



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - February 8, 2019

Dear Willow Creek families,

We hope you had a good week! Here's the news from our middle school team:

- ★ Outward Bound forms have been sent home multiple times over the past couple weeks for the March 4, 2019 camping trip for the 8th grade! Please see the link on the Friday Post webpage for an electronic version. You may also download from the 8th Grade Google Classroom.
- ★ Sean Altman from Outward Bound will hold a family information session for 8th grade families on Monday, February 11 at 5:30 in the library. This meeting is not mandatory, but it will be very informative!
- ★ Outward Bound forms need to be completed and submitted by February 15, 2019.

Congratulations to our Middle School All-Stars!
Nyiera Campbell and Ronny Estrada

Class Meetings and Film and Lecture Series

Each week, we include a description of our middle school class meeting topics for the preceding and upcoming weeks. Middle schoolers meet with their homeroom teachers for class meeting on Monday and Friday afternoons to talk about important social-emotional learning topics and build community. On the last Friday of each month, our 7th and 8th graders come together for a college lecture-style series focused on civil rights, current events, and social issues.

Last week's class meeting topic was **preventing rumors and bullying**. Next week's class meeting topic is **equity and anti-racism**. Please check in with your students about their class meetings and assemblies. We want to keep these conversations going!

If you have questions about class meetings or social-emotional learning in grades 7 and 8, please reach out to Mr. Baker: rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org.

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh Grade: This week students devoted themselves to researching their subtopics on competitive sports, and they will make their research public through a symposium that involves their classroom and peers. After the symposium, students will continue their arguments with real-world activism. They will think about how they can voice their opinions to community leaders who have the capacity to make policy changes based on their advocacy.

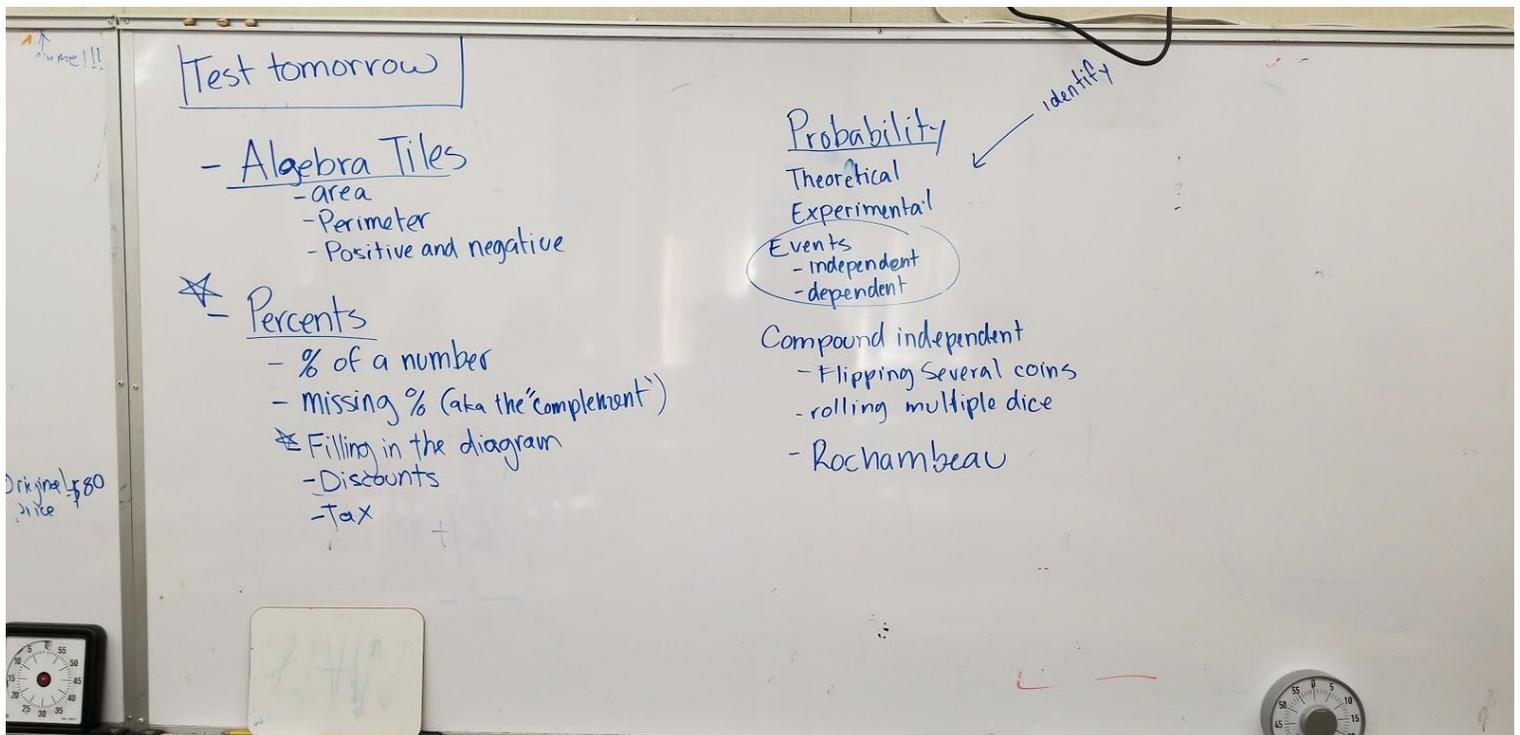
Eighth Grade: Over the course of this unit, students have been asked to take a position on challenging social issues. From the research and thinking they did on fictional violence in video games to the complex debate over child soldiers (victims or perpetrators), students confronted big questions. This work has been incredibly rewarding, as the students have grappled with complex topics and discovered that there are no easy answers. The ability to think and write critically about issues that encompass multiple, complex truths will serve students well in high school and beyond.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions: jpowers@willowcreekacademy.org

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade Announcements:

7th graders continued working with percentage, extending previous learning to discounts, tax, tips, increase or decrease by a percentage. They also began working with compound probability where we look at multiple events at once, such as rolling two dice, or flipping several coins.



8th grade extended application of slope to scatter plots, using lines of best fit to make predictions.

Algebra students worked on multiplication and division with monomials, extending their knowledge of exponents. They also multiplied binomials and are going toward factoring, graphing, and solving quadratic equations.

sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org

SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade:

This week 7th graders started a project on chemical reactions. Students chose a topic on chemical reactions, wrote down guiding questions, and are preparing a lesson they will teach to the class. Students will start to present next week.

8th Grade:

The 8th graders worked on their presentations on Space and Gravity. Students began teaching their lessons this week and will continue through February 12th. I have been very impressed by the lessons students have prepared and taught to the class.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

7th Grade: What an awesome week of Presentations about Chinese Inventions! Paper! Paper Currency! Tea! Ice Cream! Gun Powder! The Umbrella! Students were excited and gave some wonderful presentations that showed how much fun they had with this project!

8th Grade: Unpacking the Bill of Rights was an interesting task this week. Students had a good laugh about the \$20 floor for when you could take someone to court for damages, but we then realized in today's currency, that value is \$557.09. Next week, we will begin really looking at how our Rights benefit each of us in today's American Society.

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

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