



Issue 3
March 2021

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Facebook Information

www.facebook.com/avalonmiddleschool/

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avalonms.ocps.net/home

Avalon Middle School

Home of the Huskies!

Principal's Message

Dear Avalon Family:

Although this year has been challenging, we still have many things to celebrate and be proud of. I continue to be impressed with our faculty and staff for maintaining a high-quality educational experience for your children. I am also impressed with our students for following our safety guidelines on campus and with our Launch-Ed students for continuing to adapt to digital learning. We are very proud of our Huskies.

Can you believe that we are getting ready to begin the 4th quarter? While students have already started looking toward summer, it is important for them to remain focused so that they finish the year well. In addition to final quarter classwork, our students face FSA and EOC testing in math and reading as well as the 8th grade Statewide Science Assessment in April followed by the 7th grade Civics EOC and Common Final Exams at the end of May in science, social studies and elective courses. We are confident that our students will do well as long as they stay the course. Student grades along with their assessment scores are used to determine a student's placement in courses as well as participation in certain activities; therefore, please encourage your child to do their best so that they can take advantage of the wide range of electives and extracurriculars available to them at AMS or in high school.

In addition to exams and coursework, the final quarter has a lot of different activities for our students. These virtual events include music concerts, intramurals, and our annual Evening of Excellence. Please refer to our school's website calendar section or our weekly email newsbrief for additional information on all of these events and activities. We hope that you will join us in enjoying our students' talents and recognizing their hard work and achievement.

I want to thank you and our AMS community for your support of our programs. As always, our AMS PTSO has been very helpful through sponsorship of various events. PTSO works tirelessly to make Avalon the best it can be. In addition, we are very appreciative of our PIE businesses and community members for their ongoing support of Avalon Middle School. We could not do it without you. Thank you for being a part of the team and working to help make this a fantastic school year.

As we approach the end of this year, we wish our 8th grade students well as they move on to high school. They have bright futures ahead of them, with the skills and habits that they need in order to be successful at the next level. At the same time, we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year with our incoming sixth graders and our upcoming seventh and eighth graders. If you do not currently subscribe to our weekly electronic newsbrief, then I encourage you to visit our website and sign up so that you are fully aware of everything that this transition will involve.

Thank you for all of your support this year. I look forward to your continued involvement in your child's education.

Sincerely,
Karen Furno



Husky Herald

State Testing Information

Students currently enrolled in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Civics courses will need to take the corresponding state EOC that is required in order to get credit for the course. All state assessments are required to be administered face-to-face. The anticipated date of the administration is May 6-7 for Algebra and Geometry and May 10 for Civics. By statute, each student scheduled in an EOC-associated course must have an EOC score to factor in as 30% of their final grade. If a student does not earn an EOC grade for any reason they will not earn credit for that course until they have made up the EOC. If they don't earn the course credit, they also would not earn any associated graduation requirement for that course.

Media Center/Makerspace

We have a lot to celebrate in our Media Center. We recently won \$500 dollars in e-books thanks to winning the OCPS Beanstack Challenge. We received class set donations of brand new *Kingdom Keeper* books from a generous parent. We have been holding weekly virtual trivia, book checkout contests, and more to encourage students to check out books and have fun! Students are able to check out e-books or fill out a LaunchEd book request form directly from the Student Body Course. Face to Face students may check out books before school, in between classes, or during lunch. We also have Makerspace activities open before school and virtually on our Student Body Course. We encourage all of our students to visit the Media Center!

Battle of the Books

Our Battle of the Books team has been working hard getting ready for our upcoming competition. The first virtual competition will be the week of March 22nd, with the final battle being held the week of April 26th. We are so proud of all of our members and the effort they have been putting into this competition. Good luck team!




