



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - March 2, 2018

### Announcements

- ★ Congratulations to our **ACADEMIC ALL STARS** of the week for their leadership both academically and in our WCA community! Your all stars this week are:
  - 7th Grade - Sammy Anderson
  - 8th Grade - Olivia Self

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

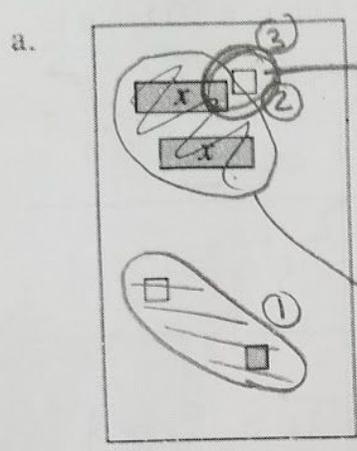
**7th Grade:** This week we continued writing our companion books. The first draft of their book is due on Friday March 1st, with their final draft due to me by the following Friday. This week we have been concentrating on author's crafts. Some key components I introduced them to were metaphors, inner thinkings, tones, multiple points of view, and symbolisms. Next week we will begin integrating these techniques into their companion books.

**8th Grade:** This week we continued collaborating with Tam High School to publish a joint Willow Creek Academy - Tam News magazine. Over the course of several weeks we will have the opportunity to work together with the Tam News reporters and editors on this publication. The students have enjoyed our outings to Tam, and are working hard as journalist to produce a memorable piece of work.

### Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

**7th Grade** - We continued work with using algebra tiles, and are now solving algebraic equations! We are just beginning to transition from solving with algebra tiles to solving symbolically (using just letters and numbers).

3.) Simplify each of the expression mats as much as possible. Which is greatest? Which has the smallest value? Record each simplification carefully.



$$2x + 1 - 2$$

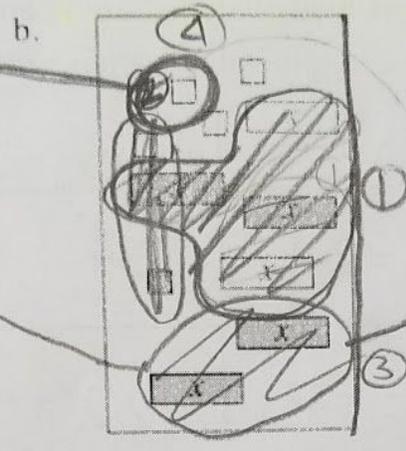
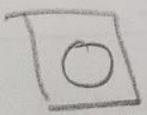
① Remove ZP 1, -1

$$2x - 1$$

② Remove BS  $2x + 2x + 2x$

$$-1$$

③ Remove BS  $-1, -1$



$$4x - 2x + 1 - 4$$

① Remove ZP  $2x, -2x$

$$2x + 1 - 4$$

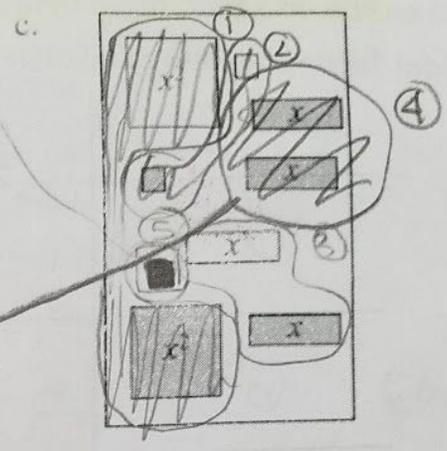
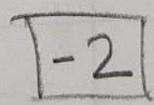
② Remove ZP 1, -1

$$2x - 3$$

③ Remove BS  $2x + 2x + 2x$

$$-3$$

④ Remove BS  $-1, -1, -1$



$$x^2 - x^2 + 3x - 1x + 2 - 2$$

① Remove ZP  $x^2, -x^2$

$$3x - 1x + 2 - 1$$

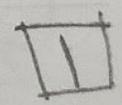
② Remove ZP 1, -1

$$3x - 1x + 1$$

③ Remove ZP  $1x, -1x$

$$2x + 1$$

④ Remove BS  $2x$



⑤ Remove BS

Greatest: C  $\rightarrow 1$

Medium: A  $\rightarrow 0$

Smallest: B  $\rightarrow -2$

**8th Grade** - Eighth graders are working with exponents and exponential growth. We took this opportunity to examine interest rates and the effect of damaging your credit score. Ask your kids about hundred thousand dollar t-shirts.

**Algebra 1**- We continued working with quadratic equations. Students are getting really good at factoring quadratics, graphing, identifying intercepts and vertices. We finished the week learning to “complete the square” to turn standard-form into vertex form.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:ssst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

### **SCIENCE with Mr. Devol**

**7th and 8th Grade: This Week** - We jumped in to our new game/projects this week called 3rd Rock (7th Grade game) and Dynamite! (our 8th grade game). In short, students complete academic and group challenges for points! Both games incorporate collaboration and group think as well as individual performance and all students the ability to do projects through Interactive Learning Strategies (ILS). It has been a great start - ask your student about it!

**Next Week:** **8th Grade continues to ramp up for their state test. 7th grade learns about EVOLUTION through our game, 3rd Rock.**

**8th Grade: This Week** - In 8th grade, everyone got new journals and we continued looking at waves, their properties and how they behave. Students learned the different parts of a wave and began investigating the relationship and differences when light separates to form rainbows. (Why do the fish I always catch look bigger when they are in the water???) Refraction of course!)

**Next Week: Enjoy the Family!**

### **Social Studies with Mr. Baker**

Hello Everyone! It was an awesome first week back from Mid-Winter Break! And also it was great to be able to get back into the classroom. Mr. Austin did an amazing job subbing for me while I was spending time with my family. Our son, Ralph, is now almost 8 weeks old and doing very well!

Please note that the Social Studies grade on the progress reports have not been updated. I should be caught up on grading by next week and will send home individual grades for Social Studies. Please contact me with any questions.

**7th Grade:** This week, we have changed our focus from Africa to Eastern Asia and Medieval China. We have been introduced to the concepts of bureaucracy, and dynastic periods. Students have mapped the geo-political borders of 9 major dynastic periods, and are beginning to understand the Mandate of Heaven and how that shaped the political structure of the Chinese Empire.

**8th Grade:** We are exploring the Bill of Rights, and how this helped comfort states into ratifying the Constitution. Students need to know how these Rights manifest in their lives and what they mean to our society. Also, in light of recent events, we will be spending some time with the 2nd Amendment. Many perspectives will be researched, and the history of firearms in America will be addressed, as well as several landmark SCOTUS rules. Next week, we will use some of what we have learned to begin debates about the 2nd amendment and what power our Federal, State, and Local governments have regarding this issue.

As always, if you need to reach a teacher for any reason, email is best.

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Carter Devol - Science - [cdevol@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:cdevol@willowcreekacademy.org)

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