

Lansing Middle School

Parent Newsletter



December 2022

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families “Happy Holidays” from the faculty and staff at Lansing Middle School. We appreciate the support you give to us and the partnerships we have formed as we both work for the best interests of your adolescent.

The first semester has flown by. We have seen positive impact in several ways in the area of behavior. This was a focal point to start the school year based primarily on the 2021-2022 school year. With that said, we continue to see a small percentage of our students that are dysregulated and have significant behavior concerns. Even though it is a very small percentage of students, this impacts our school. We continue to try to address this through BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team), interdisciplinary team meetings, special education, and any other means possible. It is important to remember that we have the vast majority of our students that are exhibiting great behavior, getting remarkable grades, and making good decisions. We are going to search for more and greater means of recognizing the students that are doing the right things on a consistent basis.

On the topic of BIST, Lansing Middle School has been chosen to be a host school for the site visit during the BIST Leadership Conference in January of 2023. Lansing Middle School has utilized BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team) since the Fall of 2013. As a behavior program, it has been a dependable piece in helping teachers and students manage and regulate daily behavior. As a host school for the site visit, schools from the multi-state area that also utilize BIST will come to LMS to hear from the LMS BIST Vision Team about the impact that BIST has had on Lansing Middle School students. LMS was chosen because of its’ ongoing commitment to BIST and consistent implementation.

Students recently completed Fastbridge testing in the areas of reading and math. The Fastbridge assessment is taken three times each school year – fall, winter, and spring. It is used to determine placement for tier classes and measures current math and reading ability. Students were given their scores for the fall assessment and then they set goals for improvement on the winter test.

Now that testing is complete, Miss Sheeley and Mrs. Peters, LMS reading and math interventionists, will finalize Tier 2 and Tier 3 enrichment classes. We will send home communication to parents of students that are placed into these extra support classes. On a positive note, we saw growth in almost all grade levels and subject areas from fall to winter testing.

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 second group of students were recognized on Wednesday, December 7th. Awardees included the following students – **6th Grade** – Briana Adams, Addyson Agnew, Gillian Bryant, Dahn'te Carson, Rubi Escobar, Jane Hoins, Madeline Huhn, Furious Irlmeier, Phoenix Johnson, Nikolas Philip, and Mason Stephens. **7th Grade** – Dayton Bollin, Zanna Garza, Charlotte Kuhn, Machlin Marshall, Gabrielle McCall, Ryan Murphy, Kyndal Schneider, and Greysen Yoakam. **8th Grade** – Elleanna Banker, Katie Croley, Cale Denney, Sarah Finney, Bryce Hernandez, Ethan Hohensinner, Justiz Hoschouer, Ryleigh Kermashek, and Eli Matina.

Winter Athletics

Girls' basketball and wrestling both wrapped up seasons in the last week. Both sports had a good number of athletes participating. For basketball, we had close to 40 participants on the 7th and 8th grade girls' teams. For wrestling, we continued to see a growing number of females 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 had mixed success during their seasons for both the "A" and "B" teams. The girls' basketball season concluded with the Kaw Valley League basketball tournament December 5th – 8th. Wrestling had its concluding meet on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Clark Invitational in Bonner Springs. This meet is extremely competitive, and I am happy to announce that the Lansing Middle School wrestling team took first place. This is quite an accomplishment!

Performing Arts

The Lansing Middle School 6th grade band held their first performance on Monday, November 14th. This concert is held with a different format than traditional concerts as it is the 6th grade's first performance in band. Students talk about the different instruments, how class and practice time is utilized, and the pieces they are performing. It is an excellent way for them to showcase the progress they have made from having little to no exposure to band at the beginning of the year. Mr. Aaron Edwards directs the band and Mr. Blake Vignery assists in the role of percussion instructor.