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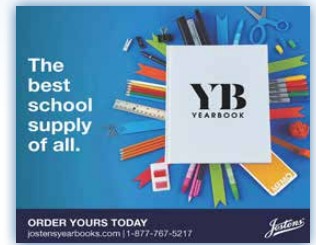
Calendar

March 15-19	Spring Break
March 22	Begin 4th Marking Period
March 22	SAC / PTSO Meeting 4:45pm/5:45pm
March 29-April 23	Soccer Intramurals
April 7	No early release
April 8	FSA Writing (*Tentative)
April 26-May 21	Basketball Intramurals
April 26	SAC / PTSO Meetings 4:45pm/5:45pm
May 3	FSA Reading Session 1 (*Tentative)
May 4	FSA Reading Session 2 (*Tentative)
May 6	FSA Math Day 1 (*Tentative)
May 7	FSA Math Day 2 (*Tentative)
May 10	FSA Science 8th grade (*Tentative)
May 10	Civics - End of Course Exam - 7th grade (*Tentative)
May 13-May 25	Common final exams 6th-8th grade (*Tentative)
May 25	Last day of school

Yearbook 2020-21

Yearbook sales are coming to an end. If you have not had the opportunity to purchase a 2020-21 yearbook, please visit the website listed below.

https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1614352/Avalon-Middle-School/2021-Yearbook/2020092404240102354/CATALOG_SHOP/



Jr. Thespians Club

On March 11th, Jr. Thespians got to share their theatrical work at the State Thespian Festival! Congratulations to: Isabel Arabia Maldonado, Samantha Choroco, Luke Lang, Ava Mahoney, Abby Latner, Nonie Trentadue, Beatrice Rodriguez, Sophia Sica, Anaily Badillo, Hannah Duguid, and Elizabeth Zeller on all of your hard work. We can't wait to see what else you do in the future!

Plays and Musicals

Some theatrical things to look forward to in the future: In May we will start to have auditions for our Fall show: *Lil' Women the Rap Musical!* This show features 10 students who will rap their way through Louisa May Alcott's classic story. In addition, the theatre department will also be producing the One Act Play: *Snow Day*, written by Mrs. Traver, and will be devised by the Jr. Thespians cast in the show.

NJHS Club

National Junior Honor Society members have been busy with lots of service projects and events. We have raised money and donated winter gear for Harbor House, donated over 400 pounds of food to Second Harvest Foodbank, and are currently raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Invitations for all qualifying 7th grade students will be sent home at the beginning of April. If you have any questions, please contact Shana Wax at shana.wax@ocps.net or Honorine Baxter at honorine.baxter@ocps.net.

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AMS Honor Roll Criteria (Per Grading Period)

1. **Academic Excellence** - (4.0 GPA) Students who get straight A's on their Report Card (All high school honors classes in which a B/C was earned will receive grade higher (*weighted*) FOR THAT CLASS ONLY. Example – a B in Algebra I Honors is counted as an A but an A in Algebra I Honors WILL NOT override a B in 7th/8th grade advanced language arts class.) D/F's will not be counted as C/D's.
2. **Academic Achievement** - Students who score an overall GPA of 3.5-3.99 for the grading period.

Evening of Excellence – Eligibility

1. All students who have earned a 3.5 (no rounding) or higher **cumulative GPA for the school year**.
2. Quarter 4 is not used in the current year as the ceremony is BEFORE final grades are in.
3. All high school honors classes in which a B/C was earned will receive a grade higher (*weighted*) FOR THAT CLASS ONLY – (Example – B in Algebra I Honors is counted as an A but an A in Algebra I Honors WILL NOT override a B in 8th grade Advanced Language Arts class). D/F's will not be counted as C/D's.
4. High school classes that are not honors level (i.e. Spanish) are not weighted (i.e. a B in Spanish is still only a B).
5. For 8th grade 4.0 GPA for 3 years, a student must earn:
 - a. **A for the FINAL GRADE in EACH 6th and 7th grade class** (since we often get only final grades for student who transfer in, we do not penalize students who have been at Avalon MS all 3 years for getting, for example, a B for Q3 in 6th grade math as long as the final grade in that class is an A). A B as a final grade in a high school honors class will be calculated as an A.
 - AND
 - b. **A's for EVERY (counting weights for honors classes) quarter during their 8th grade year**

