



Issue 1
December 2023

13914 Mailer Blvd
Orlando, FL 32828
Phone: 407-207-7839

Administration

Jennifer Williams, *Principal*

Assistant Principals

Angie Algarin
Michelle Anderson

Administrative Deans

Jarrin Rolle Warren
German Santos

Facebook Information

www.facebook.com/avalonmiddleschool/

Website Information

avalonms.ocps.net/home

Avalon Middle School

Home of the Huskies!

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we find ourselves at the midpoint of another academic year, I am delighted to share with you the remarkable achievements that have marked our first semester at Avalon Middle School. Our students demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence, participating actively in classroom discussions, engaging in various extracurricular activities, and showcasing their talents in diverse ways. Our teachers and staff also deserve commendation for their tireless efforts in creating an enriching learning environment. Their commitment to fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and a love for learning has undoubtedly contributed to the success of our students. As you read the articles in the *Husky Herald* you will clearly see the collective efforts, resilience, and accomplishments of our dedicated students, faculty, staff, and parents. The vibrant energy on campus was truly inspiring, reflecting the strength of our united community.

Looking ahead to the next semester, there is much to anticipate. Our students will continue to explore new horizons, both academically and personally. We eagerly await the upcoming events, competitions, and projects that will showcase the many talents within our Husky family. I encourage all members of the Husky family to actively participate in upcoming events, support one another, and continue contributing to the positive and inclusive atmosphere that defines our school.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence, and I am confident that the next semester will bring even more accomplishments and moments of pride for our beloved school. Together, let us continue to make Avalon Middle School a place where all students can be successful.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Williams
Principal



Husky Herald

WDOG News

The WDOG News crew has been hard at work. In the first nine weeks students learned the roles of the studio including Anchor, Editor, Production Assistant, Teleprompter, Script Writer and Director. Using digital resources like iMovie, Canva, and Black Magic Studio they have put together quite an amazing morning news show. In addition, each student has become proficient in creating special segments highlighting important events such as Hispanic Heritage Month, Red Ribbon Week, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Make a Difference Day. This year's crew has also started some creative ways to get our students' days started right. They have established Meme Monday, Tell a Joke Tuesday, and Funny Friday to share laughs across campus throughout the week. Their 2nd nine weeks' quarter project is to design an app and hold a sales pitch meeting with "corporate tech officials". The students have been very creative! Our yearbook editors have been very busy with designing the yearbook pages. They have added their personal flair and originality to every page they created. We can't wait for you to see the final product.

PLTW

Our outstanding PLTW tech students are finishing up their first semester course. In the sixth grade Science Tech class, students explored career options with PowerPoint presentations, worked in Applied Chemistry by building candy atoms, making homemade ice cream, and designing their own glue in the tech lab. They moved on to studying physics by designing and building working roller coasters. In the seventh grade Flight and Space course, our cadets are building all sorts of aircraft. Working with Newton's laws of motion and the four forces of flight we have worked on planes, parachute drops, straw jets, gliders, rocket propulsion systems, and escape velocity crafts to start. Space exploration and a mission to Mars will wrap up the semester.

In eighth grade Exploring Electronics class, students have studied electricity by building atomic models, lemon batteries, circuits, electromagnets, and DC motors. Electronics is their next unit where they will design systems of circuitry. In our high school IED classes, our students are working on Autodesk Fusion 360. They are learning 3D design in the engineering world. These students are also studying for an industrial certification, Autodesk Certified User which will be obtained in the second semester.

NJHS

We have 82 eighth grade members who have been busy this year. We have assigned officer leadership positions; these are the student leaders who help to plan our events throughout the year. We participated in Red Ribbon Week the say No to Drugs initiative by making posters to advertise for the dress up days and of course dressed up accordingly. All members are expected to complete volunteer hours on their own, as an act of service over self. NJHS collected \$633 for Second Harvest Food Bank, with the virtual food drive, which will help to feed many families in need. We are currently collecting unwrapped presents to donate to Arnold Palmer Hospital cancer patients. Our members have written thankful letters to all teachers, advertised and made decorations for the Winter Dance and are planning school beautification projects around campus. We will hold a spring induction ceremony for the incoming students at the end of this year. Interested 7th grade students will need to complete an application this spring in order to be considered for next year's NJHS club.

