



ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Newsletter

Month: December
Year: 2022

Principal's Message:

Dear Stevenson Ohana,

Time is melting! I cannot believe that it is December already. Time flies when you're having fun!

This year we set out to return to a state of normalcy by resuming co-curricular activities such as athletics, band performances, blended SLC options (in person and virtual), BUCtoberfest, blended parent meetings, instruction in person for 98% of our students, Distance Learning for 2%, after school tutoring, and the optional use of face masks. What we have learned is how to be flexible and that everything is figureoutable provided that we are patient and want to figure it out.

Student Led Conferences start next week. Students have spent time selecting evidence of their learning and reflecting on their progress. Research shows that when students are involved in reflecting on their learning and articulate their thinking, they grow as thinkers. It is a good time of year for students to reflect on what they have learned, set goals on what they aspire to accomplish next semester, and to even determine how they will meet these goals. In the beginning of the year I explained to students that their responsibility as a learner is to grow and take ownership of their learning. I tasked the teachers to increase the rigor and to provide timely and focused feedback to students so that they can make corrections along the way. My hope is that students are able to share what they are learning at school and why during their conferences.

My other hope for students is that they practice gratitude, appreciation, and care daily. I wish this for students so that they lead a joyful and peaceful life. Unhappiness often stems from desiring that which we do not have. And yes, some of our students really struggle with finding joy. So, we remind them that we care for and about them, we will listen in order to understand them, and that we will help them think about what else they can look forward to. "*Hope is the thing with feathers,*" (Dickinson) and I hope that we are all inspired to be brave to do the right thing, to consider a different perspective in order to understand, and to share a common goal which is centered around peace.

Ne'e papa.

Happy holidays,
Mrs. Luczak

Student Council

Stevenson Middle School hosted 15 students from Kunori Gakuen, Yamagata, Japan on November 18, 2022. Our Hula students welcomed them with a magnificent hula performance and our Ukulele club shared their talents during lunch time. Kunori students were kept busy as they visited classrooms, worked at our Buc Redemption Center and even shared a dance with us Mahalo for visiting us!



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Student Government held our 7th grade dance on November 23. Seventh graders enjoyed the energetic music and time with one another in the Cafeteria! 8th graders, you're next!

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The Association of Parents and Teachers (APT) is a non-profit volunteer organization established to support RLSMS students and teachers. Funds raised by the APT provide our students various school programs, activities and supplies/equipment that state funds do not cover.

You can support Stevenson APT with your Amazon purchases! Use this link: bit.ly/stevensonaptsmile, or go to smile.amazon.com, click on the yellow Get started button and search for "Stevenson Hawaii." No separate login necessary and no cost to you! We will receive 0.5% of all eligible purchases as long as you designate "Stevenson Middle School APT Hawaii" as your Amazon Smile charity.



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Stevenson Middle School APT Hawaii [Change](#)

Location: Honolulu, HI | Year Founded: 2015

Our next meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 4:30 pm (via Zoom). Contact us (rlsmsapt@gmail.com) to attend—we welcome any ideas and volunteers!

Announcements, Updates, Reminders:

Federal Survey Cards

This year, we tried using the online survey which resulted in only 61 responses (out of 553 students.) Hard copy surveys were distributed by AA classes on Wednesday 11/23/22. Please complete and turn in these surveys, one per child. Mahalo for your kokua!

SIS-10W & Proof of Residence

If you have received a letter from the Registrar's Office regarding missing SIS-10W and/or Proof of Residence, please complete and turn in ASAP. Thank you!

Student Led Conference Week:

December 5-9, Dismissal at 12:05 every day.

Winter iReady Testing December 6th-8th

End of Quarter & Holiday

End of Quarter 2 - December 16, 2022

Winter Break - December 19, 2022 to January 3, 2023.

Students return to school: January 4, 2023

Registrar's Office

Important Information: Registration for Next School Year Courses

6th and 7th Graders: Registration for next year's elective course.

Please visit rlsmsregistration.com to complete the registration google form, for next years elective courses by December 16, 2022

8th Graders: Registration for next year's 9th grade courses

All 8th grade students have been added to a High School registration google classroom corresponding to the demographic information our school has on file. Students will receive instruction on how to complete the individual high school's registration process through each school's specific google classroom, Student's may also visit their High School's website to view the 2023-2024 Course Catalog. Program Course Manuals can be viewed on their high school's website.