Lansing Middle School held a talent show on Friday, November 18th under the direction of Jonnie Brice and Josiah Ketterman. The show was excellent! It was very impressive to see the various talents that our students at LMS possess. Students taking part included – Ava Valdez, Adyson Icke, Emily Backer, Madeline Huhn, Nicole Mack, Katherine Wangsgaard, Brynna Harwood, Allie Waite, Chisa Njoku, Kaitlyn Dale, Athena Rodriguez, Mylah Snyder, Brooklyn Patton, Selina Vega, Laney Chastain, Ashlyn Waite, Breanna Polley, Jocelyn Slavens, and Avelyn Estes. MCs were Lilly Banister and Carter Young. The tech crew included – Vivian Chase, Quentin Fitzhugh, Daniel Lawrence, Keegan Cavinaw, Mya Simmons, Angela Walker, Lillie Denney, Lucy Johnson, Rylinne Manning, and Tancred Gant.

The Lansing Middle School bands also held performances on Thursday, December 8th and Monday, December 12th. The December concerts are always a good way to see how far the bands have

progressed through the start of the year. It was very noticeable at these concerts that great improvement has been made since the beginning of the year.

Spelling Bee Winners at LMS

8th Grade	7th Grade	6th Grade
1 st Place – Ethan Hohensinner	1 st Place – Ethan Valverde	1 st Place – Jenna Taylor-Shapiro
2 nd Place – Lilly Banister	2 nd Place – Gabe Hawkins	2 nd Place – Conner Walsh
3 rd Place – Chisaraokwu Njoku	3 rd Place – Charlotte Kuhn	3 rd Place – Furious Irlmeier

All students taking 1st Place will represent LMS in the Leavenworth County Spelling Bee and all place winners will attend the Kaw Valley League Spelling Bee. Congratulations!

The Lion's Paw – LMS Newspaper – December Issue

Please use the link below to access the December 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/1LenanpFuPWks8ADo0_Io_tM4glOJmpi/view?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LenanpFuPWks8ADo0_Io_tM4glOJmpi/view?usp=share_link)

Staff Information

Lansing Middle School has had a variety of extenuating circumstances that have affected staff this school year. I would like to commend our staff on the way they have pulled together to handle these challenges as they have presented themselves this school year. We are very fortunate to have such caring individuals that are willing to help out in such an unselfish manner to minimize the effects. We have had more positions go unfilled without substitutes over the last few weeks. We have staff work creatively to fill those positions. This always results in less plan time which is an extreme burden on a teacher but is not always noticeable to students.

** At the 8th Grade, Mrs. Perry continues to be on extended leave due to illness. It looks like this will continue well into second semester. Our thoughts are with Mrs. Perry at this time. We have been fortunate to have Mrs. Diane Peintner fill in as Mrs. Perry’s long-term substitute teacher during 2nd quarter. Mrs. Peintner will continue in that role for the duration of Mrs. Perry’s absence. Mrs. Peintner has taken over all roles associated with the teaching position, i.e. lesson-planning, instruction, discipline, grading, etc. Mrs. Peintner taught at Lansing Middle School from 2008 until 2020, when she retired. She was both an 8th grade teacher as well as a 6th grade teacher in the time she taught at LMS. Before that, she was a teacher and an administrator in several other districts.

Upcoming Events at LMS

December 17 – January 4 – Winter Break for LMS Students

Thursday, January 5th – School resumes for LMS Students – *please note that this is NOT a late start since it is only a two-day week.*

Thursday, January 12th – 8th Grade Boys Basketball vs. Basehor-Linwood

LMS Professional Development – January 4, 2023

On January 4th, Lansing Middle School and Lansing Intermediate School teachers will be working with Wade Redeker from Greenbush on the topic of Instructional Strategies. This will take place in the AM. Exploratory teachers will work on GVC in the afternoon. 6th grade teachers will work on vertical alignment with 5th grade teachers. All other teachers will have time to apply learning from the morning session to their current practices.

Student Attendance

Over the past month, we have had an increased number of absences due to illness. This was pretty awful stuff and we certainly want students to stay home if they have an illness so they can get the rest they need while not exposing other students.

