

Auburn Public Schools Quarterly District Newsletter

Excellence in Education by Putting Students First



**Auburn Public Schools:
Honoring Tradition while
Embracing the Future**

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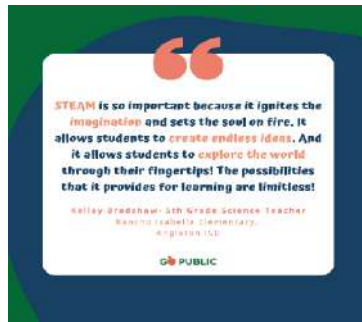
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It's my life



**APRIL VACATION
WEEK:
April 19th through
April 24th**

STEAM: Important Elements in our PreK-12 Curriculum



Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM), are important elements in our PK-12 curriculum for students to access, experience, and enjoy.

The foundational experiences in each of the STEAM areas serve as opportunities for students to engage in reading, writing, problem solving,

interpersonal skills, technology integration, and creative expression - all skills students will need as they proceed into the world after high school— and skills that transfer into the humanities.

According to the National Math Science Initiative, STEAM related job growth will outpace non-STEAM related job growth by 17% . Careers in mathematics and computer science will grow by 45% without enough qualified workers to fill open positions. In Massachusetts, that is roughly 600,000 jobs over the next decade.

This edition of the APS Quarterly District Newsletter highlights STEAM activities our staff and

students have been immersed in despite the challenges of the pandemic.

In the coming years, we look forward to strengthening our STEAM offerings for students at all grades levels and returning to celebrating the work of our faculty and students in these areas with our annual STEAM night and other related activities.

I hope you enjoy the sampling of STEAM activities presented here. As always, we are so appreciative for your continued support!

Sincerely,

**Casey J. Handfield, Ed.D.
Superintendent**

"Creativity is Intelligence Having Fun"

Spring is here and there is a renewed sense of hope and joy as the weather turns and we have welcomed so many of our students back to school. Seeing our students in class every day has brought us joy and a much needed sense of normalcy remembering what a 'typical' school day looks like. We are so very grateful for the support we have received from all of you and the dedication that our staff has demonstrated throughout this school year. We are all just happy to be back!

Within the pages of this news-letter, you will find numerous examples of the hard work of our students and staff. This work, focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) demonstrates our commitment to captivating the creativity of our students while applying it to new concepts and ways of expression. Teachers at all levels appreciate that our students learn in different ways,

express their learning differently and engage with topics through a variety of avenues.

Our science and technology teams continue to focus on cutting edge approaches to engage students in the science classroom. We are so fortunate to have technology that facilitates access to many resources allowing our students to experience the world in new and exciting ways. Mathematics is integrated into science and technology concepts to further illustrate the connection to real world applications. The Fine Arts highlight the importance of creativity in enhancing engagement, encouraging expression and opening the imagination to new possibilities.

All of these experiences help us to support students as they work to develop into well rounded, experienced, curious adults with a dedication to lifelong learning, intellectual risk taking and

openness to new opportunities.

The world that will lay before our students when they leave the Auburn Public Schools will present endless options to them for continued learning, work and play. We hope that the experiences they have in the Auburn Public Schools will prepare them to accept the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support during this most challenging and unusual school year. Auburn is a special place. It is special because of you, our students and our staff. TOGETHER we can do anything and I look forward to the remainder of this school year and the continued growth of our students.

Albert Einstein once said, "Creativity is intelligence having fun".

**Beth Chamberland, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent**

STEAM AT PAK

There has been a huge change this year in the way that grades K-2 use technology. In past years, technology has been used as a "special" and for some parts of the school day, to practice skills and concepts in reading and math. This year, as we have been in a hybrid/remote model of learning, the K-2 students have used technology most of the school day.

Zoom has been utilized each day both for in-person learning and at-home learning. Students have learned to log in and participate in classroom meetings, specials, small groups, and intervention groups. Some of the students have learned the many features that Zoom offers, such as taking a poll, muting and unmuting, using the chat box, using the emojis to raise their hand on the screen, and to react to the conversation.



Many of the assignments students have completed have been online. Students have used Seesaw as the platform for most of their assignments. They have learned many new ways to complete and upload assignments, such as taking pictures, recording themselves

reading sight words, creating collages, and making videos explaining projects and assignments.