Notes:

- Any core/required academic class (including reading, if it was required) taken through any virtual school WILL be taken into account for EOE purposes.
- Classes taken at any high school will NOT be taken into account UNLESS it is a core academic class. (Example: Algebra II DOES count; Italian DOES NOT)
- Any additional elective classes (Example: student takes 7 classes at Avalon but chooses to take computers through FLVS) will NOT be counted.
- Student must be enrolled as a full time student at AMS.
- Student MUST have grades for ALL quarters to be considered; i.e. student moves here in December but we never receive Q1 grades – student is ineligible since we cannot verify GPA for Q1.

“Husky Herald”

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Curriculum



Science

Sixth graders are studying cells and will be starting body systems this quarter. While we may not be able to have live dissections we will have demonstrations and digital dissections so that the students will not miss a beat. We are preparing them well for their final exams.

We can't believe we are already in Q3. We have all had to make extraordinary accommodations to keep our science curriculum flowing smoothly. While we miss our lab time, the students are not missing out on content as they engage in interesting digital activities such as Nearpod, Khan Academy, Quizziz, Flocabulary, NeoK12, Jeopardy lab, Quizlet, and many more. Teaching a hybrid model helped us to build an extensive digital resource library.

In the 3rd quarter, 7th grade students changed their focus from Earth Science to Life Science. We studied how traits, such as hairline, detached earlobes, and PTC tasting are passed on from parents to children in their genes. We used pedigrees to track how genetic disorders can be passed down through generations of a family. We also studied relationships among species in an ecosystem, such as predation, competition, mutualism, commensalism and parasitism. Consider asking your child what type of relationship is present between honey guide birds and badgers. Honey guide birds, alert and direct badgers to bee hives. The badgers then expose the hives and feed on the honey first. Next the honey guide birds eat. Both species benefit. As we move into 4th quarter, we continue our study of Life Science with evidence of evolution and adaptations of organisms that allow them to better survive in their environments. We study how blubber, duck feathers and elephant ears all contribute to their level of fitness, or ability to survive certain conditions. We finish with review for our EOC exam at the end of the year. Let's finish the year strong!

In 7th grade Honors 3rd quarter, students transitioned from studying astronomy to studying our own planet. They learned about how Earth's surface changes by studying weathering and erosion, and talking about how these processes affect Florida's coastlines and our tourism industry. We dove into plate tectonics to 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! As we move into 4th quarter, we continue our study of Earth as we study ocean circulation, weather and climate. We take a close look at how heat energy is transferred both globally and locally by ocean currents and winds. Near the end, we focus on how Earth functions as a system, with each part influencing and impacting the others, including the impact that humans have on these parts of Earth. Let's finish the year strong!

As the 3rd nine weeks comes to close, regular and advanced 8th grade classes are wrapping up our unit on Sun-Earth-Moon. The students have been exploring how the gravitational pull and alignment of the sun, Earth, and moon affect everything from our seasons, moon phases, eclipses, and tides. The 4th nine weeks brings about our unit on matter. We will be looking at the parts of an atom, the periodic table, and chemical and physical changes. This tends to be the students favorite unit!

Our 8th grade Honors students finished their unit on motion, forces, gravitational forces, and momentum. They will soon start units on work and power, energy, and waves and theory of electromagnetism. There were a lot of lessons given at the middle school level to bridge the gap in their learning and prepare them for the SSA. There will be two units left (Electricity and Thermodynamics) before they dive into chemistry- their favorite part!

Students also are working on SSA / FCAT Review Projects. We have developed mini units for each of the disciplines for the students in regular, advanced, and honors classes to complete at home to help them refresh their memory on the last two years of science. Students also practice in class in different sets of packets that address the 4 strands that are tested in the SSA. These review opportunities will continue through April. Regarding SSA packets, Honors students are advised to finish their packets by or during Spring Break. That will help eliminate some stress with commitments in other classes and the beginning of the testing season.

