



# PIEDMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL

an IB World School

## Talent Development News

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### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

We have finished up the probability unit that included the following: estimating likelihood, finding experimental and theoretical probabilities, using simulations to model experiments, using organized list to find all possible outcomes, organizing list with compound events, exploring permutations, exploring combinations, and estimating probabilities, making predictions, and finding odds for and against specified outcomes.

Students have taken a Mock EOG and a Study Island Benchmark with EOG data. Both of these are tools used to help determine where your child is and what goal they should be working on to maximize their score on the celebration of knowledge (EOG). Teachers have studied the data and decided the most important topics to cover again. We are rotating our classes through all teachers so that all students have the opportunity to pick up skills that they may have not grasped the first time with their regular teacher. This is done during our 2nd block, and students are making a study packet for preparation for the EOG.

After EOGs, we will be covering the material that isn't tested on the EOGs, but students need to know before moving to 7th grade. These topics include a deeper look into proportions, integers, volume, and surface area, and functions.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade TD students have learned how to be independent, inquisitive, and principled IB students through the use of their daybook/reader's notebook, asking questions, completing projects and turning work in on time.

During this final quarter, the sixth graders at Piedmont will be finishing up the genre of poetry. The poetry unit focuses on the theme of Citizenship. What character traits do good citizens possess? How do citizens impact the identity and culture of a community? The fundamental concepts explored throughout this quarter consist of reading and writing many types of poetry, speaker, tone vs. mood, figurative language, identifying different perspectives, style, and responding to and reflecting upon a variety of poetry.

After our End of Grade tests, we will continue on to our last and final project, "The Time for Piedmont" magazine. Students will design, write, and create a magazine entitled "Time for Piedmont." Students will use the various genres and literary techniques from throughout the school year to create a magazine for next year's rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our Area of Interaction for this project will be Environment as we focus and reflect upon the environment of Piedmont. Our MYP Unit question for this project is, "How does what you've learned affect where you are going?" This MYP Unit question supports our Reflective IB Learner Profile. For this project, each student will reflect upon the school year and think about the things that a new Piedmont 6<sup>th</sup> grader would like to know on his or her first day of school. "Time for Piedmont" is what a new 6<sup>th</sup> grader would like to know about Piedmont on his or her first day of school. Next year, sixth grade students will find our "Time for Piedmont" magazines sitting on top of their desks on the first day of school. It is our hope that these magazines will help reduce anxiety, answer questions, and perhaps generate a few smiles and laughs for the "first day back to school jitters."

We have enjoyed working with each and every student and we wish them the best of luck in 7<sup>th</sup> grade!

## **Seventh Grade Math**

We have now completed the EOG's. In the 4th quarter we have learned how much water fills a pool, how much area a label takes on a can, and much more about volume and surface area. We did a lot of re-looping to prepare for EOG's. Each class rotated to the four math teachers and reviewed different goals. This gave students a chance to learn from a different teacher with a different learning style. After two week on goal rotation, the students had a full week of review trying to earn gold medals. They worked extremely hard, so they could be on the wall outside showing they mastered gold.

Additionally, our math team is continuing to differentiate for the students by using methods such as flexible grouping, tiered lessons, and anchor activities. We are encouraging students to work more in depth within the same topic to help enrich their learning every day. In the standard plus classes, we have shown more videos and given them the ability to pick what they need and watch them. We have also given them study island lesson to help them review and see math through a new lenses.

Honors math students worked in depth on slope, understanding positive and negative slope, just like a business owner. They were able to find and describe the slope in a real world situation. They also explored probability with the new textbook. The new text book for next year is inquiry based learning. The students and teachers loved the new book.

We are now at the END OF THE YEAR! The students worked hard and prepared themselves well for the EOG's. We have many fun activities planned from "Asia/Africa day" to "tie dye t-shirt day". Students, teachers, and parents should be very proud of everyone's effort for the EOG's. This year was a very successful year for the kids. Hopefully every kid has a safe and relaxing summer. J

~7<sup>th</sup> grade Math Teachers~

Mrs. Gorman, Mrs. Davis, Miss. Hetrick, and Miss. Peterson

## **Seventh Grade Language Arts**

The seventh grade has been working diligently to prepare for the end of grade test in reading. Our department has been regrouping in class to give students time to master concepts with which they struggle. We have seen lots of enthusiastic kids applying strategies we have taught (and some of which they developed on their own) to ensure success for this important end of year test. We, as a department, are thankful for the students' attention and cooperation during this time.

During the last few weeks, after the break, we will be introducing literary circles. Students will work in groups to choose a book to read together, and they will be able to choose a variety of activities to compliment the books. The majority of the work will be done in class, but we encourage students to read as much as possible on the assigned book so they can focus on the tasks while with their groups. This should be challenging and fun.

Ms. Brown will be reading Monster by Langston Hughes. Many of her kids showed great interest in Hughes during the poetry project. She listened to their request and will be directing this novel study. There will be a variety of activities to accompany the reading of this timeless novel.

Mr. Milligan will be working on his dinner theatre skits. Students will be given a criteria sheet and will work in groups to create skits that follow specific criteria. The students always enjoy this end of year mini project.

