



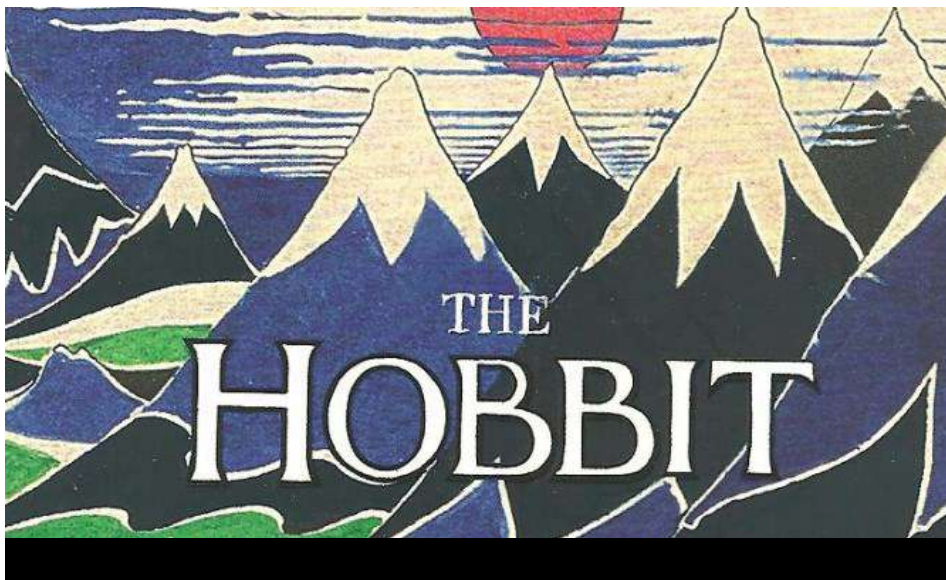
SPOTLIGHT ON: 7th Grade Language Arts

In the high honors ELA program, 7th grade students in Ms. Pohlig's class are being exposed to classic literature, including "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien (a text typically found in tenth grade English classes), and are conducting in-depth character analyses of such texts. Their daily assignments include reading 20-30 minutes, creating vocabulary lists for themselves from the text, and developing creative writing strategies so as to create their own adventure stories. In addition, students are daily exposed to the analysis of nonfictional texts and challenging questions through the use of CommonLit.org.

Most excitingly, however, are the hour and a half-long Socratic Seminars in which students sit in a circle and debate various facets of a text, challenging each other to look more deeply at the symbolism and the way authors convey messages through their written works. Students come prepared with about twenty open-ended discussion questions and facilitate the conversation themselves, carefully learning how to listen and engage in an academic conversation without raising hands or interrupting each other. It's an exciting time to be in high honors!

"Go back?" he thought. "No good at all! Go sideways? Impossible! Go forward? Only thing to do! On we go!"

- J.R.R. Tolkien



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Frog dissection in Ms. Boston's Science Class

7th Grade Science

The scholars have worked very hard this semester. They have learned how each of the body systems work together to help them sustain life. They were able to describe how if one system is affected, then it will affect how the rest of the body is affected. Scholars compared the anatomical structure of human to that of a frog by dissecting and observing the studied organs and organ systems. Students were able to predict the outcome of offspring's of parents with various genetic make up or diseases.

For our unit of Energy, students were responsible for creating a lesson and presenting that assigned topic to their fellow classmates. The students listening, had to complete guided notes from the presented topic. This semester has flown by so fast and each Scholar has rose to the Challenge and Exceeded Expectations. Way to Go Scholars!!

SWMS Mission

As active student scholars and professional educators, we will influence a community of learners who will grasp the concept of STUDY, LEARN, APPLY in order to compete globally and achieve high growth in all achievement areas as we help our students learn to love where they learn.



SWMS Vision

We promote a positive climate in which staff, students, teachers, parents and community collaborate to develop skills in teaching and learning.

HONORS TEACHERS

8TH GRADE

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7TH GRADE

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6TH GRADE

Cato Burgess

Tiffany Reavis

Geoffrey Reckerd

Kimberly Richardson

Mary Solan

8th Grade Math

AIG students in Math II this past quarter have enjoyed learning about Trigonometry and Triangle Congruence and Similarity. SOHCAHTOA now has a new meaning, not as a strange sounding word, but as a hint to the relationships in a right triangle. Knowing the sine, cosine and tangent of angles has allowed students to analyze house blueprints, conclude angles of elevation and depression to solve problems, and determine the length that sides of a right triangle would need to be, given a specific angle.

The concept of a two column proof and a paragraph proof have stretched students' minds greatly! Perhaps they will NEVER have to complete one of these exact questions outside of a math classroom, but the reasoning skills gained from these problems are essential in all jobs in the future. To go from a given amount of information or resources, and conclude with a goal, with no steps in between provided, is a challenge for all of us. These students have successfully maneuvered from a Given to a To Prove with amazing strategy, analysis and precision.

For third quarter, we plan to delve into topics of Probability, Circles (actually a Math III skill) and lots of Review and Synthesis of all we've learned this year. Thanks, parents, for encouraging and challenging your students at home as we do the same in the classroom.

6th Grade Language Arts

Several 6th grade ELA scholars are reading the second book in the series of *The Wednesday Wars* titled *Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt. Our classes have accepted Mr. Blair's challenge of testing online 100% by the end of the school year. Scholars wrote 30 minute research papers on Shakespearean plays: *The Tempest*, *MacBeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*. Scholars analysis of traditional stories reveals diverse cultural values. We eagerly anticipate sharing Roald Dahl's memoir *Boy* in February.