



# FCMS NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 13, 2019

- 2/18-2/19 - No School
- 2/20 - SGT 7:30am
- 2/25 - Maker Meeting 3:15-4:15pm  
(permission slips in Media Center)
- 2/25 - Family Math Night 5:30pm
- 2/27 - Parent Advisory 8:00am
- 2/28 - 8th Grade Parent Night 6:00pm  
@ PAC
- 3/4 - 7th Grade Parent Night 6:00 @  
FCMS
- 3/22 - Miss FCMS Pageant 6:00pm @  
PAC
- 3/28 - Harry Potter Night 4:30-9:00pm @  
FCHS

### Miss FCMS Pageant !!!

**The Miss FCMS will be Friday,  
March 22nd beginning at 6:00 in  
the Performing Arts Center. Any-  
one interested in participating  
can call FCMS at 706-632-6100  
for details.**

**VALENTINE DELIVERIES WILL BE ACCEPTED  
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH FROM  
8:00am to 10:00am ONLY!**



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# 6th Grade News

**Social Studies:** Students in 6th grade Social Studies are finishing up their STEM portfolios where they learned the steps in the process of drilling for oil on the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico. They researched the occupation of a geophysical engineer, methods used to find and drill for oil, and the environmental impact of past oil spills. It has not been an easy project, but an invaluable one, as they are going through the tedious process of a research project presentation. They used their new ChromeBooks to create a Google Slides Presentation and learned how to turn it in electronically. This project will be an excellent segue into our next unit on Latin America, where the Gulf of Mexico is one of the physical features we will be talking about.

**Reading:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading has just completed a poetry unit. We are beginning to read the novel, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis. While reading the novel, we will be completing various activities including a digital notebook that focuses on characterization, theme, setting, tone, figurative language, poetry and author's purpose. Reading Counts points for the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks

will be due on Friday, March 8, 2019. Advanced classes must earn 20 points and all other reading classes must earn 15 points. Reading Counts points will be counted as one test grade. We are looking forward to a fun and engaging 9 weeks!

**Language Arts:** In ELA, we are continuing daily writing, as well as essays. Students are completing argumentative essays and research over various topics. We just completed a short writing assignment with outside sources over famous water legends. Each day, students will use grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure to enhance their writing. Additionally, students will begin Milestones review as we approach April. Keep an eye on the team websites for more information.

**Science:** 6th Grade Science classes are finishing up their Ocean Floor STEM Portfolios. We will be moving into volcanoes and earthquakes next, then finishing the 9 weeks with a study of ocean currents and tides.

**Math:** In regular 6<sup>th</sup> grade math, students are entering our next unit which is Geometry. Students will review how to find the area of simple quadrilaterals such as rectangles, squares, and parallelograms. They will also learn how to find the area of triangles by decomposing rectangles and parallelograms. Surface area and volume are also components of this unit. Volume is a bit different this year. Students will focus on finding volume of rectangular prisms with fractional edge lengths as well as those with regular whole number lengths.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade Accelerated mathematics, students are working through their last 6<sup>th</sup> grade unit, Statistics. After the completion of this unit we'll be learning how to compute operations with integers. Our goal is to complete the first two and a half units in 7<sup>th</sup> grade math prior to Milestone's testing.

# 7th Grade News

**Reading:** Seventh grade reading students are continuing to read their chosen class novels and are completing assignments related to those novels. *The House of the Scorpion* novel had been downloaded to their Chromebooks if they need to reference it to complete an assignment. Please check the school's webpage for assignment due dates and other pertinent information. As an added note, the students can work on USA Test Prep and Newsela assignments at home.

**Language Arts:** Communicating in writing is definitely a "real world" skill. We have been practicing how to clearly introduce a claim and support it with details. After our next unit over precise writing, students will begin biography projects about famous people who have overcome obstacles in their paths to success. What a great theme to remind us of the role persistence and determination have in life! Also, students will continue to add work to their writing portfolio. This will become a showcase of their best writing that will be available to parents and future teachers.