Geographic Exception (GE) Application for 9th Grade

Students applying for a Geographic Exception (GE) to a Honolulu District High School, can download the GE form from the Stevenson Website (rlsms.k12.hi.us) or from the DOE website link below.

Link to: [Geographic Exception Form on the DOE Website](#)

GEs should be turned in beginning January 1, 2023 and at least one week before the March 1, 2023 deadline. Stevenson needs enough time to process the GE applications and forward them to the high schools before the March 1 deadline.

Completed GE forms **must** be submitted with the required items:

- 1) Proof of Residence – See [Current Proof of Residence Document](#) on the rlsms.k12.hi.us website.
- 2) Self-addressed stamped envelope

Any GE application that is incomplete or missing these documents will delay processing which could result in missing the GE deadline.

CAMPUS



Infinite Campus Tip of the Month

Notifications

HOW DO I GET NOTIFICATIONS?

Notifications are available through the Campus Student and Campus Parent mobile apps, if enabled by your school.

WHAT TRIGGERS A NOTIFICATION?

A notification is triggered when attendance, grades or assignment scores are created or modified

NOT RECEIVING NOTIFICATIONS?

Your school/district has the option to turn on notifications to mobile devices. You may also want to review the notification settings on your phone itself.

6th Grade

December 2022

Art

The 6th grade students were introduced to one point perspective by drawing a city by the sea. They then recreated their drawings on watercolor paper and applied different watercolor techniques. They did an amazing job!



English-Ms. Nugent

Aloha Parents and Guardians, Students are wrapping up their Informational Text Projects. They have spent the last couple weeks exploring an issue that they care about and writing outlines building awareness about the issue. Presentations of their projects will be the last week of the quarter!

[Link to the Q2 Calendar](#)

Have a great Holiday Season!
Ms. Nugent

Math

In class, we are finishing expression with exponents and will be starting long division with decimals. Students will be taking their Winter Math diagnostic on December 6th. It is important that your child comes to school on time, well rested, and have eaten a nutritious breakfast. Please encourage your child to do their best.

Mrs. Law

Science



Our 6th grade scientists have had a great first semester! Our productive quarter 2 ends December 16th. Students have learned to take notes, work in groups for labs and completing assignments in class. Our 3rd quarter will focus on Cells and Life as well as Classifying Life (Canvas). Students will make models of animal and plant cells as we discuss structures and functions of cells. They will also plan and carry out investigations to provide evidence that living things are made of cells!

Hawaiian Studies (Explore Wheel)

Aloha Ohana!

Students have wrapped up learning about the Hawaiian flag and its significance, now they are learning about Hawaiian myths and legends. Students will begin creating their mo'olelo (story) that involves myths. Mahalo!

Mrs. Uperesa

Beg Bands and Orchestra

Aloha Stevenson Band and Orchestra parents! Welcome to December! The beginners are picking up their instruments extremely well! We had to take a U-turn with our piece choice and now the students are playing A Holly Jolly Christmas on December 14th at our Concert! We're also are excited to have some of our students participate in the Honolulu City Lights Parade and Manoa Christmas Parade! Very Exciting for our beginners and very proud! - Mr. Shinbo

6X Math

Aloha parents/guardians. Students have completed lessons on finding greatest common factors and least common multiples. Currently we are working on lessons which include multiplying and dividing multi-digit decimals. We hope to complete the lessons by the end of the quarter.

Happy Holidays!!

- Mrs. Talaeai

Social Studies

Hello parents and guardians! Students Just wrapped up their comparative unit and critical analysis of ancient Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt! Next up, ancient India where we will learn about the first major cities and advancement in math and medicine.

Wishing you a great holiday season!

