

Trojan Tribune

February 2, 2023

Students, Parents & Guardians

WOW...we are in February already! Before we know it we will be in March, and ready for a relaxful and well-deserved restful spring break. Mr. Moore and I recently met with all students in a small group setting (science classes) to discuss the importance and understanding of social media and possible ramifications. In addition we spoke with students about general cell phone usage throughout our building. We are encountering more and more cell phone usage violations throughout the school day. We are asking for your help...Please have conversations with your student(s) about the importance of knowing the impact of social media posts, and other technology usage.

As Mr. Moore and I spoke to students, the 3rd quarter is the hardest quarter for all students and staff. The longest quarter without a break, however we need to push through. I continue to ask students for 2 areas of need: (1) - Be kind (2) - Do your job. I truly believe if students can accomplish these 2 aspects of school they will be successful academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you again for having me a part of this community, and serving you as principal of ECMS. We have some awesome students and just as good of a community. GO TROJANS!

Guidance

Exploring Careers Visit to Southeast Career Center

8th-grade site visits concluded with a visit to the Southeast Career Center in Versailles. East Central High School students spoke with our students about their classes at the Career Center. Site visits are part of the ECMS Exploring Careers Program.



Reality Check

Later this semester, WRBI radio will come to school for Reality Check. WRBI's Reality Check offers a chance for students to manage their 'money' while experiencing the ups and downs of grown-up life.

Eighth graders have the opportunity to get a taste of adult life by making choices, picking careers, budgeting money, getting an education, and dealing with family situations. Reality Check is the capstone of the ECMS Exploring Careers Program.



State Testing

One of the biggest events to happen in the Spring Semester is state testing. Final details are being worked out, but state testing (ILEARN and IAM) will start in April. The corporation-wide Systems Readiness Test (SRT) is scheduled for February 15th. The SRT simply tests our network and Chromebooks and does not count toward student scores. Test dates and tips will be shared at a later date.



CASA Youth Summit

Mission: To develop and support a comprehensive community plan focused on the prevention and reduction of substance use/misuse/addiction among youth and adults in Dearborn County by driving impactful advocacy efforts. This is an event for 8th grade students. They will be attending on March 8th.



ECMS Scheduling for 2023-2024 School Year

The online portal for scheduling will close on February 8th for all grades.

English Language

6th Grade ELA

The 6th grade ELA students are working on nonfiction reading and writing this 3rd quarter. This is the toughest genre of study to master, so plenty of practice is in place for the students: articles in Renaissance for their AR goal, writing informatively which requires using reading skills to paraphrase the research, and reading a Civil Rights story (Freedom Walkers or Port Chicago 50). In addition to this reading, the students will have focus vocabulary sets to help build their word knowledge. This is a busy and productive 3rd quarter for our 6th graders!

7th Grade ELA

In 7th grade ELA, we started reading *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. The novel weaves together the stories of three different refugees during three different time periods. Josef is a Jewish refugee fleeing Nazi Germany in the 1930s, Isabel is a Cuban refugee trying to escape Castro's iron fist in the 1990s, and Mahmoud is a Syrian refugee looking for a safe place to call home in 2015. At the end of the book, the three stories are woven together. Before we started reading the book, we learned about the history of these three countries during the time periods in which the stories are set. Students all received their Accelerated Reader goals our first week back, so they should be working towards hitting all their goals this quarter.

7th Grade Honors and Advanced ELA

Students in the Honors and Advanced classes are reading *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys. There are four main characters who are refugees. They cross paths as they are all trying to escape the perils of World War II. In this novel, the characters are fleeing from the Russian army as they invade the Baltic area. Prior to reading the book, students conducted research, focusing on Hitler and Stalin's relationship, the landscape of the Baltic region during the time period, and the voyage of the ship *Wilhelm Gustloff*. This week, students worked on a digital breakout about *The Amber Room*, one of the great mysteries of World War II, which is also incorporated into the book. All students seem to really be enjoying the novel thus far. All students received their Accelerated Reader goals during the first week of school and should be working towards hitting their goals.