The 4th nine weeks also brings about testing season. All 8th grade students will participate in the State Science Assessment (formerly the FCAT). Students are also required to take a Common Final Exam during the month of May that will count as 20% of their final grade for the course. Please encourage your students to take the exams seriously. Their outcome on these exams can be used to help place them in a science course in 9th grade.

Language Arts

Sixth grade language arts is working on essay writing, including both argumentative and informational prompts, and using text evidence as support in preparation for FSA Writing which is tentatively scheduled for April 8th. We're also reviewing foundational skills in literary and informational text over the next few weeks. Since FSA is on paper for 6th grade, students should practice annotating, planning, and drafting their writing on paper to be prepared for testing.

During the third quarter, 7th graders have been working hard on comparing texts with their multimedia versions, evaluating arguments, as well as analyzing how authors develop and contrast points of view of characters throughout a text. Additionally, students have had practice writing their own argumentative essays in preparation for the FSA writing test tentatively scheduled for April 8th.

Our final nine weeks will focus on learning our standards through a novel study. You should continue to see your student reading for homework on a regular basis. We encourage you to read along with your child and discuss the book together.

In 8th grade, Language Arts students have just finished writing an argumentative essay in ELA. In the 4th quarter, they will spend time looking at both informational texts and literature. Students will learn about text structure, point of view, and word impact in those texts. In addition, they will review skills learned throughout the year and write additional informative and argumentative essays.



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Math

Our 6th grade math students at AMS are currently finishing units on ratios and proportional relationships, geometry, and statistics and will soon begin to prepare for the Math FSA that will take place at the beginning of May. So far, students have been completing weekly review assignments. These assignments will help students determine what specific material they need extra practice with before they take FSA. In order to practice and master the 6th grade standards, students should consistently be reviewing at home by using their interactive notebooks and utilizing the online Canvas Modules for extra skills practice. In addition, students can continue working on their "My Path" lessons on iReady as further review of critical math topics.

It is hard to believe 7th grade is three-quarters of the way through the year! In regular math, we recently completed our equations and inequalities unit and have now shifted our focus into geometry. The geometry strand makes up 23% of the FSA questions assessed and will be a major focus as we lead into our final weeks prior to testing. Students have been doing a great job breaking down these problems using close reading strategies and annotating the text. Online and paper FSA practice tests can be found at <https://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/index.stml>.

In 7th grade advanced math, we are finishing up data and statistics and will be working on our probability unit next. This unit will include experimental and theoretical probability, in both simple and compound forms. Real numbers, exponents, and scientific notation follows probability. We will also begin to spiral in FSA review questions to be ready for our FSA in May. We will continue working through 8th grade standards until the end of the school year so your child will be ready for algebra next year!

In pre-algebra we have been busy learning about the Pythagorean Theorem, Transformation, and 2-variables. Next, we will be looking at angle relationships. We will take a look at the relationship of exterior and interior angles, and learn to solve for the missing angle. Following angles, we will focus on learning the formulas for volume of spheres, cones, and cylinders and using it to solve real-world problems. The final unit, before FSA, is scientific notation where very large or very small numbers can be expressed as an integer power of 10. Following FSA, we will be getting ready for algebra by looking at polynomials.

In algebra, we just wrapped up rational exponents and radical expressions. We have begun our quadratics unit which is a BIG ONE and will take up the 3rd quarter. Following quadratics, we will close out the year with statistics. We have begun spiraling in EOC reviews to get the kiddos ready. Also, all algebra students should have their Algebra Nation workbook by now. LaunchEd students were asked to stop by the front office to pick theirs up. This is an excellent resource, especially the use of the Test Yourself questions at the end of each section. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time. Your continued support is much appreciated!