Reminders/Important Information Regarding Absences –

- When a student is absent, a parent should call to report the absence to the school. Please do this before school starts so we can adequately communicate this to teachers.
- Another reminder is to stress to your child the importance of getting his/her work made up from the absence. Some important tips for helping with this – 1) have your child check Google Classroom for missed work, 2) have your child submit any completed work through Google Classroom, 3) if your student doesn't understand what is expected of them in terms of work during the absence, encourage him/her to either email the teacher and/or have a conversation with the teacher when returning to school. We had a noticeable drop in grades for students that were absent in November.
- Finally, if your child is not ill or out for another extenuating circumstance, it is the expectation that s/he is present at school. A reasonable expectation for students is to have no more than (8) absences during the school year.
- We had a 92.5% attendance rate for first semester. Our goal is to have a 95% attendance rate.
- If there are extenuating circumstances requiring an extended absence, please call the school so we can talk about a plan.

Academic Spotlights

6th Grade Language Arts – Kathy Baughman, Pecos Miller, Tiffany Simmons, Rachel Szmed

After returning from the Thanksgiving holidays, 6th grade ELA students are diving into argumentative writing. The students are introduced to new academic vocabulary and writing structures, as well as the MLA style of citing sources for the first time, before choosing topics for an argumentative speech. The students will select from eight high-interest topics Mrs. Baughman and Ms. Szmed have chosen. Websites are selected and previewed for research. The unit will culminate with argumentative speeches presented to classmates.

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.

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

6th grade literature classes began the month of November practicing and improving on their fluency with Six-Minute Solutions. For one-week students read a short article titled “The History of Halloween” to improve reading fluency. Teachers planned a cross-curriculum lesson using “Hatshepsut: His Majesty, Herself” from Study Sync. This tied in nicely with our 6th grade social studies classes that were learning about Egypt and Hatshepsut as well.

Before Thanksgiving break, the team reviewed our data to determine the student's deficits in connection with the state standards. We determined the greatest needs is in the area of citing

textual evidence. (R.L.6.1) We are using *StudySync and Scope* to direct our lessons in giving the students more practice on textual evidence to include inferencing.

Coming up: In December we will be using Study Sync and an excerpt from the “Lightning Thief” to continue working on citing text evidence to support inferences. Students will be taking their 2nd CFA of the year over citing text evidence to support inferences.

6.1-Text evidence, 6.2-Central Idea, 6.3 & 6.5 – Plot Development, 6.7 – Compare and Contrast

6th Grade Math – John Riggs, DeeDee Wiley

Sixth-graders have just completed their unit on Decimals. We had a lot of exposure to all four operations and putting them into action with real-life scenarios. They were exposed to purchasing items and calculating total cost to include taxes. They were given scenarios where items were purchased and they calculated change received. We recently started our units on ratio and proportions. This is a great turning point in their math journey where they will see a lot of concepts learned from grades K-6 come together!

6th Grade Science – Alisha Holyfield, Amanda Thomas

In November, after taking our unit assessment over Gravity and Kinetic Energy, students completed an Engineering Design Project. During the unit, students were introduced to the concept of impulses. They learned that increasing the time it takes for an object to change speed in a collision results in less force applied to the object. Students had to use this principal to design a protective device for an egg. They were given an Egg Drop Challenge with specific criteria and constraints. They worked in groups to design this device that would protect their egg from breaking. After dropping their egg in the protective device from a high distance, students discussed and analyzed the results with their group.

Our next unit is over Electromagnetic Force. The focus of this unit is what the relationship is between magnetic and electric forces. We will investigate the force of invisible magnetic fields, learn how to build a circuit, design an electromagnet, and explain how transfer of energy makes this possible.

6th Grade Social Studies – Cheryl Borgeson, Connie Evans

This month, students continued to learn about Egypt with a focus on their achievements in writing, architecture and art. Students read and watched a video on the importance of the Rosetta Stone and how it helped Egyptologists unlock the meaning behind ancient hieroglyphics. Our study of Egypt would not have been complete without a closer look at King Tutankhamun (King Tut). Students watched a video on the amazing artifacts found in his tomb. With their histories closely intertwined with Egypt, students also learned about the kingdom south of Egypt – Nubia (modern day Sudan).

After finishing the unit on Egypt, students completed an extensive review for their second Common Formative Assessment (CFA) of the year covering human / physical geography and primary / secondary sources. Before going on Thanksgiving break students applied their knowledge about primary and secondary sources completing an assignment using our new resource, Actively Learn. The assignment used document-based questions (DBQ) about the first Thanksgiving. Students answered questions analyzing both primary and secondary sources.