Chorus

Our Chorus students have a lot to look forward to in quarter three! We are kicking off the new year in Tampa where three of our eighth graders will be performing in Tampa with the Middle School All-State Mixed and Treble Chorus. Congratulations to Chloe Koogle, Melanie Randall, and Lara Fernandez Pena on their acceptance and hard work! Shortly after, even more of our students will be participating in the OCPS All-County Chorus. We are so proud to have them representing AMS! Avalon Singers will be preparing for our annual Music Performance Assessment in March, followed by our Spring Musical performances (that will include many Chorus AND Musical Theatre students!) on April 18th and 19th. On May 8th, please join our Chorus students for their final concert of the year at 6:30pm at the Timber Creek High School Performing Arts Center! We hope you will join us for these wonderful performances!

Art

Wow! Time is sure flying by this school year and we have had a lot of great artwork being made in all of our art classes. From learning about a Native American artist Oscar Howe and creating abstract expressionism pieces, learning how to do self portraits inspired by the artist Frida Kahlo, and having students create relief sculptures with construction paper called paper quilling.. When students return from break 6th & 7th graders will dive into a color theory unit and 8th graders will start working on ceramics. Also, parents this would be a great time to talk to your child about replenishing any of their art supplies for the second semester. For example, colored pencils, markers, and a new sketchbook.



Yearbooks and 8th Grade Ads

Yearbooks are on sale for \$37! Purchase now before the price increases to \$42 on February 3rd. The last day to purchase yearbooks will be April 26th.

Eighth Grade parents can also purchase Ads for their graduating Huskies. A yearbook ad is a loving tribute to your student, personalized with your own sentimental message and a cherished photo, or photo collage. The price ranges from \$15 - \$45 depending on the size and the deadline is 2/2/24.

You can order your yearbook and 8th grade Ads through Jostens at <https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1614352/Avalon-Middle-School/>. If you have any questions, please contact Paige Abu Zaid at paige.renyhart@ocps.net. Don't miss out on this year's memories!

PIT CREW

We have 25 students who volunteered to give up an elective of their choice, in order to help other students have increased levels of success in academic classes. These stellar, selfless students have compassion for others and a giving spirit. They welcome inclusive practices and have learned service over self through this Peer Mentorship program. They serve on the front lines, one period daily and are a true inspiration to Avalon Middle School!

Media Center

We are in the process of weeding books and ordering new books to add to our collection. Some of those books were recommended by our students. We created an author spotlight. We also rewarded our students who made Accelerated Reading goals during the first nine weeks.

Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books is a reading competition where teams compete by answering questions about a selected list of books. This first semester students have been writing questions about the different books. The district battle competition will be in April.

YOUR REAL ESTATE EXPERT!

AG ADAMS GROUP RE/MAX
Powered by Crystal Adams

CRYSTAL ADAMS
REALTOR
407.922.7610 | 1.800.746.0200

Serving Central Florida Since 2004

RE/MAX ADVANTAGE
PLATINUM
RE/MAX HALL OF FAME
GUILD
LUXE
HOMES
MILLION DOLLAR CLUB
Orlando
Zillow

BattleOrtho.com

The **ONLY** 100% Digital Orthodontist



448 S. Alafaya Trail #10
Orlando

Orlando's Invisible Orthodontist
We treat Adults and Children

Jason Battle DDS CAGS | Orthodontic Specialist

DID YOU KNOW?: The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that most children should have an orthodontic screening by age 7.



(407) 381-3335



Band

The AMS Band students have accomplished so many things so far this year. The students have all had several performances and they have participated in local community events. We recently had students audition for the OCPS All-County Concert Band and the OCPS All-County Jazz Band...and we had 12 auditioners accepted into the bands! Congratulations!! When we come back from Winter Break, many of our students will be preparing for our annual district assessment performances. In the meantime, we're enjoying preparing our holiday music for the Winter Concert which is on Tuesday, 12/19 in the AMS gym. All family and friends are invited to attend this concert free of charge!

Agriculture/FFA

Seventh and 8th grade students have been learning about the art and science of plant production in classroom activities. Our 6th graders have been learning about the history of agriculture and its impact on our society. All of our FFA members have had fun learning to care for the school's flock of laying chickens, sheep, guinea pigs and rabbits. They have also enjoyed learning how to build new coops for our growing flock of chickens, and many have become very proficient with basic tools! On the competitive side, our Vegetable Evaluation team qualified for State finals. Our leadership teams will compete at sub-district soon as well, in prepared and extemporaneous public speaking, Creed speaking, Parliamentary procedure, and Opening and Closing ceremonies. Finally, our Poultry and Horse Evaluation teams will take part in the preliminary testing in mid December also! Coming up in the third quarter, the students will be learning about soil, agricultural tools, and participating in many more competitions!