**Math:** This 9 weeks we have been working on finishing up geometry. We are now starting the unit of statistics. Students will be learning about gathering data and then how to represent and interpret it. After statistics, we will have one more unit to study ( Probability) before we begin a large review of all we have learned this year in 7<sup>th</sup> grade math. To help better prepare your child for the milestones test, [www.usatestprep.com](http://www.usatestprep.com) is a great tool with plenty of assessment questions to practice. They have their own individual log in to

access this tool. Please remind your child that it is important to keep up in math class with assignments and get them turned in on time. With the addition of our new classroom tools (chromebooks) our weekly homework has now been moved to digital and will be completed in google classroom. Students will still need to show their work on paper. Please remember it is important to keep up in math class with assignments and get them turned in on time.

**Science:** The 7<sup>th</sup> grade science students will continue their study of the human body. At the end of this unit the students will dissect frogs with their lab groups in order to see all the systems first hand that they have learned. This will conclude the study of the human body systems, tissues, and cells. In the weeks to come the students will be studying ecosystems, and how energy is transferred from one organism to another. This study will include learning about food webs, food chains, and energy pyramids. The students will also learn about the earth's 7 major biomes and 1 minor biome. Included in this study, the students will learn about the plants and animals of the biomes and their adaptations that allow them to live there. Jeff Weaver/Nathan Dean 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers.

**Social Studies:** In Social Studies the students will be diving into the amazing

continent of Africa. In depth study and analysis will cover geography, government, economics, and the history of select African countries. Using our new Chrome books and other resources the students will explore deeper information using the D.I.G. model:

**D:** Discover New Realities

**I:** Imagine New Possibilities

**G:** Generate New Solutions

## 8th Grade News

**Science:** In physical science, students will continue learning about energy and magnetism during the third nine weeks. We will then turn our attention to obtaining, evaluating, and communicating science concepts and actions. All of our classroom efforts will be concentrated on preparing students for the Milestone in April/May.

The Milestone content weights for 8<sup>th</sup> grade physical science are: matter 28%, energy 18%, motion 15%, waves 24%, and force 15%. The Milestone content weights for high school honors physical science are: chemistry – atomic and nuclear theory and the periodic table 28%, chemistry – chemical reactions and properties of matter 22%, physics – energy, force, and motion 28%, and physics – waves, electricity, and magnetism 22%.

**Language Arts:** Eighth grade ELA students are working on grammar, vocabulary, and writing. We are currently working on a project with Social Studies incorporating the Civil War. The students are working hard on their multi genre assignment and will be completing these in the

next few weeks.. Students have also just finished completing an Assesslet for their narrative writing practice for the Georgia Milestones. These results will be shared individually with each student. Students in ELA continue to practice their grammar and vocabulary by the use of Mobymax and Flocabulary.

**Math:** A new monthly calendar for February has been given to each student. Please continue to check both the calendar and agenda for information on class assignments, homework, and tests. Students are in the process of completing a unit on slope and functions. Students will then begin covering a unit on statistics and probability. In addition, we are collecting box tops and the points earned by this project are used to buy supplies for our classroom.

**Social Studies:** We are currently finishing our unit on the Great Depression and WWII. We have also been analyzing some important people in our state's history such as Governor Eugene

Talmadge and President Franklin Roosevelt. Next, we will begin our unit on the Civil Rights Movement, which will focus on the desegregation of the South and the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Reading:** In eighth grade reading, students are currently reading nonfiction articles from *Times of Change about the 1960's*. These are background building for our upcoming novel, the modern classic *S. E. Hinton's The Outsiders*. To conclude the unit, students will choose a topic of interest from the decade and complete a research project on the topic. Research will be presented in class and for parents on April 11, 2019 at our FCMS Reading Fair. Independent reading BookTalks are due March 6th and 7th.

## Connections News

**Business and Computer Science:** 6<sup>th</sup> Graders have just finished with their study of basic keyboarding skills. They are beginning a study of Cyber Safety and Internet Safety along with multimedia presentation skills.

