



7th & 8th Grade Friday Letter - September 14, 2018

Announcements

Message from our Assistant Head of School, Kristine Duran:

Our Middle School team has implemented two new policies this school year.

The first is our new cell phone policy. Students are expected to turn in their cell phones to their first period teachers at the beginning of the day. Students can pick up their phones at the end of the day. If you need to reach your student during the day, you are welcome to call the main office, and we will get the message to them. Any student seen using his/her phone during the day will have the phone confiscated and will either need to pick it up at the end of the day, or the parent/guardian will need to come to pick it up.

The second new policy is regarding uniforms. This year students who are out of uniform will be given a loaner uniform, which is to be returned the next day. The exception to this is PE days, when students may wear their uniform or “athletic clothing,” such as sweats or running pants and a t-shirt. Jeans are not considered athletic clothing.

Outward Bound 7th Grade

- ★ All participating 7th graders should arrive before Morning Assembly on Monday, September 17.
- ★ We will board the bus with all of our luggage and be on the road no later than 9:00 AM.
- ★ Make sure all of your medications are in their original prescription bottles.
 - OB staff will be given the medication to keep safe and insure proper use.
- ★ Students cleared to attend will be posted in a separate document in this week’s Friday Post Portal.
- ★ Students will be separated into their groups upon arrive at Castle Rock State Park.
- ★ Please contact the WCA or Outward Bound CA with any questions regarding the field trip or if you need to contact your child while they are on the camping trip.
- ★ Here is a [link](#) to the list of students who have been cleared by Outward Bound to Attend the camping trip.
 - If you do not see your child’s name on this list, please contact Sean Altman @ 415.346.0572

English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

Seventh and Eighth Grades:

We began our week with MAP testing in Reading (Monday and Tuesday). On Wednesday, we continued on with our Deep Study of Character unit as we explored how perceptive readers acknowledge the parts

of a character that are less likeable. Students came to realize that complex characters (like real people) have some parts to them that are less admirable than others. We also revisited the differences between traits and emotions by conferring in small groups. On Thursday, students started learning how to evaluate and choose which character traits matter the most to the plot of a story; they used their reader notebooks to revise their original theories about a character's traits. Students then showed links between traits and plot events in their notebooks. On Friday students took their first vocabulary test, demonstrating knowledge of academically appropriate language. These lessons are aligned with Common Core Standards and designed to challenge and increase skills for every reader and writer.

In-class notebooks were collected for grading on Friday the 14th of September.

Next week: 7th grade is off to Outward Bound (Monday through Thursday). I look forward to hearing all about their adventures! We will be doing a Friday writing assessment of their experience(s).

Next week: 8th grade will continue with their study of deep character traits. They will focus on elevating the level of their writing about reading, and I will ask them to consider the different pressures acting on characters. Students will finish off the week reflecting on their novels and their reading lives.

Yearbook/Journalism: What a great group of enthusiastic students! They are already expressing themselves creatively. I am in the process of assigning roles to students that they have expressed interest in. This will encourage positive interdependence, interaction, and group processing.

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

Mathematics with Mr. St. Denny

The image shows a whiteboard with several handwritten math problems and solutions in blue and green ink. The work is organized into sections by student names.

- macYana:**
 - "I Divide by 5, add 3, Multiply by 2, and Subtract 47, I get -1"
 - "I multiply by 9, add 91, divide by 100, Subtract 20, add 1, Subtract 3, and add 22, I get 0"
- ana:**
 - A red arrow points from the name to the equation: $\times 4 + 4 \times 30 \div 2 - 3 - 100 - 7 \times 2 \times 1 - 4 = 376$
- Charlotte:**
 - Equation: $\text{---} \times 4 + 2 \div 10 - 13 = -10$
 - Equation: $\text{---} + 2 + 7 + 4 = 221$
- Robert:**
 - Equation: $\text{---} \times 4 + 2 \div 10 - 13 = -10$
- Another student:**
 - Equation: $\text{---} + 2 + 7 + 4 = 221$

