



FCMS NEWSLETTER

September 13, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9/20 - School Governance Team 7:30
- 9/22 - Fall Social 3:15-5:00
- 9/26 - Maker Meeting 3:15-4:30
- 9/27 - Parent Advisory Meeting @ 8:00
- 9/28 - Reward A Rebel (during lunches)
- 10/3 - REACH Signing Ceremony 9:00
- 10/5 - Reward Day
- 10/16 - STEM Night 5:00

MAKER MEETING!!!

Our next Maker Meeting will be Tuesday, September 26th after school until 4:30. Permission slips are available NOW in the Media Center. You must have a signed permission slip to attend and remember that space is limited so get it in quickly. This month we will be having a K'Nex challenge. You don't want to miss it!

JOIN US FOR 7th Grade STEM NIGHT!!

Monday, October 16th

Dinner @ 5:00

Activity @ 5:30



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Social Studies: Sixth grade is the first year of a two year World Area Studies Course. Sixth graders study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia. The domains include geography, government/civics, economics, and history. We are currently completing our unit on governments and economic systems, and will be transitioning into our unit on Europe. We will be covering locations of countries and physical features, environmental issues, and the three main religions. We will also incorporate our government/economics unit into each unit the remainder of the year as we discuss type of government and type of economic systems for each country.

Reading: We have been working on nonfiction activities this nine weeks. We have been reading the novel, "Uncommon Champions" about famous athletes with disabilities. Students are working on comprehension skills as well as various research skills using Google Classroom. Mrs. Nave's 1st period and Mrs. Hulse's 4th period have been working on Focused Reading Intervention skills. We will complete this program by December 1. Students should be reading their library books at home each day. They will be required to test

on their books in order to earn Reading Counts points. Advanced classes must earn 15 Reading Counts points while all other classes must earn 12 Reading Counts points by Friday, September 29, 2017.

Language Arts: In ELA, we have been working on writing, grammar, and spelling. Currently, students are working on "Fractured Fairy Tales" and subsequent presentations. After we complete narratives, we will continue grammar practice, as well as other forms of writing. Additionally, we will continue our weekly spelling tests and daily bell work assignments for weekly grades.

Science: In 6th grade science, we are off and running to a great school year. We have a terrific group of students this year and are pleased at how they have fit right in to the routine of middle school. This nine weeks, your students have been learning about science safety in the classroom, how to

complete an experiment using the scientific method, and are currently studying our first unit on space. We made a solar and lunar eclipse book. Now we are beginning to explore the history of astronomy and the planets. In advance science, students have been learning about the E in STEM which is engineering, and designing their own experiment to obtain results. Also, the students are working in groups to actually teach a lesson on a space topic. Can't wait.

Math: In 6th grade math we just wrapped up with our first unit over Number Systems. We're now moving on to Rational Numbers and the Coordinate Plane. Students will be learning about integers in the real world, how they compare to each other, and their location on a number line. Students will also learn about opposite numbers and how they cancel each other. Throughout the Coordinate Plane section, students will learn how to graph in all four quadrants and will even complete a character graph.

7th Grade News

Reading: For the first nine weeks in 7th Grade Reading, the students will begin reading the novel, "Homeless Bird". It ties in with the social studies curriculum when India is studied. Additionally, mini or bell work assignments revolve around Tier II Vocabulary Words. Tickets Out the Door review information covered in class and serve as an additional review. Short stories will be read out of the literature book and will vary with each class. Computer activities include: Study Island, BrainPOP, and Newsela. Co-taught and regular classes have 20 RC Points due for the nine weeks grading period, and Advanced Content classes have 25 RC Points due this nine weeks. Due dates for RC Points are as follows: 10 RC Points September 8 and 10 or 15 RC Points (depending on the total number of points required for your child) October 2. Please ask your child about Google Classroom and have him/her to give you a tour of his/her class's page.