PBL Elective

The 7th and 8th grade PBL students spent most of this semester building a museum of exhibits for what future generations will find when they study us. Most topics had a technology or social media focus and another area like psychology, law enforcement, labor, transportation, news, movies and labor. On Friday, 11/17, the PLTW classes came to see students present their exhibits, along with 21 teachers and staff members who came by to visit during planning periods or free moments between their daily activities. The students were exhausted after presenting all day, but super grateful for the support they received from all of AMS. A special thanks and shout-out to the parents who were able to come too and to the WDOG News crew who came by to take pictures and video for us.



"Husky Herald"

December 2023 • Issue #1
Published Four Times Per Year
Orange County Public Schools
Avalon Middle School
P.O. Box 271
Orlando, FL 32806



*Avalon Park's
Neighborhood Dental Office*

ELITE DENTISTRY

1ST CLASS DENTISTRY IN
A SPA LIKE ATMOSPHERE

www.EliteDentistry.com • 407.658.0103
13000 Avalon Lake Dr., Ste 201 • Orlando, FL 32828

**ORTHODONTICS FOR
CHILDREN AND ADULTS**

**MARRIS
ORTHODONTICS**
Healthy Smiles, Friendly Faces

DR. KARY MARRIS


- FREE INITIAL EXAM
- INSURANCE ACCEPTED
- MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
- NO DOWN PAYMENT OPTION
- CERTIFIED INVISALIGN® PROVIDER



12780 Waterford Lakes Pkwy. | Suite 130 | Orlando, FL 32828
407.275.3330 P | 407.275.3445 F | www.marrisorortho.com



Affordable Family Healthcare

 Family Medicine

 Pediatric Medicine

 Pediatric Dental

 Behavioral Health

 COMING SOON
Optometry

 Pharmacy



19108 E Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32820

(407) 905-8827

Request an Appointment Online!

WWW.CHCFLO.ORG  

4 Curriculum

Science

6th Grade Science

Students in **Comprehensive I** started the year with Nature of Science. In that unit, they were introduced to the exciting world of science. After book introductions and lessons on effective usage and research strategies, they were introduced to the amazing world of science. It is critical to turn kids on to the wonders of science. This is effectively accomplished by hands-on experiences such as bi-weekly labs and experiments.

The first units covered the very difficult concepts of dependent and independent variables that students seem to struggle with all the way to university. Many labs were completed on scientific method, measurement, and safety. Then we focused on forms of energy and energy transformations, again with lab experiences in all areas, with several fun and educational labs like Thermal Energy of Sand and Dinosaurs vs Teeth. Motion was our next unit with a heavy dependence on math skills. We transitioned then to Earth Science with units on Earth's spheres, interactions of Earth's systems, and Energy Transfer on Earth. These again included important labs that teach the concepts using all learning styles. Our current units cover Weather, Climate, and Air and Ocean Currents. Interesting labs reinforce difficult concepts. Our next unit will be Severe Weather, which has critical applications to our students in Florida as they face hurricane season and the common thunderstorms and tornadoes here in Central Florida.

Mastery of the concepts is demonstrated in various ways, including lab reports, homework, class work, quizzes, and tests. Much success has been achieved, as documented in our surpassing the county PMA scores in most areas. It is important for parents and students to utilize the Canvas Announcements and Modules to be successful in science. We are very proud of the growth demonstrated in formal assessment scores and in formative assessments during the nine weeks. The work that our students have completed during the first nine weeks will surely support the future grades here at Avalon Middle School in science.

Life Science is our honors track of students and the initial units parallel the comprehensive science course during the initial weeks. Understanding the scientific method and application of such in real labs is critical to success in this course. Our students have a rigorous and fast-paced curriculum with little down time. The units and concepts are comprehensive and our in depth lab experiences provide students with a solid foundation for future courses here at the high school level. Students in Life Science started the year with Nature of Science. In that unit, they were introduced to the exciting world of science. After book introductions and lessons on effective usage and research strategies, they were introduced to the amazing world of science. It is critical to turn kids on to the wonders of science. This is effectively accomplished by hands-on experiences such as bi-weekly labs and experiments.

Our next units covered the Fossil evidence of Evolution with appropriate labs to emphasize content. We continued with the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection and concluded with Biological Evidence of Evolution. Laboratory exercises were done twice weekly throughout these chapters. Students were able to make connections by making carbon fossil imprints and cement casts and molds of bones, teeth, and shells.

We continued with units on the Carbon Cycle and Ecosystem Energy and Ecology with appropriate labs to ensure deep dives into the content and achieve mastery of the concepts. Formal testing on units and County PMA scores provide evidence of student comprehension. The Life Science students made us very proud, especially since state assessments cover additional content not covered in the course and in our textbook and their high scores surpassed the county scores in 90 percent of the areas covered in sixth grade.

