

Dear Center School Parents/Guardians:

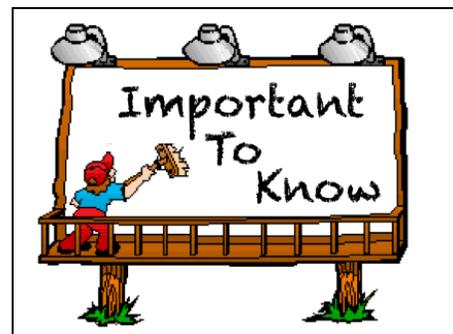
A fantastic first full week. Our daily procedures are becoming routine and are running smoothly as everyone is getting used to our new environment. Students in classes are working and socializing normally and remote learners are attending classes with their in-person peers.

Some important updates as we move forward.

We will be scheduling our first Parent Therapeutic Zoom Meeting during the week of Sept 27th to discuss issues, challenges, and ideas after putting several weeks under our belt. A date and invite will be sent this coming week and it will be held during evening hours to allow everyone an opportunity to be involved. It is through these meetings with parents we gather valuable insights and information to improve our instructional delivery and services.

As we start this school year, it is important to remember that technology is a vital component of both in-person and remote instruction. We are running into typical technology challenges (wifi issues, charging issues, learning how to operate issues, etc.) and that is to be expected. We have a technology contact email and are able to receive technology issues via our teaching staff as well. Please continue to have patience and do not worry. If your child has an issue during the day and cannot connect, please email techsupport@center.school and you may call the school's main number xt 100 and leave your information. Please understand that the IT department holds classes during the day and works on tech problems periodically during the day. Your issue may not be resolved immediately. However, if the issue is connectivity, your child can still continue to do their class work as it is listed in Google Classroom with assignments and instructions. Valid technology connectivity problems will not be held against students.

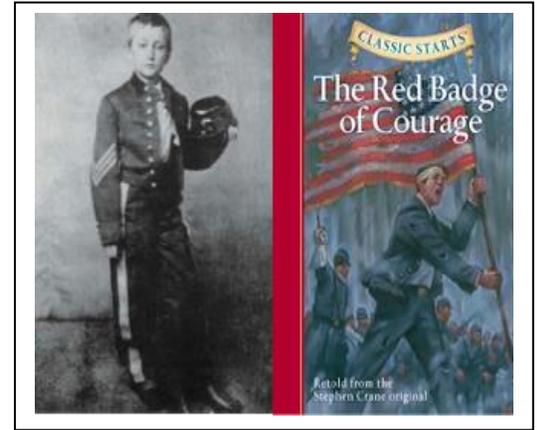
Finally, **Back to School Night** (Thursday Oct. 1) will be held virtually this year. Usually, parents will receive a schedule of their student's daily classes and travel from class to class to spend 8-10 minutes with each teacher. The meetings are designed for teachers to have a chance to tell you about themselves, the course, the syllabus, classroom protocols, student expectations regarding grades and behaviors, and any other introductory information. This is different from **Parent-Teacher Conferences** (Oct. 13-14) where individual students are discussed with their parents. Since we need to hold Back to School Night virtually, staff will be creating short 10-minute videos of their information for you and we will make these videos available for you to view over the course of several days. This will deliver to you the same information you would receive if we were in person that night, and allow many of you who normally could not make that specific evening's event the opportunity to learn about each one of your child's teachers. (Oh, and yes, we are working on holding parent-teacher conferences virtually as well, however they will be live meets to allow discussions) More information on these two events will be sent shortly.



FROM THE CLASSROOMS:

High School

In Language Arts, Ms. Harrison's class began preparing to read "The Red Badge of Courage". In addition to familiarizing themselves with new vocabulary words, students researched the time period in which the story takes place and what role young males and females played during the Civil War. The class was surprised to learn that many boys looked to join the war efforts as young as nine years old, often lying about their age or identity in order to participate. The boys took the role of drummer boys. Drummers were used for communication on the battlefield. Different drum roles relay commands like "retreat" or "attack." Armed with this new historical content, students are eager to follow Henry Fleming, the novel's protagonist, and his journey as a soldier in the Union Army.

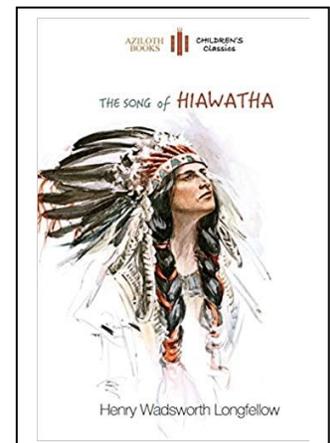


This week in Mr. Miller's US History 1 and US History 2 classes, students began their marking period 1 "Honoring Our American Heroes Assignment". For this project, students will be choosing a person from our nation's great history (either a family member/friend or a famous historical figure) that they think exhibit the characteristics of a true hero.