8th Grade ELA - Mrs. Bevis and Mr. Wagner

Second semester is starting off with the novel *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart. We will be reading the novel to identify plot structure, to practice making inferences, and to use text evidence to support answers. Students seem to be really enjoying the story! In grammar, we are currently strengthening our writing skills by looking closely at transition words and sentences relationships. A.R. goals are set, and students should be reading at home at least twenty minutes a night. A.R. goals are due March 10, 2023.

8th Grade Advanced ELA - Mr. Wagner

Students have been reading the memoir *Farewell to Manzanar* by James D. Houston and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. This poignant story describes the injustices of Japanese internment during World War II. Students are using this novel to understand the way characters develop throughout a story and to learn to identify and analyze literary nonfiction elements. We are also continuing to develop our vocabulary skills by learning ACT and SAT terms and honing our grammatical prowess, emphasizing parallel structure and conjunctive adverbs. A quick reminder that A.R. goals are due March 10, 2023, and students should be reading every night.

8th Grade Honors ELA - Mr. Wagner

Honors students are reading the memoir *Ocotober Sky* by Homer H. Hickam. Along with learning about the space race of the 1950s-60s, students are also discovering how characters develop in a literary nonfiction setting, especially one as unique as Coalwood, West Virginia. Students are also working diligently on their Quarter 3 author biography project due March 3rd, 2023. We are also continuing to develop our vocabulary skills by learning ACT and SAT terms and honing our grammatical prowess, emphasizing parallel structure and conjunctive adverbs. A quick reminder that A.R. goals are due March 10, 2023, and students should be reading every night.

Science

6th Grade Science - Mr. Johnson & Mrs. Lecher

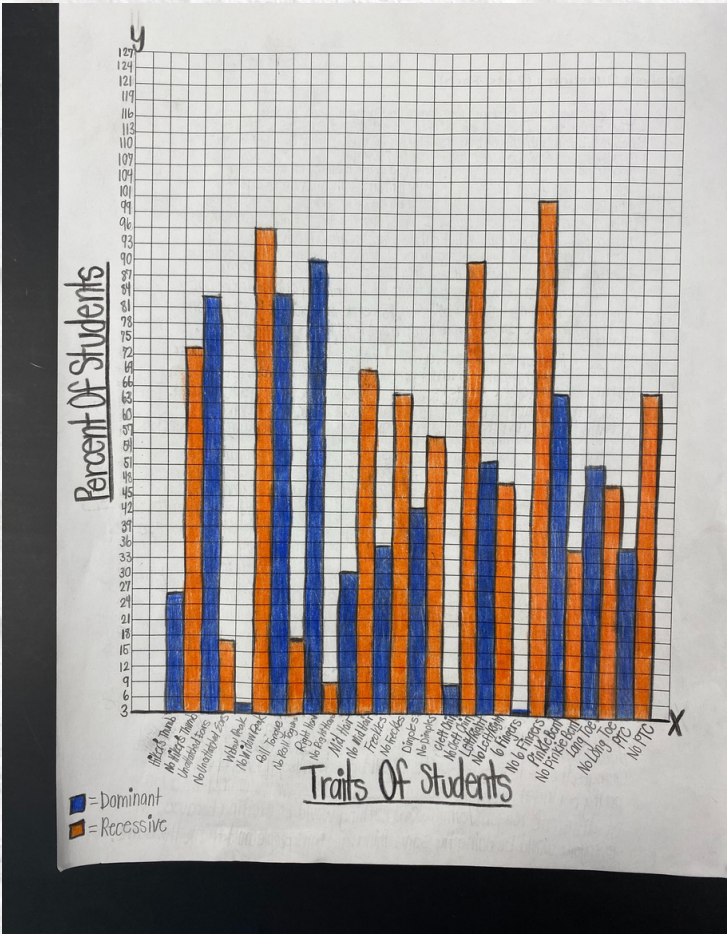
Sixth grade students have been busy developing models to help describe the cycling of matter and flow of energy among living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem. With a fun game of "Whodunnit" and a hands-on lesson making a food web out of food chains, sixth grade students in Mr. Johnson's and Mrs. Lecher's rooms are eager to continue their unit on Life Science throughout this quarter.