As we close out November and head into December, we are starting our unit over Ancient India. In preparation students have completed Doodle Notes on both Hinduism and Buddhism. Students are beginning to recognize the important role religion played in the growth and development of all

civilizations. Additionally, they will learn about the Indus River. A recurring characteristic they will identify is how vital rivers were to the development of many ancient civilizations.

7th Grade Language Arts – Mindy Brinker, Brandy Hamilton

In seventh grade language arts classes, we spent the last month on our big project for the year – research papers. This time-intensive assignment requires students to seek out answers to their research question by investigating both print sources in the library as well as online sources using their iPads. Students must use higher level thinking in order to draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis and research. The final product, which teachers are in the process of evaluating right now, is an informational research paper using citations and written using proper MLA format.

7th Grade Literature – Tom Cretors, Katie Larson, Becky Lowery, Brandy Hamilton, Rachel Sheeley, Stephanie Smalley

Seventh grade students are reading The Giver in class. Students seem to be enjoying the book so far. Students are working on making inferences and conclusions along with identifying story elements and themes during the reading of the novel. Students are also gearing up for the Fastbridge assessment this month by making goals for improving scores. Each student has set a goal with his/her teacher. Fastbridge assessments will be given at the end of November and continue into the beginning of December.

7th Grade Math – Denise Dixon, Theresa Jones, Angela Remington

Math 1 students completed their unit on rational numbers and operations. They also completed the module work for proportional relationships. The culminating activity allowed students to connect the concepts of unit rates, tables, graphs and linear equations for word problems.

Math 2 students completed the entire unit for proportional relationships and percents. They are starting their course work for expressions and equations during the last week of November. There are a few students who are working at the Algebra ready pace or closely behind the pacing. Modern Classroom has allowed these students to work at the pace most appropriate to their math needs.

The Fastbridge test window opened the last week of November. Due to concerns about student test fatigue, we moved our Fastbridge test to the first full week of December to avoid testing at the same time as reading. We have prepared our goal sheets for the students and will have students write goals prior to testing.

We have started the spiraling review as directed by the district. The 7th grade cohort has many math gaps between 2nd and 5th grade that we are covering briefly (5 min) during class. An end of week assessment is given to track growth.

Math Enrichment continues to work on missing skills identified through Fastbridge fall scores, MobyMax placement test, and IXL assessments. We will reevaluate student Tier placement after the winter Fastbridge testing.

7th Grade Science – Stacey Jenkins, Stephanie Smalley

In 7th grade science, students completed a unit on Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration. Along with some traditional notes and worksheet review, practice and modeling of the processes were completed in a variety of ways: Lego Modeling, Ping Pong Ball and Egg Crate Simulation, Puzzle Practice, Concept Wheel, and finally a Quizizz for digital review with instant feedback.

We have now moved to our next unit covering Body Systems. We begin with an engineering activity with groups of students creating prosthetic hands using syringes and tubing to create a basic hydraulic device. They then have options of craft sticks, pipe cleaners, rubber bands, string, tape, etc. to create a moving hand that can pick up a wadded-up piece of paper, with a class competition for the best hand at the end. Then we look at the body systems that control our hands (muscular, skeletal, and nervous) and concentrate on how all the systems work together. We will then study the other systems, with the focus continuing to be on how the systems act as a team to keep our bodies functioning.

7th Grade Social Studies – Tom Cretors, Edward Fenton

In 7th grade Social Studies, we have just completed covering the material for unit two, which included the tragedy of slavery in the United States and the role Kansas played in the great divide created by the issue that ultimately lead to statehood for Kansas and the Civil War. Our next unit will include homesteading, immigration, and the importance of railroads to the development of Kansas.

