

Trojan Tribune

June 8, 2022

Students, Parents & Guardians

Parents/Guardians/ & Students

First off, thank you for a great school year. Throughout the year as I reflect, I am so thankful to work within a community like ours. As we wrap up this school year, we have already had a few meetings on what we are concentrating on for the next school year. Very excited to get students back in the building and working through best practices for our teachers to guide our students' learning.

Returning students, we have some good stuff planned for next year and we look forward to working with you. Incoming freshmen, work hard next year and in the years to come. You are a good class and we appreciate your work while here at ECMS. Don't be a stranger, stop down and see us at ECMS.

All of you, please enjoy your summer. As I get older, and watch my own kids get older, time flies. Enjoy your friends, family, and those that care about you.

Take care and please do not hesitate to reach out if you need anything. Have a great summer everyone!

Dr. Matt Maple

Guidance

We will no longer take requests for schedule changes.

Schedule changes were to be made by May 26, 2022, the last student day. This allows us to have the summer to balance class size and have schedules ready to issue to students the first day of school. Student's schedules may be different than the ones they received in the spring, and they may receive a different teacher in order to balance student to teacher ratio.

Thank you for understanding and have a great summer!



English Language

6th Grade

In 6th grade we had a productive 4th quarter. The last writing assignment was a free genre piece-- kids loved having the choice to choose their own writing! Many different topics were chosen: flowers, horses, Joe Burrow, Ford cars, personal narratives of fun times, etc. and some very creative pieces as well.

We also awarded the top 3 readers (total in points) for the year. Miss Packer's top 3 are Emily E., Cadia G., Hunter S. In Mrs. Andres's classes the top 3 are Ella S., Aislynn A. and Lucas H. Way to read, students! Overall, the students have worked hard this quarter throughout and during the ILearn and NWEA testing windows. We wish them all a wonderful summer break!

7th Grade

After researching about the 1960s and S.E. Hinton (the author), students in the 7th Grade ELA classes finished the year reading *The Outsiders*. Throughout the course of the novel, we discussed the value of friendship and family, what constitutes family, what it means to be an outsider, and herd behavior. At the end of the unit, students were responsible for completing a project about the book. Students created everything from body biographies to scrapbooks to newscasts to movie trailers, and they did a phenomenal job! We also watched *The Outsiders* in order to compare and contrast the written story with the movie. To add to the fun, all 7th grade students were encourage to dress up for Dress Like a Greaser or a Soc Day. We really enjoyed seeing the students get into character. We've had a great school year and we want to wish all of our students the best in 8th grade. Enjoy your summer!

The *Outsiders* Projects



Dress Like a Soc or Greaser Day



8th Grade

Students spent the majority of the 4th quarter learning about the Holocaust and reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*. While reading and watching firsthand accounts of victims, survivors, and liberators, students learned about the dangers of persecution, intolerance, and bystander apathy. Naturally, the last few weeks of this school year were spent introducing the basic elements of poetry and analyzing poems.

Grade 8 Advanced ELA

In addition to reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and learning about the Holocaust, students read excerpts from *The Diary of a Young Girl* and watched the documentary *Paper Clips*. We had some insightful discussions regarding the play, the movie *Anne Frank: The Whole Story*, and the documentary. We wrapped up the quarter with figurative language and a few poems.

Grade 8 Honors ELA

Along with studying the Holocaust, reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and reviewing the basics of poetry, students in the Honors course spent this quarter developing, writing, and editing their own creative writing essays. I must say, I was very impressed with the effort, structure, and creativity of these compositions. I think we may have some future authors in the Class of 2026! This year, students worked hard, learned a lot, and made some great memories!

Mr. Wagner and Mrs. Bevis would like to wish the Class of 2026 a wonderful summer and the best of luck for the future!

Reading

Students in Mrs. Mersmann's 7th grade reading class have been busy sharpening their reading skills. Quarter 3 skills included connotative and denotative meaning, tone and mood, figurative language, point of view, and historical perspective. In connection with the historical perspective state standard, students coded their own historical online game. Combining reading and computer skills, students built a game from scratch and had a chance to share their game with classmates. In addition, students read "The Bear Attacks that Changed America" and had a Google Meet about bear education with a park ranger from Glacier National Park. Students ended the year with a mystery story and used backlights to search the room for clues. I would like to thank everyone for a fantastic school year. I hope everyone has a relaxing summer!