Math: In 7th grade math we are just beginning Unit 2 on Expressions and Equations. Students are beginning to solve basic equations and simplifying expressions. It is important that your child has a good understanding of integer operations. To help with this, we have a program called USA test prep that provides extra practice and tutorial videos. Your

child has a specific login and this information has been stapled in his/her agenda.

Language Arts: What better way to begin a school year than by sharing memories and stories? We have enjoyed reading about favorite vacations, death-defying stunts, and other memorable moments in our students' lives as they practiced narrative writing for our first assignment. We then asked students to consider dreams and aspirations for a "bucket list" essay, an opportunity not only to practice writing informatively but also to become even better acquainted with all the various personalities that make up our classes this year.

Science: The 7th grade science students will continue their study on cells for the next few weeks. They have recently learned to use a microscope and will be using it as a tool to observe plant cells and animal cells. Part of the unit study on cells consists of the following: learning the difference between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, leaning the differences between plant cells and animal cells, learning the structure of cells, and learning how things move into and out of the cell. The students will also be

learning how to use a dichotomous key to identify living organisms. Part of this study will include an outdoors excursion in which the students will have a study partner and use a real dichotomous key to identify certain marked trees located about the campus.

Social Studies: In Social Studies, our 7th grade students have spent a great deal of time exploring the wonders of the African Continent. From the tops of the Atlas Mountains, to the deepest rivers of the Congo Rainforest Basin; discoveries are being made that will teach your student about life in Africa with a relatable contrast to Fannin County. Furthermore, the students have started analyzing different forms of governments on the African Continent, and how they compare to our own. In the coming weeks, Mrs. Kaye and Mr. Johnson look forward to exploring select economic structures within Africa with your student(s).

8th Grade News

Science: During the first nine weeks of science, we will study principles of energy and matter as well as the structure and properties of matter. We have already learned states of matter and categorizing matter by its physical and chemical attributes. Our next focus will be learning to utilize the Periodic Table of Elements to predict the composition and properties of elements and compounds.

The state standards for the physical science curriculum can be found at www.georgiastandards.org.

Language Arts: We will continue focusing on vocabulary instruction using Google Classroom. Students will be tested on a new list of vocabulary words every two weeks. We started the year focusing on narrative writing, and we will continue to do so for the rest of the nine weeks. In addition to narrative writing and vocabulary, students will continue to use Moby Max for grammar review and instruction.

Math: A new monthly calendar for September 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 lines and angles. Students will then begin covering a unit on exponents and scientific notation. 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 have just finished our first unit over Georgia's geography and the early natives in Ga. We are now focusing on the colony of Georgia, with an emphasis on the father and founder of Georgia, James Edward Oglethorpe. We will also be discussing how the colony of Georgia transformed from a trustee colony to a royal colony. From there we will discuss the event that led to the American Revolution.

Reading: Eighth grade reading classes are currently studying the Holocaust and reading the play "The Diary of Anne Frank." Soon we will begin viewing "The Book Thief" and comparing and contrasting the protagonist to Anne Frank. Later in the month of September the classes will begin reading the modern classic *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and reading non-fiction selections associated with the book on NEWSELA. Due date for Independent Reading novels (points or pages) will be October 2nd.

Connections News

Business and Computer Science: 6th 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.

7th Graders have been working on their unit on basic word processing where they are learning how to format and type short reports. They also have researched and produced presentations about careers using the Occupational Outlook Handbook Online. They will begin a unit on entrepreneurship shortly.

8th Grade is busily working on their Introduction to Digital Technology class. This is a high school credit class. Both classes have just finished with a project on emerging technologies and are beginning new units including Career/Technical student organizations.

PE: So far this 9 weeks we have covered the air squat, shoulder press, dead lift, push press, front squat and wall ball. Some movements that are coming up are the kettle bell swing, power clean, push jerk and forward roll. Toward the end of the 9 nine weeks, we will do our Fitnessgram testing and our 1/2 mile post test run. The Fitnessgram will include the sit and reach, mile run, push up, and sit up. The Fitnessgram will not affect your child's grade, but is a requirement for students in P.E.

