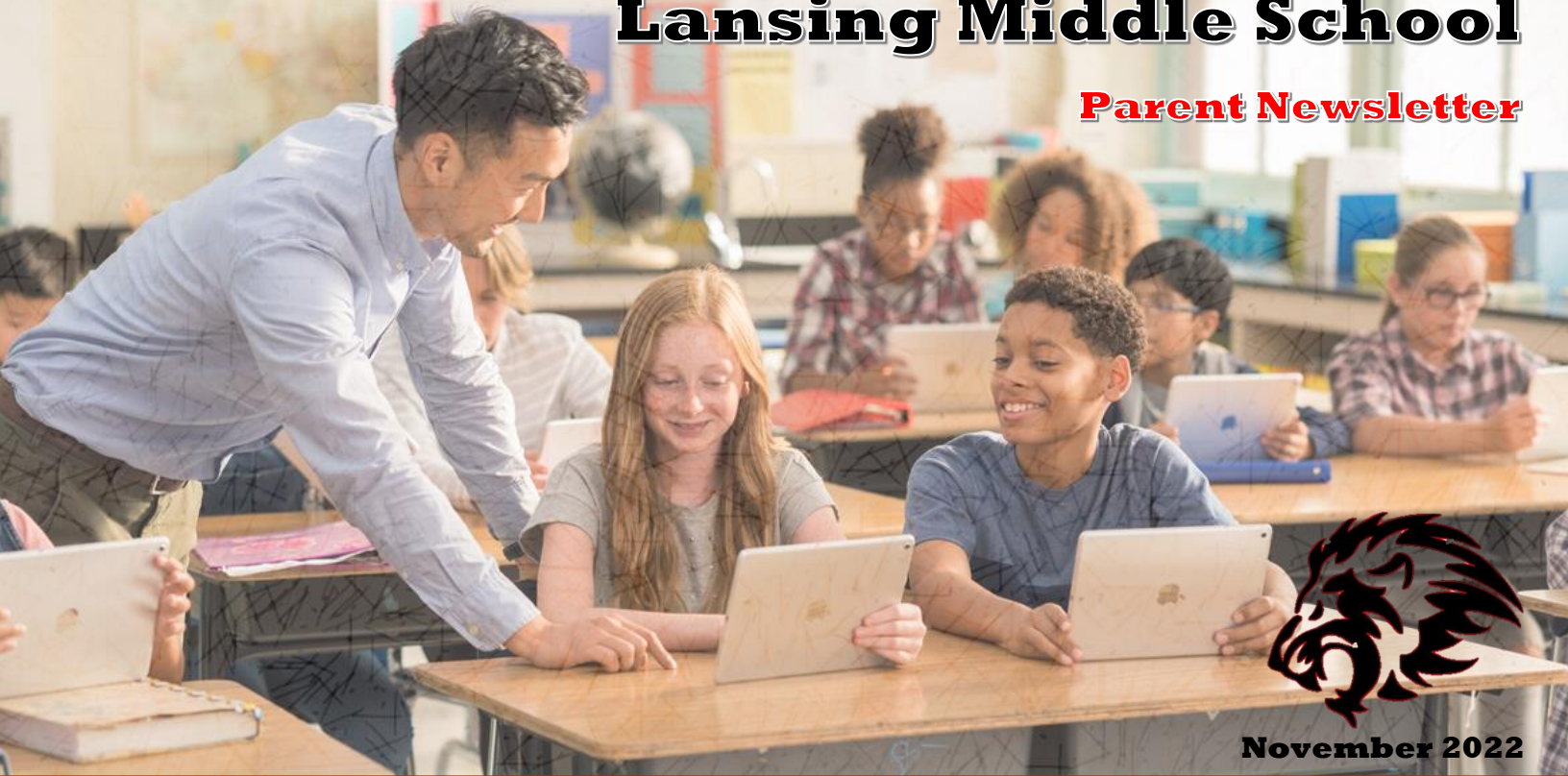


# Lansing Middle School

## Parent Newsletter



November 2022

### LMS Puzzle Club Raises Money and Participates in 5K



Lansing Middle School raised \$2,326 in donations during their school-wide coin drive for the Special Olympics of Kansas. The LMS Puzzle Club students and staff members ran and walked the Choose to Include 5k on November 5, 2022. Thank you to Declan Nauman, Keegan Cavinaw, Brodie Clark, Simon Tanner, Wesley Kannaday, Paytin Beeman, James Davis, Brielle Hope, Grace Thompson, Madelyn Bohnsack, Kendall Edwards, Quincy Wade, Piper Kobs, Elisa St. John, Katie Crowley, Jaycee Trimble, Nurse Kayla Kimball, Ms. Amanda Edwards, and Mrs. Emerald Peters for their participation. Extra special shout-out to Nicole Kerr for doing a fantastic job driving the bus and making the entire experience a party.

Article submitted by Emerald Peters to [usd469.net](mailto:usd469.net)

(original article can be seen at [https://www.usd469.net/vnews/display.v/ART/63693ab407d42?in\\_archive=1](https://www.usd469.net/vnews/display.v/ART/63693ab407d42?in_archive=1))

### Student of the Month

Lansing Middle School recognizes students for improvement throughout the year as well as academic and behavioral success through our Student of the Month program. Lansing teachers nominate students by team periodically throughout the year for this honor. Students receive a certificate and pizza at lunch. Our first students were recognized on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Awardees included the following students – **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Madelyn Bohnsack, Brodie Clark, Devin Dominick, Meliyah Heags, Aylani Jackson, Titus Mathis, Caleb Njoku, David Vodarick, and Katie Wendt. **7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Paytin Beeman, Kiah Bridgette, Carson Ellington, Casey Grammer, Aidyn Hagemann, Poppy Muzzy, Gabe Njoku, Ethan Valverde, Ashlyn Waite, Marshall Waters, and

MacKayla Welch. **8<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Julian Allen, Evelyn Bremer, Matthew Collins, Kaitlyn Dale, Gabby Gallman, Kevin Jorgensen, Otto Nevins, and Chisaraokwu Njoku.

