

August 26, 2018

Hi Upper School Parents and Students!

We just finished our first full week of school. I always forget how long it takes to have everyone learn the new routines and start to become more independent and self-motivated. We will keep nudging things along though.

Math has been so very much fun with our math projects and math journals. I provided a lot of support for the math journals last week, but I want the students to start completing these more independently and not be so concerned about the right answer and understand that it is the process and thinking that are most important. We also completed our first Problem of the Week (POW) last week. Check in your student's graded math folder to see how they did.

The bright green folders with each student's name will come home every Monday (when it is a full week) for you to see what work your child has completed and how they are doing. Percentage scores are given on most work. Some items may just have stickers to signify they did it and I checked it. Other work may have checks, pluses, and minuses. Checks indicate satisfactory work; pluses reflect outstanding work; and minuses are assignments that did not meet expectations. Combination marks are a combination of the two used. For instance,  $\checkmark+$  would show that the student did better than average work but not quite outstanding and  $\checkmark-$  would indicate less than satisfactory work. Please review the student's work with them and then return the folder and the contents by Friday. The papers will be used to work on student-led conferences and portfolios at the end of the grading period. Folders will be reused weekly.

Every Monday (of full weeks) students will receive a Problem of the Week in a folder labeled with their name and "Problem of the Week" or "POW." Students will need to complete these and return the problem and folder by Friday at 8:00. Writing about the process of solving these as well as showing their work is very important on these problems. That is reflected in the rubric for this which is found in the POW folder and attached to each graded POW.

I want to thank all of you for the donations of towels for holding Quags. The students are thoroughly enjoying her. She tends to be more docile being carried around than Hershey does. Hershey will be back a week from Tuesday, so our room will be closed during the Corporation meeting.

I also want to thank Heather Wepsiec for spending time in the classroom. With so many levels and personalities, it has been great to have the extra helping hands. We will be moving the desks this week in the hopes of making sure every MacBook has an outlet without students having to move to the tables in Room 2 when we are having a whole class lesson.

Please remind your child that homework is based on **time** and they should set a timer to make sure they spend the full amount of time on each type of homework. I have a hard time believing that an eighth grader could only write a few lines in 30 minutes. Fourth through sixth grade students must complete 20 minutes each of reading, writing, and research for a total of an hour plus also complete any assignments they should have finished in class. Seventh and eighth grade students need to complete 30 minutes of each for a total of 90 minutes plus uncompleted work.

Last week the students chose their secret buddies from the PreK/K class and wrote them letters. They also wrote thank you notes. This week's assigned classroom writing will be narrative writing to be included in next week's newsletter. I had wanted some contributions for this week, but we are still trying to get everything in during our limited time. It seems like our days just fly by in the classroom.

Students are starting to get the hang of using their bullet journals (bujo) but still need to double check to make sure they are getting all their assignments recorded and then marking them off when they have completed them. By the way, completing them means they *have to* be turned in.

New math books are in, so there will be more math daily. Uncompleted work will go home in the math folder. Students are going to discuss ideas for our nutrition/foods class this week and then we will start that after Labor Day. It will have both a scientific and practical focus.

Students have come up with the vocabulary again this week. They are required to turn in their word and definition on Tuesday for me to use the next week. I need the extra time to check their definitions. The first week's list provided excellent teachable moments. Students should only be using words they can find in a standard dictionary, so after this week, we will no longer accept slang. As other issues crop up, there may be further restrictions on the words.

Upcoming events are listed below. I hope you all have a great long weekend at the end of this week.

Best wishes,

Carla

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 31: Noon Dismissal

Monday, September 3: Holiday-No School

Wednesday, September 5: Wacky Wednesday All School Meeting

Thursday, September 6: Corporation Meeting (Pot Luck at 5:30 and Meeting at 6:00)

Wednesday, September 12: Bake Sale for School Pets (3:00-3:45 in cafeteria)

Sunday, September 23: CNS Golf Scramble

## VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 27-31, 2018

1. **apple**: a deciduous tree growing from 6 to 30 feet high and producing a round fruit suitable for human consumption. (noun) (Nolan)
2. **benefit**: something that is helpful (noun) (Max)
3. **compatible**: capable of existing together (adjective) (Max)
4. **concentration**: the action or power of focusing one's attention or mental effort. (noun) (Keira)
5. **contents**: the amount of something (noun) (Gabriella)
6. **Eiffel Tower**: a tower of skeletal iron construction in Paris, France that was built for the exposition of 1889. (noun) (Ellie)
7. **gramophone**: old-fashioned device for playing audio recordings. (noun) (Kloey)
8. **necromancy**: the practice of communicating with the dead, especially to predict the future. (noun) (Clare)
9. **organization**: the act of arranging things neatly. (noun) (Gavyn)
10. **piano**: an acoustic, stringed instrument invented around the 1700s in Italy. (noun) (Bo)
11. **pretty boy**: a slang term used to describe a man who is notably good-looking (noun) (Jasper)
12. **quadrilateral**: a four-sided polygon (noun) (Avree)

13. **rebel**: a person who rises in opposition or armed resistance against an established government or ruler ( noun) (Wiley)

14. **rebel**: to rise up in opposition or armed resistance to an established government or ruler. (verb) (Wiley)

15. **unicorn**: a mythical animal typically represented as a horse with a single straight horn projecting from its forehead. (noun) (Grayson)

16. **weird**: suggesting something strange, supernatural or uncanny (adjective) (Anna)

17. **wolves**: wild carnivorous mammals of the dog family, living and hunting in packs. They are native to both Eurasia and North America (noun) (Liam)

18. **physics**: the study of matter and energy (noun) (Carla)

19. **chemistry**: the study of matter and how it changes (noun) (Carla)

20. **ellipsis**: punctuation consisting of three periods used to show a pause in dialog or to show that words or sentences have been left out. (noun) (Carla)