In geometry, we completed the similarity unit and are currently working on right triangles. After right triangles, we will explore circles. The students will be using Geometry Nation to review for the Geometry EOC, as well as, in the classroom through different activities and instruction. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Social Studies

In the 3rd quarter, 6th graders were exploring the ancient civilizations of India, China, and pre-Alexander the Great Greece. The students learned how Hinduism and Buddhism impacted the different castes and dharma of the ancient Indians. They were also able to research and analyze the pros and cons of the Great Wall of China, travel the famed Silk Road, and wrestle with the 3 prominent Chinese philosophies. The last quarter will focus on the influences of Greece and Rome on our western forms of government, education, military and social structure. The students will also see the birth of the world's most practiced religion and its spread throughout the ancient world. The last unit of study will be Ancient American civilizations (southern, central, and northern areas). Afterwards, we will review all of the skills and cultures in preparation for the end of course exam. What a year!

During this last quarter, 7th grade students focused primarily on the structure of the government and the rights that people have. PBL civics students completed their second project of the year where they created a product to help inform people about their rights. These will be shared with the community. At the end of the 3rd quarter, students participated in a PMA (Progress Monitoring Assessment) which helped to inform the civics teachers as to what we would need to focus on reviewing prior to the Civics EOC (End of Course) Assessment. In the 4th quarter, students will be learning about the various forms and systems of government that exist in the world and in history. They will also take a look at global policy where we focus on how the U.S. has interacted with other countries over the years as well as different international organizations. We will then spend the end of April and the beginning of May reviewing for this assessment. The Civics EOC tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 10th. Please encourage your student to review and prepare for this test. Additional study resources will be provided both in class and on Canvas. After the test, students will have about two weeks where we will go deeper into some of the topics we have learned throughout the year and focus on some fun projects. We are excited to end our year strong and have truly enjoyed having your children in our classes!

In the 8th grade, the third quarter will focus on westward expansion, trace the sectional differences between northern and southern states and finally examine religious, educational and cultural reform movements. Our students will expand their knowledge of the American Presidents project this quarter.

At the same time that the national spirit and pride were growing throughout the country, a strong sectional rivalry was also developing. Both North and South wanted to further their own economic and political interests. In our last quarter together, we will examine the cause, course, and consequence of the Civil War. Fourth quarter projects will focus on U.S. Geography and the year will culminate with our creating a "Study Guide" to prepare for the 'End of Course Exam' that will address the entirety of our curriculum.

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Classes

Agriculture

Our sixth grade students have been studying poultry and livestock this quarter. Students are gaining proficiency with the species-specific vocabulary, basic anatomy, and egg grading. Eighth grade students are also studying poultry and livestock this quarter, and are gaining a deeper understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the animals, genetics, and common veterinary practices associated with diseases and injuries. Seventh grade has been learning the art and science of landscape and floral design, and is learning basic construction and design practices hands-on in class. After constructing and designing flower boxes in class, seventh graders will begin learning about the care of small animals.

AMS Music

ORCHESTRA

The AMS Orchestra is very proud of our 1st place door decorating for Literacy Week! It took a lot of hard scissor cutting and glitter but we pulled it off. Orchestra has been working on personal technique and skill building for the last several weeks. Now we are putting those new skills to use. Here are some upcoming events that involve orchestra:

- OCPS All-County Orchestra (audition deadline: March 5; event: April 23 & 24)
- Solo & Ensemble MPA (sign up deadline: TBA; event: April 10).

*Both of these events are free for students this year! Please be on the lookout for an email with more details from Mrs. Haber in regards to both of these opportunities.

BAND

The band program has been hard at work learning new music and instrument techniques! The Beginning Bands have started completing pass offs, which are their performance-based grades, and our Concert Band students have started the more advanced targets to practice. Our other advanced bands (Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band) have had many students take advantage of extra performance opportunities in the county, by auditioning and being nominated for All County Band and Jazz Band. Both of those events are happening later in the spring. Look out for upcoming information on Solo & Ensemble and other performance opportunities to come!