### **Winter Athletics**

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Girls' basketball and wrestling are taking place right now and getting close to the half-way point of completion. Both sports have a good number of athletes participating. For basketball, we have close to 40 participants on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' teams. For wrestling, we continue to see a growing number of females that are taking part in the sport. Lansing High School offers two separate programs for boys and girls, and we believe this has impacted the sport positively at younger levels.

The basketball team has played five games to date, and they have had mixed success so far. The girls' basketball season will continue until the week of December 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and will conclude with the Kaw Valley League basketball tournament for both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams.

Wrestling has had three competitions. They took part in the Kaw Valley League Matchup on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. This features all schools in the league and wrestlers are matched up by experience and ability levels. Lansing Middle School will host the Lansing Wrestling Invitational on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual tournament with approximately eight schools participating each year. The wrestling season will finish on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Clark Invitational in Bonner Springs.

### **Pep Rally – November 4, 2022**

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Lansing Middle School held its first pep rally since COVID on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Pep rallies are “all school” events and all grade levels take part in a way to bring forth school unity and school spirit. At this pep rally, our pep band performed and our cheerleaders led students in various cheers. All fall sports teams were recognized with each coach – Chris Elliott, Volleyball; Ron Averill, Cross-Country, and Tom Cretors, Football, speaking about their seasons. Additionally, winter coaches – Ron Averill, Wrestling, and Jennifer Bishop, Girls' Basketball, spoke about their teams and the current seasons. Additionally, Kelly Faulk, LMS Cheerleading Coach, introduced the cheerleaders and recognized their success. It was a great event and it was nice to see all students involved again.



