

Cougar Tracks



L.A. AINGER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Message from the Principal

Dear L.A. Ainger Cougar Parents and Guardians,

Wow, we are in the final quarter of the school year. As with most school years, this year feels like it has flown by. I am especially proud of our accomplishments this year during these challenging times. We have seen significant increases in almost all of our academic areas this year in all three grade levels. We have had students excel in many different competitions this year: writing, band, and athletics just to name a few. Did I mention our Girl's track team won the county championship?!!!!!! None of this would have been possible without the support of you, our families, the community, and our wonderful and dedicated staff here at L.A. Ainger Middle School. Let me say again thank you for support this year; we would not have been able to succeed at the level we have without you. As we approach the end of the school year, this is the time your child should be focusing on a strong finish and you can help. Please reinforce positive and successful school habits, review your student's progress, attendance, test schedules, and help your child stay focused. Your attention and involvement in this effort will reinforce the importance you place on your child's education.

As we move into the last part of the school year, our final sports season will be wrestling. We will also have some end of the year band concerts at Lemon Bay High School. We will send out updates on our Remind App. through text message. We look forward to having a positive and productive final quarter of the school year.

Again, we look forward to working with you. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or stop by anytime. Your child's success and positive experience at L.A. Ainger Middle School is our number one priority.

Sincerely,
Jeff Harvey
Principal

**245 Cougar Way
Rotonda West, FL 33947**

**Phone:
941-697-5800**

**Office Hours:
8:00a.m. to 4:15p.m.**

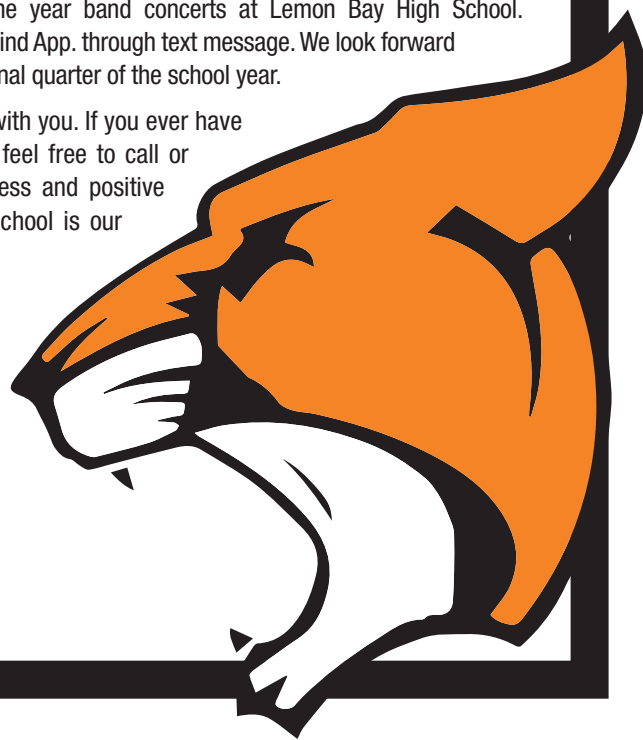
**Principal:
Jeff Harvey**

**Assistant Principals:
Daryl Konrardy
Bruce Fourman**

**Guidance Counselors:
Kelly Gilbert
Jerry Kuhn**

**ESE Liason:
Gayle Horan**

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'Cougar Tracks'

