



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - Dec.15th , 2017

### 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:
  - 8th Grade -
  - 8th Grade -

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

**7th Grade:** We finished reading the poignant and enlightening novel, *Inside Out & Back Again*, written entirely in verse. Students then tried their hand at writing a free verse. They were amazing! Some students chose to share them with the class. Next week we will begin studying Shakespeare. On another note, I will be gone the week of December 18th. In my absence, Mr. Baker has graciously offered to teach English Language Arts.

**8th Grade:** We began our new unit on Shakespeare this week. We started with a gentle introduction to Shakespeare, focusing on unpacking students' perceptions of the 'difficulty' of dealing with Shakespeare's language and understanding his plays. On another note, I will be gone the week of December 18th. In my absence, Mr. Baker has graciously offered to teach English Language Arts.

### Mathematics

**7th Grade** - Several students still had to complete Map testing. In between testing we learned about graphs and tables of proportional relationships.

**8th Grade** - The big deal this week was the practice Entry Level Math Assessment that we conducted on Friday. I wanted to end this week with that test so that students could go home feeling a bit relieved about their own levels of high school readiness. The overwhelming feeling was that this test wasn't nearly as challenging as they imagined.

**Algebra 1**- We continued work with factoring, multiplying binomials and trinomials, and we introduced elimination as a method of solving systems of equations. The class averaged about 28/30 on the high school entry exam! We will be taking the part 2 practice which focuses on Algebra 1 skills next week.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at

[sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

**SCIEN**d until after break to ensure students are properly equipped with thorough lab safety and academic content). Students will take an exam pre-test to be able to show competence in the body, organs and their functions prior to dissecting.

**Next Week:** Woodworking, Engineering and Pass Your “Dissection Entrance Exam”

**8th Grade: This Week** - Polar and Non-Polar Covalent Bonding. What makes some electrons behave and others to leave and join another atom? They come together because opposites attract (parents, you can introduce your Paula Abdul, “Opposites Attract” single to your student. It turns out to be a much more meaningful tune than I ever thought!)

**Next Week:** Woodworking and Engineering!



8th grade helping Chef Guillaume clean up!

## Social Studies with Mr. Baker

As a quick reminder, as some of you might already know, my wife and I are expecting our second child very soon, and I will out on paternity leave from January 8 to February 16.

This past Monday, December 11, Mr. Austin joined us in the classroom and has been an awesome presence in our class. Many students already have knowledge of Mr. Austin from his time coaching, and they have all responded very well to him.

Next week, I will be teaching ELA for Ms. Powers (she has a family engagement), while Mr. Austin teaches Social Studies.

As usual, if you have any questions about what we are doing on a day to day basis, check your child's Google Classroom or reach out to contact Mr. Austin directly. We will include his e-mail address in next week's Friday Post.

**7th Grade:** This week we explored the history of Muhammed and how he created Islam and how this new religion unified and reinvented the culture in the Middle East. The students will end the week with an in class essay about how Islam changed the Middle East. Thesis statement has been provided.

**8th Grade:** This week we learned about how the Colonists live during the middle of the 18th century. Next week, we will spend some time with the relationship between England and the Colonies and how a Tyranny led to Revolution! Students will end the week with an in class essay about the forces that led to Revolution. Thesis statement will be provided.

### Middle School Final Thoughts:

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

Roy Baker - Social Studies - [rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org)

Sean St.Denny - Math - [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:ssst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

Joann Powers - ELA - [jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org)

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

Belinda Ingraham - Spanish - [bingraham@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:bingraham@willowcreekacademy.org)

Lauren Haberly - Art - [lhaberly@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:lhaberly@willowcreekacademy.org)

Dave Singleton - PE - [dsingleton@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:dsingleton@willowcreekacademy.org)

Enjoy the Weekend! - Your MS Team.