CHORUS

In the 2nd Semester, the AMS Chorus Family has had an exciting time preparing for our first

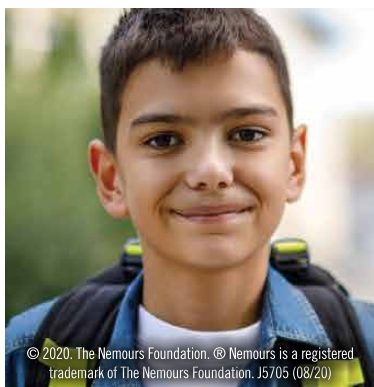
performance taping! In order to ensure safe performance practice during the pandemic, our spring performances will be pre-recorded and released to the AMS Community in a video format. Be on the lookout for our Spring Skills Showcase mid-late March, and for our Motown concert mid-late May!

AMS Chorus students are also continuing our engagement with the community at Encore at Avalon Park Assisted Living. In February, the students recorded some of the residents' favorite love songs, and we will be sending along a new batch of sing-along videos for the residents to enjoy. We successfully piloted this project in December with a Seasonal Sing-Along, and the project was picked up and celebrated by OCPS and our local NPR station.

The students are enjoying celebrating our black community during Black History Month and beyond. The students have been learning "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and learning about the text and the song's history. Many classes are also writing songs based on quotes by black artists and thought-leaders including Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, and Chadwick Boseman. Starting in March, our students will be learning about the Motown greats, and we are so excited!

Finally, a HUGE congratulations to our All-State students Ethan Craiker, Gabriel Nair and Pedro Garcia-Monroig. In addition to making the highly-selective All-State Chorus, their efforts were recognized by State Senator Linda Stewart. Way to go!

We're looking forward to a safe, musical end of the school year, and we always appreciate the support of the AMS Community! Thank you for celebrating the musical voices of our students!



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Art

Our 6th grade art students kicked off the year by creating a list of goals or resolutions for themselves. Next, they studied and practiced how to draw the facial features prior to listening to Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech. Then, they used images of MLK to work from by pasting half of his face down onto the paper while drawing the other half. They worked on creating an artwork that promotes a peaceful democracy for our United States. In the upcoming weeks, 6th graders will be creating cubistic Picasso-inspired portraits.

Our 7th grade art students also began the new year by taking a look within to create a piece that visually explained what they would like to keep and of what they would like to let go of in the upcoming year. Next, they studied and practiced how to draw the facial features. They selected an African American whom they feel has influenced the United States/world/or themselves to draw in honor of the upcoming celebration of Black History Month. 7th grade art students will soon create a self-portrait.

Our 8th grade art students had a choice to create a visual list of goals or resolutions or to create a piece of art that depicted what they would like to let go of or to keep in the upcoming year. Next, we learned about the Harlem Renaissance with a focus on Jacob Lawrence. We then created portraiture collages in the style of Lawrence.

Drama Class

With Mrs. Traver out on maternity leave, the drama students have been having fun learning new theatrical skills with their substitute, Ms. Hill. When Mrs. Traver returns, the students will work on make-up design and musical theatre performances. In theatre classes next winter the students can look forward to performing in *Elf the Musical*, as part of our winter celebrations!

Latinos in Action

Latinos in Action have been working hard by helping Central Florida businesses. They have also been working with helping local elementary schools by creating virtual book reading videos. In addition, students have also been learning and practicing how to build their resumes in class. Students are currently working on a virtual Husky 5k to help children who have Alexander's Disease in March.

2020-2021 Latinos in Action Service Projects

- Collecting food & essential items for Pet Alliance in September
- Second Harvest VIRTUAL Food Drive in November
- Toy Drive for One Hope for Women and Child in December
- At school donations for the Ronald McDonald House Charities in February

Athletics

Middle School sports have definitely not looked the same this year, but we are happy to be back on the court and field for intramural action. Students have gotten the opportunity to participate in intramural volleyball and track during the third quarter. I want to send a huge shout out to Coach Pfaff and Coach Rivera for guiding and coaching over 80 athletes in volleyball and to Coach Berzon, Coach Tran, and Coach Warren for their hard work during track!