We then started units on Classifying Life and Organisms, which grew into the often-difficult units on classification. A heavy emphasis on Latin terminology in classical taxonomy made the lab exercises challenging. Our students mastered the content even with the hurdles and the pace of the course. Binomial Nomenclature

application was demonstrated in several lab exercises successfully, despite the difficult vocabulary.

Our current unit has moved into cellular reproduction with units on Meiosis and Mitosis. The stages and the complicated nuclear changes to support growth and development of body structures. Mastery of the concepts is demonstrated in various ways, including lab reports, homework, class work, quizzes, and tests. It is important for parents and students to utilize their Canvas Announcements and Modules to be successful in science. We are very proud of the growth demonstrated in formal assessment scores and in formative assessments during the nine weeks. The work that our students have completed during the first nine weeks will surely support the future grades here at Avalon Middle School in science. The honors tract here at Avalon Middle requires high motivation, in depth application and comprehensive understanding of the science units. Our students are demonstrating this weekly with success rarely seen in other schools. We are very proud of the accomplishments that will carry them successfully into the higher levels in senior high school.

7th Grade Science

Advanced and Honors students have been working hard on their ideas for a technology that could exist 20-30 years in the future (ExploraVision Project). They have spent time researching, writing, and editing their work and ideas as they consider how technology could be improved or invented, and determine the scientific breakthroughs necessary to realize their vision. This project will wrap up in January. We are so proud of all of their hard work and creativity.

Honors Earth/Space Science

Students began the 2nd Quarter by studying Earth as a system with a set of connected parts forming a complex whole. This is the foundation for understanding the impacts of each of these parts on the others, as well as the positive and negative impacts that humans have on our planet. We built on our understanding of Earth as a system by looking at how energy and matter can move between the various parts of Earth. For example, we take a close look at how heat energy is transferred both globally and locally by ocean currents and winds. Why do those winds change at the beach between day and night?

As the 2nd Quarter progressed, we changed our focus from the hydrosphere and atmosphere to the geosphere. Students began their study of geology with Plate Tectonics. This study includes a look at the dynamic nature of science by looking at how evidence gathered in the 1960's led to the Theory of Plate Tectonics. Students learn about volcanoes and earthquakes, where they are located and how they form. We talked about how Earth's surface is continually changing as the plates move, including discussion points such as how and why the Atlantic Ocean is getting bigger each year! Students then worked to connect their understanding of Plate Tectonics to the formation of different types of rocks.

As 3rd Quarter begins, we finish our study of the geosphere with Earth's Changing Surface and Landforms. Students will review Plate Tectonics concepts by studying how subsurface events create various landforms such as mountains, volcanoes and ocean trenches, while also considering how processes such as weathering, erosion and deposition change surface rocks to create deltas, valleys and beaches. This study of weathering and erosion also has students consider how these processes affect Florida's own coastlines and our tourism industry.

Comprehensive 2 Science

In November and December, students began their study of our very own Earth. Students learned how science changes with new evidence as we learned about evidence to support the Theory of Plate Tectonics. Students learned about volcanoes and earthquakes, where they are located and how they form. We finished the 2nd Quarter learning about rocks and minerals, their characteristics and how they form. Students worked hard to connect the formation of rocks to the different plate boundaries.

continued



(407)275-5700

Dr. Marie R. Quiñonez, MD

**448 S Alafaya Trail
Suite 1
Orlando, FL 32828**

www.drqpeditrics.com





AIM
Always in Motion

(407) 717-0231 | www.Aim4Kids.net

**After School Sports,
Dance & Tumbling**

aimsportandfitness@gmail.com

*Thanks for making us
a part of your child's day!*





**"I'VE BEEN GIVEN
MY LIFE BACK"**
Former Patient - Recovery Solutions

**Substance Use Disorder and
Mental Health Care**

**3 UNIVERSITY
BEHAVIORAL
CENTER**

**Often times life can be overwhelming. We are here. Let us help
you navigate through life's sometimes unpredictable turns.**

Adult Acute Mental Health Inpatient Treatment
Adult Detox and Medication Assistance Treatment Programs
Adult Co-occurring Disorder Treatment
Children and Adolescent Acute Care

**TO SCHEDULE A FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT CALL
407-281-7000**

2500 Discovery Dr. Orlando, FL 32826 www.universitybehavioral.com

Science *continued*

In 3rd Quarter, students will finish their study of the Earth, by focusing on how Earth's surface changes. They will learn about changes that occur as the plates move, including discussion points such as why California experiences around 10,000 earthquakes a year and how a new Hawaiian Island may form in the future! Students will also study surface changes that occur due to weathering and erosion, and consider how these processes affect Florida's features.