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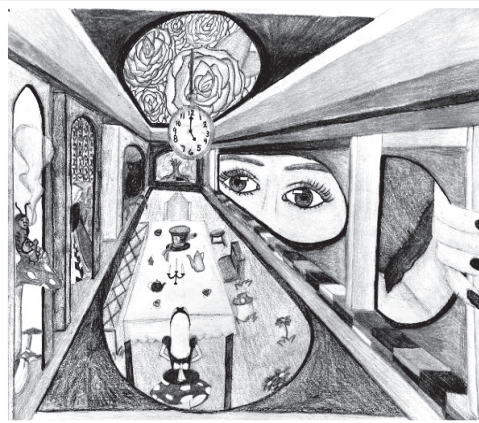
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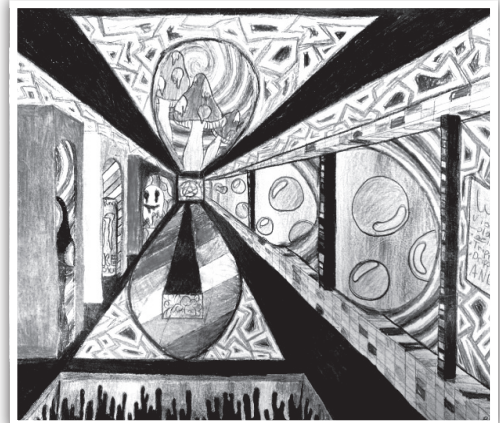
Art News

Understanding Perspective



Halie Montgomery - Grade 7

"I liked that I used a lot of color. I learned that with a big piece of art, it takes time, and you might need to take it home. This was really fun to make this and I would've made it more detailed."



Baylie LaRose - Grade 7

"I'm wanted a drawing that wasn't boring and I wanted to include lots in of color. I also wanted to include a type of trippy look."

News From G1

Students have been working diligently in all academic areas. Students have been using an assortment of Thinking Maps to compare and contrast new information. We planted a butterfly garden; as part of the lesson, we used a butterfly house in our classroom and watched the caterpillar metamorphosis into a butterfly, what an interesting lesson. Mrs. Eiken has been giving us gardening tips and giving us clippings from her beautiful garden. Presently we are harvesting eggplant, cauliflower, sweet potatoes, green peppers, tomatoes, habanero peppers, and an assortment of herbs and string beans. A new addition to our garden thanks to "Keep Charlotte" is eight assorted berry plants. Thank you to University of Florida for your continued support.



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Ainger Students Of The Month

NOVEMBER 2020

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
Samantha Mcaskill Stevan Snyder Molly Carmen Michael Muller	Luke Brown Baylor White Olivia DeMateo	Logan McGinty Arrianna Leighton Tristen Sasser

DECEMBER 2020

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
Sloan Silverberg Madeline Hulback	Baylie LaRose Alex Spence Regina Almodovar	Justyn Drew Aubrie Nyguen

JANUARY 2021

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
Michael Ceslow-Flores Emily Elkins Sophia Siligato	Journey Stevens Brandt Arthur	Vincenzo Vega Adriana Deaquino Austin Grantham

FEBRUARY 2021

6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
Paige Gifford Kayden Vielhauer Jacob Allese	Annsley Mason Sylvestre Warner	Valerie Hac Eva Gressley Roberto Leo



National Junior Honor Society

Our National Junior Honor Society members from 2020 were inducted in a private ceremony on Friday, March 26th, during the school day. Members were presented with certificates and membership cards. Mr. Harvey and the advisers, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Mendelsohn, congratulated the small group on their academic and leadership achievement. Members will be promoting a "Pay it Forward" event in April as well as participating in a Campus Clean-up Day later in the month. Potential 7th graders who qualify, based on their grade point average of 3.5 or higher, will be invited to apply to the 2021-2022 NJHS and will be inducted in the Fall of 2021. Thanks again to our PTO for our NJHS shirts!

Ainger Band News



The Ainger Jazz Band opened for the LBHS Jazz Band for a nighttime outdoor performance in the LBHS quad on Thursday, February 25th

SPRING CONCERT REHEARSALS

In order to prepare for our Spring Concert, we will host two after school rehearsals per ensemble for the months of March and April. Please add these rehearsals to your calendar and do your best to schedule around them so that each ensemble can have a successful performance at the Spring Concert.

Each rehearsal will begin promptly after school in the cafeteria. Students will need to be picked up at the front office parent pick-up at 5:30pm. Students may dress in casual attire for these rehearsals and will be fed a pizza dinner.