Soccer will begin on March 29th with boys participating on Monday/Wednesday and girls on Tuesday/Thursday after school from 4-5:30pm. Basketball will begin on April 26th and specific practice times will be announced closer to the start date. Students must have turned in a sports physical packet this school year to participate in soccer or basketball during the 4th quarter as well as carry a 2.0 GPA or higher. Packets can be printed off from the AMS website or picked up in the front office. Please send any questions to Coach Tran (Michaela.danhoff@ocps.net).

FFA

The AMS FFA is really going strong! Our club shirts came in and you will see members around campus sporting their 2020-2021 shirts. If your member is a Launch Ed student, they may come to the front office to pick up their shirt.

February 20-27th was National FFA week and we celebrated with activities all week. Check the AMS FFA Canvas Course for more details! We have 12 students that competed this year at the Central Florida Fair, showing chickens, ducks and rabbits. In addition, four members of the Poultry Evaluation Team competed in the preliminary contest on March 4th. They did a great job!

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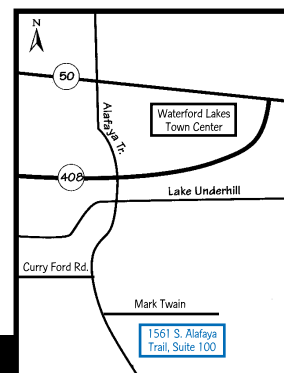
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Classes

PE

In Fitness class we have been playing team games such as mat ball and cardio ball, which helps to build team play and strategies. We are also starting to use our fitness workout room to show our students personal fitness programs.

Project-Based Learning

With the first two quarters focusing primarily on the COVID-19 museum project, we decided to take a step back to move through some of our classes' other benchmarks. This included a unit about math and one about words. After our math unit, students had a well-deserved break with a day using our school's Makerspace, where students got to engage in fun activities including Keva planks, Bloxels, chess, Cubelet Robot Blocks, digital activities, and more! Students had such an enjoyable time being creative. In our Word Play Unit, students ended up creating their own word. We then voted as a class to determine which new word we thought should be added to the English language. Ask your student which one we voted for! The fourth quarter will include a science unit, a unit about communication skills, a unit about argumentation, and we will culminate the year with students creating a portfolio showing mastery of key critical thinking skills. This elective class does have a CFE (Common Final Exam) which is currently scheduled to take place sometimes between May 13th and May 25th. Exact dates are to be determined.

Spanish

In Beginning Spanish, students are identifying and describing places in school. In Spanish 1, students continue practicing colors, numbers, clothes, hobbies, and present tense verbs. In Spanish 2, students are learning about types of food from Latin countries, body parts, past tense verbs, while at the same time preparing for the Common Final Exam (CFE).

Stem

In PLTW Medical Detective class, student doctors have finished diagnosing patients with food borne pathogens. They are doing labs involving their senses and the human nervous system. The brain dissection is coming up fast. After the brain, we will begin working with DNA that the students will extract. Our great tech students will finish the year in Forensics and CSI.

PLTW IED students continue to move through their engineer course. They just finished modeling skills and geometry design. We will be heading into advanced computer modeling and studying for their EOC.

In the 7th grade Design and Modeling course, students learned how to measure using the Metric and English systems, and 3D design using Sketchup. They also made puzzles and learned how to draw technical engineering sketches. In the 4th quarter, they will continue designing with computers, learning various programs used in the industry.

In the PLTW 8th grade Robotics course, Launch-Ed and Face-to-Face students have been doing different things. LaunchEd has been learning about programming with code.org, which is the mind behind automation. Face-to-Face students have been learning about the mechanics behind robotics, and how to build robots to achieve certain functions and movements. They learned how to program them with Robot C, a C-based coding language. In the 4th quarter, Launch-Ed students will continue with code.org, and coding robots virtually. Face-to-Face students will learn to build and program drag racers, and how to make an industrial assembly line.