## **Fall Choir Concert**

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The LMS choirs had their fall concert on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Josiah Ketterman, LMS vocal music teacher, is in his second year at LMS. As usual, the choirs did an outstanding job, overall. I am always amazed at what can be accomplished with all of our choirs in such a short amount of time. This is especially true for the finale, which again this year was a coordinated effort with all choirs, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, performing together. This is something they

don't get to practice together until the day before the concert and sometimes the practice only occurs the day of the concert. It is a great way to conclude the concert and it really shows the abundance of talent we have in the performing arts.

## **The Lion's Paw – LMS Newspaper – November Issue**

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Please use the link below to access the November issue of the student newspaper – “The Lion's Paw”. Again, this is a great resource to see the viewpoint of LMS students on events at LMS.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H6wyCzC3wmibVNXGdvr2bZZ3pnpRNwZu/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H6wyCzC3wmibVNXGdvr2bZZ3pnpRNwZu/view?usp=share_link)

## **Upcoming Events at LMS**

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November 14<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert  
November 15<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball vs. Clark  
November 16<sup>th</sup> – Wrestling vs. Lexington Trails and Tonganoxie  
November 17<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball vs. Leavenworth  
November 19<sup>th</sup> – Lansing Middle School Wrestling Invitational, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
November 21<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball vs. Turner  
November 28<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade “B” Team Girls' Basketball Tournament  
November 29<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball vs. Piper  
November 30<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade “B” Team Girls' Basketball Tournament  
December 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball vs. Tonganoxie

## **LMS Professional Development – November 1, 2022**

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Lansing Middle School teachers conducted a “Plan Your Own PD Day” on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. As part of our staff survey on professional development, teachers have indicated that they would like a more personalized approach for professional development as things aren't always relevant to all staff each PD day. Teachers had a lot of flexibility with this day; however, the key is that new learning needed to occur. Teachers had to submit intended plans by October 12<sup>th</sup> for approval. Several staff went to other buildings to observe teachers and programs they wouldn't otherwise get to see. Other teachers went to learning centers in the Kansas City metro area while others utilized the wide availability of technology resources to garner new ideas. Overall, our staff was extremely pleased with the day with 75-100% of LMS teachers indicating that it was beneficial to highly beneficial to their overall needs.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

This is the setup that was used at LMS for fall parent-teacher conferences –  
Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM – All conferences took place at LMS and in-person  
Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM – All conferences took place via Zoom  
Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM – All conferences took place at LMS and in-person

This is a breakdown of how conferences were attended –

Grade Level	Total # In-Person Conferences	Total # Zoom Conferences	Total # Conferences	% In-Person	% Zoom
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Total</b>	278	31	309	89.97%	10.03%
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Total</b>	266	44	310	85.81%	14.19%
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Total</b>	132	42	174	75.86%	24.14%
<b>Multi-Grade Total</b>	114	44	158	72.15%	27.85%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	790	161	951	83.07%	16.93%

## Academic Spotlights

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts** – Kathy Baughman, Pecos Miller, Tiffany Simmons, Rachel Szmed

Sixth graders recently completed their unit on sentence types and structure so that it can be applied to writing. (W.6.10 Demonstrate command of and use knowledge of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.)

Currently they are creating and writing mystery stories based on the picture book *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*. (W.6.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. W.6.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.)

After the mystery stories, students will complete lessons on research and summarizing before beginning the final writing project of the semester – argumentative speeches. Students will complete lessons on research before conducting research for their chosen topic. Mrs. Baughman and Ms. Szmed are exploring ways to complete the argumentative unit as a mini debate in partnered groups. (W.6.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. W.6.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate. SL.6.4 Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.)

Throughout the semester, all language arts classes work on Greek and Latin roots, do journaling exercises, and a daily editing practice. Lessons include opportunities to work together when practicing new concepts. (SL.6.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.)