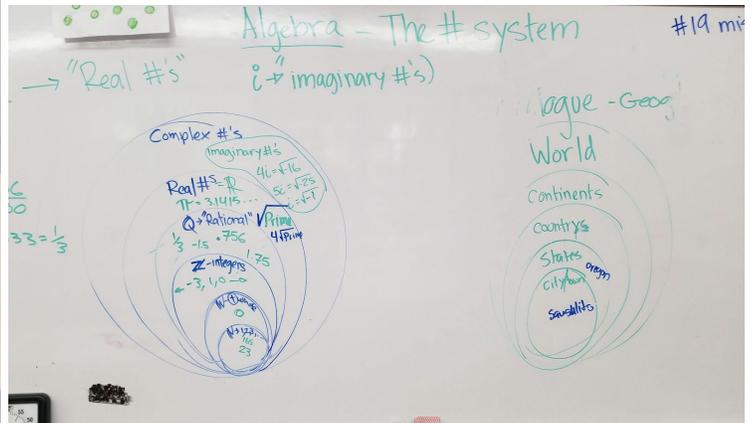
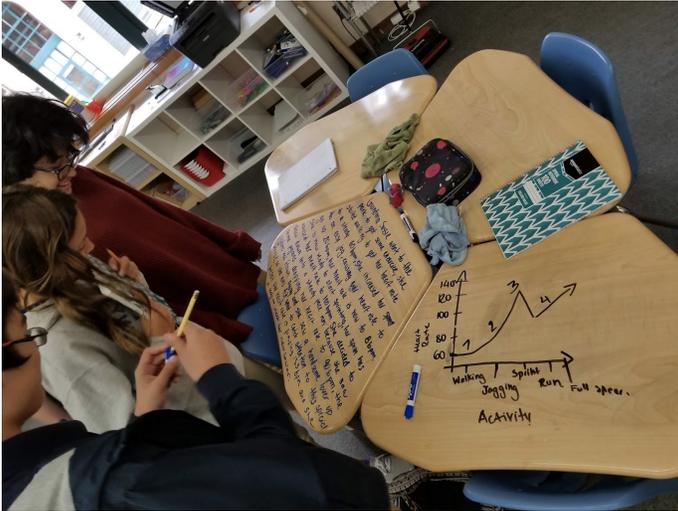
At the bottom, there is a note: "I multiply by 1, I divide by 2, I get 36"

7th Grade Announcements:

7th graders are began the week working on order of operations and glimpses of algebraic thinking. We got to make and solve problems where each student gave directions to find a

“secret number”. Wednesday on was spent on MAP testing... ask your students about why we do a power pose!

8th Grade announcements:



8th graders are working on graphing, and began by making “graph stories” where groups created and edited stories to match what was happening in a graph they were given.

Algebra is moving right along, and we are already gaining a better understanding of the number system, set theory, reducing radicals, and powers and exponents. Most students are keeping up well with the work even with the increased pace and demands! It is my sincere wish that we work together to encourage and get ahead of any issues that may arise, so don't hesitate to email me at ssd.denny@willowcreekacademy.org

SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald

7th Grade and 8th Grade:

This week students continued to work on making a circuit that would light up or make a fan go. After successfully making a circuit students made a model of it in their interactive notebooks detailing how a circuit works. Also this week students worked on their PacMan program. Most students were able to get their games to the point that PacMan could win or lose. The next challenge with programming will be to get students to model a science concept.

7th Grade Field Trip:

The 7th graders have a field trip scheduled to sail in the San Francisco Bay with Captain Heather Richards, Julius's mom. Students will spend 2 hours sailing and then the remainder of the day at the Spaulding Center. Here, the students will get a tour of their facility and some hands on map-making instruction. They will build a sailing map to track Julius's course while he sails around the world. On the boat students will

learn how to set a course in the bay much as Julius will be doing throughout his trip.

In this way, students will personalize the trip and connect with their classmate, as well as gain hands-on experience and make real-world connections in Maritime and geography skills, math applications, and navigational know-how.

Over the course of the year, our class will follow Julius as he travels around the world with his family, and it is my hope that the students will have an opportunity to grow and develop through this unique opportunity with Julian and his family.

When:

September 21st – students from 7a will go on the field trip

September 28th – students from 7b will go on the field trip

Please sign the Release and Waiver of Liability Form and return it with your child.

Social Studies with Mr. Baker

Just to let families have one more week to see grading for Social Studies. This is contained in the class syllabus which all students should have in their journals.

Participation & Engagement = 10% of grade

Classwork & Homework = 40% of grade

Essays, Presentations, & Projects = 40% of grade

Final Project/Exam = 10% of grade

Points for Classwork, Homework, and Participation will be based on task completion. Essays & Projects scored by Rubric. Quizzes, and Tests will be scored traditionally.

WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

7th Grade: We introduced the textbook this week as the final piece to our overall class work. Students created a vocabulary matrix to help them acquire the words they need to express their learning. Students also began receiving graphic organizers for their journals. With next week being the camping trip, and this week being MAP testing in ELA and Math, we are going to postpone our first in class essay until the students return from camping.

8th Grade: This week we spent a day on the Renaissance, two days on the Reformation, and a day reading Immanuel Kant's, What is Enlightenment (1784). Pretty soon, they should be prepared to really understand the philosophical forces that led to the push for exploration and exploitation of the New World.

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

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