In February and March, Comprehensive students will change their focus to life science. Students will have the opportunity to study DNA and cell reproduction, genetics and ecological relationships. This leads into lots of interesting discussions about traits, including traits they share with relatives and how personal health can be influenced by their genetic code.

8th Grade Science

Wow, we can't believe the first semester is done! Advanced and Standard students just wrapped up the units on Relationships in the Universe and Properties of Objects in the Solar System and have started Properties of Stars. During the month of October, students studied about the vast distances in the Universe and astronomical objects through fun activities and close reading. In the month of November, students studied about the Properties of Objects in the Solar system. Students learned about different models used such as geocentric and heliocentric models, inner and outer planets, and Universal Gravitational Force.

During the month of October, Honors students worked in the Motion Unit through an attractive title "Driving the Roads." In the month of November, students learned about Newton's three laws of Motion as well as forces acting at a distance. Students enjoyed using motion sensors, dynamics carts, and the Spark Learning System, by which they collected data. Students had fun learning about the laws of physics, and how they are the basics in driving.

Our advanced and Honors students are busy working on their ExploraVision Projects. They are working incredibly hard and we are very proud of their accomplishments! Students spent face to face time to discuss their project as well as they created a Google document to share their writing. Students are directed that they are responsible for all parts of the project, not only the part that they type. The project requires a lot of research, writing, and editing. Sample projects from last year were also shared with students.

The start of the 3rd nine weeks, Standard and Advanced students will continue learning about the Properties of Stars before moving on to the Sun-Earth-Moon unit. Students will dig deeper into the concepts of relationships between our Earth, Sun, and Moon as well as the properties of celestial objects. After that, we will dive into Matter. Students will explore the physical and chemical properties and learn more about the periodic table.

Honors students will be done with their Force unit before the Winter Break. In the 3rd Nine weeks, students will learn about Electricity and Thermodynamics before they dive in the exciting units of Chemistry.

The 3rd nine weeks will also bring about State Science Assessment Review Projects. We have developed mini-units for each of the disciplines for the students in Standard, Advanced, and Honors classes to complete at home to help them refresh their memory of the last two years of science!

Finally, we will also be hosting our annual STEAM Night in February. Be on the lookout for an announcement. You won't want to miss it!

OFFERING AFFORDABLE PRICES



SERVICES

- PRESSURE WASHING
- DEMOLITION
- FLOOR INSTALLATION (VINYL-CERAMIC-MARBLE)
- REMODELING
- PAINTING
- YARD CLEAN-UP
- HOUSE CLEANING

407-484-8989

VLNSERVICES4YOU@GMAIL.COM
FREE ESTIMATES

Need a **New Roof?**

We've Got You Covered!



Google Reviews
★★★★★
from satisfied customers

Call us now for a
FREE Roof Quote
at 321-332-3392

Why Choose Us??

Trusted Certified Roof
Contractor since 2007

BBB A+ rated
Your assurance
of quality

Visit our website at www.revildor.com to learn more.

LICENSED & INSURED FOR YOUR PEACE OF MIND

DC/AC

AIR CONDITIONING
AND HEATING

Call 321-436-6595
to Schedule an Appointment!