A photograph of two students working on a project in a classroom. The student on the left is wearing a red hoodie and glasses, writing on a map of Europe. The student on the right is wearing a black hoodie with 'THE SHIELD' logo, looking at a worksheet with a flowchart. The desk is covered with various materials, including maps and worksheets. In the background, there are bookshelves and other students.

Seventh grade students have started the semester studying natural resources. The students worked in lab groups to investigate different resources and their importance to society by analyzing maps and charts of information.

Eighth grade students began the Biology standards with learning about meiosis & reproduction. Genetics is the next topic of study. Students took a traits inventory to see if they have the dominant or recessive form.



Math

6th Grade Math

Since we have been back from Christmas break, the 6th grade general math classes have been working on identifying relationships between variables through tables and graphs, as well as comparing and ordering rational numbers. We will finish up our algebra standards this quarter by solving and graphing inequalities. The focus will then change to geometry, where we will deal with angles, shapes, area, and volume of various geometric shapes.

The advanced and honors classes have been working intently on understanding constant rates of change, direct variation, and slope of linear functions. Most recently, we have been examining proportional relationships in tables and graphs and identifying the constant of proportionality. Our focus will soon shift to geometry as we explore triangles, scale drawings, angle relationships, circumference, area, and volume.

7th Grade Math

7th-grade general math is working on slope and constant rate of change from a graph, table, and real-world situations. The students are continuing to master skills from 1st and 2nd quarters through various warm-up reviews done in-class daily, as we prepare for our Ilearn and NWEA testing. Students are doing a nice job of focusing and asking questions about content when they are confused. Keep up the good work 7th grade!