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature** – Kathy Baughman, Cheryl Borgeson, Connie Evans, Alisha Holyfield, Pecos Miller, John Riggs, Tiffany Simmons, Rachel Szmed, Amanda Thomas, DeeDee Wiley

Sixth grade literature classes Had fun with “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” at the end of October! The skills from the story revolved around story elements and plot while being an engaging story. The next unit will take us to back to ancient realms with stories about Egypt and

mythology in study sync. The primary skill and subject of the 2nd quarter is inferring as we read both fiction and non-fiction literature. Literature classes also take time to use the KITE mini tests to help prepare for the state assessments in the spring. As always, students are asked to use text evidence when proving their answers in all literature content.

RL.6.3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

RL.6.5: Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math – John Riggs, DeeDee Wiley***

This month 6<sup>th</sup> grade has diligently worked on all fraction operations. We were pleasantly surprised to see the foundation of fractional knowledge that 6th graders came to us with! The students have expanded their knowledge with thinking flexibly about all fractional operations. We will move on to decimal operations next month. We are excited to see their growth in these two areas.



From Mr. Riggs, "I'm attaching a photo of Gillian Bryant, leading my class through solving a mixed number division problem. She was on fire with excitement about understanding the lesson. I jokingly said, "You should teach the lesson!" She responded with an enthusiastic, "Okay!" I showed the photo to Gillian's mom at her conference. It was gratifying to see how proud mom was of her daughter. This is learning in action, and what keeps me going as a teacher!"

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science – Alisha Holyfield, Amanda Thomas***

In our Gravity and Kinetic Energy Unit, we are beginning our investigation into energy and collisions. Students will learn about kinetic energy and how energy transfers during a collision by colliding marbles and cubes under various circumstances to collect data. This lesson is a good introduction to Newton's Laws of Motion. We will learn about each law individually, making a comic strip to go along with each. This will lead us to our second common formative assessment (CFA). After our second CFA, we will begin our engineering project where students have to protect their "bean brain" in a collision. In this case, we will use real eggs instead of plastic eggs filled with beans. Students will need to create a protective device that will secure the egg and keep it from breaking when dropped from the top of the stairwell to the commons area. This will take us to Thanksgiving Break. When we return, we will start our third unit – Electromagnetic Force.

### ***6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies – Cheryl Borgeson, Connie Evans***

This month we began our unit on Ancient Egypt and Kush. Students have been engaged in learning about Egypt's geography and making connections to the previous unit on Mesopotamia. They are recognizing the importance of rivers to the development of new civilizations, specifically the Nile River in Egypt. Students have read articles and watched videos on why Egyptians mummified their dead and the process involved in mummification. Furthermore, students learned why the pyramids were built. We also explored possible methods ancient Egyptians used to build the pyramids. Using an interactive add-on to Google Slides (PearDeck), students used their writing skills to explain why pyramids were so important to the ancient Egyptians. In addition to new vocabulary words, several key pharaohs were discussed including Khufu, Ramses the Great and the female pharaoh Queen Hatshepsut. Using map skills they learned at the beginning of the year, students also completed an assignment this week using a map of ancient Egypt.

Looking ahead:

Coming up next month we will be finishing up our unit on Ancient Egypt by discussing Egyptian achievements in writing, temples, tombs, and art. Our next unit will be over ancient India.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts – Mindy Brinker, Brandy Hamilton***

Seventh grade language arts classes had an exciting October! We started off by working on both persuasive and narrative writing with our “Sell This Haunted House” and “Spooky Story” assignments. With October also begins our annual seventh grade research paper. Not only does this project address all three of the 7th grade Writing standards in the area of Research to Build and Present Knowledge (W.7.7, W.7.8, W.7.9), but it also helps students to build the social-emotional skills of grit and perseverance as they work through this long and difficult process.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature – Tom Cretors, Katie Larson, Becky Lowery, Brandy Hamilton, Rachel Sheeley, Stephanie Smalley***