8th Grade Language Arts – Tracey Carney-Linn, Julie Price, Danielle Perry/Diane Peintner (Long-Term Sub), Stacey Ward

Eighth grade has been working on the **Unit 2 Courageous Choices**. It has stories that the character must make difficult choices and stand up for what they believe is right. Students have worked on how to write the body paragraphs with context to their text evidence. They have practiced how to write a universal theme statement. Learning about fighting for equal rights with girls and boys with the story *The Friday Everything Changed*. We read a couple of poems “Sonnet” and “When I Look at the World” learning the themes of standing up for yourself and fighting for what you believe to be right. Looking at how those themes can be tied to current times. After reading the story, *Transcript of Full Joseph McNeil Interview* where they learned about the sit-ins and how the actions of a small group turned into a much larger movement. Discussions were intense during the reading of *The Treasure of Lemon Brown*. Understanding that something worth value to you is worth fighting for. We will wrap up the unit with literary analysis on these stories. 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, transitions, and commonly confused words. Vocabulary is also being used over the course of this unit with the stories and their writing.

8th Grade Literature – Dana Blew, Tracey Carney-Linn, Jessica Graves, Julie Price, Danielle Perry/Diane Peintner (Long-Term Sub), Stacey Ward

Eighth grade has been busy with our unit **In a Time of War** that focuses on WWII 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. 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. The novel we read was *The Diary of Anne Frank* (play version). Students were able to make several connections to things they learned in the WebQuest and Churchill’s speech. They were able to watch the movie version of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and have discussions on why the film version was so different from the play version. Students worked on juxtaposition and how it was used in our stories. The unit will wrap up with reading *The Boy in Striped Pajamas*, *Teaching History Through Fiction*, and *First They Came*.

8th Grade Math – Miranda Cote, Penny Wagner

8th Grade math is wrapping up Unit 2 by Winter Break. They have been working hard to learn the different components of Proportional and Non-Proportional Relationships, graphing, identifying slope and the y-intercept, and writing linear equations from different sources. When we return after Winter Break in January, we will be diving into Measurement Geometry which includes Angle Measurements, the Pythagorean Theorem, and finding the Volume of 3-dimensional shapes. Embedded in the unit will be projects that apply the skills they are learning in real world scenarios and artistic projects.

Algebra class is wrapping up Unit 3, Functions before the Winter Break. When we return after Winter Break in January, they will also work on 8th Grade Unit 5, Measurement Geometry. We are looking forward to seeing how they like the unit.

8th Grade Physical Science – Josh Yoakam

Students finished their Newton's Laws exploration with an Engineering Design Challenge as a performance task. Students engaged with the University of Colorado Boulder PhET Energy Skate Park Simulation to explore kinetic, potential, and thermal energy transfer. We continued to focus on application of content in the real world. Students learned how to change a tire, we applied physics terms to what was occurring with regards to the work being done on the system and how the jack and the lug wrench were simple machines. Students will conduct a power lab to tie together work, force and power. Students will then transition to learning about thermal energy culminating with an applied engineering project to design an energy efficient home.

8th Grade Science – Jessica Graves, Kaylea Roth-Longe

We have traveled from space and back to earth. We have discussed the rock cycle, weathering/erosion and earth's landforms. We are now diving deep into the earth and studying the earth's layers. We will end the quarter with an activity connecting back to the entire semester by completing a heat transfer cocoa experiment. Students have enjoyed the lessons so far and have been able to connect concepts back to their own observations.

8th Grade Social Studies – Ann Andrews, Dana Blew

8th grade social studies have been studying about the Industrial Revolution and the impact the revolution had on the North and South. We learned about the new inventions in technology, transportation, and other advances that improved the way of life and economy of our nation. We used some short readings about the 1840's mill workers to incorporate the Think-Pair-Share instructional strategy, to facilitate foundational reading. We learned about the south's greater dependence on cotton and slave labor and how the northern textile mills and the southern plantations were linked. We finished the unit studying the challenges of growth and the problems Americans faced moving westward. We will be finishing up our unit on the Industrial Revolution next week with a test over chapter 11 on December 9th, and then spend the last days of this semester on the Underground Railroad and have students research and make a video about Harriet Tubman.