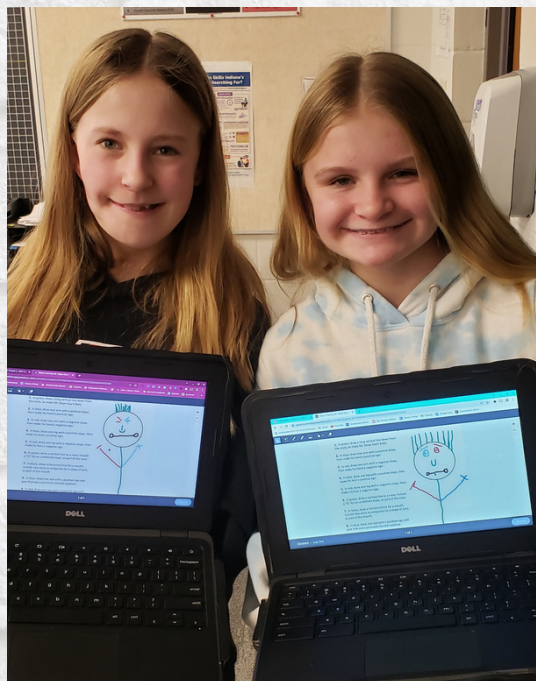
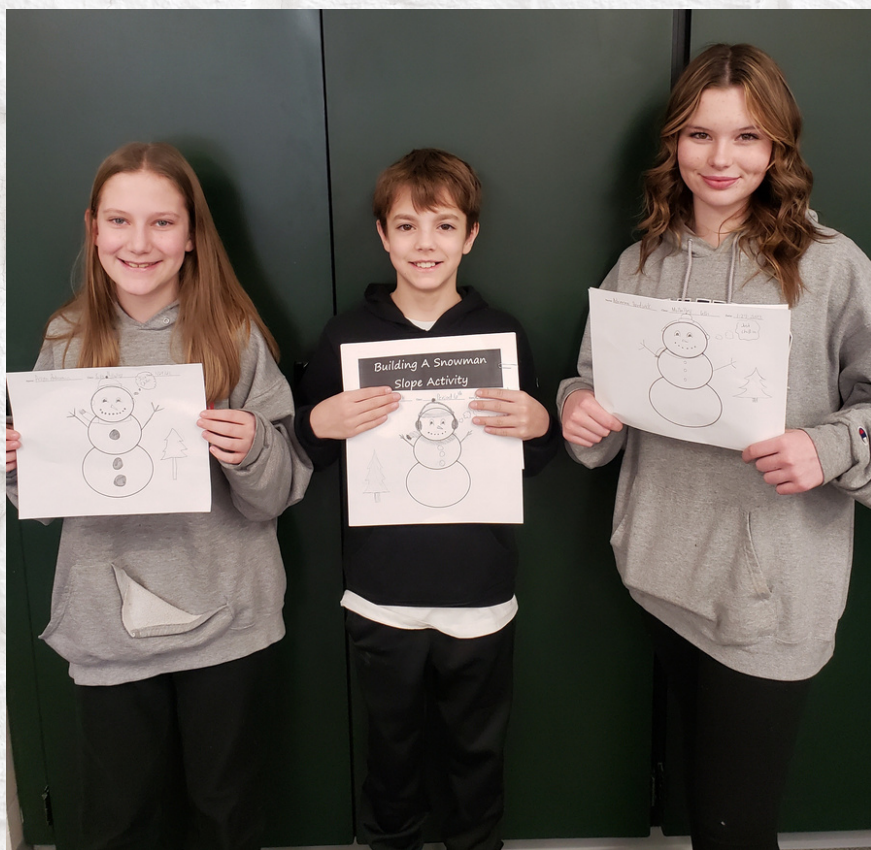
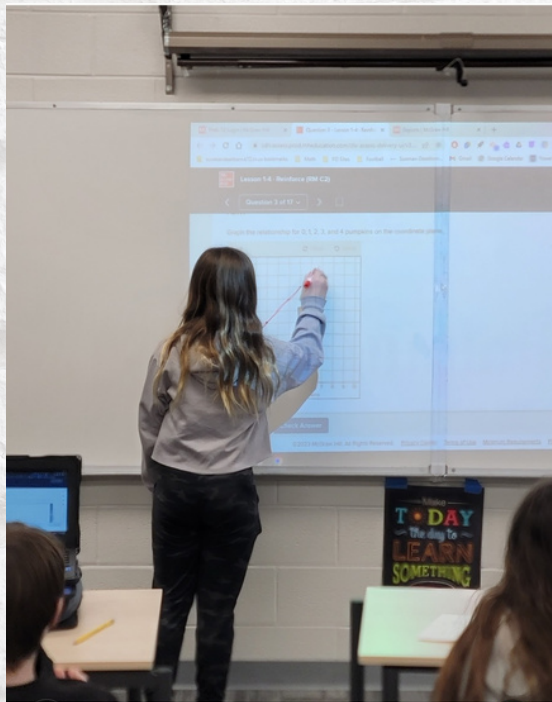
7th Grades Honors & Advanced Math students are making sure they have a thorough understanding of proportional relationships and expressing relationships between two variables using tables, graphs, and equations. Also, they are finding the slope of the line between two points and graphing the line. Students are drawing on their knowledge of linear relationships to develop a clear understanding of functions. Once they build fluency with constructing and identifying linear functions and graphs of functions, they will apply their understanding by comparing linear functions and analyzing them qualitatively.



Morgan Schumate completed all of her ALEKS pie and will be moving on to the next level. Awesome job, Morgan!

8th Grade Math

8th Grade Honors & Advanced Algebra I students are making sure they can transform and solve linear equations. They have developed the concept of slope as the rate of change and can determine slope from tables, graphs, and algebraic representations. In addition, they can interpret the meaning of slope in situations using data, symbolic representations, and graphs. They related direct variation to linear functions and solved problems involving proportional change. Algebra students practiced recognizing arithmetic sequences and related the arithmetic sequences to linear functions. Over the next few weeks, students will continue working with linear functions by focusing more on graphing and investigating relationships using scatter plots and lines of fit to make predictions.



Social Studies

The social studies department focused on Martin Luther King Jr. in January and shared lessons on MLK Day with students. 6th grade students have begun studying North America, 7th grade have been studying Africa, and 8th grade have been studying Westward Expansion.



