

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians: (Week 12 of remote learning)

Students, please watch week 11 video message found on the school website, (“home instruction” page.)

As we come to the end of the 2019-2020 academic year next week, we have much to look back upon. Each June we naturally reflect upon the past school year and contemplate the ways we can improve our program for the new school year in September. This year really gives us much to think about. We were all placed outside our comfort zones and tested on our skills of adaptability and innovation.

After 11 weeks of remote learning and before we say goodbye next Friday, I want to acknowledge one special component of The Center School—our staff. Over the past three months they have not only risen to the challenge of remote learning, but remained consistently concerned each and every day for each of their students. They worked diligently to create live online classes every day, interesting activities to keep our students engaged online, and remained proactively innovative in ways to allow students as many opportunities as possible to learn and grow while attending school from home. They have not only been remarkable, but have surpassed the efforts and programs of their peers in other schools. They have remained at the top of their game and have maintained as high a quality educational program as physically and technologically possible under the present circumstances.

So, this week I want to highlight their efforts and hard work and thank them all for caring and supporting every student here at The Center School.

Thank you staff of The Center School!!!

FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

Mr. Miller's World History classes are currently concluding their chapter of study on European Imperialism during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Students have been tasked with the “Build an Empire Imperialism Simulation” project for their final assignment of the school year. For this project, students are using an interactive mapping website that allows them to view the various empires that have existed throughout human history. Students were asked to either choose an actual empire from history or create their own new empire to be the basis of their project. Students were given the freedom to choose



which neighboring lands of their empire that they would like to take over and colonize during the project. This process essentially simulated what took place during the Age of Imperialism.

Ms. Gibson's Science classes ended the year researching famous scientists. This linked what they are learning in their Language Arts classes about biographies. Students also flexed their history muscles by researching what was happening in the world when their scientists lived! They organized their information on graphic organizers and will present it to their classes on Monday.

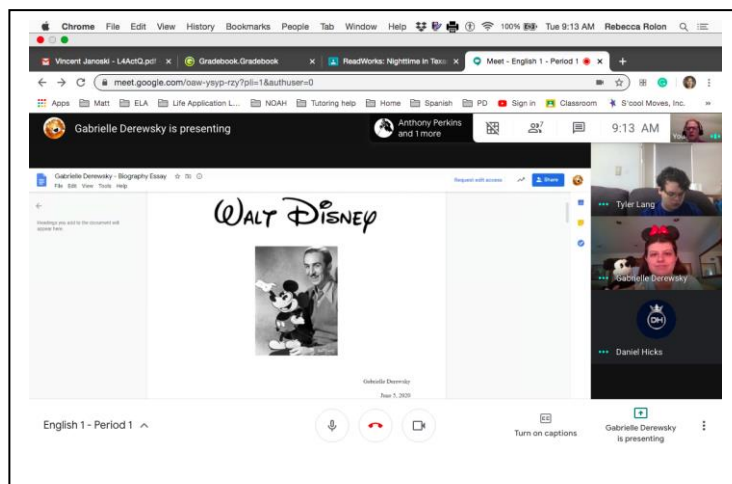
Mr. Leichtling's Language Arts classes became the men and women of action, turning a week's careful reading, researching, and note-taking on prominent people of Rome into a pointed biographical project. Cicero, Cleopatra, Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Octavius Augustus moved from names on a page into persons they knew. Students detailed their critical moments, why they mattered, and tracked the course of their lives.

During the last instructional week of Language Arts Ms. Livelli's students completed an array of current event articles in Science, Health and History from the educational website, Newsela. Students participated in active reading and real-time assessments of student comprehension through multiple-choice quizzes and writing prompts. Our History classes continued to study major historical events from the 1900's to the present. Supplementary videos were used to enhance the learning experience.

Another great week of learning in Mrs. D'Alessandro's remote classroom!! Thanks to all my students attending daily and completing your assignments in a timely manner. Many of my students are still attending my office hours to get some extra help or to ask a question that they thought of after class regarding our lesson. I am most impressed with all of you!! Our Precalculus class wrapped up the year with using exponential functions to model exponential decay with half-life examples, while another tackled transforming trigonometric functions. My Geometry group is completing a unit on the trig ratios and applying them to solve right triangles. Our Algebra 2 class has observed that the solutions to quadratic equations can be rational, irrational and non-real.