Additionally we will be working on a "Freedom Riders" mini project to recognize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic event. We will be practicing VTS (visual thinking strategies) and writing in class using the RAFT technique. This is a creative writing task where the student must take a perspective and create a written piece. This writing could be a poem, postcard, letter, news article, etc.

Please be aware that we will continue to have challenging and creative activities for the kids after the end of grade tests. We are hopeful the students will enjoy the many academic tasks we have planned. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Maranda Thornburg [maranda.thornburg@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:maranda.thornburg@cms.k12.nc.us)

Megan Whiting [megan.whiting@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:megan.whiting@cms.k12.nc.us)

Cynthia Brown [cynthiaalexander-brown@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:cynthiaalexander-brown@cms.k12.nc.us)

David Milligan [david.milligan@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:david.milligan@cms.k12.nc.us)

## **Eighth Grade Language Arts**

The eighth grade Language Arts team is excited to wrap up an exciting and successful year with our students. They are prepared for high school. We are closing the year with a unit of self discovery. During this reflective unit, students will read a variety of poetry and create their own, using model pieces from many well-known poets, such as Nikki Giovanni, George Ella Lyon, Maya Angelou, Robert Frost, and Langston Hughes. We will use the workshop model to revise our pieces and make them our best examples of writing.

As a cumulative project, students will select and polish their favorite poems and creatively display them on an original 3D piece that is an artistic reflection of themselves. They will use the *design cycle* to create an original piece using supplies effectively and resourcefully. We are extremely excited to see how our students will impress us with their ingenuity and talent in this individual project.

As part of the Piedmont tradition, students will create a Piedmont poem to share at the end of the year ceremony. We will collaboratively write in each Language Arts class about our Piedmont journey. We will also combine all of the poems into one Piedmont poem which students will memorize and recite at the ceremony.

Thank you for an outstanding year. We have truly enjoyed working with your student!

## **Eighth Grade Math**

Fourth quarter started off with the inter-disciplinary unit: The Wright Brothers. As part of our Outer Banks experience, students learned about the Wright Brothers and the courage it took to fly the early airplanes. Students also built, using Styrofoam, toothpicks and glue, the 1900 and 1902 Wright Brothers gliders during math class and answered questions related to the scale and aerodynamics of the gliders. During the actual 8<sup>th</sup> grade Outer Banks field trip, students learned a lot more about the Wright Brothers and got to see where they actually flew their gliders as well as climb on a replica of the 1902 glider that they built in class.

After spring break, students began to prepare for their EOGs. Algebra students must prepare for two tests – the 8<sup>th</sup> grade EOG and the Algebra EOC which is 25% of their overall grade. Students did a lot of partner work to answer rigorous questions that use many different mathematical concepts in order to draw conclusions and finally answer the question. Students found these questions challenging, yet persevered to find answers to the problems.

After EOG testing, students will be creating a City Map using algebraic concepts. This map uses knowledge of slope and linear equations. Students will also create a unique drawing using various slopes. No two drawings are the same and the results are quite spectacular. Ask to see your student's creation.

It has been a pleasure teaching your TD student this year. We wish them much success in high school.



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## Talent Development News

1241 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204  
Phone: 980-343-5435  
Fax: 980-343-5557  
E-mail: [piedmontopenmiddle@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:piedmontopenmiddle@cms.k12.nc.us)  
Website: <http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/piedmont/>

### ***Mission Statement***

Piedmont exists to inspire in its students a passion for learning and a commitment to personal integrity and academic excellence. Students demonstrate self-confidence and creativity, are open-minded and inquisitive, and display a sense of social responsibility and global awareness.

*Piedmont ... You Know ... We Care!*

### **What is Talent Development?**

The **Talent Development Program** for gifted services is based on consultation and collaboration between the talent development and classroom teachers. They work together to meet the needs of the high achieving student.

#### ***Program Benefits***

- Gifted education and general education are related, connected and integrated.
- Out of class sessions are scheduled when needed most.
- The pace of learning is enhanced.
- High achieving students receive more challenging tasks within the classroom.
- Classroom and TD teachers work together to maximize student learning.

#### ***Did you know?***

- Research on the TD Program indicates that students receive at least three times the amount of services using this model compared to the old pullout, once a week program.
- The TD model is most effective when high achieving students are flexibly grouped together based on their instructional needs.
- Every school has a Talent Development teacher.
- The TD teacher at your child's school can tell you how they work with your child and your child's teacher.