Special Education Department

The special education department is working diligently to get annual IEP meetings completed so we have the most accurate information on our students. Please reach out to your child's Teacher of Record with any questions or concerns. You can find their Teacher of Record by looking at their 9th period teacher in PowerSchool.

Family & Consumer Science (FACS)

FACS students started 2023 setting S.M.A.R.T. goals for themselves, learning about opportunities in FCCLA and starting the sewing unit. The students really enjoyed the FCCLA scavenger hunt and breakout activities. The sewing projects this semester are aprons (7th & 8th Grade) and pillows (6th Grade) so stay tuned for more photos.



Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America

FCCLA members have been very busy this month as we prepare for the Indiana FCCLA State Leadership Conference in March. On January 10th, we visited the residents at North Dearborn Village and put on "Cirque de FCCLA." It was a nice evening with a lot of laughs, great conversations and awesome talent. Our chapter also completed our Positivity Project (being kind to others) by drawing a winner from the Kindness Coins participants (144 tickets). Sofia Berry won \$20 for being a positive person and helping others - keep up the good work everyone! Members are in the midst of doing their STAR Event projects and we just sewed pillowcases for Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House. We want to brighten up their rooms and spirits by providing some color. We will soon be making treats and toys for the local animal shelters and going to classes to teach a variety of lessons related to Family & Consumer Science curriculum. January Members of the Month are Elizabeth Melton and Kinsey Noble; Officers of the Month are Caitlin Reniff and Owen Mersman.



ECMS Chorus

On Saturday, January 28th we had 29 students participate in our District Solo & Ensemble event hosted here at ECMS! We had 28 soloists overall and 26 received Gold Medals and 2 received Silver Medals. 15 of the 7th/8th Grade students participated in a small ensemble and received a Silver. I am so proud of all of the students for their hard work and their wonderful performances! Thank you to all of the students, parents and teachers that volunteered on Saturday to make the event run smoothly!



Creative Dramatics

The Creative Dramatics class has a brand new group of students as we start Semester 2! So far these students have begun discussing the basics of acting, movement and facial expressions. We are looking forward to preparing our first group scenes in the coming weeks!

Band

It's a new semester, and we have a lot on the horizon for the band department! Right now, we have a number of students preparing to participate in the ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival on February 4th at Columbus East High School. These students have been learning solos and small ensemble pieces to be judged alongside other band students across Indiana. They will each earn a score and a medal (Gold, Silver, or Bronze) based on the quality of their performance.

Meanwhile, each band is busily preparing for the ISSMA Band Festival in March. We will once again be traveling to Triton Central High School to perform for a panel of judges in the hopes of earning Gold ratings in all three bands.

Physical Education

ECMS PE students continue to work-out indoors due to the winter weather. Fitness testing, table tennis, volleyball, and wiffle ball are a few things they have been doing. Add a little bit of body text



Art

Students in 6th grade art have been working on their drawing and color theory skills by creating a color pencil drawing of a leaf showing. They worked on drawing skills using the whole-to-part drawing method as well. Currently, they are learning the Adobe Photoshop software to draw pictures of birds.

