

Trojan Tribune

April 14, 2022

Students, Parents & Guardians

Wow we made it to the 4th quarter!!!

I want to make everyone aware of a few important dates to end the school year. Our 4th quarter, like most years, is packed with activities. If you have any questions about the upcoming dates please do not hesitate to reach out.

April 22nd - 24th Students Musical/Play

April 22nd Student convocation (school musical)

April 26th ECMS Extra Night - we will be highlighting our school extracurricular activities.

April 27th Secretary's Day

May 2nd - 6th Staff Appreciation Week

May 11th Nurse' Day

May 17th 5th grade students will visit ECMS during the school day

May 23rd Academic Awards Night 6:00 pm

May 24th 8th Grade Dance

May 24th - 25th Chromebook Collection

May 25th Field Day

May 26th Field Day rain make-up

May 31st - June 17th Summer School

Guidance

ILEARN testing will take place April 18th-22nd (Math), April 18-23 (6th grade Science only), and April 26th-29th (ELA) for in-person students. We will be on a regular bell schedule.

S-DOA students will test from May 2nd through May 6th. S-DOA students will test in the Distance Learning Lab at East Central High School. An S-DOA-specific schedule with exact dates and times will be sent to S-DOA students and parents via email.

The students need to be commended for their hard work and dedication toward mastering the standards. Here are a few suggestions to ensure your student is at their optimal learning potential for ILEARN:

- Have your student get a good night's rest
- Have your student eat a nutritious breakfast (protein-packed is best, but nothing too heavy), or have your student get a free breakfast provided by the school cafeteria
- Find a stress reliever to do with your child during the ILEARN week to eliminate test anxiety (walk at the park, watch a movie together, play a board game, etc.)
- Remind your student this is only one snapshot of his/her ability to reduce any stress about the test
- Chromebooks should be plugged in the night before to ensure a full charge the next day.
- Send wired earbuds or headphones. No wireless devices are allowed.
- Cell phones, smartwatches, and other smart devices are prohibited during the operational test.

To familiarize yourself with the process, please visit the ILearn Portal

<https://ilearn.portal.cambiumast.com/>. Email us if you have any further questions or concerns. Best of luck to your student on the ILEARN!



Trojan Career Program trip to Vincent Lighting Systems



Trojan Career Program trip to the new East Central Natatorium

English Language

6th Grade

The 6th grade Language students have several skills to work on this quarter. First, the students will be working on Greek and Latin word parts to help build their overall vocabulary and word knowledge. They will also be working to master the use and understanding of adjectives and adverbs in our Language. As readers are writers and writers are readers, the students will practice responding (writing) effectively to pieces of literature. And finally, they will write to given writing prompts to enhance their overall writing skills.

7th Grade

7th grade ELA classes have had a groovy time learning about the 1960s as we prepared to read *The Outsiders*! They have researched the music, movies, culture, and important events from the sixties, as well as information about the book itself and the author - S.E. Hinton. Students especially enjoyed learning and discussing slang words from the period. We'll be watching the movie after we have finished reading the book. The first day of the movie, we will have "Dress Like a Soc or a Greaser Day!" We encourage everyone to choose whether they want to be a Soc or a Greaser and dress the part!

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AR goals have been assigned, and the parent letters were sent home last week. The goals are a bit lower this quarter. Our school library will be closing before the end of the school year due to construction. We can't wait to see the improvements that will be made! The last day for students to have books from our library this year will be May 11th. AR goals are due May 16th.

8th Grade

General - Mrs. Bevis and Mr. Wagner

As we begin Quarter 4, students will be reading several non-fiction selections on Anne Frank and the Holocaust as well as the play *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Goodrich and Hackett. While reading, we will evaluate the non-fiction pieces and the play to determine the authors' perspectives, to identify conflicting viewpoints, and to conduct research. Students will also be reviewing figurative language and poetry. For further vocabulary development, students are continuing to work with a different group of Greek and Latin affixes and roots each week. They are also still working with a weekly grammar program to promote proper grammar usage and mechanics. All classes will be preparing for final NWEA testing as well as for the ILEARN test. Students are reminded to continue making progress on their Accelerated Reader (AR) goals and to employ their self-advocacy skills when contacting their teacher concerning makeup work or any questions regarding content.