A game created by a student in period 7



Google Meet with a park ranger from Glacier National Park



Using backlights to look for clues



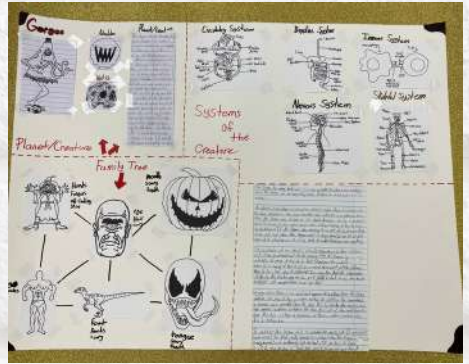
Collaborating to solve the mystery

Science

Sixth graders worked on many activities during our Life Science unit! Students were involved in making realistic food chains and turning them into food webs. Mr. Johnson's and Mrs. Lecher's Science classes also performed a skull scavenger hunt and dissected owl pellets. These hands-on labs were exciting and informative for all students. Students rounded out the year with Invasive Species Wanted Posters! It has been a great year! Good luck to our future seventh graders.



7th grade students completed the life science standards. Students in Mrs. Kueven's classes built 3-D cell models, learned about mitosis, and how cells are differentiated in our body. Mrs. Radcliffe's classes completed a "Fantastic Beast Project".



Students in Mr. Dawley's and Mrs. Bertke's 8th grade Science classes finish the year studying Taxonomy, the Science of how organisms are classified. After learning about the Chordata Phylum, students dissected Leopard Frogs.



Jeremy Crouch, Jake Lutz, Paxten Feller



Brandon Morley, Timothy Plowman, Camlin Schuster



Math

The math department recently wrapped up the end-of-year testing for ILEARN and NWEA. We won't see the results of the ILEARN test until next fall, but the NWEA results are in. We are very proud of the academic progress that our middle school students have made this year! According to the latest results, nearly 90% of our students have been able to demonstrate growth in mathematics this year. That is the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades combined. We won't be satisfied until that number is 100%, but we are certainly proud of the effort put forth by our students and teachers this year.

When testing was completed, the 6th grade math classes had a little time left in the quarter to address some of the content areas that needed to be revisited based on indicators from the cumulative tests. Ratios, rates, equations and inequalities were all reviewed in the fourth quarter to hopefully increase content retention over the summer.

7th grade Math finished out the year on a strong note with lots of end-of-year reviews as warm-ups, all while completing the last chapter of the year! Students pushed long and hard through the testing season and showed resilience with being asked to continue learning while doing it. The students were able to finish the unit on Data, Statistics, and Probability, along with extensively reviewing algebra, computation, number sense, and geometry standards. The students completed a 7th-grade review guide that will help them keep knowledge of key terms for 8th grade math. The last activity of the year included a geometric scavenger hunt, where students went outside in our environment to discover various shapes and find the areas or volumes of those shapes. It was a great end-of-the-year activity and the students enjoyed taking math outside of the classroom.

Some of the 8th grade math classes ended the year by playing Math Baseball and Brain Quest to ease some of the tension built up after weeks of testing. We wish all 8th grade math students continued success next year as they begin their transition from the Middle School to the High School. We know they will continue to make us proud!

Remember, students can use any and all materials given to them this year over the summer to help prepare for math at the next level. There are various resources available online such as Khan Academy's free math courses that provide videos and practice problems that help refine areas of weakness. Have a wonderful summer!

Social Studies

6th graders enjoyed working through European history stations this quarter. They learned about everything dating from ancient Greece all the way up to the Cold War. At each station they worked with classmates to read, work on assignments, and complete projects about the various historical topics. 7th graders finished discussing Asia and Australia. They also wrapped up growing African daisies using the grow tower with the Ag department. 8th graders finished their US History studies learning up to the Civil War. The Social Studies department wishes our 8th graders the best of luck in high school and beyond!

Special Education Department

From the desk of Mr Krider-

In inclusion 7th/8th grade math, we have finished up all assessments and are looking to end the year on a high note! After getting NWEA test results back, my classes improved their overall Math scores by an average of 3.2 points!! My students have been awesome to the end the year, and overall they have been a great group to have in class.