Florida's No. 1 Air Conditioning
& Heating Company

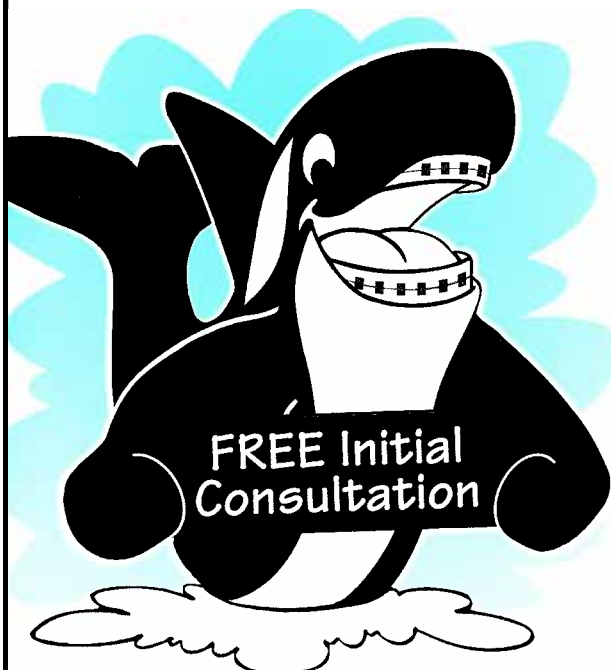


www.DCAcAirandheat.com

ACCREDITED
BBB BUSINESS

CAC1819255

Braces for Children and Adults



Dr. Ross Taddeo Orthodontics

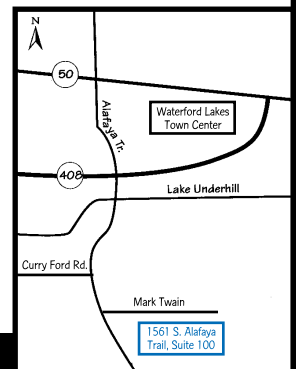
Home of the Killer Smile!

Now Taking Appointments

Dr. Taddeo and his staff use the newest technology and the latest techniques to provide gentle, more comfortable orthodontic treatment. Convenient office hours, flexible payment plans and insurance claim filing will assure your visit is relaxed and stress-free.

Make an appointment today to get started on your killer smile!

Conveniently located a half a mile North of the Shoppes of Eastwood. 2.5 miles south of Highway 50/Colonial Dr. on Alafaya Trail.



Call (407) 482-3700 1561 S. Alafaya Trail Ste 100 Orlando, FL 32828 www.DrTaddeo.com

SERVING EAST ORLANDO

6 Curriculum

Language Arts

6th Grade Language Arts

Students finished reading *The Phantom Tollbooth* as a class to introduce and practice various skills like analyzing plot structure, characterization, using Greek/Latin roots to determine meaning of words, figurative language as well as analyze and understand poetry and expository writing. Students finished preparing for an essay and writing a paragraph to add to an existing essay. We'll be moving into argumentation next to see what makes a good argument work and how to recognize the pitfalls in a faulty argument. Students have also been working on independent reading at home and in class on Wednesday, and many students have made progress on their AR goals or beat their points goals early! Open the Renaissance app in Launchpad with your child to see their progress so far.

7th Grade Language Arts

Throughout the second quarter, 7th graders have been working on writing, analyzing poetry, and evaluating informational texts. Some of the skills we focused on in this quarter include identifying the development of an author's purpose; comparing central ideas and their development; and explaining how diction, syntax, figurative language and text features contribute to meaning of a text. Additionally, each 7th grade class is also reading and analyzing a novel. Every class has a different book, so be sure to ask your student about the novel they are reading. As always, keep encouraging your students to read independently.

8th Grade Language Arts

8th grade ELA just finished an expository essay on the qualities of a successful leader. The students are starting the graphic novel, *Frankenstein*, and will be ending the unit with a debate. During the debate, the students will face off against other classes. While reading *Frankenstein*, students will be analyzing the interaction between plot, characters, and setting. In addition, they will be analyzing theme and how the author individualizes the perspectives of different characters.

Social Studies

6th Grade World History

This quarter, students have learned about the beginning of civilization; from the nomadic paleolithic people to the Agricultural Revolution and eventually the inhabitants of the Fertile Crescent and Ancient Egypt. Students have refined their map skills from the first quarter and are now focusing on applying those skills daily. Students have had the opportunity to participate in simulations, Escape Rooms, and have created monuments like those in Egypt used to show respect and honor. As we move into the second half of the year, students will learn about Ancient Israel and the birth of monotheism, Ancient China and trade on the Silk Road, and we end in Greece and Rome.

8th Grade US History

This quarter, 8th grade students experienced the trials and tribulations of the American Revolution, with the states ultimately prevailing at Yorktown.

Students then examined the difficult task of forming independent governments at both the state and national levels after the failure of our first constitution. In December, we examine how the federal government developed under the leadership of George Washington and study the precedents he established for the future of our nation as well as the administrations of our second and third presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Of course, we have plenty of Hamilton Songs thrown in as well!!

Math

6th grade math

Sixth grade math students at AMS will begin the 3rd 9-weeks curriculum with a unit on Algebraic Relationships and will also learn about Ratios and Proportional Relationships. Then, students will move into the topics of Geometry and Statistics. In order to practice and master the 6th grade standards, students should consistently be reviewing by using the resources located in Canvas and their math notebooks. Fluency with multiplication facts will contribute to mastery of many math concepts being taught this year - please continue to practice these skills at home. In addition, students should also review previous content by using their resources posted on Canvas.