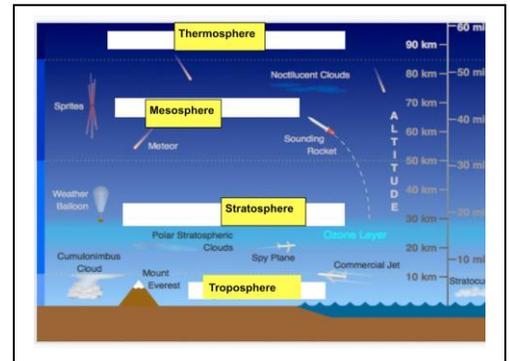


Students will be completing an in-depth look at this person's life and the various heroic deeds that they accomplished. Students will be choosing a different hero to report on each marking period. At the end of each marking period, an American flag will be assembled on The Center School grounds in honor of each American Hero.

Ms. Gibson's LAL 10 class began their study of "The Song of Hiawatha" by Henry Longfellow, written in 1855. Mr. Longfellow originally published this literary piece in order to give Americans a glimpse into the Native American Culture. The students also began their first Unit in Globe Literature. We are focusing on the following literary terms, theme and point of view. Our first short story discusses the concept of growing up and how relationships change during this time. The students read and enjoyed a short story, "The Cub" by Lois Kleihauer. This story focused on the relationship between a father and son. The students were able to discuss how the boy's relationship changed as the boy grew and each character's point of view during the boy's life.



Ms. Gibson's Environmental Science Classes spent the week focusing on learning about what makes it possible for life to exist on Earth. Students were able to identify and describe regions of Earth in which living things are found. They also discovered the different layers of the atmosphere and their characteristics.



In Mr. Leichtling's Language Arts classes, students leaped into the year by exploring important literary elements. The first pair students focused on are "tone" and "mood" which help explore the author's intent in their writing and the audience's emotional

reactions. Students discussed the "tone" in a variety of works, from conversations between real people to cartoon Disney movies to even the formality of IEP writing. Analyzing "mood," students have discussed movies like the "The Little Mermaid," and the power of some aspects of the story such as when Ariel left the sea for the last time. What power words have!

In US History I, students started the week with a KWL activity (Know, Want-to-Know, Learned) exploring an important period from last year's history class: The Enlightenment. Students first gathered what they remembered and then collected what questions they have. Finally, they watched a short video on the era and discussed and recorded what they learned. This activity allowed everyone to activate prior knowledge have a basic understanding for moving forward. Now, students are working on a mini-project, where they are focusing on an Enlightenment person of their choosing, researching them, and creating a presentation.

This past week, Mrs. D'Alessandro's morning Algebra students reviewed and practiced their skills on the order of operations. Students have been very impressive with their knowledge and recall. For the last 2 days they have been writing and evaluating algebraic expressions. Given real life situations, students were able to find a numeric pattern and then express it in terms of 'n'. Today students ended the class by creating their own word problem that modeled these examples.

In Geometry, students have been very busy learning the essential building blocks (points, lines, and planes) which has allowed them to define other terms and figures. Students can now name, describe, draw and write figures using proper symbols and notation.

In Algebra 1 Part 2 class in the afternoon has just completed a review and will be exploring the Real Number System next week. Algebra 2 Part 2 completed their first assessment this week and have just begun multiplying polynomials. Everyone is off to a great start and it has been a pleasure getting to know my students better.

The journey begins! Students in Mr. Cardona's Geometry class have created characters and prepared themselves for their role-playing adventure. Using the Classcraft software, students are assigned quests and tasks that directly affect the outcome of their collective story while learning math. This week our heroes began learning essential Geometry terms and notations in order to read and create complex diagrams. Mission accomplished.



Dr. R's Math lab is continuing to work on the decimal system. This week, the class has started investigating numbers in the thousands. Dr. R's Algebra 2 class will be reviewing algebra 1 for a few weeks. Dr. R's Algebra 1 class is continuing to express problems using words, tables, equations, and graphs.

Study Skills classes got to work this week! A few students used the class period to start long-term projects in History. Many used the class time to work on weekly assignments in Duo Lingo in Spanish. For some, the class period was used to get a jump start on LAL, Math, and Science homework assignments. Students are also encouraged to read or work on IXL for practice.

Transition to Work workers in the Bistro are getting into the new groove of lunchtime in school during Covid. According to one student, when asked how working in the Bistro is going so far, she said, "It's been AMAZING!".

In Home Economics, students jumped into the Laundry unit with both feet! Our new washer was delivered at the beginning of the week and we did not waste any time trying it out.



During Career Exploration, students have learned more about themselves and each other and have also discovered some interests that will be expanded upon. Last week the garden was mentioned and here is one of the first steps that we needed to take, tilling. Stay tuned for more updates!



