

Grade 8 September/October Newsletter 2022

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Provided below is a breakdown of what to expect in each subject with relevant learning tasks as well as their connection to the RTR Outcomes for Assessment. As we gear up for a year of great projects, hands on learning, and research-based inquiry, families are reminded that we would encourage students to bring a personally owned device (laptop, Chromebook, iPad, etc.) to school for educational purposes. Please feel free to reach out to your teacher if you have any questions.

Language Arts

September Overview:

Our school year begins with a deep dive into learning more about ourselves and finding unique and interesting ways to communicate our likes, dislikes, interests, passions, achievements and share them with our class. This section of our learning builds community so that students can begin to understand and appreciate differences. Our focus is to create a safe environment where students feel comfortable sharing, while demonstrating their abilities to plan and focus so that presented information is clear and concise. We will explore steps in the writing process so that students begin to add more interest in their written work by using their 5 senses. The final project will conclude at the end of October when students create a sensory piece of writing that is sure to delight!

Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- **Planning documents for various assignments**
 - 31 - Plan & Focus to Organize ideas
- **Take planning ideas and expand upon generalized ideas (Identity Bag and Letter to Self)**
 - 24A Generate & elaborate on the expression of ideas
 - 43A Effectively present information
- **Reading Response (Story of my Name)**
 - 22A Engage, connect & respond to a variety of print & other media

October Overview:

Extra, Extra, READ all about it!! That's correct, students will be diving into the genre of Fantasy as we begin a flurry of reading activities. Our "Book Club" will begin by exploring various aspects of the Fantasy genre. What makes up this complex genre and what elements must be in place in order for a novel to earn this category? Dragons, magic, new worlds, crazy creatures. This deep dive into various elements of story and components that are necessary in a Fantasy novel will be explored while working collaboratively with peer group members. Using critical thinking, students will share their interpretations and create connections, about, within and beyond the text to gain a deeper understanding of elements of story including plot, character, setting, theme, and conflict. Various activities will allow students to discuss and compare their connections with their novel. This unit of study consists of the right amount of balance of individual study, along with group partnerships that will build "community" within the class.

Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- **Film Study**
 - 21A- Use experience & prior knowledge to understand & to construct and confirm meaning
 - 21C- Use features of texts to understand
 - 33A- Organize & record information

- **Written critique (Fantastic Flying Books)**
 - 22C- Recognize the artistry of texts & its impact
- **Comprehension Questions**
 - 22B - Construct meaning from a variety of texts
- **Paragraph Organization or Sensory Writing**
 - 43B Effectively access and engage with presented information
 - 41C Expand my written & spoken vocabulary
 - 41D Experiment with literary techniques to enhance my work

Social Studies

September Overview:

Once we review and explore world geography, this month will focus on building awareness of perspective and Worldview. Through looking at the world based on the five ideas of: Geography, Culture, Beliefs, Knowledge, and Society. Students will be introduced to these concepts through focused lessons, class discussions and activities that build awareness of their “Worldview” and building empathy with others. Our unit will include a film study of “The Black Panther”, having students analyze the worldview of a distinct and isolated society.

Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- **Understanding world geography**
 - T3 Interpret maps to analyze issues
- **Working with small groups (Black Panther Analysis and Placemat Activity)**
 - SP Work in groups to develop leadership skills

October Overview:

This month we will continue with our Worldview Unit and complete our major assessment. Students will combine all their learning and make connections between themselves and their current worldview. We will begin our Unit on Renaissance upon completion of the Worldview Study. The Renaissance unit will be explained in our next newsletter.

Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- **Making connections with personal worldview elements (Worldview Assignment)**
 - CO Communicate in a persuasive and engaging manner
 - R Recognize changes in viewpoints through inquiry

Math

September Overview:

This month in math, students will focus on their number sense and developing their understanding of number relationships. Students will focus on the interconnection of squares, square roots, and Pythagorean Theorem. Throughout, students will be assessed on their class work, notes, class discussions, and observed understandings. Through guided practice, students will be able to work on skills and develop their mathematical understanding.

We are using pre-assessments to differentiate for each student as we move forward with our math units.

Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- Summative Test and Check-In Quizzes
 - **N1 Understanding perfect squares & square roots**
 - **N2 Approximate square roots**
 - **S1 Understanding & solve problems with Pythagorean theorem**

October Overview:

This month in math, students will continue to develop their understanding of integers and whole number operations to develop computational fluency in multiplication and division of integers. Throughout, students will be assessed on their class work, notes, class discussions, and observed understandings. Through guided practice, students will be able to work on skills and develop their mathematical understanding.

- Summative Test and Check-In Quizzes
 - **N7a Multiply/divide integers**
 - **N7b Solve problems multiply/divide integers**

Science

September Overview:

In science we will have an exciting month. While learning how to use microscopes students will get a chance to explore cells and systems. This will include learning about viruses, unicellular and multicellular organisms, and the structure of cells. This hands-on learning will develop students' skills through multiple labs including comparing animal and plant cells. Lastly, students will learn about osmosis through our Gummy Bear Lab. Grab the lab coats as this month will be full of opportunities to work in the Lab!

Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- **Virus Assignment:**
 - B1 investigate living things; and identify and apply scientific ideas used to interpret their general structure, function, and organization
 - SK1 Inquire then plan about relationships in variables to answer questions
- **Plants vs. Animals Microscope Lab:**
 - SK2 Investigates relationships in observations & gather data
 - SK3 Analyze data & develop explanations
 - B1 Investigate living things; and identify and apply scientific ideas used to interpret their general structure, function, and organization
 - B2 Explain the Role of Cells within Living Things

October Overview:

This month continues our investigation into cells and extends into cell systems. We will interpret how the human body functions, how it reacts to internal and external stimuli while examining the major body systems: respiration, circulation, digestion, excretion, and the muscular-skeletal system. Our learning will be through guided practice and our first dissection of the year -a frog -where we examine their characteristics and systems. Lastly, students will research cells and organ systems and illustrate their learning through our body cast project.

Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- **Gummy Bear Lab:**
 - SK3 Analyze data & develop explanations
 - B2 Explain the Role of Cells within Living Things

- **Frog Dissection:**

- SK2 Investigates relationships in observations & gather data
- SK4 Work collaboratively & communicate appropriately
- B3 Explain Healthy Functions of Humans & Reactions

Physical Education

Welcome to Meadowbrook PE! Students will be participating in indoor and outdoor activities throughout the year. Please make sure to bring proper attire, which includes a change of clothes and a proper set of indoor running shoes. In September and October, students will be participating in the sports of volleyball, soccer, and field games. In volleyball, students will be learning three basic skills: forearm pass, the overhead pass and serve. In volleyball, students will also be evaluated on performing and refining their skill during gameplay. In soccer and field games, students will be focusing on teamwork and positive communication.

Physical Education RTR Outcomes:

- A1- Perform/Refine locomotor, non-locomotor, & manipulative skills
- C1- Use positive communication & leadership skills
- C2- Demonstrate etiquette & fair play
- C3- Demonstrate teamwork
- D1- Put forth effort.
- D2- Follow safety rules/routines