The 7th grade Literature classes have just finished reading, *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson. The students learned about mood and tone during this story along with how suspense is created in the story. Students also reviewed story elements and theme while reading the story. Students will start reading *The Giver* at the beginning of November and throughout the month. Students will read the book together in class and have discussion around the story elements and theme. Students will also work on inferencing skills along with how the setting and characters interact to create plot and mood in the story.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math – Denise Dixon, Theresa Jones, Angela Remington***

7th grade Math 1 students are still working on rational number computations and application. There have been a lot of gaps that need to be filled for large groups of kids with multiplying 2-3 digit numbers, long division, and fraction work. Fastbridge scores indicate that most 7th graders have gaps reaching back to 2nd grade concepts. This is where we are focusing for our Tier math classes and frequent reviews in all classes.

Our first quarter common formative assessment (CFA) covered all operations with integers. We were surprised to see that many student’s CFA scores went down after the reteach. This was an odd occurrence, and we are unsure why students would score worse after four days of review. We used several modeling techniques to help solidify concepts’ meaning. Our hope is that spiraling these concepts into the rational number will help students understand the “Why” we follow procedural steps for each operation. We are seeing some real concerns in the areas of retention of information for the last two cohorts of math students.

Math 2 students are starting Unit Rates and proportional relationships work. This will be our 2nd quarter CFA once Math 1 completes these modules in November.

All students should be doing math enrichment during mid-day study hall. The requirement is ten minutes of MobyMax before starting homework. Many students are still working on basic math facts (multiplication and three-digit addition/subtraction). Overall, fluency is low with this cohort.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science – Stacey Jenkins, Stephanie Smalley***

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade science, students have been studying bacteria and viruses, comparing and contrasting their structures and how they function. They learned there are more beneficial types of bacteria than harmful, and then made and ate yogurt as a way to experience some of the helpful

bacteria. While studying viruses, students learned some specific information about COVID-19, making their learning applicable to what they have been experiencing in their lives. We also wrapped up the gardens for the season, putting the dead plants into a compost pile to observe bacterial saprophytes at work as the materials decompose, and planting lots of turnips, a cool weather crop that contain nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their roots. These will leave nutrients in the soil while preventing weeds from growing until we are ready to plant again in the spring.

### ***7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies – Tom Cretors, Edward Fenton***

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, we have just started our second unit on Kansas History. We begin the unit with understanding the tragedy of slavery in the United States and Kansas' role in the great divide created by the issue that ultimately leads to both Kansas' statehood and the civil war. We end the unit discussing the great migration of white settlers to Kansas after statehood is established.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts – Tracey Carney-Linn, Julie Price, Danielle Perry, Stacey Ward***

Eighth grade has been working on a second unit, "Courageous Choices". It has stories that involve the characters making difficult choices and standing up for what they believe is right. Students will learn how to write the body paragraphs with context to their text evidence. They have practiced how to write a universal theme statement with our story The Terror. Students have spent time working on Verb Moods and how to correct a shift in verb moods. We have also been working on No Red Ink, learning about commas. Vocabulary is also being used over the course of this unit with the stories and their writing.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature – Dana Blew, Tracey Carney-Linn, Jessica Graves, Julie Price, Danielle Perry, Stacey Ward***

Eighth grade has been busy with wrapping up our Suspense novels. We are now moving into our unit on, "In a Time of War". This unit focuses on World War II and the Holocaust. We have spent the past two weeks getting background information about World War I, World War II, and the Holocaust. We reviewed world history from the end of WWI to the rise of Hitler and Nazism to WWII and the impact it had on Anne Frank. Students spent time doing a WebQuest on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website. We read the speech by Winston Churchill called, "Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat" on how he was urging Great Britain to join the war against Germany. They have practiced several of their reading standards with these books such as how words provoke action of the characters and move the plot forward. The novel we will be starting is *The Diary of Anne Frank* (play version).