- **Beginning Band**
 - Tuesday, April 20th - With members of the Jazz Band
- **Intermediate Band**
 - Tuesday, April 6th - With some members of Percussion Ensemble & Advanced Band
- **Advanced Band**
 - Tuesday, April 13th - With some members of Percussion Ensemble & LBHS Band

SPRING CONCERT PERFORMANCES

* Parents, please ask your child to share their Performance Check List with You. It is also posted in Google Classroom *

- **Beginning Band and Jazz Band at the LBHS Auditorium, 6:30pm**
 - Thursday, April 22nd - Parents will have the opportunity to rent-to-own an instrument for their child from a local vendor in the LBHS cafeteria at 6pm.
- **Intermediate Band and Advanced Band at the LBHS Auditorium, 6:30pm**
 - Tuesday, April 27th - With some members of Percussion Ensemble & LBHS Band

PERFORMANCE MITIGATIONS

Our spring concerts will take place at the Lemon Bay High School Auditorium. CCPS requires the following conditions for in-door performances:

Audience Mitigations:

- Attendees must wear masks.
- The audience must be at 25% capacity or less.
 - In order to achieve this goal, student performers will each receive two tickets for their parents. The tickets will have assigned seating. Auditorium maps will also be provided and the booster board will assist ushering attendees to seats.
 - Recordings will be shared in Google Classroom following the performance for friends and family that cannot attend in person.

Performer Mitigations:

- Students will continue to wear masks when not playing.
- Wind players will continue to use "instrument masks" while playing.
- To the extent possible, students will continue to distance while on stage.
- When an ensemble is not performing, those students will be housed in the Black Box Theater where they can watch a livestream of the stage performance under supervision.

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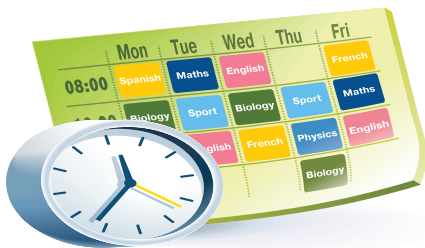
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L.A. Ainger Middle School 2019-2020 Bell Schedule

Announcements	9:05-9:10
1st Period	9:10-10:01
2nd Period	10:05-10:56
3rd Period	11:00-11:51
4th Period (Lunch)	11:51-1:23 A Lunch 11:51-12:21 4th Hour 12:25-1:23 4th Hour 11:55-12:22 B Lunch 12:22-12:52 4th Hour 12:56-1:23 4th Hour 11:55-12:53 C Lunch 12:53-1:23
5th Period	1:27-2:18
6th Period	2:22-3:13
7th Period	3:17-4:10



News From Drug Free Charlotte County

Good kids can make bad decisions. That thought rolled around in my head as I listened to story after story of grown adults in recovery talking about the decisions they all made as kids that led to the addictions that destroyed their lives, that robbed them of everything and everyone that mattered to them. None of them were bad kids, and most of them grew up in happy homes with parents that loved them. This scared me a bit and made me think.... then what in the world can us parents do to keep kids from choosing alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD)?

So, the good news is that research shows that teens say their parents are one of the top reasons they choose not to use ATOD. That's right, they may act like they know all about everything sometimes, but when you talk, they really are listening. So, while there isn't a book on the right way to raise our kids, but there are steps that we can take to help our kids make good choices when it comes to ATOD. Here are some tips.

COMMUNICATE WITH LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING:

1. Pick a time that makes sense. You want to make sure that you can devote complete attention to the conversation without any distractions. You also want to think about your child's schedule/routine and avoid times when they may be rushed or busy getting ready for school/work or doing homework. Picking a time when you and your kiddo are in a good mood is also helpful.
2. Have a plan. Think about what you want to say ahead of time. This will help you to organize your thoughts and feel more relaxed. When you are relaxed, your kiddo will be more relaxed. However, remember it isn't just about what you want to say but listening as well.
3. Practice active listening. Look at your child while they are talking. Show them your listening by mirroring back to them what they are saying. Use comfortable body language and avoid crossed arms or making unapproving facial expressions. Occasionally smiling and nodding your head can let them know your still paying attention.
4. Be respectful in your responses. Avoid fault finding, sarcasm, comparing, and belittling. Give them time to express themselves. Use encouragement when they talk about choices that they have made that are positive. Consider telling them that your proud of them for sharing with you.