Dr. R's Consumer Math class is putting together a menu for a week, using the menu to create a grocery list, and comparing unit prices at two groceries to determine which grocery they should use for which foods. Dr. R's Algebra 1 and Precalculus classes will be playing online games to help them understand how changing the numbers in an equation changes the appearance and location of a graph.

In Ms. Gonzalez's Spanish 1 classes, students practiced the -ar verbs by reading a short story and answering comprehension questions in Spanish. Then, they reviewed the subject pronouns/noun, infinitives, and conjugation of the -ar verbs by playing a Jeopardy game in preparation for an open-book test that they took at the end of the week. In Ms. Gonzalez's Spanish 2 class, students practiced the verbs "ser" and "estar" (that both mean "to be") by reading a cultural article on Puerto Rico and answering comprehension questions in Spanish. Then, they reviewed the expressions with the verb "estar" and the uses and forms of "ser" and "estar" by playing a Jeopardy game in preparation for an open-book test that they took at the end of the week. In Ms. Gonzalez's English 1 classes, students completed their biography essays last week and presented them to the class. They heard about the life stories of people like Walt Disney, Jonas Salk, Henry Ford, General George Patton, President Barack Obama, Neil Armstrong, and George Lucas. This week students also worked on a reading and creative



writing assignment. They read two short stories and chose one of the two stories to write an alternate ending using examples of figurative language and vivid imagery.

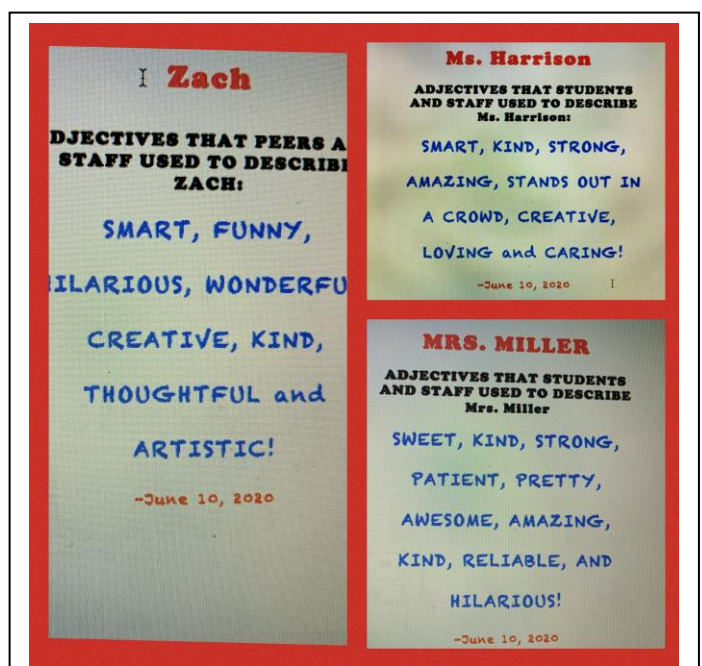
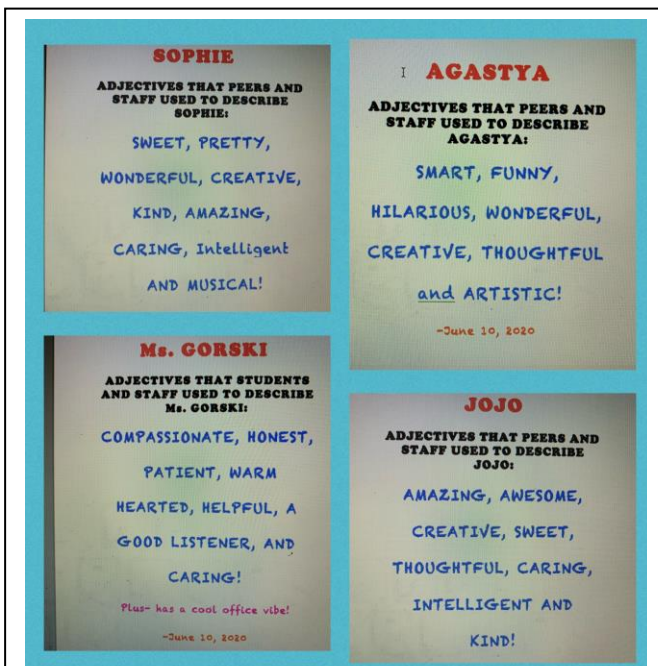
Middle School