Middle School

The Middle School has started their academic journey. Every day in each class they are challenged and engaged in a variety of lessons. We are extremely proud of both our remote and in person students for their academic achievements and endeavors.

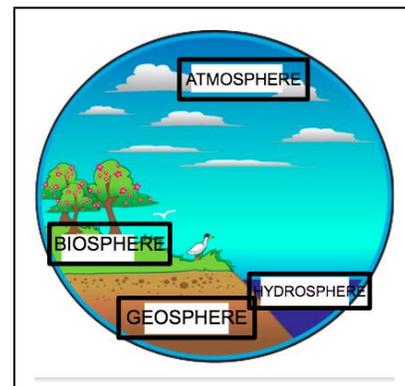
Eighth grade Language Arts students focused on the concept of a setting within a story or a short passage. The students read a few scenarios and identified context clues which enabled them to identify the theme. At times it was difficult, but given some reading strategies they were successful! Then students were given a creative writing assignment. They each wrote short passages and made sure they included clues for where and when the passages take place. Students shared their creative writing with their peers.

Seventh grade students are learning about Organisms and the characteristics of living things in Science. This week they discussed the difference between autotrophs and heterotrophs. They also viewed pictures that displayed a variety of organisms and participated in class discussions.



Sixth grade students have had a wonderful week of growth and academic exploration. LAL students began reading and discussing “Little Blog on the Prairie” or “Journey into the Deep”, which is part of our Wonders curriculum. Students also answered fun writing prompts, practiced using proper end punctuation and homophones, and used IXL Diagnostics to show their current level of grammar ability.

Science students explored Earth as a system through reading and discussion. Students also learned about Earth’s four spheres: the hydrosphere, geosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. Students completed an interactive labeling activity regarding the spheres (images below). Towards the end of the week, students learned about Earth’s interior and had the opportunity to research the Earth Scientist of their choosing, creating a Google Slides presentation on said scientist.



Math students spent time reviewing and practicing math skills such as multiplication. The review of multiplying larger numbers took place through completion of problems together as a group, the watching of a teacher recorded lesson on multiplying larger numbers, and independent practice. The teacher recorded video lesson included color-coded steps to help students remember how to multiply 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers and has been posted onto Google Classroom for students to access whenever needed. Students will continue to practice multiplication next week. Students also used IXL Diagnostics or Prodigy to identify their current level of ability.

Elementary School

Hooray for another awesome week in our Elementary school! Students continued to practice our new procedures and work hard to adapt to our new routines. It was so wonderful to sit and listen to our students read in person this week. Students worked 1:1 with staff reading, talking and answering comprehension questions. In Science, students worked on a Storm Spotter's Guide and learned that cumulonimbus clouds bring thunder, lightning, and heavy precipitation. Students then went outside and looked at the clouds and were able to predict the weather. Students continue to complete their "Picture of the Day". This activity helps our students to look closely at pictures and make observations about the details in the picture. Students then use their observation knowledge to make inferences about the picture. These are two key reading skills that will empower our students. Our favorite socially distanced morning meeting greet this week was the ball greet in which we used our feet to pass the soccer ball to a friend and greet them.



Reading/Literacy Support

Hip, Hip Hooray! All of us are so excited to be back in school for a great 2020-2021 year! Students in ‘classes’, such as periods 2, 4, and 5 jumped right in with Google Classroom and our assignments. Students who will meet with me for Support, individually or with ICS, are scheduled to begin next week. Most importantly, students appear to be functionally well with the building protocols.

Speech and Language

The students in the Speech and Language Program have been working diligently all week. A few of the older students have been learning idioms, multiple meaning words, and how to detect sarcasm. We learned that one can be a *veteran* of the armed forces or a *veteran* of a sport. The younger students are learning the long “e” pattern. After reading a story they drew pictures to check their comprehension of the story, “A Close Call”. The middle school students have been working on identifying and writing “Topic Sentences” for single paragraphs.

OT

Our OT bulletin board is complete to welcome everyone to OT. We are working off of the school theme “Bee a Hero, Help Everyone, Respect Others”. Over the next few months, each student will be making their own “Hero” Bee or Honeycomb to add to our bulletin board while we discuss what it means to them to be a hero and be respectful to others.



Phys. Ed.

This week, in Physical Education class, we challenged the students to learn how to exercise with a jump rope. For many students this was a new experience, so we had to build a foundation with different skill building activities, such as “snake” and “helicopter”. These activities help build students’ foot eye coordination, balance, and timing. Once the



students mastered these challenges, we moved on to

jumping while Ms. Livelli and Mr. Dobler spun the rope, again continuing to build the coordination necessary to jump rope on their own. When the students were giving their own jump rope, they were able to successfully jump on their own. It was exciting to introduce this new form of exercise to them and see all of the students excel. Other students were challenged to do different cardio exercises, ranging from Taebo to HIIT.