Band: 7th and 8th grade Fall Concerts: October 26th at 7 PM at the PAC. Congratulations to 8th grade students participating in the Marching Band this year: Aubree Beavers, Jordan Led-

ford, Tanner Hamby, Will Watkins, Angel Garcia, Hannah Mashburn, Caitlin Raper, Riley Lindstrom, Ava Hasson, and Katy DeYoung.

Careers: 6th Grade: Students in the Career Awareness class have been delving into the reasons why people work, money needed to maintain an acceptable standard of living and realizing where our money actually goes once we earn it. Daily bell work and a "career of the day" focus have also allowed students to discuss and examine their future goals and career opportunities. Students will also have the opportunity to research a career of choice. Goal setting and the decision-making process all play a significant role in this class as well.

7th Grade: Students in the Career Discovery class have been delving into work ethics, attitude and how it affects behavior and how this all relates to their own lives and their futures in the working world. Focus on acceptance of diversity, how societal issues alter job opportunities, traditional and nontraditional careers, and research concerning personal career choices all play a vital role in this class. Daily bell work and a "career of the day" focus have also allowed stu-

dents to examine their future goals and career opportunities.

8th: Students in the Career Management class have been delving into soft skills, "the skills that pay the bills", and how their personal skills affect them in their roles as a student (their current job), and how these skills will affect their lives in the world of work. Communication, cooperating with co-workers, managing stress, research of a chosen career, "preparing for, getting and keeping the job" skills are also vital components of this class. Daily bell work and a "career of the day" focus have also allowed students to examine their future goals and career opportunities.

"Hard work doesn't guarantee success, but it improves its chances." B.J. Gupta

FALL SOCIAL!!



We will have our Fall Social on Friday, September 22nd from 3:15-5:00. Admission will be \$3.00 per student. School dress code and school rules will apply. Concession stand will be open. Only Fannin County Middle School students may attend. Parents or someone from your student's pick up list must come in the building to pick up students no later than 5:00.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Fannin County Middle School along with all Fannin County Schools have adopted the No Place for Hate initiative for the 2017-2018 school year. This initiative is designed to rally the entire school around the goal of creating a welcoming community committed to stopping all forms of bias and bullying. No Place For Hate® provides a unique framework to incorporate new and existing programs with one consistent message. No Place For Hate® can help our school foster a culture of respect and create a safe, bully-free learning environment for students in all grade levels. Please call Tami Summers, FCMS Counselor if you have any questions.

PBIS NEWS

PBIS- School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports is a systems approach to establishing the social culture and behavioral supports needed for all children in a school to achieve both social and academic success. Please see our school website for additional information. Rewards so far this school year : Rebel Passes earned in the school settings to use for various rewards: Blue Ridge Kiwanis Rodeo tickets, chances to win free admission to the FCHS Football games, and popcorn and snow cone reward. – Vanessa Weaver, PBIS Coach

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Check out our latest newsletter:

<http://inewsletter.co/1j9lNY/latest/>

EXCITING NEWS!

On October 3rd, five recipients for the REACH Georgia Scholarship were named for the 2017-2018 school year : Aailiyah Green, Aubree Beavers, Hunter DeMar, Kaigan Mull, and Richardo Alvarado.

REACH Scholars and their parents or guardians in school systems across Georgia will be signing contracts, committing to satisfying the program requirements, graduating from high school and enrolling and completing college.

FCMS IS LOOKING FOR VETERANS!!!



FCMS would like to honor as many veterans as possible at our Veteran's Program on November 10th at 1:00 p.m. If you know a veteran in our area please provide us with the following information so that we may send them a personal invitation. Remember all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend this ceremony.

VETERAN'S NAME: _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

* If you do not know the address, please provide us with as much information as possible.