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, project plan and are scheduled to present in January. Each group met their first project plan

deadlines. On November 9th advanced studies visited the University of Kansas for a STEAM field trip. Students toured museums, got to experience materials testing in the civil engineering facilities, visited the formula car lab where engineering students are designing and building every piece of cars that are raced against other schools. Dr. Barrett-Gonzalez invited students into his aerospace engineering lab and discussed design. Students ended the day with the opportunity to fly drones in the Engineering Department's commons area. Following the visit, a number of students expressed an interest in further exploring engineering careers. I will continue to seek out student identified career-based speaker opportunities.

Art – Emily Bucher

7th and 8th grade students competed in the annual Peace Poster Contest sponsored by the Lansing chapter of the Lions Club International. We had three winners from LMS: Ashlyn Waite - 1st place (7th grade), Molly McArdle - 2nd place (8th grade), and Mylah Snyder - 3rd place (7th grade). All students received a cash award for their work and were recognized during a short ceremony in 3rd hour/7th grade art class. The posters will go on to county and possibly state judging.

8th Grade: Students read and learned about the life and work of Vincent Van Gogh and watched various short videos about *Starry Night*. Then, students were asked to create their own version in which they "disrupt" and change the design in a creative and new interpretation. Choice of medium is determined by the student.

After this, the classes read and learned about the life and work of the Pacific Northwest Native Americans and their traditional totem art made from red cedar trees. Students then used their knowledge and background of the art history to create ceramic totem spoons featuring totems that represent their personality or life somehow. The totems help to adorn and add decoration to the spoon form. The spoons have just been fired, so these will be glazed hopefully by the end of this week to allow students to be able to take them home by next week.

Currently, students are learning about the life and work of Giuseppe Archimboldo. He was a student of Leonardo that used organic forms such as fruits and vegetables as motifs to create portrait paintings. Value, shading, shape, and form are emphasized in the lesson. Students will use the yellow #2 pencil as a motif to create a depiction of an animal in a different and very unique way.

7th Grade: Students recently finished glazing and adding details to their food clay sculptures based on the life and work of food pop artist Claes Oldenburg. They were fired and students were able to take these home. In between drying and firing, students added any remaining details to their 2-D depiction of their food painting, inspired by the life and work of Wayne Thiebaud, another pop artist that utilized the theme of food throughout his work.

Currently, students are working on a winter keyhole scene in which a winter wonderland is depicted inside a keyhole shape. Texture is added around the scene to add interest and contrast to the illustration. Choice of medium is determined by the student.

6th Grade: Students finished up their bird drawings and collages based on the life and work of John James Audubon. Recently, students created a minion "selfie" that reflected themselves in the form of a minion in which they were encouraged to add details, accessories, and an interesting background scene that depicted their likeness and personality. They also worked on "A Fun Game" drawing challenge, in between projects and for those that finish early.

Currently, students are creating beverage "funny cups" that incorporate uses of pattern and texture with the help of oil pastel and watercolor as their medium. Students are encouraged to create hot chocolate, tea, or coffee with an interesting background.

9th Hour Art Enrichment: Recently, students created turkey drawings around Thanksgiving that featured a fun fact written next to the illustration in their best possible handwriting. Currently, students are creating holiday cards, winter keyhole scenes, or holiday movie characters of their choice to work on during this time. Some students have asked to work with clay to create various sculptures to be fired and glazed.

Band – Aaron Edwards

During December, the bands are busily preparing their music for the upcoming Winter Band Concerts. Our 7th and 8th grade band concert was December 6th. Our 6th grade beginning band and MS Jazz Band concert was December 12th.

Lansing Middle School had five students make the Northeast Kansas Music Educators' Association 7th/8th Grade Honor Band. They performed with the Honor Band on Saturday, December 3rd. From the 8th grade, Dallas Beeman – Trumpet and Emily Hedberg – Alto Saxophone were selected. From the 7th grade, Declan Blacketer – Bass Clarinet, Glory Kane – Flute, and Carmen McLilly – Tuba were selected.

Choir – Josiah Ketterman

All Choirs at the MS are beginning to be Performance Ready! Their concert is December 14th, at 7pm in the district auditorium and will feature 6th, 7th and 8th grade choirs.