Mrs. Burak’s History class took an in-depth look at the Emancipation Proclamation. The students read the document and answered comprehension questions. They were also asked to imagine the world today if this document was not created. They collectively agreed the world is much better because of it. We discussed the impact it had on today’s society. To end the lesson students were asked to research videos pertaining to the Emancipation Proclamation. They shared their links on a google doc. They were encouraged to find videos not only about the proclamation but how it impacted the shaping of American history.

In Ms. Akushie’s Language Arts class the students continued their creative writing presentations. The students were assigned a creative writing assignment that required them to write a story based off of a picture prompt. They used a story map to help them structure their paragraphs. After they completed their creative writing, they shared their stories with their peers on Google Meets. Students also had a class discussion about the end of the school year. The students are proud of their accomplishments and are looking forward to the summer break.

In Ms. Small’s Social Studies class, students continued their work on describing and comparing the Ancient Chinese Philosophies of Legalism, Confucianism, and Daoism. Students used their readings paired with research to complete their Google Slides presentations. Students then presented their Google Slides presentations to the class through Google Meet. This project helped students to reflect upon what they have learned about Ancient China while building public speaking skills. Additionally, this project helped students to grow as audience members, as actively listening to one’s peers and being respectful during fellow classmates’ presentations was a part of the grade.

This week in Ms. Harrison’s Language Arts class, students continue to review skills from the 2019-2020 school year. Students defined adjectives, explained how and when they are used. The class participated in a group activity that led to a unique, memorable discussion. Each student shared, out loud, descriptive words for each peer and staff present. I had trouble keeping up with my notes as the students



were sharing so many wonderful words for each other. When they concluded the activity, I read the list of adjectives, provided by peers and staff for each student. The class was full of smiles as each student listened closely to the words used to describe them, processed that they all have so many positive traits that others see in them every single day. It was such a moving display of ease, comfort and trust amongst the class. I then completed a letter for each student stating all the special qualities that were happily shared by classmates and emailed it home for the student and family to see. This was a lesson in willingness to hear peers, open up to peers and accept that they shine so brightly to all that know them. It was a privilege to see a lesson about adjectives grow to a lesson about building connections, acceptance, self-esteem and how each individual contributes so much each day by just being themselves.

Elementary School

Students in Mrs. Sheeley's class participated in a five-day kindness challenge. Students started the week off by sharing ways they could be kind in their home with their families. Then they held a virtual compliment circle in which they used "I think you are great at... and I appreciate you when..." sentence stems to guide our compliment sharing. Students also explored ways to be kind to our world and how to be kind to ourselves with some positive self-affirmations like: I am proud of myself, I ask for help when I need it, and I celebrate my wins. Our kindness theme ran

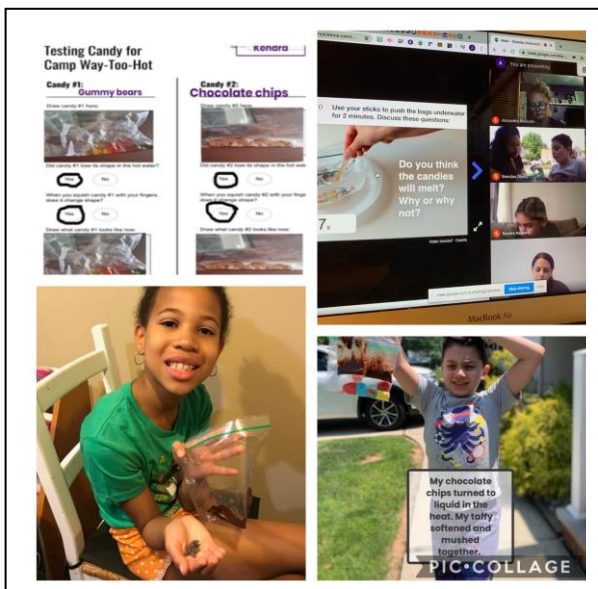


through some favorite picture

books that we enjoyed together such as "The Invisible Boy" by Trudy Ludwig, "Each Kindness" by Jacqueline Woodson and "The Jelly Donut Difference" by Maria Dismondy. Students pledged to work hard to always make room at our table and include others. In Science, they loved mixing up some oobleck to study the three states of matter.