STEAM has also looked different this year. These activities help students to increase their critical thinking skills and are usually a way to offer meaningful collaboration. Due to COVID regulations, these STEAM projects had to be completed on an individual basis in order for students to participate in the remote learning model as well as the hybrid learning model. Some STEAM activities students have participated in this year have been toothpick and gumdrop towers, leprechaun traps, building sleds, hiding a turkey from Thanksgiving dinner, and 100th day projects. While students were unable to work together to complete these projects, they were able to collaborate over Zoom. The students were able to brainstorm ideas to create and modify their designs for their projects, which are two important steps of the engineering process.

As we transition to a full time in person return to school, technology will continue to play an important role in your child's daily education. Don't forget to charge your child's iPad each night as they will continue to use it at school.

Written by PAK Grade Level Leaders: Nicole Dunn, Christine Giamei, and Nicole Allain

Art News for Pakachoag and Bryn Mawr



This year has been one for the books in so many ways, but for me teaching Art virtually has been the most difficult. Those who know me know I'm a hugger and that is tough to do through Zoom! We have ended each class with a "hand-heart hug" and heart "reactions" and that have nearly filled that void. In each Art class we tried many different ways to teach and learn art, and I think we did a pretty good job! My feedback from both students and parents has been 95% positive, and who could ask for more, considering what we had to work with! We brought in the new Seesaw platform to be in contact with each other, as well as a great place to upload their art, me to grade from, as well as serving as a convenient Art portfolio to store their work virtually (I highly suggest people screenshot their child's Art portfolio in my Seesaw page before school is done, in case the original Art has been misplaced etc.) Seesaw has been a blessing as I love getting to see their Art up close and it gives me the ability to give audible feedback. We have found "directed drawing" seems to be one of the best methods to teach virtually, so we included that as a new Art teaching mode this year. I can't express HOW VERY PROUD I am of the drawing and coloring abilities my students have developed since the beginning of this school year. It is incredible! They may be a bit behind in cutting, gluing, and painting (which I still highly recommend they continue trying at home), but their drawing skills are off the charts! We were able to concentrate on introducing many new concepts for Kindergarten, and continuing to develop and fine tune their abilities on those in grades 1 & 2. They learned to use "kiss the sun", reflections, shading, shadows, my "3 color rule", use of bumpers (fingers on their helping hand to help color) and "no white space" when coloring rule, as well as learning perspective and how to make things appear more rounded and 3-D looking...and still have so much fun doing it. I was able to send home, or to classrooms, a few Art supplies in order for each grade to do two Special Art projects. It allowed for different grades to use chalk, watercolors, and some crafty items, for a chance to use more than just the usual "Art through Zoom supplies." In January, the Specialists all coordinated a compilation from their classes, to create a wonderful video that we showed to the students on one of our Wednesday specials. (Kudos to Ms. Garrow for all her hard work on the production of the video!)



This is my 20th year teaching Art in Auburn, and my last as I retire in June. I surely picked a memorable one to be my last! But in 20 years, I have had the pleasure of being a part of thousands of amazing little artists' chances at learning and enjoying the basics and more of Art!



"Of all of our inventions for mass communication, pictures still speak the most universally understood language."

Walt Disney

Deborah Johnson, Art Specialist

Bryn Mawr/Pakachoag

Bryn Mawr

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

It seems like technology is in the forefront of this school year. Our young learners have increased their digital literacy tremendously. They have learned to navigate a wide variety of Apps and platforms with independence and ease. It is truly amazing! They are Zoom professionals. To add to this, students will be integrating science with many STEAM activities to enhance their knowledge of a variety of topics during our final trimester of school.

What is STEAM? STEAM is the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Through these explorations, students will investigate problem based learning methods used in the creative process.

In kindergarten, students will be learning about living and non-living things, life cycles, and animal habitats. Students will be partnering up with Home Depot to create a planter of their own and discover the life cycle of a plant.

In first grade, students will be learning about animals and how their bodies help them to survive. We will be designing and creating a beak for a bird that needs to get bird seed out of tight spaces. We will also be camouflaging butterflies. Finally, each student will be researching an animal of their choice and creating a project to go with it.

In second grade, after learning about how plants grow, students will have an opportunity to apply their understanding of seed dispersal with a STEM activity. They will also learn how to use technology to research information regarding a country.

They will then complete a short research project at home utilizing the research skills they have learned at school.

Finally, if you're looking for ways to keep your student away from the iPad, try some STEAM at home. Check out these websites for some fun, easy activities that you can do with your child.