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math – Miranda Cote, Penny Wagner***

**Math 1:** Math 1 students have started Unit 2. They are currently working on Module 3 and will test the first week in November. Module 4 is Non-Proportional Linear Equations. Students will complete the module with a Stained-Glass Activity that uses skills learned in Modules 3 and 4. Students will find solutions to equations and graph them in straight lines. Once they have the lines graphed, they will color them to resemble a Stained-Glass Panel. By the end of the month, they will have begun Module 5, Writing Linear Equations from data, graphs, and two points.

**Math 2:** Students are finishing Modules 4 and 5 the first half of November. They will complete the Stained-Glass Activity that uses skills learned in Modules 3 and 4 early in the month. Before the end of the month, Math 2 students will learn how to read, solve, and graph functions.

**Algebra:** Students just completed Unit 2 and will begin Unit 3 at the beginning of November. Unit 3 consists of Linear Equations and Inequalities. Students will learn how to change equations from Slope-Intercept to Point-Slope and Standard forms and graph them. They will also learn how to solve and graph linear inequalities with 2 variables. Unit 3 will end just before Winter Break with a Water Park Activity where students will create a map drawing, plot points, create equations, and create a fun Water Park for people to enjoy.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science – Josh Yoakam***

Students finished their motion exploration and began focusing on Newton's Laws. Students are focused on applying their knowledge in real world applications. We discussed safety innovations in the field of automobiles comparing cars from the 50's and modern vehicles. Safety and prevention measures were discussed in terms of Newton's second law, in particular manipulation of the time over which negative acceleration occurs to reduce the force on occupants. Students completed an air resistance lab to increase the time over which an object drops.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science – Jessica Graves, Kaylea Roth-Longe***

This month we are "digging" into rocks and minerals! We began the unit with geologic time and have moved on to rocks and minerals. 8th Grade Science will complete the second CFA next week. As we continue, we will explore earth's many layers and how it all comes together to form the earth's surface. We are proud of the progress students have made and are excited to see what this unit has in store for them.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies – Ann Andrews, Dana Blew***

Eighth grade Social Studies classes are finishing our unit on Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, and the leadership challenges they experienced domestically and abroad. Using a simulation activity, students were placed in decision making scenarios, like those experienced by Lewis and Clark (Corps of Discovery). Students created "conflict" videos explaining/illustrating some of those conflicts (Barbary Pirates, Battle of Tippecanoe, Embargo Act). Finally, we concluded the unit by mapping some of the major battles from the War of 1812 and will take our assessment this week. Next week, we will begin a unit that examines our new nation's growing sense of pride and unity (1815-1840).

### ***Advanced Studies – Josh Yoakam***

Students in the sixth and seventh grade classes, a portion of students in the eighth-grade class continued work on their Future Cities projects. Each group has selected their target city and will be designing their mitigation plans to address a climate change impact for their selected cities at least one hundred years in the future. Students will be developing a 1500-word essay, physical model, a video explanation, project plan and are scheduled to present in January. We had a visit from an architect with Hollis & Miller (Megan Warner). She discussed architecture as a profession, different fields and gave insight into her educational pathway. A STEAM field trip was arranged for Advanced Studies students to visit the University of Kansas. Students will tour multiple museums, civil engineering facilities, aerospace engineering facilities to learn about engineering as a profession.

### ***Art – Emily Bucher***

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Welcome to art for 6<sup>th</sup> grade for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter! Students created front and back bookmarks that will be laminated so students can use throughout the year. This encourages reading during free time. Students also created their "Ultimate Ice Cream" design before starting our cave art unit. For cave art, students watch "Cave of Forgotten Dreams" while taking video notes