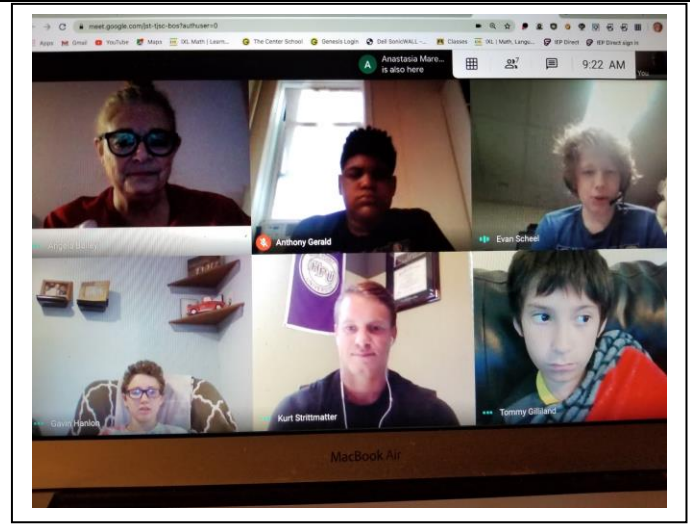
It was so cool to squeeze it and have the oobleck become a solid and then open our hand and have it become a liquid. Students also conducted an investigation to determine which type of candy would melt in hot water.

They took candy like gummi bears, starburst, taffy, chocolate chips and placed them in hot water and observed what happened. Then students compared their predictions to what actually occurred. All loved our week of hands on science FUN!



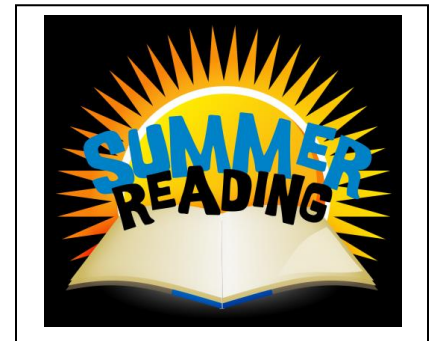
Ms. Bailey's class were busy writing fiction stories. Emphasis was on character development and creating a strong plot. The stories all had problems that had to be resolved. Students did a FANTASTIC job!! Stories were presented on Friday. In Science the class created their own planet in the Space study unit. They ended the week with a virtual field trip falling into Saturn and looking at the universe from the perspective of satellites.

In Mr. Everett's class students learned all about volume of three-dimensional shapes in math. They learned how to identify cubic volume in rectangular prisms and in cubes. They continued to read Charlotte's Web for guided reading and connected our own lives to characters in the book. They also spent time discussing different idioms and their meanings. One of the social skills worked on was focusing on how to be proud of ourselves. It is important to remind ourselves of all of our accomplishments and how far we have come.



Reading/Literacy Support

College Prep Language Arts 1 finished their Word Study book used this year. At this time, the emphasis is also on how we convey positive and negative emotions through word choice in our writing and speaking. High School students are completing the books, "Chills", "More Chills", "Shocks" and "After Shocks". Having read a variety of genres, the favorite one thus far is Science Fiction! Younger students have read a variety of books encouraging and explaining the Pillars of Character, such as kindness, perseverance and responsibility. Additionally, the students will continue with the numerous skills, learning of high frequency words and following oral and written directions. Finally, the Student Book Clubs will continue with Prince Caspian from the CS Lewis series while younger students enjoy books with a summer theme.



Speech and Language

This week some of the students in the Speech and Language Program have been reading an article that compares cell phones to computers. They highlighted the information searching for keywords, discussed and completed a graphic organizer, and started generating a compare and contrast short essay. A few other students have been reading a "Readers Theater" play, which is a different version of "The Wizard of Oz". They role played the different characters with clear speech and vocal inflection after discussing the plot and character development. Moreover, students have been learning a variety of strategies to improve their conversational skills by watching videos that teach joining a conversation, staying on topic, being efficient with words, conversational threading, and how to end a conversation respectfully.