Marie Mahan
Principal, Bryn Mawr School



<https://leftbraincraftbrain.com/cool-kitchen-science-experiments-kids/>

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/homemade-straw-pan-flutes/>

<https://www.adventure-in-a-box.com/how-to-make-a-windmill-model-with-a-printable-template/>

<https://teachbesideme.com/stem-engineering-kids-make-bubble-blower-machine/>

I AM STRONG; I AM SUPER SMART; I TRY MY BEST; I AM AWESOME!

The K-2 students at Bryn Mawr and Pakachoag have been having a lot of fun learning and exercising in Physical Education classes and on Seesaw. Students have been working on their balance and flexibility with lots of stretches and new yoga poses to start off each class. In addition, we have found some creative ways to practice throwing, catching, kicking, and many other important loco motor skills. We have also been learning all about healthy habits, germs, nutrition, and the human body!



Do you know how many bones humans have in their bodies or what our brains do when we are sleeping? I bet if you asked the student(s) in your house; they will know the answers to these questions and lots of other facts about our bodies and ways to stay healthy and strong!



At the end of every class, the students and I say four positive affirmations together: "I am strong, I am super smart, I try my best, I am awesome". I hope students are as proud of these positive traits and all their other great qualities as I am every day! They have all been working so hard, and I am so excited to continue learning and exercising with them!



Amanda Green
Bryn Mawr/Pakachoag Physical Education Teacher



SWIS COMMUNITY (MULTICULTURAL) COOKBOOK ON ITS WAY!



A SWIS COMMUNITY COOKBOOK is in the making!! We are sharing family traditions through the foods we eat. Our students and their families, who come from all over the world, are contributing recipes to add to our SWIS community's multicultural cookbook!

Some of our SWIS

Art students have also been busy working in art class to contribute to this community project. Students have created drawings that will be used to illustrate the front cover, as well as



pages throughout the cookbook.

When completed, every family will receive either a digital or hard copy of the



cookbook. Stay tuned and get ready to enjoy celebrating diversity through the use of fabulous recipes from our SWIS community!!

Gayla Bieksha
SWIS Art Specialist



MUSIC AT SWIS



Many things have been evolving in the music program at SWIS this school year. Currently, students have music class in their classrooms, but with the full return to school coming up, we are looking forward to having students return to the music classrooms for in person learning. Mrs. Krissy Caruso is currently out on maternity leave (welcome baby boy!), so Ms. Alyssa Wojdag is covering her classes for the remainder of the school year. Welcome Alyssa!

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic has limited many opportunities in the music classroom, as safety is our number one priority, but we are looking forward to expanding musical opportunities in the upcoming months. Students will have opportunities to sing once again as the weather gets nicer, and music class can be held outside, as the CDC recommends students space 10 feet apart while singing. In the meantime, students have been working hard learning about music theory, history, and instrument families.. They are doing an awesome job learning instruments like the ukulele, piano, and xylophone. It has been wonderful to hear the students make music, and see them persevere through the challenges of this school year!

Ms. Megan Speidel, Mrs. Krissy Caruso, Ms. Alyssa Wojdag
SWIS Music Department



Mrs. Chalupka's third grade class is starting their ukulele unit



Mrs. Bowes' fifth grade class is learning the basics of piano, led by a class mascot

SWIS STUDENTS' RISING TO THE CHALLENGE!

SWIS students have really risen to the challenge of hybrid and remote learning in Technology class! Our students' enthusiasm for STEM has

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given them a great advantage this year, as they continue to show and cultivate their

understanding of their iPads, apps, and digital learning tools. In class, students have been learning the ropes of digital citizenship– they have been demonstrating the keys to being responsible, trustworthy, and kind members of their online communities. Our third graders have learned that the “Rings of Responsibility,” duties to themselves, their community, and the world, apply online, not just in the “real world.” Fourth graders have used their imaginations to create their very own “Super Digital Citizens,” to show that any person can be a digital superhero just by doing the right thing when it comes to technology use. In grade five, students have demonstrated great maturity in their

understanding of digital citizenship, including finding balance in their use of digital media, interacting appropriately online, and understanding how to find and read reliable sources of news and information on the internet. With MCAS on the way, students will be fully prepared to use the elements and tools available to them via the TestNav test-taking app. I look forward to our students' continual growth as creative problem solvers in the Technology classroom.