-Mrs. Butindaro

Social Studies

Aloha all. Students are wrapping up their own Created Ancient Egyptian God/Goddess and they will be doing a gallery walk of their completed final products on 11x17 paper and will use this for their Student-Led Conferences where I took a picture and they will add it to their virtual SLC portfolio. Many students who completed it are very prideful and creative in their own created God and I am too. We will finish this quarter with a glimpse into Ancient China before Winter Break starts. - Mahalo, Mr. Lee

General Music

The 6th graders are almost finished with their 'ukulele performance test'! For this, they have to do the following: C Major Scale (up and down), strum C, ami, F and G7 twice (with or without the 'island' strum), memorize at least 12 chords, and play a melody (many choices available) while displaying proper posture and holding position!

We still have the final 'Ukulele History/technique' test next week and then we can study Broadway and watch an example of musical theater for week 10!

Great work, everyone!

Mr. Serra

7th Grade

December 2022

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Aloha parents & guardians,



As students are finishing up reading *The Outsiders*, they will prepare for their end-of-the-quarter review to check for novel understanding.

In addition to the review, students will begin to work on their informational projects that involve creating a newsworthy article about *The Outsiders*.

During the last week of the 2nd quarter, students will also watch *The Outsiders* movie. **Please be on the lookout for a movie permission slip that will be sent via email & home.** Parents need to sign the form to grant permission for their students to view the film.

Thank you for your continuous support! Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

[Link to Ms. Nugent's Q2 Calendar](#)

Mahalo,
Ms. Ines and Ms. Nugent

General Music -

The 7th graders are finishing up their performance tests on the piano! Some of the skills they have to demonstrate include: C and G Major scales, I, IV and V chords, chromatic scale, playing a version of 'Ode to Joy', minor scale, and one song that uses both hands at the same time with chords! I have to say - some kids really got good in such a short amount of time! I hope everyone had fun learning! For week 10 - a short lesson on Broadway!

Mr. Serra

Math

Happy November!

Math 7: students just finished learning adding integers-we will continue to build on this by applying it to real-world problems.

Math 7X: students learned about reasoning through multi-step equations and will begin to solve multi-step equations and word problems.

Students continue to work hard to understand new concepts. I'm looking forward to ending the quarter strong!

Ms. Uyeno

Art

Students completed their one point perspective watercolor paintings and were able to include them in their SLC portfolio. They are now starting their paper mache masks. They begin with a sketch that we discuss and then begin the process. They are enjoying the gluey mess!

Aloha all - We are finishing up our unit on energy transformation. Students are working on their poster project now. I can't wait to see what they come up with. As a reminder, everyone needs headphones that plug into their computers for the videos that we watch. Enjoy your break! ~ Ms. Reeder



Competitive Robotics

The 7th & 8th grade VEX team just competed at their first tournament where they learned a lot and are now inspired to tackle their next tournament in January.

Our VexIQ team will compete in Stevenson's tournament Dec. 3rd.

Beg/Inter/Adv Band and Orchestras

Aloha Stevenson Band and Orchestra parents! Welcome to December! The beginners are picking up their instruments extremely well! We had to take a U-turn with our piece choice and now the students are now playing A Holly Jolly Christmas on December 14th at our Concert! We're also excited to have some of our students participate in the Honolulu City Lights Parade and Manoa Christmas Parade! Very Exciting for our beginners and very proud!

Our Intermediate and Adv Band students are doing extremely well and did great performances at Noelani and Manoa Elementary Schools! We've got our two parades, our School concerts and our family concert! Very Proud! - Mr. Shinbo

STEM- Aloha families, Students finished their aquatecture designs, which are being displayed in the library. We are starting our technology unit and discussing the benefits of technology. Students will code a presentation using CS first. I will also introduce Maker Fair (year-end project) so they can start brainstorming.

Finally, permission slips for the STEM field trip will be due Dec. 9th.

Thank you for your support!
-Mrs. Brewer

7th Grade Social Studies

Aloha Families,
We just finished our Unification Booklet Project where we learned about Kamehameha the Great!

We will now start our unit on Western Impact where we will learn about Kamehameha II Liholiho.

Mahalo,
Mrs Yonamine

CTE

This is the last month of CTE for semester 1 students. We are working on hands on activities to help them gain basic career skills. Please ask your student about the CTE pathways they are interested in for high school and what careers they are starting to learn more about.

Thank you!
Mrs. Kinoshita

Social Studies: Aloha, We just finished our unit where students created their skits and recorded their performances in front of the class. We are going to finish the quarter with the history of Hawaiian Kingdom's old order changes and new beliefs.