Art

This week in Art, the Elementary students worked on pastel fall leaf outlines. Middle school executed individual projects and High school students completed a fall colors assignment.



Music

It was a very exciting week in music. I have 3 new students expressing interest in instruments. We have trumpet, flute, and saxophone students starting. Our regulars are back at the keyboards. In general music classes we explored the life of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), a Medieval Composer who composed Chants. Music was not written for women in that Era but Hildegard's music was expressly for women. Elementary students used various percussion instruments and played along with the music. Middle school students listened to excerpts of music from Classical Composers and used words to describe the music.

Woodshop

This week in Industrial Arts, students continued to practice making cuts on the Bladerunner Jigsaw/Scrollsaw Tool and the Bandsaw. Students have also started hand sanding blocks of wood and were instructed in the use of the Belt Sander. Next week, we will complete our Tangram puzzles and begin safety lessons on the Miter Saw, Jointer, and Thickness Planer.

Bistro

Please order lunch for the month, or at least for the week, ahead of time. Tweaking can be done in homeroom for students who are absent, forgot their lunch, or ordered a lunch but brought one in instead. But it is important to have as accurate an account as possible ahead of time.

Lunch needs to be ordered at least a day or two early. This is now done online and emails went out with instructions.

If you need more information, please contact Marcia Lees at mlees@center.school or Jenny Ostrander at jostrander@center.school. Thank You.



Therapeutic Dept.

Mrs. Gorski's High School and Middle School groups discussed the rules of group counseling. Each group went over the things that make a group work properly: confidentiality, no put downs, respecting feelings, saying "ouch" when hurt or offended, the right to "let it stand", listening, "I" statements, work to make it work, the right to pass, and commitment. The groups were also asked to add any additional rules that they felt would benefit them. Mrs. Gorski worked with her students in individual counseling to each come up with two goals for themselves, one social emotional goal and one academic goal. She will continue to work with the students to use different strategies in order to achieve these goals. Have a wonderful weekend!

Ms. Hogan's and Ms. Sadiq's groups discussed some of the things they are looking forward to. Many of the students can't wait to see season 2 of the Mandalorian coming to the Disney Channel along with some popular video games that have been helping to keep the pandemic off of their minds. Other students have been trying yoga, going to the beach, and finding books they like to read.

SEL

Our first Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) day for the school year will be September 25. Our first topic will address the effects of COVID-19 with the quarantine and distance learning. We will be engaging the students through discussion and activities to draw upon their emotions and feelings towards this global pandemic. Our intent is to provide hope and give them a safe space to explore these feelings. We're looking forward to the day and more SEL days in the future!

Transition

Bridges to Employment, a Division of Alternatives Incorporated, started working with the students in the Transition Program. Their goal is to help students make a smooth and successful transition into the workplace, by giving them the needed experience and training. They will provide vocational assessments, job preparation and job sampling with a coach. Currently, the students have been working on self-assessment skills.

Health

It's Flu Season - Is it COVID-19 or the Flu? Both infections can cause no symptoms (asymptomatic) or include mild to severe symptoms. Flu symptoms show up about 1 to 4 days after being exposed to a sick person. COVID-19 symptoms appear about 2 to 14 days after being exposed to a sick person. According to the CDC, shared and unique symptoms may include:

Shared symptoms of BOTH Flu and COVID-19

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Extreme tiredness
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Stuffy, runny nose
- GI symptoms

Unique symptom to COVID-19

- Loss of taste or smell

School News



Since it is very difficult for parents to make it to our PTO meetings, we are going to start having our meetings on Google Meet through a PTO Google Classroom. Please email Marcia Lees at mlees@center.school if you are interested in joining or rejoining our PTO. A flyer will be sent out with more details about joining and some fundraisers that we have in mind. The cost per family is still \$10. If you have any fundraising ideas or any other ideas or thoughts about the PTO, please contact Marcia Lees at mlees@center.school.

Cooking Club:

Our first Cooking Club will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd at 4 pm. Anyone interested will be added to a google classroom where ingredients and recipes will be posted, as well as the meet link. We will be using the oven, so adult supervision is necessary. If you have a different time or day that you prefer for the future, please let me know. Contact Marcia Lees at mlees@center.school to have your child added to the list or for questions.

School Scenes:



IMPORTANT DATES:

Mon. Sept. 28	No School- Yom Kippur
Thu. Oct. 1	Back to school night begins virtually
Fri. Oct. 9	Mid-Marking Period 1
Tues.-Wed. Oct. 13,14	Early Dismissal- Parent-Teacher Conferences Virtual

Sincerely,



Dr. Ronald P. Rinaldi
Executive Director