Molly O'Connor
SWIS Media Technology Specialist

"WOULD YOU RATHER"

P.E. AT SWIS



The Swanson Road P.E. staff has been hard at work creating and finding online activities that students can safely do in the classroom, using social distancing considerations. Students have been doing "Would You Rather" activities in which they are offered two

choices. They make their choice then do the exercise that goes along with their choice. Students have also learned about the importance of stretching through yoga and mindfulness experiences. This format has allowed us to also incorporate some mini-health lessons into our sessions. Students who are remote have been playing the same games in their Zoom P.E. meetings. This has certainly been a new approach to teaching Physical Education, but we are making the most of it!

Ann Shane and Kyle Moriarty
SWIS PE Instructors



HEALTH AND P.E. AT AMS

Auburn Middle School students have taken part in a gamut of activities in their Physical Education classes even with COVID restrictions in place. Over the past two trimesters, the students participated in a variety of activities including disc golf, field hockey, team building activities, yoga, soccer, lacrosse,

basketball, floor polo, floor hockey, dancing and strength & conditioning, to name a few. We were creative in providing the students with the best overall experience while following all COVID guidelines.



Health classes were taught throughout each trimester in sixth and eighth grade. We currently are using the Botvin Lifeskills program and are able to cover various topics that teach students self-awareness around their own strengths and weaknesses. This program introduces the dangers of vaping/smoking, marijuana and alcohol usage on the developing mind as well as a variety of helpful coping strategies for anxiety and anger. Furthermore, we are able to touch upon peer pressure and social skills and discuss in depth their day to day struggles. There were also many wellness activities that we were able to supplement our lessons with.

Overall, we found that even through the challenges we have faced this year; we were able to create a well rounded Physical Education program for the students.

Physical Education Teachers
Melissa Dupuis & Patrick Armstrong

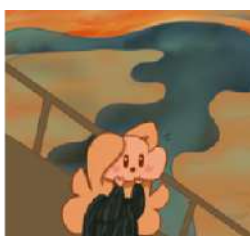


From the Art Department at AMS

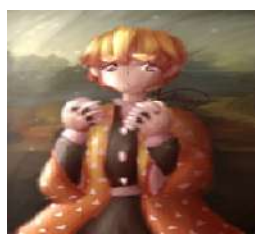
As AMS comes to the close of Tri -2 the 7th grade Visual Arts students have been completing two projects. One being an Art History project where the objective of the project was to choose a piece from a slideshow of work, do some light research and explanation of the work and then the fun part, re -create the piece with their own twist. The students did an amazing job at this task adding their own unique flair to these historical pieces. The other project they have recently completed was a character design. After brainstorming, practicing, sketching and designing each student came up with an original character of their own with a write up explaining their characteristics and choices for features of the design. It has been a wonderful trimester with lots of creative hardworking students!

Below are some sample examples of student work, hope you enjoy.

Michele Starbard
AMS Art Specialist



Brooke Whitcher/The Scream



Audrey Panmuang/Mona Lisa



Piper Walsh/Character Design



Tatiana Batista/Two Sisters



Noah Roach/The Night Café

STEM ACTIVITIES AT AMS

This school year STEM/TE is offered as a yearlong core course with a 90-day semester STEM class for students in grades 7 and Instructional / Computer Technology for grade 6.

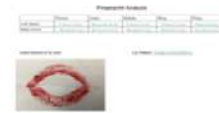
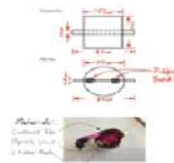
Grade 8 students had the opportunity to participate in the Massachusetts STEM week activity sponsored by PLTW and Mass STEM Hub. Students were challenged to create an assistive device. In March, grade 8 students attended a virtual STEM field trip to the Patriots Hall of Fame, presented by Raytheon. Students created helmets using the Engineering Design Process, concentrating on safety features to protect a "brain" (paper bowl with macaroni glue to it). Hands-on activities completed by students with STEM kit materials provided to them at the beginning of the school year. Thus students have designed wacky shoes with a purpose, learned about Robert Goddard, created bicycle helmets prototypes and public service announcements, and most recently calculated average velocity with straw rockets.



In grade 7, students learn about the Engineering Design process, starting with identifying a problem and going through the cycle to build a solution. They built Earbud Holders, Parachutes (area of circles and speed and velocity). They studied recycling and the environment in Zero Waste, crime scene investigation in Forensics, and Adaptive Design that was part of the 2020 Mass STEM week activity sponsored by PLTW and Mass STEM Hub. "STEM supply

kits" were provided to fully remote students so they could also participate at home.

