



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - September 20, 2019

Dear Willow Creek families,

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

### English Language Arts with Ms. Rampulla

**7th Grade & 8th Grade:** This week Students completed their ELA portion of the MAP test in my class. This is a good reminder that testing endurance is a necessary skill that we will need to practice before students move on to high school.

Next week: We are going to start moving through our unit on characterization. Students will be choosing an author to study and will bring home a book by that author. Some students will be working with others and some may choose to work alone. While studying the author's craft, students have been investigating perspective. We will continue reading our anthologies in class and continue investigating the perspective of main and minor characters, the narrative point of view, how we as readers change our own perspectives on characters and how authors channel readers' sympathy by controlling access to a character's inner thinking.

Please hold your child accountable for their reading 30 min/night or 30 pages/night!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions: [mrampulla@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:mrampulla@willowcreekacademy.org)

### Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

#### Algebra 1:

A bunch of opportunities for practice this week as we finished off unit 1. We had a nice outdoor class on Tuesday, and pretty much everyone was working well with radicals by the end of Thursday. A few algebra students already saw huge jumps in parts of their MAP scores that relate to number theory and radical expressions!

## **7th and 8th Grade:**

MAP testing all week. Students poured great energy into their testing. Shout out to 8a who were really coming in ready to jam. I had the great opportunity to check in with students during testing and get a good flavor of what different individuals need to work on.

## **Homework**

On Monday we'll be back to the standard completion of 4 problems from CPM each night M-Th, or 30+ minutes of Dreambox.

Please feel free to reach out with questions: [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## **Science with Mrs. Martinez**

### **7th and 8th Grade:**

We are now a few weeks into our first unit on "Matter" and so far we have focused on the physical properties of matter and how matter can change states. We explored how molecules and compounds are formed and how to write formulas with our hand on first lab "Nuts and Bolts". Next week students will practice making the structures of common molecules and compounds in our second lab and investigate chemical reactions and distinguish between chemical and physical changes.

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

**7th and 8th Grade:** We introduced the textbook this week as the final piece to our overall class work. Students worked their way through the first 2 chapters of their book by creating a vocabulary matrix to help them acquire the words they need to express their learning.

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

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