



## 7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - April 26, 2019

Dear Willow Creek families,

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

**Congratulations to our Middle School All-Stars!**  
**Addie Vida and Bruno Condit**

### **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. 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 month, we hosted an organization called **Hip Hop for Change**, which encourages leadership and positivity through self-expression.

This week's class meeting topic was **non-verbal communication**. Next week, we will discuss **social emotional skills that support confidence during state testing**. 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](mailto:rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org).

### **English Language Arts with Ms. Powers**

**Seventh and Eighth Grade:** It's that time again - standardized testing (CAASPP) is right around the corner. We will begin administering the test on Tuesday, April 30th. As you know, we have been busy, preparing and reinforcing the skills necessary for students to demonstrate their learning. Even though this assessment is a snapshot - one single perspective - it is important that our students have every advantage to do their very best.

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

### **Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny**

**7th and 8th** grade math students spent much of the week sharpening skills and working with formatting long form answers for the upcoming Caaspp test. It was important to be able to work through some sample questions in various math topics that we've covered throughout the year. It was also important to get a better feel for linking together valid arguments with a complete chain of reasoning that shows how we know our solutions are correct.

As always, please feel free to reach out with questions: [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## Science with Mr. MacDonald

### 7th Grade:

This week 7th graders began a project on global warming. Students are investigating and researching the answers to the core questions around global warming:

1. What is the greenhouse effect?
2. What is global warming?
3. What causes global warming?
4. What evidence leads to global warming?
5. What are the effects of global warming?
6. What can we do to decrease the effects of global warming?

Individually or with one partner students can choose one of the following options to showcase their findings about global warming: Written expression, artistic expression, vocal expression, or through media. Next week students will present their projects to the class.

### 8th Grade:

This week 8th graders began a project on global warming. Students are investigating and researching the answers to the core questions around global warming:

7. What is the greenhouse effect?
8. What is global warming?
9. What causes global warming?
10. What evidence leads to global warming?
11. What are the effects of global warming?
12. What can we do to decrease the effects of global warming?

Individually or with one partner students can choose one of the following options to showcase their findings about global warming: Written expression, artistic expression, vocal expression, or through media. Next week students will present their projects to the class.

## Social Studies with Mr. Baker

**7th Grade:** We opened this week up with a dive into the civilizations of Mesoamerica. We are beginning with the Maya, and how there is often mis-information about ancient civilizations that influence how we understand those cultures...i.e., sacrifice vs. auto-sacrifice, the end of the world in 2012, ancient aliens...etc. The Maya were a very complex society that was based on stone tools because they did not have access to iron.

**8th Grade:** The division of the United States was political, industrial, social, and economic. We are learning how those forces pushed social and political change for women and people of color. We are also taking a deep dive into the effects of slavery on the United States and how equity is still a struggle.

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

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

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