

M. D. Roberts School of the Arts Quarterly Newsletter

October 2020 Edition

ADMINISTRATION

Sara Stephens Ed. S., Principal

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The vision of M. D. Roberts School of the Arts is to be a distinguished school of excellence through the integration of the arts in which all students are college and career ready and prepared to compete in a global society.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that we have completed the first quarter of this school year and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. We have successfully navigated our way through the full virtual school opening and now we will continue to deepen our commitment to sustaining a high-performance culture. I could not be prouder of the hard work of our students, faculty and support staff during these uncertain times. We had 29 students to make all A honor roll and 79 students to make A/B honor roll for the first nine week grading period.

Additionally, we maintained the following attendance rates for the month of September.

6th 98.21%

7th 97.77%

8th 97.99%

School Average 97.98%

Please join us as we strive to increase our class attendance to 99%.

So far this school year, we have held our annual Open House, Curriculum Nights (one per grade level), EOC Parent Meetings, Parent Input Meetings, Annual Title 1 Meetings, Principal's Chat N Chew, Magnet Parent Night, and our very first Drive Through Parade. Additionally, we were named a National Beta School of Distinction.

Please check with your child to ensure that they have signed up for their digital library card. They can visit the Media Center section of the school website to reserve e-books. Additionally, students have the ability to reserve Media books and check them out through curbside pick-up during virtual learning. Students who read 25 books this school year will be celebrated as part of our 25 book campaign. 25 books read equals 1 million words read. Encourage your child to read each day. It is our belief at M. D. Roberts that reading opens up a world of endless possibilities so we encourage our students to read in order to ensure that they are ready to compete in a global society.

Lastly, we are now accepting applications for the fine arts magnet program until December 4, 2020. Parents with rising middle school students can find more information regarding the application process from the Clayton County Public School website under the magnet programs tab. Audition information can be found on the M. D. Roberts school website.

As we continue to navigate our way through the virtual learning environment. The M. D. Roberts School of the arts administration, faculty, and staff wishes for you to remain safe during these uncertain times.



Let's congratulate Mrs. Demetra Williams for being named as the M. D. Roberts School of the Arts 2020 Teacher of the Year. Thank you Mrs. Williams for excellence in education.

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Language Arts

Please encourage students to become avid AR readers and visit the virtual media center to select and place books on hold. Mrs. Gardner, our media specialist provides curbside services for book pick up and drop off every Tuesday and Thursday (2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)

I-Ready Reading Practice-Parents please continue encouraging students to practice reading comprehension skills and vocabulary at least 45 minutes each week.

ELA Unit 1 Themes

Grade Six 1st Unit of Study

Unit 1: "Facing Fear" (Collection 1)

How powerful is fear?

Grade Seven 1st Unit of Study

Unit 1: "Perception and Reality" (Collection 2)

How does our perception differ from our reality?

Grade Eight 1st Unit of Study

Unit 1: "Culture and Belonging" (Collection 1)

How does one develop their own identity within a new culture?

Grade Nine 1st Unit of Study

Unit 1: "Finding Common Ground" (Collection 1)

Are individualism and community at odds?

Social Studies

The Social Studies Department is celebrating Hispanic National Hispanic Heritage Month that began Tuesday September 15 and ends on Thursday, October 15. Watch the morning announcements to learn about more Hispanic Heritage! On September 17, 2020 we celebrated Constitution Day! Constitution Day is an American observance of the day the Founding Fathers signed the U.S. Constitution. Finally, the Social Studies Department, hosted the Mock Election Oct. 6, 2020 with the goal of preparing students to be informed, thoughtful and engaged citizens. We look forward to doing more next term.

Special Announcement:

Students get ready to share your talents and represent M.D. Roberts School of the Arts for the upcoming events: 2020-2021 Spelling Bee and "Hear Our Voices". Dates are forthcoming.

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Science

We are navigating through the new Eduflow to conduct Argument-Driven Inquiry Lab. This is still a learning process so be patient as we work through this new learning platform.

6th grade Earth Science - Astronomy unit is complete and getting to know each other was out of this world. Now, we will dig deeper as we become geologists.

7th Grade Life Science - We are entering into our genetics and inheritance units, we are excited about investigating how this unit will connect to our previous unit of cells and body systems. Investigations are in our DNA!!

8th Grade Physical Science - Forcefully made our way through Unit 1 which was awesome. We learned about speed, velocity, acceleration, Newton's Laws of Gravity and so much more. We are going to continue our learning it is going to be an up and down roller coaster of a ride as we move to unit 2.

During the next 9 weeks we will begin our unit on genetics. Students will learn how traits are passed down from parents to offspring as well as why we aren't identical to our parents. Students will also learn the difference between asexual and sexual reproduction and how it affects the traits that are passed on to their offspring. In addition, they will be able to explain how twins can look different and how chromosomes and genes play a role in the genetic variation of offspring.

