friends they can be arrested. While they are doing their best to deal with the situation, they admit this is taking a toll on their mental health, they find it hard to cope, and are tired of virtual hangouts. Many also feel their summer is being decided for them and find it disheartening.

As we let our students vent, we reminded them that we are here for them and to help them look at positive things they can do to deal with their feelings.

## **School News**

### **High School 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](mailto:cgibson@center.school)

### **Pride Club**

In the Pride Club, our LGBTQ students and allies met online to collaborate and recognize. We continued our discussion with new members on what they would like to see the Pride Club provide for them, as this is a meeting place for them. Included in the brainstorming was a clearer exploration of the abbreviation of LGBTQ, details on the various pride flags used by different communities, and the deep history of LGBTQ people both in American history and world history.

### **Dungeons & Dragons**

Dungeons & Dragons, our young adventurers crafted their many characters that will inhabit the land of Brandisi and face its many challenges. In Group Archer, the Tuesday group, was a Kobold named Snevzz, a former court jester and rogue; a nameless Firbrog cleric who once went by the nickname "Tenner"; and a human fighter named Eligor, who hails from a folk hero background.

### **Student Activities** - Trivia Night - Kahoot

All School Trivia Night will be held on May 29th from 4-5pm. Please RSVP to Ms. Gibson ([cgibson@center.school](mailto:cgibson@center.school)) no later than May 27th for more information and the Google Meet Invitation. It is recommended that students have a separate smart device and download the Free Kahoot App prior to joining. Students may also split screen (have two separate windows open) as an alternative option to downloading the free app

### **Cooking Club**

The Cooking Club had their first virtual session on Tuesday, and had fun making Oreo Balls. If you would like to make them, here is the recipe. Finely chop or crush a package of Oreos and mix thoroughly with a package of softened cream cheese. Make bite-sized balls and roll into a coating of your choice (sprinkles, crushed cookies, chopped nuts, coconut, melted chocolate, etc.) Refrigerate until firm. Enjoy! Our next Cooking club will be on Tuesday, May 26th at 3 pm. We will be making mac and cheese. If you are interested in joining us, please email Mrs. Lees at [mlees@center.school](mailto:mlees@center.school) to be added to the Cooking Club Google Classroom.

## Health & Wellness

Allergy Season is in full swing!! Know the difference between Seasonal Allergies and Possible COVID-19 Symptoms!

Symptom	Allergies	COVID-19
Fever	No	Often
Cough	Sometimes; related to post nasal drip	Often
Chills	No	Often
Shortness of Breath	Sometimes; related to wheeze	Often
Muscle Pain	No	Often
Itchy/runny nose	Yes	Infrequent
Itchy/red/watery eyes	Yes	Infrequent
Sneezing	Yes	Infrequent
Sore throat	Sometimes; related to post nasal drip	Occasional
Headache	Occasional	Occasional

Stay healthy!  
Stay safe!  
Stay calm!

Mrs. Marino



## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>Fri. May 22- Mon May 25</b>	No School- Memorial Day Weekend
<b>Tue. May 26</b>	Back to remote schooling
<b>Wed. June 17</b>	High School Virtual Graduation 9:30 am Middle School Virtual Graduation 12:00pm
<b>Fri. June 19</b>	Early Dismissal, Last day of school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald P. Rinaldi".

**Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi**  
Principal