Mahalo,
Mr. Lee

Hawaiian Studies (Explore Wheel)

Aloha Ohana!

Students have wrapped up learning about the land during traditional times as well as modern times. We will be finishing off the quarter with learning about Aloha Aina or love for the land and how we can advocate for positive change. - Mrs. Uperesa

Hula

Aloha Ohana! Students wrapped up learning 2 dances so far which they have performed for our visitors from Japan during school on November 18th. Video of that performance is posted on Google Classroom. As we get into Makahiki season we will be learning hula to honor Lono and his season.
- Mrs. Uperesa

8th Grade

2022

8th Grade English - Mr. Delzotto

Students will complete the quarter with an argumentative essay explaining whether or not they think money can buy happiness. Students are also preparing to take the iReady reading diagnostic and show their growth. Next quarter we explore what it means to be a hero, and read excerpts from Homer's Odyssey!

General Music

The 8th graders are finishing their piano performance tests! In a span of about 4 weeks, they Practiced C, G, D, A and E scales, natural, harmonic and melodic minor scales, chromatic scales, I, IV and V chords in C and G Major, Ode to Joy melody and a Song to show off all of these skills...

Next week, we have a final quiz and then we will Study a little bit about Broadway and music theater! I hope the 8th grades will continue their study of Music in the future!

Mr. Serra

AVID (7th and 8th grade)

Students are finishing up their argumentative essay on a prompt of their choice as we use the writing process and workshop. We will also close up our Tutorials sessions which students have been working on throughout this quarter. We are sharpening our skills in asking guiding questions for student presenters, collaborative skills, and facilitation. Students will also be reflecting on their GPA Goal Setting from the beginning of the quarter, and set new goals for Quarter 3.

- Ms. Kashimura

Beg/Inter/Adv Band and Orchestras

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Our Intermediate and Adv Band students are doing extremely well and did great performances at Noelani and Manoa Elementary Schools! We've got our two parades, our School concerts and our family concert! Very Proud! - Mr. Shinbo

8th Grade CTE

We spent the month of November learning about applying for a Hawai'i Work Permit and a job. Mr. Ellis also presented to students about registering for classes in High School. Your child also completed their final kit for CTE. We will wrap up this semester by completing a project to compile our learning for the semester.

To connect with your child, consider asking them what classes they selected to take next year.

Next semester current CTE students will move on to PE. It has been a pleasure teaching your child! Happy Holidays! - Ms. Hitt

Ho'onui Ike ELA- Ms. Nugent

Aloha Parents and Guardians,
Your student is wrapping up their unit on how to make a difference. They are working on creating PSAs for an issue they want to change. The top 5 PSAs will be shown on BucTV next quarter! I encourage you to ask your child to show you their PSA they are working hard on them right now!

[Link to the Q2 Calendar](#)

Have a great Holiday Season!
Ms. Nugent

8th Gr. STEM

The Buctoberfest provided an excellent opportunity for our STEM students to apply the Design Thinking Process to design and run their own sections of the Fun House. They did an amazing job applying the skills they have learned. DJ Boaz ran a workshop on the history and technique of deejaying & trained a few students to DJ for the Dance at Buctoberfest. Shout out again to our Partnership with Punahou STEM students who made the tunnel.

Currently, we are starting our Maker Fair journey as well as learning how to useTinkerCad and Onshape software assist in designing with 3D printing or cutting/engraving with our laser.

Science

We wrapped up Module 2 on Physical and Chemical Properties of Matter, Thermal Energy, and the Law of Conservation of Mass. Students applied the content in various hands-on activities and mini labs.

Next up, we will be learning about the Periodic Table. Our scientists will learn how to use the patterns and trends to determine protons, electrons, neutrons, and molecular bonding.

-Mrs. Segawa

Competitive Robotics

The 7th & 8th grade VEX team just competed at their first tournament where they learned a lot and are now inspired to tackle their next tournament in January.

Our VexIQ team will compete in Stevenson's tournament Dec. 3rd.

Math

In Math 8, we learned about proportional relationships and slopes from tables and graphs. We also learned how to calculate slopes using similar triangles and the slope formula as well as how to graph and write an equation of the line in the form $y=mx$ and $y=mx + b$.