Recap

7th Grade Life Science Recap

As our first quarter comes to an end, let's recap some of the things our 7th grade Science Scholars have done and learned.

We started the semester of learning about cells, organelles, and their functions. Students read an article about the cells that makes up the human body and even compared the cell and its organelles to a school and a city. Students also completed a Virtual Cell Structure Lab using Gizmo.

We then moved on to the human body systems and while discussing this concept, students were introduced to physical and chemical changes. They learned about the physical and chemical changes that our food goes through from the moment we consume it. During this segment of our lesson they also learned how our bodies use osmosis to absorb nutrients and expel waste.

The electromagnetic wave spectrum was also integrated during our lessons on body systems and students were given multiple writing prompts to choose from. One prompt required students to explain the difference between sound waves and the electromagnetic waves and how they can contribute to human's ability to "see".

Lastly, students completed an ADI lab where they were to determine how the concentration of salt water would affect the rate of osmosis. During this lab, students learned the difference between an isotonic, hypertonic and hypotonic solution. They were also able to learn how drinking water from the ocean could be detrimental to our cells and body.

Parents can assist their students and help them be successful this next quarter by frequently checking Google Classroom for posted notes, assignments, announcements and due dates. Parents can also designate twenty minutes of study time at least 2-3 times a week for additional science practice. Many concepts and vocabulary terms that we discuss are new and unfamiliar to students. In an effort to help them be successful they should review the material outside of the regular school day to ensure retention of the content.

Parents can also use some of the following resources to aid their students in being successful in their science class.

- Quizizz
- Kahoot!
- Quizlet
- Brainpop
- CK-12
- PhET interactive simulations

Let's work together to make this next quarter a successful one for our scholars!

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Math

- 6th grade is currently learning about Ratios and Proportions. Begin to work with students on adding and subtracting positive and negative integers as well as equations with a single variable.
- 7th grade finished their Geometry lesson where they did a "3 little pig builders" task that allowed them to review on surface area, with arts integration. They have been working on inferences and probability.
- 8th grade is working on Exponents and Equations. This included scientific notation along with rational and irrational numbers. Soon students will move back to Geometry with the Pythagorean Theorem and volume of various solids.
- Algebra I created the land space drawings for an amusement park with their Unit 1 task and are now deep into Unit 2 with linear functions. This is a highly important unit so please schedule tutorials as needed and utilize any and all extra practice provided.

All math classes are working on I-Ready and we encourage parents to have their scholars show them how it works and engage with them over homework and class assignments. We appreciate all of the parent support and continue to MAKE MATH MATTER!!!!

Fine Arts Department

Our department has a new website! Please visit our website for information about each class and audition information for students applying for the 2021-2022 school year. <https://sites.google.com/clayton.k12.ga.us/mdrsota-fine-arts>

All live performances and rehearsals are on hold until further notice. However, we are continuing work on our skills and techniques in order to progress in each of our areas. Students will continue to submit performance videos and written work through google classroom. Teachers are happy to schedule meetings with parents. Our office hours are 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday and vary on Friday due to Professional Development. The Fine Arts Teachers are currently working on creating a virtual recruitment presentation for the 5th graders in Clayton County. The magnet application is available online now until December. 4th. We held a Fine Arts Magnet Parent Night on October 8th via zoom. Please check the school website to review the video. On November 5th we will hold a magnet program information session for perspective students and their families. Parents will have the opportunity to learn more information about the magnet program and the audition process. The information to join the meeting will be posted to the school's website.

The M. D. Roberts Band is off to a good virtual start this year. Students are practicing out of their Standard of Excellence Books and receiving a lot of individual feedback while playing their instruments. Some of our most talented 8th grade students are looking forward to auditioning for the Georgia All-State and District Honor Bands. All band students are currently working on songs which will be presented at some point in performances. Thank you to all the students who are working hard, and also to their parents who are supporting their child's interest to learn how to play a band instrument.

8th grade Orchestra students have received the Stilwell Orchestra audition information. During the second nine weeks we will work on different aspects of the audition during class. Mr. Perkins is also holding virtual help sessions on Wednesday afternoons for interested 8th graders. Sessions are free, however parents must complete a form for his/her child to attend. Please contact Ms. Long for more information.

The Theatre department participated in two virtual field trips and will participate in a virtual workshop in November.

The Visual Arts department is currently working on virtual art displays. The Virtual Art displayed will be on October 30th and February 5th. More information will be shared when it's available. Visual Arts students are also working on a Collaborative Mural which will be virtual display November 1st. During the month of October, students are participating in Inktober.

Ram Pride