7th grade math

It is hard to believe we are almost half-way through the year! In 7th Grade Math, we are working on finishing up our Proportional Relationships and Percent Reasoning units. The Proportional Reasoning and Relationships domain makes up 22-31% of the Grade 7 FAST Assessment which will take place in May. Next, we will shift our focus to working with Algebraic Expressions and Equations. During the Expressions unit, students worked on simplifying by combining like terms and working with properties to simplify such as the commutative, associative, and distributive properties. In the Equations unit, students are learning to solve and write two-step equations. Algebraic Expressions and Equations teaches students foundational skills that will support success in Pre-Algebra and Algebra.

7th Grade Accelerated Math

In 7th Accelerated Math, this quarter we have covered Radicals and Roots, and Exponent Rules and the application of them. We are testing on solving Equations (one, two, & multi-step) and Inequalities. We will finish out the semester with a review of Unit Rate and Rate of Change, as well as the Constant of Proportionality. We will learn about Slope on a graph, in a table and equation, and continue next quarter using Slope to write, graph, and solve Linear Equations and then Linear Systems of Equations.

All students will be taking the FAST Midpoint PMA in December. The 7th grade accelerated math students will take the 8th grade assessment. Results from the FAST PMA will be compared to their fall scores to analyze growth.

8th Grade Pre-Algebra

Grade 8 Mathematics Standards range across multiple topics to ensure readiness for both Algebra 1 and Geometry. Student fluency of rational numbers is assumed from Grade 6 and 7 as students extend their understanding of the number system to irrational numbers. Each area of emphasis gives foundational understanding for both Algebra 1 and Geometry. Because of the variety of content in this course, the content was purposefully and thoughtfully spiraled to support student learning through spaced recall. In quarter 1 we covered Rational and Irrational Numbers, Scientific Notation, and Equivalent Numerical Expressions. In quarter 2 we will cover Relationships in Triangles, Solve Linear Equations, Linear Relationships, and Key Features of Linear Equations.

Algebra

For many students Algebra 1 is not just a gateway to upper-level mathematics, it is a gateway to graduation. In quarter 1 we covered the following, Solving Equations, Writing Equations of Lines, Key Features of Linear Functions, Scatter Plots and Linear Relationships and Linear Inequalities. In quarter 2, we will be covering Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Exponential and Radical Expressions, Operations with Polynomials and Rewriting Polynomial Expressions. First semester, Algebra 1 course focuses on the student's experience by maximizing learning and exposure to the content through a spiraled scope and sequence.

Geometry

Our approach to the Geometry course is building understanding through modeling and multiple representations. As the content spirals, it builds connections from the informal understanding of the concepts that students experienced through representations to a formal utilization of these concepts. In quarter 1 we covered the following, Geometry Basics and Constructions, Proofs and Logic, Angle Relationships and Rigid Motions and Congruence. And in the second quarter, we will proceed to understand Triangle Congruence, extending to Exploring Quadrilaterals, Classifying Shapes on the Coordinate Plane, and Dilations and Similarity.



Pasquale's
PIZZERIA

1963 S ALAFAYA TRAIL
ORLANDO
407.281.1633
Corner of
Alafaya Trail & Golfway Blvd
www.pasqualesitalian.com



**PRESENT THIS AD
TO REDEEM
10% OFF**






407-243-1918

\$45 Spa Manicure + Pedicure

Services
Pedicure | Manicure | Acrylics
Healthy Power Dipping | Eyelash Extensions
Facials | Microblading | Permanent Make Up
Foot Massages

Hours
Mon-Sat: 9am-8pm Sun: 11am-6pm

626 N Alafaya Trail, Orlando, FL 32828
maximnailsanddayspa.com




(866) 243-MATH (6284)

Mathnasium of Waterford Lakes

Customized math tutoring plans that build confidence and lead to true understanding

865 North Alafaya Trail | Orlando, FL 32828
www.mathnasium.com/waterfordlakes

EARLY EDUCATION | TEST PREP | HOMEWORK HELP



Student Services

The Student Services office has been working hard to help celebrate students. During the month of October we celebrated Red Ribbon Week. The Red Ribbon celebration helps educate students the importance of being drug free. During the week on October 23rd through the 31st we had themed dress up days to encourage students to celebrate being drug free.

In November we held our first Husky Hero Celebration. During this celebration we recognized those students nominated by their teachers who showcased monthly Resiliency Characteristics. These Characteristics included the following: September- Self Management, & Self-Awareness, October-Responsible Decision Making and November- Grit & Gratitude. Our next celebration will be held in February to celebrate those students who display the characteristics for the months of December, January and February.

In November and December 6th-8th grade received the Monique Burr Teen Safety Matters Lessons that are through OCPS. The topic was Digital Safety and How to Be Safe Online. More information about this program and snapshots of the lessons can be found at <https://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org/>. Teen Safety Matters is a comprehensive, evidence-informed prevention education program for youth. Scoliosis screening for 6th grade was held in December while the Hearing Screenings will be held in January.