Advanced - Mrs. Bevis

Students in Mrs. Bevis's advanced language arts classes will be focusing on non-fiction this quarter. The following topics will be explored while reading about Anne Frank and the Holocaust: text evidence, inferences, central ideas, summarizing, author's perspective, conflicting viewpoints, evaluating claims and evidence, and writing skills. Students will also briefly review figurative language and poetry before the end of the year. Students are continuing to strengthen vocabulary skills through theme related word groups with a focus on the connotation and denotation of words. They are also continuing daily grammar instruction that focuses on sentence structure to improve their writing skills. Students have set individualized goals for the Accelerated Reading (AR) program for Quarter 4, and those letters will be sent home by April 1. Midterm AR goals should be met by April 22, 2022, and quarter goals need to be accomplished by May 20, 2022.

Honors - Mr. Wagner

As we look at the fourth quarter, 8th grade Honors English/language arts instruction consists of a two-fold curriculum. ILEARN test preparation and literary nonfiction will be the topics of focus as we begin to wrap up this academic year. Using Goodrich and Hackett's drama, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, students will study both the horrific realities of the Holocaust and the incredible stories of human perseverance during a time of inhuman suffering. Using this period as a backdrop for learning, our literature and composition standards will be developed both inside and outside the classroom. Along with these skills, we will also be addressing vocabulary development through our pre-SAT vocabulary instruction and grammar formation through weekly language exercises. Honors students will also be busy working on their Quarter 4 projects and completing their Accelerated Reader (AR) goals outside of class.

Mrs. Bevis and Mr. Wagner would like to thank the students and families of ECMS for a wonderful third quarter and look forward to an even more successful fourth quarter full of academic and personal growth. As always, please feel free to contact us at jlbevis@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us or spwagner@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us

Science

In 6th grade, we finished up our study of physical science before spring break. Mrs. Lecher used homemade paddle boats to explore potential and kinetic energy. We also explored Newton's 3 Laws of Motion along with doing stations using light and sound energy. During the 4th quarter, we will be moving on to life science. We will be doing labs with owl pellets and also skull identification.



Allyson, Mr. Frank, Ismael, and Gracelynn working on exploration of Newton's Laws of motion.

Mrs. Radcliffe's class is spending the next four weeks working on Biology standards. We will start with the cell and work our way to the entire creature! We will finish out the year by creating a creature of our own making!!

Mrs. Knueven's 7th Grade Science is studying Life Science this quarter. We have learned what the characteristics are for living things, we have used microscopes to look at cells and our own cheek cells as well. We are currently studying the small parts that make up the cell called organelles. Students will be completing a 3-D model of the cell, and also a 3-D model of cellular reproduction called mitosis. We will finish out the year with body systems and cellular differentiation!

8th grade finished the Genetics Unit and are studying how species have changed over time. The remainder of the 4th quarter, they will be studying Taxonomy and the specific characteristics of organisms. This will culminate with a frog dissection.



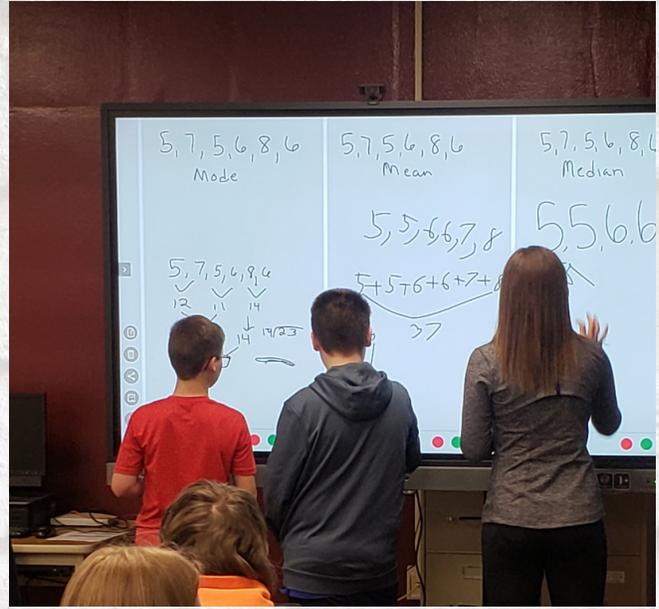
Kylie Kelsey and Hadlee Anthony flip a coin to determine the traits of the offspring

Math

6th grade math classes are working on Statistical Measures and Statistical Displays this quarter. Students will be asked to select, create, and interpret graphical representations of numerical data, including line plots, histograms, and box plots. They will be expected to summarize numerical data sets in relation to their context in multiple ways, such as: report the number of observations; describe the nature of the attribute under investigation, including how it was measured and its units of measurement; determine quantitative measures of center (mean and/or median) and spread (range and interquartile range). Students will be able to describe any overall pattern and any striking deviations from the overall pattern with reference to the context in which the data were gathered. They will relate the choice of measures of center and spread to the shape of the data distribution and the context in which the data were gathered.