LISTEN AND HEAR THEM WHEN THEY SHARE:

1. Rather than telling them what solution you would do, try guiding them into coming up with a solution by asking guiding questions.
2. Don't shoot down their ideas. Ask them about what they think would be the pros and cons of each solution. Praise them when they come up with solutions on their own.
3. Don't make assumptions, rather ask questions about the situation.
4. Avoid putting people down. Your kids may share about friends. If you start talking poorly about their friends, they may be less likely to share in the future.
5. Make sure you are focusing more on solving the problem then the problem itself.

MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS KNOW WHERE YOU STAND AND SET CLEAR LIMITS:

1. Let kids know that you don't approve of ATOD use.
2. Make sure they know your expectations for them.
3. Tell your kids why you have set the limits.
4. Come up with some specific consequences together if they break the rules about ATOD.
5. Make sure to compliment them when they do follow these limits.

BE THERE FOR YOUR KIDS:

1. Spend time with your kids AND their friends. Try new activities. Work on goals together.
2. Make time for them every day.
3. Take an interest in their hobbies and things they are involved in.
4. Be present at things that are important to them.
5. When your kids are going to be going somewhere, call and talk with the parents first and make sure there will be parent supervision.
6. Meet your kid's friend's parents. Make sure that where they are going is a safe place. Get contact information for the parents as well. Find out the parent's rules about ATOD.
7. Know where your child is, ALWAYS. Have your child check in with you when they leave somewhere and when they arrive as well. Call and check in with your child at different times.



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State-Level Officials

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FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

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Remind App

L.A. Ainger uses the Remind App to communicate with the stakeholders in our community by sending text messages to their phones. Some L.A. Ainger families are already receiving information periodically via the Remind App. To subscribe to any of the classes, simple text the "@ code" listed below to the number 81010.

- "L.A. Ainger Middle School Families" text: @laaingermi
- "L.A. Ainger Middle School Charlotte Buses" text: @g33g3g
- "L.A. Ainger Middle School Sarasota Buses" text: @kk43ga
- "L.A. Ainger Middle School PTO" text: @laaingerp

You may un-subscribe from any of the classes listed above at any time.



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L.A. Ainger Middle School

PTO News

PTO NEWS: It's hard to believe the 2020-2021 is coming to an end. Despite the challenges we all faced, our families, students, staff and community have risen to the occasion and supported our school this year. But our need for support continues...we are in need of more parent involvement. Many of our PTO parents will soon be moving on to the high school. Please consider attending our last meetings of this school year, and become a part of the support our school and students need. The middle school PTO experience does not require a lot of your time. Volunteer as much time as you can. Most importantly we need your voice, input and ideas, especially during these unprecedented times.

Most recently, the PTO has supplied the school with LA Ainger Spirit shirts for every student. Look for spirit days in which the students are encouraged to wear their shirts. We are hoping to have every student participate. The custodial staff now has both school golf carts fully serviced and operational thanks to PTO funding and donation from Thoroughbred Golf Carts. The spring season's wrestling team will receive new uniforms funded by our PTO. And while end of school year events won't be the same, the PTO is working to come up with unique ideas to celebrate our 8th graders.

SAVE THE DATE: Our 8th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, November 13th at the Rotonda Golf & Country Club, the Hills. This will be our largest fundraising event of the 2021-2022 school year. We will be in need of golfers, business sponsors and donations and of course...volunteers. This year we were able to raise over \$15,000 dollars! And we certainly hope to meet or exceed this amount next year.

AMAZON SMILE: If you are unaware of Amazon Smile, this is another way you can help raise funds for the school that is very easy and does not cost you anything additional. Instead of logging into amazon.com for your Amazon purchases, use the link <https://smile.amazon.com/>. You can use the same login and password you already have for your Amazon account. Once you are logged in, you can click on AmazonSmile on the top left corner and choose your charity as L A Ainger Middle School PTO Inc. Every time you make a purchase, a portion of your purchase will go back to the school. It is that easy! If you have any problems with this, feel free to email us at aingerpto@gmail.com and we can help.

