



8-3 TEAM NEWS

English Language Arts

During the month of April, students will apply their newly acquired knowledge of ethos, pathos, and logos in order to critically analyze written and spoken arguments. Trailblazers will also use textual evidence to prepare for debates and will learn methods of developing scholarly counter-arguments. In addition, students will be exposed to methods of note-taking and synthesizing evidence from multiple sources. A great way for parents and families to complement our unit would be to discuss how to find, and critique, reliable digital media. As we continue our studies, students are advised to remember their reading goals so that they can continue to grow as readers.

Math

Algebra

Students will be finishing up our unit over graphing and transformations of quadratic functions. Towards the end of the month, we will be learning Exponential Growth and Decay. This standard includes identifying a growth or decay function from a graph, table, and equation as well as identifying the key parts of an exponential function. Students will need to be able to write a function to represent contextual situations of exponential growth and decay problems and approximate an input when provided the output.

It is very important that students keep an organized math notebook of all notes/homework sheets! Students should always have their calculator, math notebook, pencil, and a device to view the assignments for class at home! Please help your child stay on top of assignments while we are virtual learning. All assignments will be assigned at the beginning of the week and due the following Monday. Students should be uploading pictures of their work to the corresponding google classroom assignment for each "BOX".

IMPORTANT: The Algebra End-of-Course (EOC) Exam will no longer be given this year due to school closure.

Math 8

Students in Math 8 will be working through the last portion of their Geometry unit during the month of March. This unit includes all work with surface area and volume of various three-dimensional figures. Students will need to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Because of our virtual learning classrooms, the Pythagorean Theorem test has been put on hold until the district comes up with a plan for assessments. We will be in contact with students via Google Classroom once a decision has been made. To finish up the month, students will be exploring exponents and the different exponent rules, continuing to work on square and cube roots, and learning about scientific notation and how to add/subtract/multiply and divide scientific notation.

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IMPORTANT: The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Exam will no longer be given this year due to school closure.

Social Studies

Throughout the school year, our young historians have learned that there were stark differences between the geographical regions of the American colonies, and that those differences would continue to make the fabric holding our nation together itch. As we concluded March with the Age of Jackson, we discovered that regional differences were continuing to grow and magnify even as democracy, and our national borders, continued to spread. Heading into April, our young historians will explore the westward expansion of the United States as manifest destiny sweeps the nation. We will travel on the Oregon Trail with pioneers and we will discover gold in the streams of California. We will watch America become more industrialized. And we will unearth the seeds that were planted in the North and the South leading to bloody clashes over states’ rights and slavery. As we head into the final weeks of the school year, our historians will find ourselves right in the middle of a national crisis as Lincoln takes the oath of office and South Carolina witnesses the shelling of Fort Sumter beginning America’s Civil War.

Science

Previously, we learned that the reason for many of Earth’s geological changes is that its outermost layer, the lithosphere, is in constant motion. This is the Theory of Plate Tectonics. This theory also tells us that the underlying cause of this movement is the convection currents in Earth’s mantle, the layer just below the lithosphere. We are ending March by reviewing how major geological events, like earthquakes and volcanoes, happen. With this background information, students will explore different regions of the world and identify the geological hazards that affect them and evaluate the benefits of living there vs. the dangers. During the first week of April, each student or student group will create a presentation showing what they learned about one specific region. This presentation assignment will be followed by a very short Rock Cycle topic.

We will begin studying Weather around the middle of April. What a perfect time to study weather! The weather during a St. Louis spring is usually highly varied, sometimes hard to predict, and often volatile. In short, our weather in the spring is really interesting and helps us see all types of phenomena personally. If we are still e-learning during this time, there will be wonderful opportunities for students and parents to make observations and discuss what you see.

As you have probably heard by now, MAP testing has been cancelled for this year. Yay! More time for learning!