and sketching animals. Then, they will create a glue outline adding color with pastel. After this project, students will learn about the life and work of John James Audubon, before creating a colored bird drawing as well as a cut paper collage of their same bird.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Recently, students learned about the life and work of Edvard Munch and his creative contribution to the world of art with his four versions of "The Scream". Then, students were asked to use a figure from their popular culture to integrate instead of the original figure. Choice of medium is determined by the student. Currently, students read and learned about the life and work of pop artist Wayne Thiebaud. He was a dessert artist famous for his cakes and pies. Claes Oldenburg, a three-dimensional pop food artist was also briefly explored. Students are working with clay to create a 3D form of their food of choice and will also create a 2D painting of their food in series.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Recently, students finished creating a piggy-bank clay sculpture, inspired by the history and tradition of the first piggy banks. After a powerpoint introduction featuring videos and images, students were asked to come up with designs and create one of their own. We began glazing and adding colour to them on Friday. Glazing and final firing will occur this week.

**9<sup>th</sup> Hour Art Enrichment** – Recently, students created clay sculptures inspired by their own ideas and designs. These clay pieces are still in the process of being fired. Next, students could create glue and salt spider webs on black paper colored and decorated with watercolors, when glue and salt were dry. We also spent a couple of afternoons outside chalking and drawing, when the weather was nice.

### ***Band – Aaron Edwards***

The bands have started working on concert music for their concerts on the following dates –

Beginning Band First Concert: November 14<sup>th</sup>

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert: December 6<sup>th</sup>

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert: December 12<sup>th</sup>

We have also begun our morning jazz band program; we have 35 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participating this year!

### ***Choir – Josiah Ketterman***

The MS choirs have just finished their Fall Choir Concert. They did an outstanding job! With the close of a concert comes the beginning of the next. The winter concert will be held December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the district auditorium. Students have started diving head first into learning the music and they can't wait to share it with their families and friends. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be beginning a ukulele unit soon as well as learning their songs for choir.

Also, the middle school has finished auditions for Talent Show that will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Families are encouraged to bring a dry good item for donation to the Lions' Pantry instead of paid tickets.

At the end of November, we will also be holding auditions for the middle school musical. This is the first year in many that the middle school will be having a musical and students are eagerly waiting for the announcement of the show. The musical will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Computers – Sara Meyers***

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers** – Our new batch of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for the second quarter have recently joined the computers classroom and started off creating "All About Me" presentations using Google

Slides. Students also gained a brief introduction to the various parts of the computer and how to properly use one in class. Our classes are working on completing our unit on Google Docs, learning how to format documents, create menus, and design professional presentations on their dream dog. Since Google Docs is widely used across the district, it was important that students know all the ins and outs of this Google Platform. Once we complete our Google Docs unit, classes will migrate over to learning how to use Google Sheets and creating Thanksgiving lists and budgets by using this platform.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Computers** – In 7<sup>th</sup> grade computers, students worked a unit on planning and creating items for a big Halloween Bash. Students began brainstorming party ideas to include, a party name, location, and menu items. Students were then tasked with shopping for party decorations and food within a certain budget. They then needed to put their party together and create a Halloween invitation, menu, and finally a digital invitation where they applied skills of using the green screen and iMovie. As November starts, students will work on creating Google Sheets centered around the Thanksgiving holiday and with basketball stats.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Applications** – 8<sup>th</sup> graders continued their introduction to CTE pathways (Career and Technical Education) with an introduction to consumer and personal finance. Students started to learn the important of having a budget, what a budget is and looks like, and how to stay within your means when purchasing items. Students were tasked with grocery shopping with a limited budget. They needed to work around the unexpected costs of food items and learning how to maximize their savings by finding discounts and coupons. As the month progresses, students will learn more about interest, stocks, and debit vs. credit. Once we complete this unit, classes will move on to learning more audio/visual platforms working with camera angles and movie making.

### ***Library – Karen Averill, Middle School/High School Librarian***

We've had a busy first quarter at the Middle School and High School Libraries. We began the year with orientation for all students. I have a session with all incoming freshman and new students the first day of high school. Some of that information is review for students that attended our middle school. I have both libraries set up by similar genres. There are 16 different genres, including adventure survival, classics, historical fiction, sports, and realistic fiction. The middle school also has a couple of lessons to help students learn how to find books and how to use the library services.