BOX TOPS: Another way you can help the school raise funds without costing you anything is by scanning your receipts for box tops. The app is free on your phone to download. After scanning your receipt, it will automatically pick up any item that contains box tops. If your receipt is extra-long, you will see a button called section where you can take several pictures to upload. If you prefer the old way of doing box tops, please clip them and send them in with your student to drop off at the front desk for the PTO box. We can still send them in to raise funds as well.

The PTO would love to have you join at our PTO meetings to learn more about what is happening with the PTO and how we are spending or plan to spend funds raised for our school. Our meetings are the second Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. following the SAC meeting at 5:30 p.m. The dates of our meetings are listed below.

- April 12th at 6:00p.m., Media Center
- May 10th at 6:00p.m., Media Center

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LAAPTO> to stay up to date with meetings, events, volunteer opportunities, and other ways to help the PTO.

Our email address is aingerpto@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

To receive our REMIND notifications, please text @laaingerpto to 81010



Student Council

Students have been busy creating valentines' day goody bags for the student body and organized a fundraiser that was done right before spring break. These fundraisers raised money for the American Heart Association. Back in January, they sponsored a carb crash spaghetti supper for the track team. Lastly, they have been increasing school spirit by providing a Friday snack and go station. All items on the snack cart have been \$1.00. Students are able to treat themselves as they exit campus.

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Track And Field

FIRST AND FOREMOST, THIS YEAR'S TEAM WAS AMAZING NOT ONLY ON THE TRACK BUT AROUND THE VENUE. STUDENT ATHLETES REPRESENTING AINGER SHOWCASED THE MOST RESPECT, PRIDE, ENTHUSIASM, DRIVE, AND MENTAL TOUGHNESS. IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE ENDEAVOR TO BE A PART OF ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH! EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE ATHLETES HAD DETERMINATION AND WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL TEAMMATE.

Our boys track team finished in third place at the County Invitational. We lost out on second place by three points.

Place winners for the Cougars were:

- FIRST PLACE:**
Baylor White in the 1600 M Run
The 4x400 M team of Joe Danks, A.J. Lam, Sean Egloff-Vega and Baylor White
- SECOND PLACE:**
A.J. Lam in the long jump
Keegan Noel in the 800 M Run
- THIRD PLACE:**
Sean Egloff-Vega in the 800M Run
Keegan Noel in the 400 M Run
4x100M Relay: Team of A.J. Hua, A.J. Lam, Ty Lanham and Jacob Banyas
- FOURTH PLACE:**
Joe Danks in the 100 M Dash
- FIFTH PLACE:**
A.J. Hua in the 200 M Dash
- OTHER TEAM MEMBERS INCLUDE:**
James Bauer, Kyle Domke, Julain Lacienc, Collin Morey and Luke Trullinger.

OUR GIRLS TRACK TEAM SCORED 121 POINTS IN THE COUNTY INVITATIONAL, THE HIGHEST POINTS SCORED IN AINGER HISTORY. THEY CAME IN FIRST PLACE AGAINST THE THREE OTHER MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

SEE THE FEMALE RESULTS BELOW. MANY OF THE FEMALES HAD THEIR PERSONAL RECORD IN THEIR EVENTS.

- LONG JUMP:**
Harlee Tudor - 2nd Place
Hailey Arp - 4th Place
- 100 M:**
Myah Dickerson - 2nd Place
Jamie Dufur - 3rd Place
Sophia Ferijani - 4th Place
- 200 M:**
Myah Dickerson - 2nd Place
Madison Tieu - 3rd Place
Sophia Ferijani - 4th Place
- 400 M:**
Madison Tieu - 1st Place
Daria Lukash - 4th Place
- 800 M:**
Mackenzie Martin - 1st Place (3:10)
Jamie Dufur - 2nd Place
Daria Lukash - 3rd Place
Mya Seward - 6th Place
- 1600 M:**
Mackenzie Martin - 1st Place (6:13)
Daria Lukash - 2nd Place (6:20)
Maria Lukash - 3rd Place (6:26)
- 4X1 RELAY:**
2nd Place - Lukash Twins, Sophia Ferijani, Kate Hayden
- HATS OFF TO THESE OTHER FEMALE ATHLETES:**
Abella Rogers, Emily Atherholt, Bethany Vo, Shania Leubin, Madison Lutz