OT

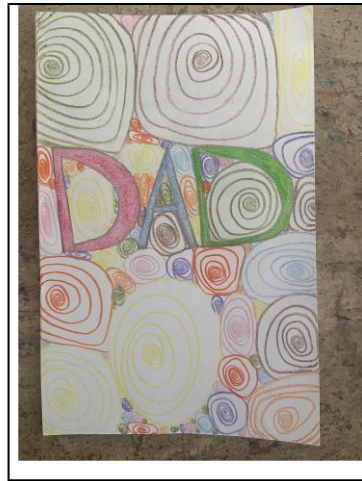
Students started a new Sensory Diet. Students completed a virtual scavenger hunt and had to complete animal walks to find the requested items. They also worked on stacking and then counting coins. Finally, students completed an overlapping shapes activity where students had to determine which shapes made up a larger shape. Everyone is doing a great job!

Phys. Ed.

Middle School PE students worked up a sweat with cardio abs, a whole-body workout, and finished the week off with a fun cardio dance workout! Students are doing a great job and it's great to see the parents joining along with the students! Thanks for all your hard work!

Art

All students on all grade levels worked on Father's Day cards.



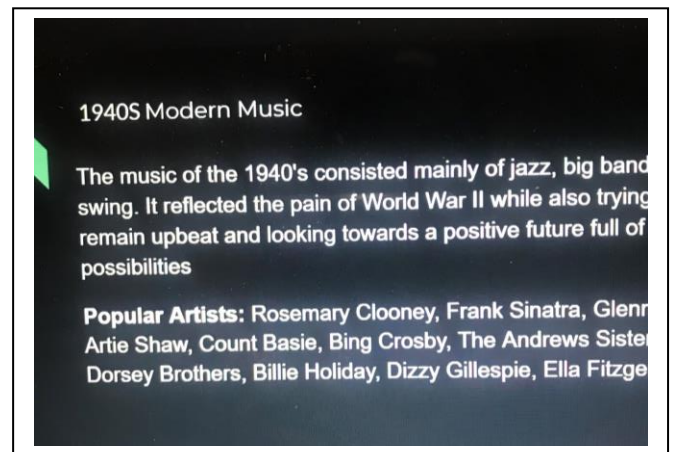
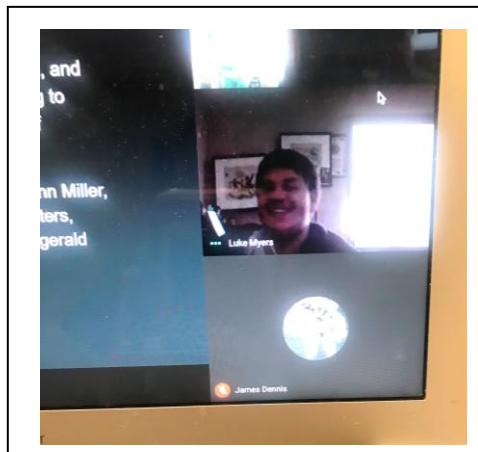
Music

In High School music one student gave a PowerPoint presentation. There is one last presentation set for Monday. We

also watched a biography about Beethoven and read about 15 facts that we did not know about Beethoven.

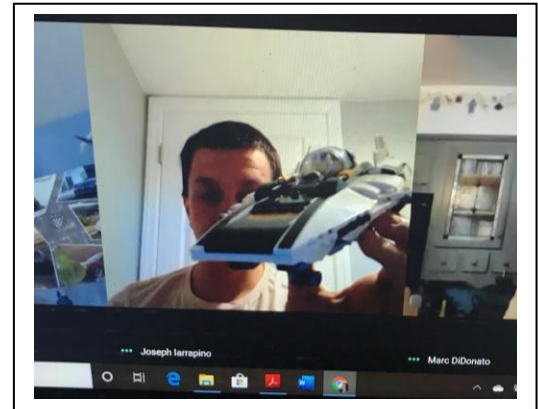
Elementary students continued watching "Peter and The Wolf" and used their puppets while

watching the musical story. I then quizzed the students on which character was represented by which instrument and the students guessed almost all the answers. In Middle School students listened to The Planets "a musical suite" and we compared the music to Star Wars music. Students also watched a video on a Flash Mob performing "Mars, The Bringer of War".