The middle school Literature classes come to the Library every other week for a lesson, time for check out, and silent reading. Besides orientation, we've had lessons on plagiarism, book talks on the William Allen White books and discussed the award named after him, and watched the promotional video for our Scholastic Book Fair. If the students read and pass a 5-point quiz on five of the ten William Allen White books, they can attend an ice cream sundae voting party in April. I worked with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts classes for several days in the library doing animal research. They use print and internet sources for their reports. At the middle school, I also held a Scholastic book fair during conference times. Students get excited to see all the new books.

The high school English classes come in to check out books for reports and for enjoyment. To add some fun to the holidays, I held a pumpkin decorating contest at both the middle school and high school. Students have fun decorating the pumpkins and coming in to vote for their favorite.

### ***Math Intervention – Emerald Peters***

During October, math intervention continued to assess students missing skill gaps with IXL Diagnostic and Fastbridge CBM data monitoring. Students were provided with differentiated instruction using IXL and Moby Max. Students were pre-taught grade specific concepts with the

program resources that are being piloted. Math and Reading interventionists learned more about ION and how to implement it effectively in order to collect data and have it in one location. They also implemented the newer/updated Fastbridge format.

### *PE – Jennifer Bishop, Jason Floetke*

This month, we have completed our final mile run and 89% of female PE students got a better time than their baseline mile in the beginning of the semester. Male PE students will be completing their final mile this week. We will complete final sit-up and pushup tests in December.

We have moved on to our unit in basketball after completing our unit in volleyball. Besides volleyball rules, boundaries, and fundamental skills, we introduced Spikeball (a variation of volleyball that can be played as a lifetime sport) during the first quarter. We will look to move to badminton and Ping-Pong as the quarter progresses.

Our build your own professional development day will find both the boys and girls PE teachers at Basehor where we will observe middle school PE there and see what we can bring back to Lansing to enhance our program.

### *Reading Intervention – Rachel Sheeley*

Students currently in Reading Strategies classes are continuing their work with more in-depth vocabulary study using the words they are seeing in their regular literature classes as well as phonic skills and words with prefixes and suffixes. Each week students also practice their fluency and comprehension using individual passages. We just recently started working with the Leavenworth Times newspaper which is providing a serial entitled “Generations of Missouri”. Each week students will read a new chapter provided in the newspaper while completing vocabulary and comprehension questions. Students then get to look at the paper and find other articles of interest to them. Students are also learning about how newspapers are organized and provide both factual and opinionated information.

We have begun progress monitoring using the updated Fastbridge progress monitoring tool. Many students have been excited to see their growth since our benchmarking occurred in August/September.

Game Day Thursdays continue to be a highlight of the week for many students. We are now incorporating the vocabulary they have been working on into our game time.

### *Spanish – Cristy Quinn*

#### **Spanish 6th Grade, 2nd Quarter**

Bienvenidos! Welcome! We will begin the 2nd quarter with our class agreement created and presented by the students. Students will learn the Spanish speaking countries and their location, the alphabet in Spanish. We will be practicing spelling and basic greetings in Spanish.

#### **Spanish 7th Grade**

Students are currently learning direct and indirect object pronouns. We are practicing the pronouns with the classroom objects vocabulary words. Students made beautiful skulls for the day of the dead. The display is outside the Spanish classroom wall.

**Spanish 8th Grade**

It has been a pleasure to see how the 8th grade students advance in Spanish. The interest that they show to learn a second language is clearly the reason for their success. I am very proud of this group!

***Technology – Ron Averill***

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are working through their Expeditions as expected. They are also working on a “Bird Saver” assignment throughout the next month which will include brainstorming, steps of construction, a presentation, and a constructed project.

The sixth-grade students are all new as they are on quarterly rotations. We have completed orientation and have started working through their missions.