



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - May 4th, 2018

Announcements

- ★ State Testing continued this week and will pick up again next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. While testing is just that, we want to put our best effort on display so please get some extra sleep and be ready to go next week.

- ★ Congratulations to our **ACADEMIC ALL-STARS** of the week for their leadership both academically and in our WCA community! Your all-stars this week are:
 - 6th Grade - Makena Anderson
 - 6th Grade - Trinity Chancellor

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers and Ms. Alagna

7th grade: This week, as students prepare for CAASPP testing, we learned helpful strategies for writing an open response. Together, we brainstormed, planned, and revised our writing. Students also continued reading Unbroken.

Next week: Academic Vocabulary and Socratic Seminar

8th grade: It was a pleasure hearing all about the 8th grades adventure on the Outward Bound field trip. Students composed narratives about their trip and specifically focused on a common theme. As students prepared for CAASPP, we continued to review close reading strategies for informational text and the steps of the writing process by planning and drafting an open response.

Next Week: Introduce short stories unit and academic vocabulary.

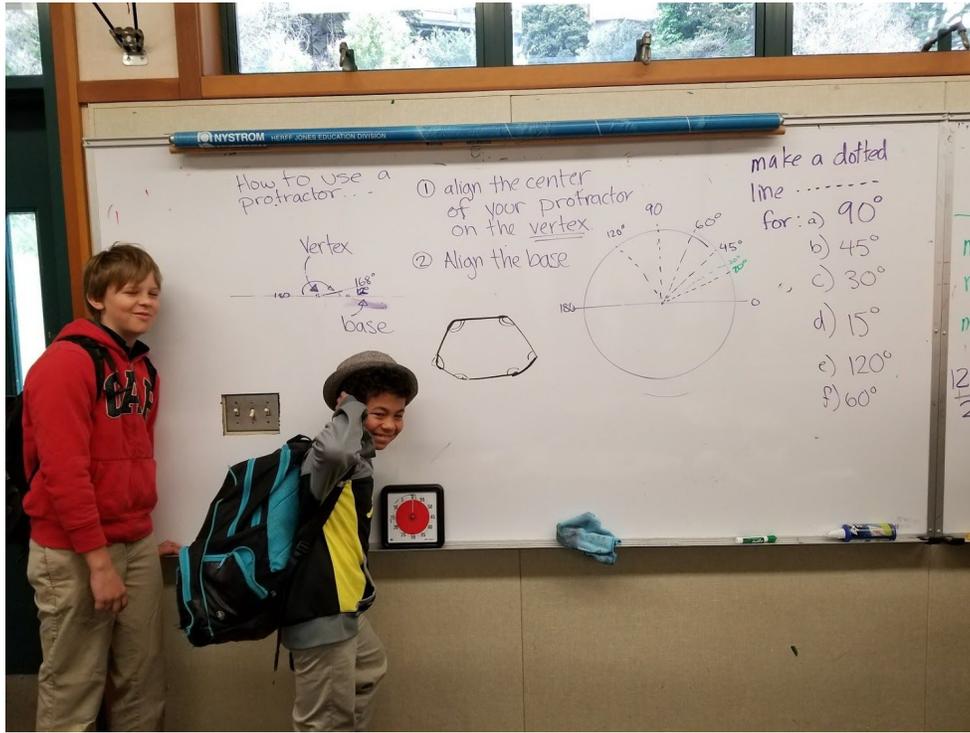
Reminder: Students will be CAASPP testing Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week. Remember to get lots of sleep and have a healthy breakfast on the day of testing! :)

7th and 8th graders: We are still missing a lot of books. Please check at home and return them as soon as possible. If you do not return them, you will have to pay for replacements. Thank you!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

7th Grade: 7th grade has spent the week learning about angles and angle relationships, including corresponding, supplementary, adjacent, and vertical angles. We also got in some good practice measuring various acute, obtuse, and right angles that student teams found throughout the math classroom.



8th Grade: Ask your kids how their high school placement exams went! I was very happy to see our preparation pay off, as most students felt that the exam was easier than anticipated. We begin state testing in math next week.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org

SCIENCE with Mr. Devol

7th Grade:

We had a mixed bag this week in 7th grade as students tested most of the week but got time to visit the creek and take water samples on Monday. We are continuing (as time allows during testing) to try and answer the question, "Is the water in the creek safe?" It required students to define "safe" water and take water samples to check for contaminants.

Next Week: Begin 20% project (end of the year project).

8th Grade: 8th grade also tested the majority of the week with a visit to the Environmental Film Festival on Thursday.

Next Week: 20% project begins next week.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

7th Grade: Our learning has taken us to Meso-America and we've begun exploring the Maya and how they were a Post Iron Age civilization without having access to any iron ore. We learned about some of their cultural elements - complex calendars (they had three of them), sophisticated understanding of the cosmos, powerful priest class that manipulated their society through their understanding of the movements of stars and planets, and an advanced understanding of medicine and the occasional brain surgery. Next week, we will add the Aztec Empire and how a handful of Spanish Conquistadors took over a Tenochtitlan, a city built on a lake, with floating farms, that is almost impossible to invade, by removing the existing government on the most important holiday of the year.

8th Grade: This week, we have begun our exploration of the Westward expansion of the United States and how the South's desire to protect the institution of slavery led to the Missouri Compromise and the overall division of the new territories and states. Students are working in groups to learn how best to teach their particular sections of research to the rest of the class. This is going to be an awesome experience!

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

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