



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - May 17, 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!
Jade Rosenberg and Myles Cence**

Class Meetings and Film and Lecture Series

Each week, we include a description of our middle school class meeting topics. 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.

Next week we will discuss goal setting over the summer. 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: The purpose of this unit is to expose students to the world of Shakespeare, in particular, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This unit also introduces them to drama techniques, themes, and public speaking. Students will have the opportunity to explore Shakespeare as a class, in small groups, and individually.

Eighth Grade: Students began their poetry unit this week. My hope is that students will gain an appreciation of poetry as an art form because they will understand that poetry surrounds us in our everyday lives. During this unit students will explore different types of poems and the specific rules for each type of poem.

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

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

Honors Geometry Placement testing:

Drake High School
Room 208
Tuesday, May 14, 2019
4:00-5:30

Tamalpais High School
Woodruff Hall
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
3:15 - 4:45

Redwood High School
Room 262
Thursday, May 16, 2019
3:30-5:00

7th and 8th grades are finally finished with CAASPP testing, and we just got back into the groove by the end of the week. 7th graders precisely measured model cars and scaled them up using proportion. Some were even able to measure their scaled speed by the end of class!

8th grade: 8th grade took their high school math placement tests on Tuesday and Wednesday here at WCA. I took a little peek, and they did great!

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

Science with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade:

Students finished up CAASPP testing this week. Students who were not testing worked on their Eco Dream House Project. For this project students are learning how to calculate the square footage of a house and the square footage of the walls in a house. Once they have calculated this they then use the square footage to figure out the cost to renovate a house floor with carpet or tiling and walls with wallpaper or paint. Students will then design their own dream house on paper and then on the computer using architecture software or Minecraft. Some students are beginning to build their physical scaled house out of laser cut cardboard.

8th Grade:

Students finished up CAASPP testing this week for Math and ELA. Starting Tuesday 8th graders will take the CAASPP for science. Students who were not testing worked on their Eco Dream House Project. For this project students are learning how to calculate the square footage of a house and the square footage of the walls in a house. Once they have calculated this they then use the square footage to figure out the cost to renovate a house floor with carpet or tiling and walls with wallpaper or paint. Students will then design their own dream house on paper and then on the computer using architecture software or Minecraft. Some students are beginning to build their physical scaled house out of laser cut cardboard.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th Grade: Our studies this week brought us to South America and the Andes Mountains. We watched a documentary about Machu Picchu, which focused on how researchers continue to investigate the purpose

of this stone city and how it may have affected the communities around it. Next week, we will begin our final project of the year and prepare for our upcoming in class essay and final exam.

8th Grade: The Civil War divided our country on so many levels, but it also created technologies and methods of warfare that changed the way war was fought. Finally, the medical practices also placed a heavy toll on soldiers of both North and South. Finally, we spent some time translating the Gettysburg Address into more modern language. Next week, we begin our 16-page final project booklets.

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

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