



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

### Announcements

- ★ 7th and 8th grade students are allowed to wear school-appropriate athletic attire all day on Wednesdays and Thursdays when they have PE.
- ★ Thank you to everyone who attended Back to School Night this week!
- ★ Congratulations to our **ACADEMIC ALL-STARS** of the week! These students displayed leadership both academically and in our WCA community! Your all-stars this week are:
  - 7th Grade - Nick Tapia Martinez
  - 7th Grade - Ellie Lipsitz

### English Language Arts with Ms. Powers

#### ***Seventh and Eighth Grades:***

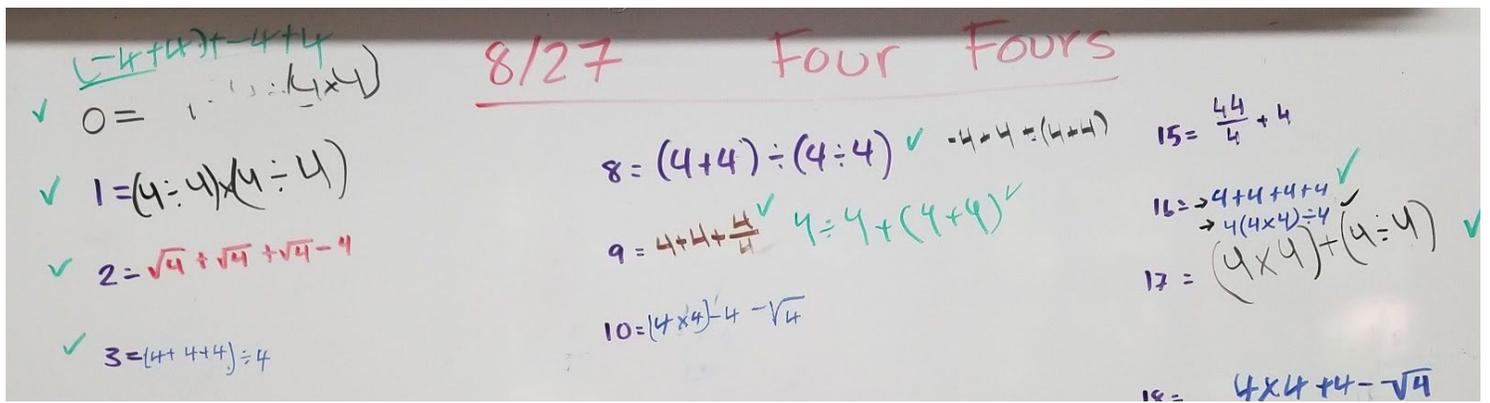
*It was so nice to see so many of you at Back To School Night!*

*This week we have been investigating multiple character traits. Students have been revising their thinking about characters as they accumulate textual evidence throughout their novels. They have been deepening their reading and writing skills through course study with partners. On Friday we had our second writing assessment that addressed personality traits, motivations, and inner qualities of their characters (the students completed 30 minutes of uninterrupted, analytical writing). These lessons are aligned with Common Core Standards and designed to challenge and increase skills for every reader and writer.*

*Homework journals were collected today for grading.*

*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 Announcements:

A big thank you to all parents who made it a late night by coming out to our presentation yesterday!

Homework has begun and, except for algebra students, everyone should have three assignments completed in their homework notebook. Please sign the log each week will help us maintain high expectations around homework completion.

As always, don't hesitate to email me at [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

## SCIENCE with Mr. MacDonald

### 7th Grade and 8th Grade:

This week students made a popsicle stick flashlight to explore making a circuit with a battery, switch, LED and copper tape. Students also worked on their PacMan programs as they explored the logic of using "if" and "then" statements. Below I am including the information I shared at back to school night on the scope and sequence as well as the break down for grading.

### 7th Grade Science Curriculum

**Unit 0: Engineering Design** How can failure lead to innovation?

**Unit 1: Mighty Molecule** How does understanding physical properties and molecular structure enable a scientist to purify water?

**Unit 2: Dub Nation Rehabilitation** How are products designed based on chemical reactions?

**Unit 3: Biodome Catastrophe** How do different chemical reactions support life on Earth?

**Unit 4: Community Planning based on Natural Resources** How does Earth's systems influence the

abundance of natural resources?

## 8th Grade Science Curriculum

**Unit 0: Engineering Design** How can failure lead to innovation?

**Unit 1: Forces & Motion** How have we used force for innovations?

**Unit 2: Space & Gravity** How do things move in space?

**Unit 3: Earthquake Rescue Plan** How do sound waves behave?

**Unit 4: Evolution and Extinction of Life on Earth** Are we on the verge of the 6th mass extinction event?

7th & 8th Science Grading:

Projects & Labs                    50%

Interactive Notebook            40%

Tests & Quizzes                 10%

## Social Studies with Mr. Baker

It was great to meet with all the families that attended Back to School Night! There were some questions regarding my grading structure, so I have included the section from the class syllabus that was provided to each students on the first day of school. This syllabus should be contained in their journals for reference.

A large part of what we do in class is based on exercising the skills that we have learned or are learning. To help encourage participation and engagement and properly assess the various manners students will be using their skills, I use the following grading system:

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 based on task completion. Essays & Projects scored by Rubric. Quizzes, and Tests will be scored traditionally.

## WHAT WE DID THIS WEEK

**7th Grade:** This week our main focus was on creating posters that showed our understanding about the Fall of the Western Roman Empire. Teamwork is such an awesome way to learn as the best learning occurs through social interaction! We are beginning to make connections to other parts of the world and

how the fall of Rome led to a change in the way of life in Europe. Next week, we will introduce the Textbook, and now that we have had a chance to get to know each other, and build our classroom community, we will begin some of the more academic structures of our class.

**8th Grade:** We just completed our first essay and our topic was our summer reading, [A Young People's History of the United States](#). Students had time in class to explore how Zinn portrayed marginalized people and their history, and form an opinion on the book and then support that opinion. Next week, we will refocus on the Renaissance, Scientific Revolution, Reformation, and Enlightenment to better understand how these movements changed Europe and shaped the exploration and exploitation of the New World.

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

Roy Baker - Social Studies - [rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:rbaker@willowcreekacademy.org)

Sean St. Denny - Math - [sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:sst.denny@willowcreekacademy.org)

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

Nate MacDonald - Science - [nmacdonald@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:nmacdonald@willowcreekacademy.org)

Belinda Ingraham - Spanish - [bingraham@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:bingraham@willowcreekacademy.org)

Lauren Haberly - Art - [lhaberly@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:lhaberly@willowcreekacademy.org)

Dave Singleton - PE - [dsingleton@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:dsingleton@willowcreekacademy.org)

Lynnette Egenlauf - PE - [legenlauf@willowcreekacademy.org](mailto:legenlauf@willowcreekacademy.org)