Woodshop

What a fun week! Students put their finishing touches on their kits such as Ferris wheels, carousels, Lego trucks, Star Wars jets and mechanical hands. It's been a challenging and rewarding virtual learning experience. All students now have amazing completed projects that they can show off proudly. Way to go TCS Woodshop students!



Bistro

Bistro students are learning about what goes into the making of a 5-star Michelin rated restaurant. Everything from the tables, chairs, lighting, professionalism, and of course the food. Michelin restaurants also have the best place settings. Students are also learning the subtle differences in dinnerware, silverware, and glassware and how those differences affect quality and price. Students saw how many items were made and then comparison shopped for those items.



Career and Financial Planning / Career Exploration

Career classes learned about writing thank you letters to prospective employers and writing resignation letters as they move from one company to the next.

Therapeutic Dept.

Mrs. Gorski's Middle School groups and Peer Mentors had discussion about their plans for the upcoming summer and had open dialog about things they will miss and things that they look forward to.

High School groups discussed what's next for 2020? The students decided to take a break from current events and offer their own perspective on what they feel will happen next in the news. Many think it could be weather related, will hear a decision regarding school, or that their favorite movies will debut

early. This activity allowed the students to take their mind off of the virus and let their minds think about other possibilities.

Transition

Transition students finished out the school year by creating their own resume. They learned how to use the employment advertisements to add “keywords” to their resume in order to make it more appealing. They also saved it as a PDF document so that it can be saved without fear of anyone else altering their final product.

School News

Dungeons & Dragons

In the land of Brandisi, the adventurers of Group Archer made their way up Northgate Road from the farm town of Twin Rivers to investigate reports of banditry. While working their way up the long road, they encountered and investigated an abandoned wagon, apparently the site of an attack. Investigating the surrounding area led them into the forest, tracking footprints and broken twigs. After making their way through the woods and stumbling onto a hut, they encountered a band of highwaymen that immediately fought them. After a pitched battle, wherein one-party member barely made it through, they defeated the bandits and looked after their wounds.

Meanwhile, in Group Barbarian’s tale, they had already fought and captured said bandits. They elected to take the path of interrogating their prisoners to better understand what plot they were up against. The body of a wealthy man was found in the bandit’s hut and a paper was found on their leader with the cryptic note “Nutmeg Z.” After further sleuthing, they learned it was the name of a tavern in the town of Zhanton. The adventurers began their trek north, to continue their investigation.

High School Spanish Culture Club

The Afterschool High School Spanish Culture Club met on Tuesday, June 9 from 3:00-4:00 pm. We took an interactive, virtual field trip to Cuba using Google Maps that gave students the most realistic trip to Cuba that they can experience without leaving our virtual classroom. Students “traveled” to some of the most famous sites in Cuba.

Our last Spanish Culture Club Meet of this school year will be on Tuesday, June 16 from 3:00-4:30pm. We will extend the length of the Meet, so we will be able to continue “traveling” the rest of Cuba and learn about the traditional music, dances, and cuisine of Cuba. Students will learn about the traditional and cultural pastime game of dominoes and play an interactive, online version. So, grab your tortilla chips and salsa and meet us for a fun time! ¡Vámanos! Let's go! Please email Ms. Gonzalez at rgonzalez@center.school for more information.

Virtual Share & Tell

Each school can take part in a virtual share and tell June 16-19. See flyer.



Virtual Share & Tell

Come and share your Virtual Learning projects, kits and even your pets!

You can share a video you made or share live in the Meet. If you'd rather share your voice only, that is great too!

All videos need to be submitted to Ms. Swan by 6/15. Those approved will be shared.

A participation invite will go out before the event.

June 16-19
ES 8:30- 9:00 am
HS 9:00 am - 11:00 am
MS 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Google Meet
**Link to come!*

Parents are welcome to join as well!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wed. June 17	High School Virtual Graduation 9:30 am Middle School Virtual Graduation 12:00pm
Fri. June 19	Early Dismissal, Last day of school.
Mon. July 6	Start of ESY program

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Principal