From the desk of Mrs. Hensley -

This year has flown by and has been full of amazing growth!

MTSS Math 8- 67% of the students showed fantastic growth on their Spring NWEA from their Winter scores!

Math 6/7/8- The students worked hard with all of the required testing and still stayed focused in classes. Two students were awarded at our Academic Awards Night by Mrs. Hensley! Congratulations to them!

We wish all to have a well-rested and safe summer! We can't wait to see everyone back and ready to go in August!

Family & Consumer Science (FACS)

FACS students and FCCLA members have been very busy while finishing up the school year. Three FACS students received the FACS Student of the Year Award:

6th Grade: Sadie Creek 7th Grade: Michael Bolinger 8th Grade: Mya Rynn

Congratulations for all of your hard work! I hope everyone has had a great learning experience in FACS this year and I hope to see you again soon.



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

FCCLA held their annual Banquet and Awards Night on April 20th, where we celebrated everyone's successes and our chapter's accomplishments as well. Thank you to our officer team for all of your hard work and best wishes to our 8th graders as they move on to high school.



ECMS Band

In April, the EC Winter Percussion ensemble earned two incredible honors. On Saturday, April 2nd they became State Champions at the Indiana Percussion Association State Finals event hosted by Indiana State University. Then, on April 21st, they became Winter Guard International (WGI) WORLD CHAMPIONS, beating competitors from all around the country. Congratulations to Owen Hasenzahl, Noah Ledbetter, Owen Mersmann, Julianne South, and Peter Williams on these amazing accomplishments!



The Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, and Advanced Band all participated in the Music in the Parks festival on Saturday, May 21st. They overcame a very long, stormy day and earned Excellent and Superior ratings in every category! Ben Pritchard, Ace Snook, and Julianne South accepted awards onstage on behalf of their bandmates. In addition to giving outstanding performances, the students showed real grit and spirit in the face of a challenging day. Way to go, Band!

ECMS Chorus

The ECMS Choir Department had a great end to our 2021-2022 Performance Season with our field trip to the Kings Island Festival of Music on Friday, May 20th. All three of the choirs received Superior ratings! After their performances the choirs got to enjoy some time in the park. I am so proud of how hard the choirs have worked all year long. Congratulations to all of the choir students!



Physical Education

Physical Education classes have spent a lot of class time outside this spring. The students were busy participating in softball, track, tennis, ultimate frisbee and flag football games. Students are encouraged to spend some time each day this Summer continuing with some type of fitness activity.



Art

6th grade art students finished out the year with house carvings and zentangles. They also learned how to create digital works of Optical Art in the computer lab.

7th and 8th grade students finished the year with presentations on a chosen artist along with a music selection to fit the artist. They also displayed their head sculptures in the library for all to see.



Agriculture

Agriculture students ended the 2021-22 school year with a lot of success and excitement. Eighth graders in Intro to Agriculture covered safety and sanitation methods used within Food Science; as well as some introductory Agriculture Powers, Structure, and Technology lessons. Agriculture students in the 7th/8th grade courses ended the year with Animal Science topics, alongside raising chicks and ducks. Introductory Plant Science labs were completed in our 6th grade Ag courses that concurred with our East Central FFA Plant Sale. Intro to Agriculture students had an opportunity, prior to spring break, to learn more about anatomical features found within mammals. Students dissected rats to be able to identify key organs that larger livestock animals use in order to survive. Students identified the heart, lungs, stomach, kidney, liver, and more!



Our Agriculture Educator and FFA Advisor, Mr. McCord Snider, was recently awarded as one of eight Golden Owl Award Finalists in Indiana. This award was started in 2020 as a way to recognize Agricultural Educators that continually go above and beyond in order to truly prepare their students for personal growth, career success, and premier leadership. This award recognizes Agriculture Educators in seven states. Thank you to NationWide and Farm Credit Mid-America for sponsoring this opportunity. The Golden Owl Award Winner will be announced at the 93rd Indiana FFA State Convention in June.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about East Central FFA prior to the 2022-23 school year can visit our EC FFA Website. There are links on the main page of the website that will cover all of the 93rd Indiana FFA State Convention on June 13-16th. Please email Mr. Snider with any questions.

EC FFA Website: <https://sites.google.com/sunmandearborn.k12.in.us/eastcentralffa/home>