In Algebra 1, we learned about solving systems of linear equations graphically and algebraically using substitution and elimination methods. We will wrap up module 4 with solving 2 variable linear inequalities and systems of linear inequalities.

Hula

Aloha Ohana! Students wrapped up learning 2 dances so far which they have performed for our visitors from Japan during school on November 18th. Video of that performance is posted on Google Classroom. As we get into Makahiki season we will be learning hula to honor Lono and his season.

-Mrs. Uperesa

Hawaiian Studies (Explore Wheel)

Aloha ohana!. As we wrap up this quarter students have learned about songs of protest such as Kaulana Na Pua and got an opportunity to recreate an existing song into an advocacy song which addresses issues in Hawaii and/or worldwide.

- Mrs. Uperesa

Physical Education

The 8th grade PE classes have just finished the weight training unit at the Thanksgiving break. We have just started our DARE program sponsored by the Honolulu Police Department with Officer Ben Lloyd. We will be finishing off the semester with tennis.

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ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) / EL Program

EL students will be preparing for the Annual WIDA ACCESS Testing that will take place from January 9th to February 23, 2023. Please look out for a letter that will have more information. Thank you!

This quarter's writing focus for ESOL was Informational/Explanatory writing. All students worked on their Informational Essential Questions on one influential person who changed the world for the better. We partnered with Social Studies, Science and English teachers to integrate writing prompts with other content standards.

Essential Questions:

1. Who is someone that has made an impact on their lives or the world?
2. What do you admire about a person who has overcome a tough situation?
3. Who is a person who has turned failure to success?
4. What is the social impact of natural phenomenon?

All ESOL teachers focused on the Writing Process to provide students with consistency in the Writer's Workshop run lessons. Our students practiced writing traits of Ideas, Organization, Voice, and Conventions this quarter, with sharpening their skills in source citation and text evidence. Students are improving and gaining writing stamina and skills in writing structure that will support them in future writing assignments for all subject areas.

- Ms. Amano, Ms. Kashimura, Mr. Oh

8th Grade U.S. History

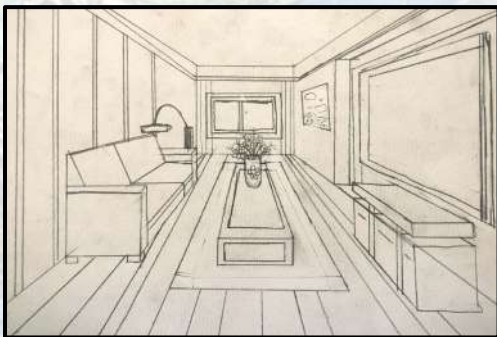
We have ended our unit on Westward Expansion, to include the rapid technological, sociopolitical, and economic changes between 1801-1861 as America grew from its size of 13 colonies to a nation that expanded “from sea to shining sea.” Students have learned about noteworthy inventions of the Industrial Revolution and how they will set the stage for the Civil War (which we will begin studying after the Winter Break).

There is a special opportunity coming up for 8th grade students to complete a six week independent research with me for the George Washington Leadership Study. If students want to complete this opportunity, they need to sign up by December 12th so that their medals can be ordered over the winter break. The study will begin shortly after the Winter Break and will take one recess per week (students will come to room 118 during recess on Wednesdays to receive the study challenge for each week).

Ho’Onui Ike students should have a final first draft of their projects submitted by December 16th so that I can give them feedback to help them be competition ready in January. The registration (which includes final submission of finished projects) for the District Competition for National History Day closes on February 9th.

8th Grade Art

Students completed their one and two point perspective watercolor paintings and were able to include them in their SLC portfolio. I was so impressed by their attention to detail. They are now starting their paper mache masks. They begin with a sketch that we discuss and then begin the process.



Digital Media 7th and 8th Grade

Students were introduced to iMovie, a video editing program and completed a video about themselves which they included in their SLC Portfolio. They are now learning how to use an SLR camera to take still shots. They are taking pictures of objects that represent the alphabet.

Students are also beginning their story boards for a video they will be submitting to Olelo TV, which is a program that showcases students work in Hawaii.