7th-grade Math is working on our Data, Statistics, and Probability standards for Quarter #4. Students are learning the differences between Theoretical and Experimental probabilities by testing their theories with experiments on outcomes in our Math classroom. 7th grade Math is continuing to prepare for our ILearn tests coming in a couple of weeks, by way of warm-ups and bell ringers that review previously learned content. Students are doing really well staying engaged as we approach our testing season.

Students are able to use the BenQ board and peer collaboration to help reinforce mathematical concepts.



Social Studies

6th grade social studies classes are beginning their Europe Unit, 7th grade social studies are beginning their Africa Unit, and 8th grade social studies are beginning discussions on the causes of the Civil War. Additionally, 7th grade social studies classes have started growing African daisies, as we wrap up our Africa Unit, in a growth tower in collaboration with Mr. Snider and the Ag Department.



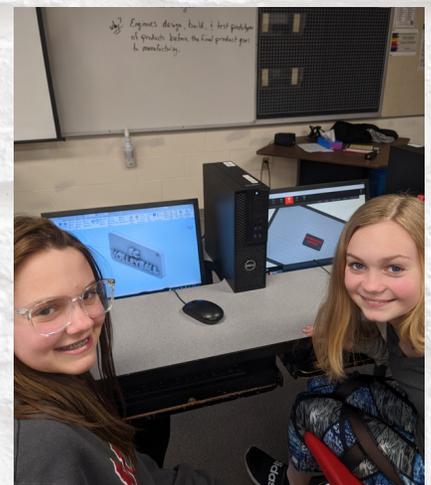
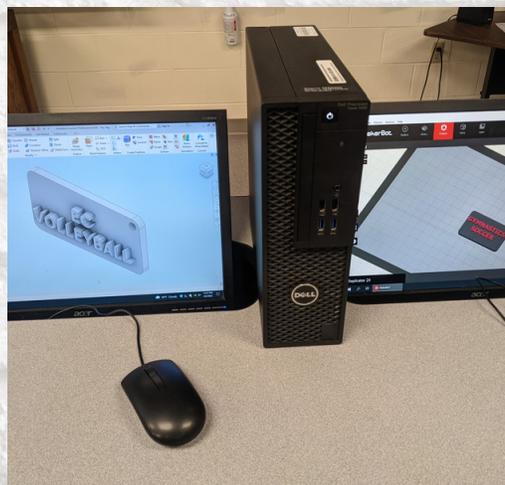
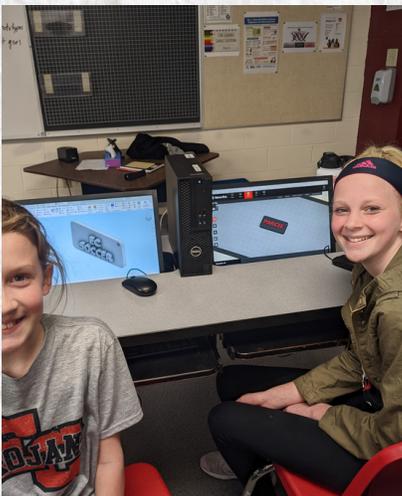
Special Education Department

The Special Education Department has been hard at work with transition meetings to help move our 8th graders successfully into high school and also bring 5th graders successfully into middle school. Our teams have done a fantastic job! We are also making preparations for ILEARN. Mrs. Hensley's 6th grade math class is doing a great job at working with integers. They know how to explain what positive and negative numbers are! Mrs. Hensley's combined 7th and 8th grade math class is reviewing algebra rules and throwing in some geometry standards. They can name triangles two different ways, by side identification and by angle. All students came back from Spring Break rejuvenated and ready to give their best!