**Congratulations to
all the participants for
a job well done!**

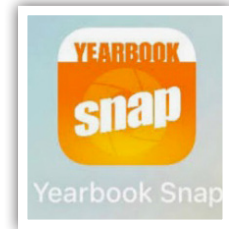


Yearbook Information

ATTENTION COUGAR FAMILIES!

YEARBOOK CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The 2020-2021 school year has been full of surprises and we are looking for pictures of students. Remember when we could see faces without masks in pictures? We want to showcase students in the yearbook doing things they love to do outside of school. We would love pictures from weekend adventures, winter or spring breaks, sporting events, birthday parties etc. Please submit pictures through www.yearbookforever.com, enter L.A. Ainger Middle School with Access Code: Cougar to enter our school's site. At the top is the Community Upload link. All your photos on your phone? No problem, download Yearbook Snap App from your app store, use the same access codes, upload pictures to "Student Life." We also welcome students to download the app and share school appropriate photos.



Want to guarantee a copy of the 2020-2021 yearbook? ORDER NOW at yearbookforever.com \$35.00. Prices will increase if not pre-ordered and you won't be guaranteed a copy. Purchases made upon delivery will be first come first serve.



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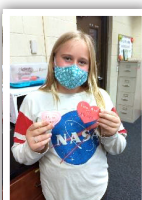
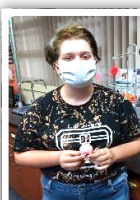
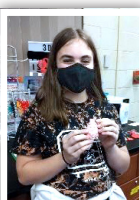
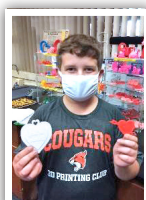
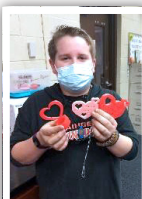
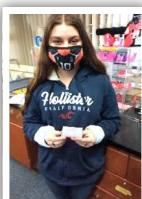
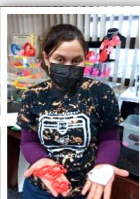
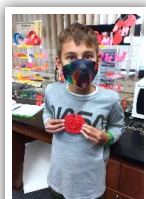
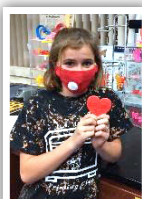
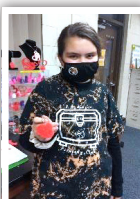
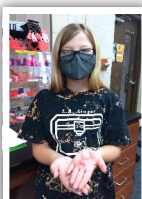
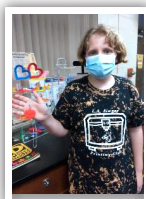
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3D Printing Club

Our Valentine Venue was a blast! Members created unique pieces that we sold to collect monies for our club. Members received points for each created Valentine piece that sold. Members also got to go home with 3D printed prizes and a printed piece of a peer, that they won playing a game during our Valentine Venue club meeting. Overall it was a HUGE success and we had so much fun!! We are currently working on Easter or Spring Containers that we are painting during our club. Members will be taking these pieces home to share with their families. In closing out the year in 3D Printing Club, members will be creating a piece that has moving parts so this is going to get interesting giving us the opportunity to kick in those 21st Century skills that 3D Printing has to offer: Planning, Creativity, Analysis, Collaboration and Resolving. Although it has been somewhat of a tough, challenging year for all of us, 3D Printing Club remains a positive place for us to get creative, share our talents and have some fun!!!



Members showing off their Valentine Venue pieces.

Painting our Easter/Spring pieces