Testing Calendar

Statewide Assessments

Florida Assessment of Student Thinking		
PM2	Subject	Grades
Dec. 6 - Jan. 19	English Language Arts Make-Ups	6-8
Dec. 8 - Jan. 19	Mathematics Make-Ups	6-8
PM3	Subject	Grades
April 1	B.E.S.T. Writing	6-8
May 1	English Language Arts	6-8
May 2	Mathematics	6-8
May 3 - May 23	Make-Ups	6-8
End of Course (EOC)		
May 2	B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC	Student Enrolled in Algebra
May 2	B.E.S.T. Geometry EOC	Students Enrolled in Geometry
May 7	NGSS Civics EOC	7
May 3 - May 23	Make-Ups	
Statewide Science Assessment		
May 6	Statewide Science Assessment	8
ACCESS for ELLs		
Jan. 22	ACCESS Reading & Listening	ESOL Students 6-8
Jan. 25	ACCESS for ELLs Writing	ESOL Students 6-8
Jan. 22 - March 14	ACCESS for ELLs Speaking	ESOL Students 6-8

Looking Ahead to 2024

In January we will be holding our Resiliency Day 2 lesson school wide. Resilience instruction is for everyone, grades K-12. The State of Florida requires Life Skills instruction for all students, and the Resiliency Framework is how the Florida Department of Education implements the Life Skills mandate. In addition to K-12 Life Skills/Resiliency instruction, students in grades 6-12 are required to complete five hours of Resiliency Education each year. More information can be found on the OCPS Mental Health Services Page. Parents will have access to all student materials through Canvas in OCPS Parent Portal once students are enrolled in January.

Districtwide Assessments

Progress Monitor Activities (PMAs)		
Dec. 11 - Dec. 21	PMA 2 Science & Civics	6-8
Progress Check		
Dec. 11 - Dec. 21	Algebra & Geometry	7-8
Common Final Exams		
Dec. 12	Fitness CFE	6-8
May 13 - May 23	Common Final Exams	6-8
Jul. 15 - Jul 25	Common Final Exam Make-Ups	6-8



Incoming 9th Grade Parent Night

Thursday, January 18th, 2024
6:00PM-8:00PM



In January our 8th grade students will also be visited by our Timber Creek Counselors to review electives for the following school year. Parents please mark your calendars with the following dates:

- January 18th- 6:00pm- 8:00pm Incoming 9th Grade Parent Night
 - Presentation in English: 6:00pm in the Performing Arts Center (PAC)
 - Presentation in English 6:00pm on the Media Center
- January 19th- Timber Creek counselors visit through US History to present class choices for the following year.
- January 29th- Timber Creek counselors return to meet with students individually and collect their class selection forms.

In February we hold our 2nd Husky Hero Celebration of the school year. This celebration is decided by teachers and is by invitation only. We look forward to celebrating with our students!

We Need You

to bring this newsletter to press

Your advertisement helps fund the newsletter and at the SAME TIME your business gets community recognition and exposure.

Help Avalon Middle School by advertising in the **Husky Herald!**

Kathy Rojas • kathy.rojas@ocps.net



FIRST CHOICE PEDIATRICS



part of the PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATES family

Accepting New Patients!

Schedule an appointment today

Alafaya Office

1561 S. Alafaya Trail, Ste 400
Orlando, FL 32828

407-249-1234

pediatricassociates.com





Home of the Huskies!

Avalon Middle School
13914 Mailer Blvd
Orlando, FL 32828

Non Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Permit #2346
Orlando, FL

8



Sports

Volleyball

Our Volleyball teams have had an impressive season! Both of our Volleyball teams are showing great determination and teamwork. Our Huskies ended 2nd place in our regular cluster division. Boys and Girls teams are heading to the playoffs starting on Monday, December 4th. Boys will host Howard Middle and Girls will travel to Maitland Middle. We are proud of their hard work and dedication!

Basketball

Basketball Tryouts are taking place **January 10th-12th**. In the Gym. Schedule below:

- Wednesday, 1/10/24 - 3:00 pm-5:00 pm
- Thursday, 1/11/24 - 4:00 pm-6:00 pm
- Friday, 1/12/24 - 4:00 pm-6:00 pm



Sports Physicals

All physicals are due on **January 9th, 2024**. Please submit all physical paperwork online. Below is the link to register your Athlete for an online account at registermyathlete.com.



Inside this
issue...

Curriculum
Student Services
Testing Calendar
and more!