Grade 6 students with Mr. Ponce deLeon were off to a great start this school year learning about navigating Schoology and notability in their Instructional / Computer Technology classes. Students advanced to learning about the internal components of computers and their functions. Currently the students are learning to code / decode binary into letters and numbers. Screens, resolution and imaging are the next topics they will be working on in the last trimester. Students will end their time in class by creating their own color by numbers images.



PIC-COLLAGE

Christine Robbins, Anthony Camoreyt, Kerry Palumbo,
Josh Ponce de Leon
AMS STEM TEAM

AHS Art....



STEAM

is an **educational approach** to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, **the Arts** and Mathematics as access points for **guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.**

- Susan Riley
Arts Integration Specialist

educationcloset

AHS Tech Dept.: “How can students participate in effective project-based learning from home?”

Hybrid learning in the 2020-2021 school year has presented some unique challenges to the technology department at Auburn High School. At the center of it all was the question, “How can students participate in effective project-based learning from home?” Under the guidance of the dedicated technology teaching staff and the broad skillset they bring, course methods and materials were able to pivot and find success in the new learning environment.

The students in Television Production classes and Digital Photography classes had a challenge as all students did this past year during hybrid and or remote learning. While students were limited to using their phones, iPads and own devices to record and take pictures they were very successful. With the help of the district we began using apps such as Adobe lightroom and Adobe Photoshop; these apps were compatible with students’ devices. Students were then able to use proper post-production programs in order to complete assignments. Now that our world is so technological we definitely had an advantage, student phones could be used as cameras, editing devices and even distribution facilitators. Over all our students in Television production and Digital Photography learned new age skills and have bettered their problem solving capabilities due to this past year. I am proud of what the program has produced and how our students handled it.

The students in the Wood Tech classes worked to complete their in-school projects throughout the trimester while also using a variety of at-home videos to deepen their understanding of how things are designed and constructed. In addition, for each of their in-school projects, they created a presentation outlining all the necessary steps required to take rough sawn lumber and turn it into the finished product.

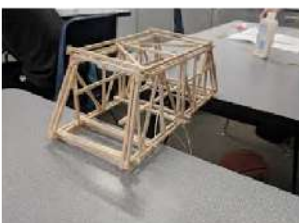
In both Graphics Arts & Design and Digital Photography, students benefited from the addition of Adobe Creative Cloud to the district's digital toolkit. Licenses were purchased for the entire building which allowed students to use programs like

Photoshop and Illustrator on their iPads as well as any devices they may have at home. In Graphics, students at all levels were able to shift focus from the older desktop modes of the software to new industry standards on their tablets. The tools are very new and do not yet have the full functionality of desktop software, but it is clear that the future of graphic design will include mobile computing, and Adobe is making a significant investment in the platform. We are fortunate to be getting in on the ground floor, and the strong foundation developed by our students this year will allow them to easily grow with the technologies as they evolve.

The most drastic update in the Technology Department this year came in the form of a new course, Introduction to App Design. Safety protocols prevented the Robotics program from being a viable option for hybrid learning. This temporary replacement course has students working with digital tools to learn the two basic roles of app development - frontend coding to create a user experience and backend coding to make the underlying structure of the app function. Due to the early success of the program, both App Design and Robotics will be offered at AHS next year.

Given the nuances of the hybrid and fully remote cohorts, and the associated challenges, the Technology and Engineering Department moved to using AutoCAD mobile on the iPads for the 2020-2021 school year. This gives students the flexibility to do their assignments from anywhere at any time, and guarantees that all students had access to the same hardware and software so the playing field is equal. In addition to working on the Floor Plan and Cross Section drawings, students also have learned about the various materials used in the many aspects of designing, building and maintaining a house. Additional content also addresses pest identification and control, as well as the real estate market/mortgages.

William Wright
AHS Technology Specialist



AHS MUSIC AND THEATRE

AHS Music

The music program has expanded the elective offerings. Along with performing ensembles, students have been exploring remixing, DJ techniques, and podcasting through the Music Technology Course. They are connecting visual and audio and writing original music in the Film and Game Scoring class. Students have also been exploring the link between social issues and popular music in the History of Rock and Social Justice Through Hip Hop courses. The Concert Band will release video performance the week of April 12th.



AHS Theatre

The AHS Drama program will perform the Broadway hit musical 'Urinetown', a fabulous satire that deals with corporate greed, capitalism, and social irresponsibility, on May 21 and 22. This performance is fully virtual and will be live-streamed both evenings. Tickets will be available soon!



Choreography Rehearsal

Ginny Bailey and George Eisenhauer
AHS Band/Music Specialists

"Our vision is to educate and prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of a changing world."



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