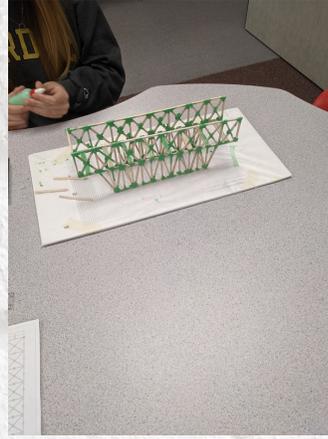
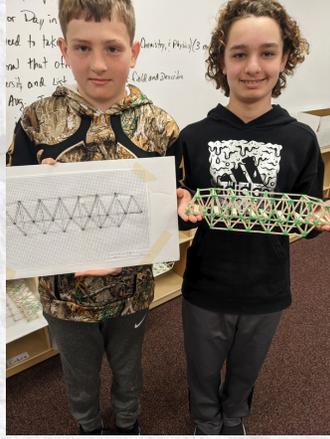
Mrs. Riley's and Mrs. Carr's reading and language classes have a busy fourth quarter, as they prepare for the upcoming ILEARN and Spring NWEA assessments. In each class, they are continuing to work on various grade level standards as well as continuing to review skills to help our students grow as readers and writers. The next few weeks they are focusing on reading a variety of passages, comprehension strategies and citing text evidence. The 6th graders have started reading *The One and Only Ivan* and the 7th and 8th graders are wrapping up the second book in *The Track Series*, *Patina*.

Engineering

6th Grade Engineering is working on their Key Tag 3D Printing project in which they modeled parts in Inventor, converted files and used MakerBot desktop software to get their files ready to print. Student teams are also starting on their Fields of Engineering presentations in Google Slides.



Advanced Engineering is working on Designing, Building, and Testing a Balsa Wood Bridge using 4mm balsa wood. The bridge is slightly over 12 " long and the record for weight held is 65.4 lbs.



Family & Consumer Science (FACS)

Students in 6th Grade FACS finished the third quarter with several cooking labs, where they demonstrated communication skills, teamwork, kitchen safety and sanitation, and proper techniques for preparing food. Students in 7th and 8th Grade FACS finished sewing their pillowcases and they are beginning the cooking unit this week.



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

The Indiana FCCLA State Leadership Conference was held March 6th-8th in Muncie, Indiana. Eighteen members attended the conference and participated in youth workshops and competitive events. The students received 18 gold medals and 3 silver medals, with 14 students qualifying for Nationals this summer in San Diego, California. Our chapter also won several membership awards and a Gold Honor Chapter plaque for our program of work throughout the year. During FCCLA Week (February 14th-18th), FCCLA members donated over 300 stuffed animals, which will be distributed to all the local law enforcement agencies and Safe Passage to help children going through traumatic events.



ECMS Band

After months of preparation, the ECMS Bands all attended the ISSMA Band Festival at Triton Central High School on Friday, March 11th. After performing for a panel of judges, all three bands received unanimous Gold Ratings! This is the highest rating a band can receive, and a huge achievement for our students!



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Our spring band concert will take place on Tuesday, May 17th at 6:30 PM in the ECHS Performing Arts Center. As always, admission is FREE! Please join us for our final concert of the year!

ECMS Chorus

Congratulations to all Three Choirs: 6th Grade Show Choir, 6th Grade Choir/Concert Choir, and 7th/8th Grade Show Choir for receiving Gold Ratings at ISSMA on Saturday, April 2nd. The students had wonderful performances! I am so proud of all of the choirs!



ECMS Drama

Seussical JR. will run from Friday, April 22nd-Sunday, April 24th! Shows are at 7pm on Friday and Saturday and 3pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$8 for Students and can be purchased at the door. Come see all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters on the stage!

East Central Middle School Drama presents



Seussical Jr.

April 22nd & 23rd at 7pm

April 24th at 3pm

Adults \$10

Students \$8

East Central High School Performing Arts Center

Physical Education

ECMS PE students have been busy working on their physical fitness testing, lifting weights, and participating in activities like volleyball, basketball, and cooperation games. Students will be going outside soon. Please dress appropriately.



Art

The students in Mrs. Moeller's 7th and 8th grade Art class are creating works of art based on their thoughts, feelings, and personal interests. This multi-media project encompasses many standards as students express themselves through art.

Students in Mrs. Moeller's 6th grade Art class are currently learning the Adobe Photoshop program in order to create digital works of art. Mrs. Moeller recently received a Ben Q board for her classroom which enhances their learning.

6th Graders will begin balsa foam carvings when their digital art is complete.