### ***TALENT DEVELOPMENT TEAM***

- ***Academic Facilitator***

Dawn Johnston

- ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team***

**Language Arts**

Rebecca Gwynne  
Karen Bailey  
Meredith Lamb  
Lindsey Kolbrek

**Math**

Paul Booth  
William King  
Andy Bell  
Sara Suckstorff

- ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team***

**Language Arts**

Megan Whitting  
David Milligan  
Maranda Thornburg  
Cynthia Brown

**Math**

Karen Carlson  
Heather Hetrick  
Teresa Peterson  
Angela Davis

- ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team***

**Language Arts**

Suzanne Ingram  
Sheila Dixon  
Kelly Hanson

**Math**

Cheryl Lamb  
Janet Delery  
Stacey Callahan

## Summer Camps!

Happy almost spring to you all!! It's just the beginning of March, but already time to think about summer camp! There are many opportunities created especially for gifted students –great ways for students to “keep on learning” all year long! The following list offers just a sample of what is available for summer 2011:

**WHAT:** Discovery Place

**WHERE:** 301 N. Tryon Street

**CONTACT:** Phone: 704-372-6261 x 301

Charlotte, NC 28202

Information for all camps at all locations: [http://www.discoveryplace.org/education/summer\\_camps/](http://www.discoveryplace.org/education/summer_camps/)

**INFO:** “Discovery Place summer camps offer learning and fun for all ages, all summer, all over town. Available at locations throughout Charlotte, kids will enjoy a sizzling summer adventure exploring color, chemistry and other cool stuff.”

**WHAT:** UNC-Charlotte Summer Enrichment Camps

**WHERE:** 9201 University City Blvd

**CONTACT:** <http://www.summer.uncc.edu/camps/>

Charlotte, NC 28223

704-687-4447 (Eimear) or 704-687-2958 (Chuck) or 704-687-8900 (registration)

**INFO:** UNC-Charlotte camps “offer children and young people the opportunity to join scientists, researchers, educators, writers, and actors in the creative atmosphere of a university campus.” Middle school-age offerings include: Global Beat, MEDCamp, Chess for “Experts”, Sports Writing, and Musical Theater.

**WHAT:** Summer Programs at The Green River Preserve

**WHERE:** 301 Green River Rd

**CONTACT:** Phone: 828-698-8828

Cedar Mountain, NC 28718

Fax: 828-698-9201

<http://www.greenriverpreserve.org/>

**INFO:** Focused on environmental education and located in western NC near Hendersonville and Brevard. “Our programs provide unique experiences for gifted children using hands-on learning with professional naturalists on our 3,400 acre nature preserve.” One of the few programs in NC geared towards gifted students in grades 2-12 and has accreditation with the American Camping Association!

**WHAT:** Kids for Conservation Summer Day Camp

**WHERE:** Carolina Raptor Center

**CONTACT:** <http://www.carolinaraptorcenter.org/> or email Cecily Rose at [crose@carolinaraptorcenter.org](mailto:crose@carolinaraptorcenter.org)

**INFO:** “Get ready for some fun this year at Carolina Raptor Center's Kids for Conservation Day Camps. Explore plant and animal life in our Wings of Wonder camp. Indulge your imagination in Potions Class, one of many magical offerings in Hawkwarts: A Camp for Muggles. Even learn about raptor rehabilitation in our Young Veterinarians Camp. See our Education page for more information.”

**WHAT:** Providence Day School Summer Programs

**WHERE:** 5800 Sardis Rd, Charlotte, 28270

**CONTACT:** [www.providenceday.org](http://www.providenceday.org) and go to On Campus and click on Summer Programs, or call for catalog 704.887.7006

**INFO:** “Providence Day School's Summer Programs offer something for everyone. Whether catching bugs or balls, singing or dancing, making cakes or snow flakes -- everyone can try something new at PDS this summer!” Topics this summer range from academics to cooking, music to explorations. Browse through program offerings and sign up early using the registration form on-line.

**WHAT:** All-Arts, Sciences + Technology Camp

**WHERE:** 1-week residential experience at one of 4 participating college campuses- NC State, UNC-Greensboro, Virginia Tech, George Mason

**CONTACT:** [allarts@uncg.edu](mailto:allarts@uncg.edu) email or [http://web.uncg.edu/dcl/web/allarts\\_technology/](http://web.uncg.edu/dcl/web/allarts_technology/) website

**INFO:** Campers from over twenty states receive quality instruction in the performing, visual and literary arts as well as physical and behavioral sciences. The weeklong adventure also includes recreation, values exploration, and citizenship components, all while spending time on a college campus.

**WHAT:** Summer Programs 2011 at Charlotte Latin School

**WHERE:** 9502 Providence Rd, Charlotte 28277

**CONTACT:** <https://mylatin.charlottelatin.org/summercamp/> and click Summer Programs, or for more information contact Carolyn Richardson at 704.846.7277 or [crichardson@charlottelatin.org](mailto:crichardson@charlottelatin.org)

**INFO:** “...promotes a joy for learning and where campers can develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically through growth-promoting experiences. Our coeducational day programs foster a passion for lifelong learning...” Offerings include: Geocaching, chess with USA Chess, video game creation, race car game creation, and sports!

**WHAT:** Summer Enrichment Camp

**WHERE:** Ferrum College in Virginia

**CONTACT:** <http://www2.ferrum.edu/fcsec/>

**INFO:** Academically Motivated Students currently in grades five, six or seven

Select from Two One-Week Sessions July 10-16 or July 17-July 23, 2011

“Located at Ferrum College in the beautiful foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, this residential camp offers an exciting opportunity to: pursue academic interests, explore new ideas, experience campus life, make new friends, and have traditional summer-camp fun.”