



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - March 15, 2019

Dear Willow Creek families,

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

- ★ Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Friday, March 22, 2019. Instructions for signing up for a conference were sent in an email on Friday, March 8. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up! You can also sign up by emailing your child's homeroom teacher directly, or by calling our front office at 415-331-7530, ext. 202.

Congratulations to our Middle School All-Stars!
Evan Fequiere and Abby Lucas

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.

This week's class meeting topic was **empathy**. Next week's topic will be **unpacking bias**. 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 practiced summarizing the short texts they are reading. Students read several articles on their chosen topics and took notes that allowed them to synthesize what they are learning across texts, by dividing their notes into subtopics. As they read new texts, they considered how the new information they're learning complements, extends, or contradicts what they thought or read earlier.

Eighth Grade:

8th grade had a busy week. Students began researching their chosen topics by poring over easier resources in order to build background knowledge, including critical vocabulary and concepts.

Students also started their collaboration with Tam High School's Journalism Department this week. Students are writing Opinion/Editorial pieces on people in their community they admire. Students will maintain their connections with their Tam Journalism partners throughout the next few weeks. Ultimately, they will be published authors, and their work will be showcased in the Willow Creek-Tam News Magazine.

Finally, we ended the week with MAP testing. Our new system allows students immediate access to their RIT scores; this feedback is motivating and supports students as they reach for their goals.

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

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade Announcements:

7th graders spent the week MAP testing. We implemented a new system this time around, providing immediate feedback once testing was complete. This allowed for some great follow up conversations identifying strengths and an action plan for continued growth.

8th graders worked on geometry and problem solving this week in celebration of pi day (3/14). This will hopefully have helped shake off some rust in anticipation of MAP testing next week.

As always, please feel free to reach out with questions: sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org

Science with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade:

This week 7th graders learned about the tension and compression in bridges. They used computer simulations to test various truss bridges. Students began drawing the bridges they will start to build out of straws next week.

8th Grade:

The 8th graders began building their cardboard arcades to explore how gravity can be used to make a fun game. Students started by brainstorming ideas for their projects, making prototypes, and ended the week by starting to build their arcades.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th Grade: This week we focused on the Heian Period of Japan, considered by scholars to be the Golden Age of Medieval Japan. We discussed the concepts of art, literature, social class, and how the elite class of Japan created their society based on Chinese culture from three hundred years earlier. Next week, we begin our Transience of Life art projects.

8th Grade: This week we learned about how the United States acquisition of land through purchase, annexation, secession, and other forces of political or economic influence. We also created maps showing those land acquisitions along with a map of the states and when those states entered the Union. Next week we will present our maps and begin learning about Andrew Jackson.

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

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