7<sup>th</sup> Graders are busy working on basic word processing skills. They have just completed a unit on entrepreneurship and career research using the Occupational Outlook Handbook Online soon.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade's Intro to Digital Technology Classes have completed study on the topics of computer programming languages as well as problem solving and flowcharting. They are starting to work on a unit involving the Scratch programming language.

**PE:** The 3rd nine weeks are going great! We feel like this group is making great strides in their physical fitness. The 3rd nine weeks grades consists of daily grades of participation and two test grades. Each nine weeks we change the test. For this nine weeks it's the 1/4 mile test, which is 5 laps around the basketball court.

**Exploratory Agriculture:** In Exploratory Agriculture, your child will complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) outside of school. The SAE introduces your child to work-related skills such as record book keeping, time management, decision making, and responsibility. The 3 key dates for completing the SAE are listed below. Examples and ideas will be posted on Google Classroom. For more information, please email Mrs. Jarvis.

Important Dates:

March 22 -- SAE Approval

April 1 and 2 -- SAE Check (3 hours and first page of record book completed)

May 5 SAEs due

**STEM:** In STEM, students in all grade levels are working on the 2019 Invent it Challenge. For this year, students were ask to create a new type of tool or technology to help the lives of senior citizens. Student's prototypes will be showcased on Invent It Challenge STEM night on April 2, 2019. Future information will be forthcoming.

**Technology:** Technology Class will be working on projects during classes. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be working on systems using duct tape shoes, balsawood bridges, cardboard chairs as projects to learn systems along with doing a section on video production with a live stream.

7<sup>th</sup> grade will be doing drafting of engineering blocks and projects to enhance their abilities in visualization and the ability to draw prints for designs.

6<sup>th</sup> grade will be using robots, repair of power supply and CD drive in the computer, paper roller coaster, and bottle label.

These projects help enhance the knowledge and understanding of our course standards.

## MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Check out our latest newsletter:

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/znRGCPY7FGkdX/>

## FAMILY MATH NIGHT

Join us on Monday, February 25th for Family Math Night beginning at 5:30. Each grade level will have different activities and information. Teachers are offering incentives for attendance!

## 6th GRADE IMMUNIZATION INFO!!

Upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders (current 6th graders) are required to have one dose of the Tdap and one dose of the Meningitis vaccines prior to the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact your child's GA doctor or the Fannin County Health Department for these vaccines. All vaccination records need to be current before August 4, 2017. If you have any questions, please feel free to call FCMS school nurse, Lisa Pack, at 706-632-6100.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Students have been working on their Bridge Bill Activities on the Georgia Career Information System web site. These activities include Career Inventories, selecting and saving career clusters and occupations, and completing four year high school plans. Please contact Tami Summers at the school if you would like your child's user name and password for the Georgia Career Information System web site.

There will be an 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center. This is a very important informative meeting. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents are encouraged to attend.

Snack in a Backpacks are still available. Please call Tami Summers at FCMS if you would like for your child to receive one every Friday. They are filled with snacks along with several meal items for the weekend.

FCMS Anti-Bullying Club will be hosting "The Great Kindness Challenge" This will be a school wide event February 11th -15th where students will be challenged to complete as many as 50 random acts of kindness. Students that participate will be able to turn in the completed form to receive a free Dairy Queen treat and a chance of winning a \$25.00 Walmart Gift Card.

During the next few months every 6th, 7th, and 8th grader will receive two guidance lessons using nearpod presentations that will cover the topics of Internet Safety, Cyber-Bullying, and Suicide Prevention.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have Sherry Morris, the director of Family Connections, and Pam Matthews, a member of the Fannin County Emergency Management Team speak to all of our students during their connection class time. They will be discussing the importance of altruism. We will also have a donation drive for canned goods and specific items needed by the Emergency Management Team.

## Show FCMS Rebel Pride

**This is what being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible looks like at Fannin County Middle School**

**Be Respectful: Recognizing the worth and importance of self and others**

**Be Responsible: Being dependable, trustworthy, and taking ownership for one's actions**

**Be Safe: Doing things that are physically and emotionally safe for self and others**