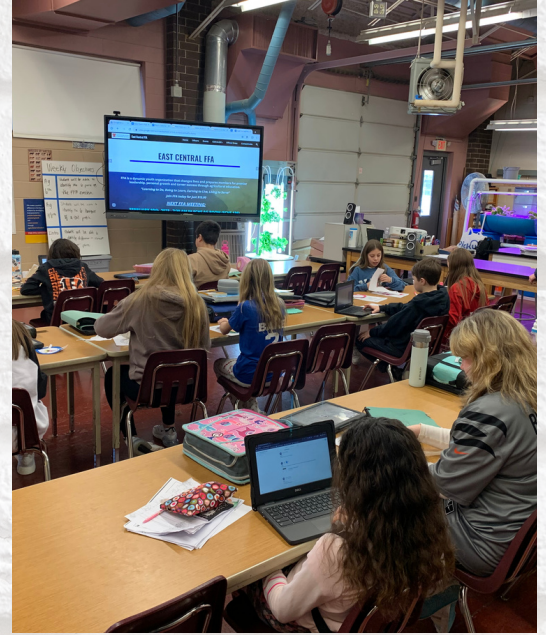
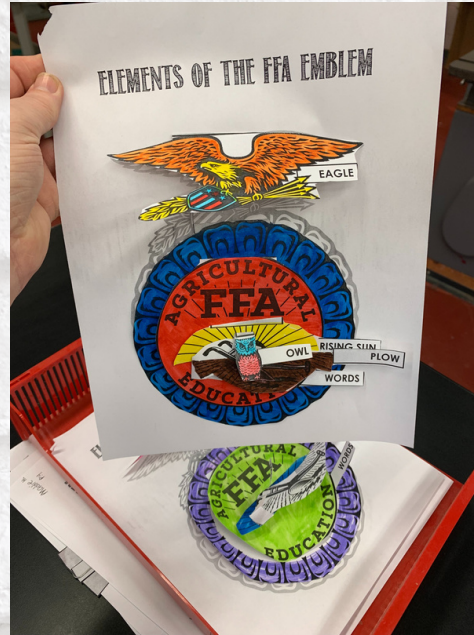


Students in 7th and 8th Art have been working on improving drawing skills using the whole-to-Part method. They have been working on contours, proportions, and shading. Currently, they are in the computer lab working on digital drawings using the Adobe Photoshop software.

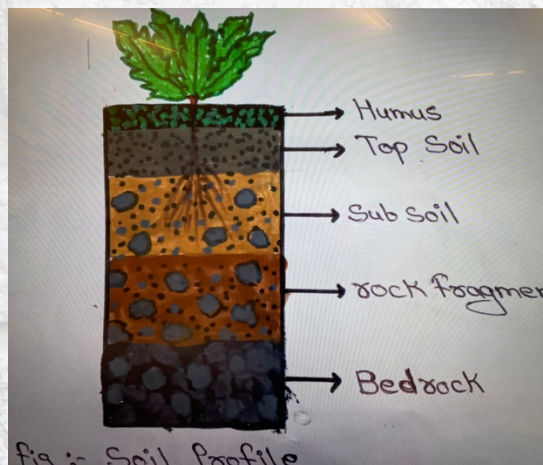


Agriculture

6th Grade students have enjoyed starting their agriculture course since the beginning of the year. Students started this course by developing an understanding of how agriculture impacts society and specifically learning how agriculture impacts them on a daily basis. Students have since moved onto their FFA Unit. These students will be FFA experts by the end of the unit. Students have completed an FFA Emblem Project and have learned more about the FFA mission statement, motto, opening ceremonies, and more!



Our Period 6 - 7/8th Grade mixed course have also enjoyed starting their semester in the agriculture room. Students have completed their Defining Agriculture and FFA Units. Students have recently started their Plant and Soil Science Unit by developing an understanding of Soil Science. During this unit, students have been learning about soil profiles and horizons. Students have recently completed the Soil Profile and Horizon Flip Book Project, see the picture attached. Students and Mr. Snider had a really great discussion on how and why soil and dirt are not the same thing. Students also recently had a great discussion and realization that bananas do not in fact grow on trees. Bananas come from the Musaceae plant family, which includes lilies and orchids. While a banana does appear to grow on a tree, students investigated and discovered that bananas actually grow on large herb like plants. To learn more about the banana plant visit: tinyurl.com/4yactyuh



Introduction to Agriculture students have been having a blast! Our new 8th Graders in this high school credit course have been on full speed ahead this semester learning about the importance of agriculture. Students have completed an Ag and Society, FFA, and are now also on their Plant and Soil Science Unit. Students in this class have really enjoyed their Intro to Ag Task Board Rotations that are completed three times a week. During these Task Board Rotations, students take care and manage the classes aquaponic system, Dubia cockroach colony, cricket farm, mealworm colony, Tower Garden, and the Anole lizards. Students feed, water, clean, maintain documentation, and more for each rotation of plants and/or animals. Teamworking, communication, record keeping, animal care, and other basic skills are learned from this activity.