6th Grade has also begun a commercial jingle project. They are tasked with creating a product, marketing it and utilizing music to sell said product. Students selected for NEKMEA district choir are gearing up for their performance December 3rd. These students are:

- Allie Waite (8th Grade)
- Rachel Dowty (7th Grade)
- Ava Valdez (7th Grade)
- Chloe Bullard (8th Grade)
- Ethan Valverde (7th Grade)
- Elijah Sloan (8th Grade)

An update for All State Choir, we had three students at the Middle School selected for All-State Choir, these students are: Machlin Marshall (7th Grade), Sarah Finney (8th Grade), and Elijah Sloan (8th Grade).

We also had several choir students audition for the Middle School Musical, we are wrapping up auditions and call backs this week and will hold our first rehearsal on Monday, December 5th.

Computers – Sara Meyers

6th Grade Computers – Our 6th grade students spent the month of November creating Thanksgiving menus and fall harvest festival flyers by utilizing their skills using the Google Docs platform. Students also worked on creating meaningful "Things I am Thankful For" Google Slides presentations as well as animated Thankful turkeys in Google Slides. As we move onto our winter holiday season, students will begin exploring the integration of social studies and technology by creating presentations of various countries with our research with Holidays Around the World. Our 6th grade classes will also embark on various virtual field trips using Google Earth and exploring many states, countries, and cities by viewing gingerbread houses, extreme holiday light displays, as

well as other cultural traditions surrounding the holidays. Students will also create a special holiday postcard by utilizing our classroom green screen and photo editing software.

7th Grade Computers – As 7th graders entered the month of November, they were introduced to Google Sheets. Students worked for several weeks learning proper formatting, using the various functions available, creating tables and charts, and building a budget. Students also explored the history behind the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade and prepared original Google Slide presentations. Students focused on how the parade originated, along with many of the famous balloons that were flown every year. Currently, students are creating in-depth eBooks integrating social studies while they research traditions celebrated in the country of their choice in our holidays around the world unit. Students used their research and outline skills in which they have previously learned in their literature and ELA classes by compiling as much information as possible about their country from reliable sources and websites. Students were then tasked to create their own eBook through Google Slides, showcasing their newly found information.

8th Grade Computer Applications – 8th grade students kick started the month of November by creating a Thanksgiving One Pager Project. Students created a one-of-a-kind Google Slide showcasing things they are thankful for. Students were tasked with finding quotes that spoke to them about thankfulness as well as meaningful words that stood out to them about what being thankful is. They were also asked to insert pictures of things and people they are thankful of and write a paragraph explaining why they are thankful for each item on their one pager. This project was important as it reminded our students of what they are thankful for having in their life along with things that mean a lot to them. Students also became travel agents and prepared presentations of holidays at either Disneyland Park in Southern California or Walt Disney World in Florida. Students were asked to prepare a presentation showcasing the special holiday celebrations, food, events, and decorations at the park of their choosing. As we enter December, students will shift their focus to our next CTE pathway (Career and Technical Education) and learn about movie making, audio/visual platforms and working with camera angles. Students have begun to learn the various camera angles that are used when directing and creating films and will begin their projects of short-film creations.

Math Intervention – Emerald Peters

During the end of November and start of December all LMS student will be taking Fastbridge Winter screening assessments. The results of these assessments will be included in the decision-making process for new and continued tier groups. New tier groups and movement within current math enrichment groups will occur at the beginning of the third quarter in January 2023. Throughout December and January students will continue to build skills identified as areas of need by Fastbridge, MobyMax, and IXL assessments. We will be pre teaching key skills in core classes to provide scaffolding.

PE – Jennifer Bishop, Jason Floetke

The boys PE classes completed their final timed mile and 95% improved their time from the initial mile run.

Both boys and girls PE classes have begun the Health portion of the course and will finish that in the next two weeks.

We have reviewed the rules of Ping Pong and are now playing that lifetime sport during the classes, as well.

Both Coach Floetke and Coach Bishop are starting to poll the students anonymously regarding a more specialized PE course offering in the future to discuss with administration.

Reading Intervention – Rachel Sheeley

We are continuing to read the serial provided in the Leavenworth Times. It has been fun to see students connect the characters and setting between the chapters as the story progresses based on the chronological history of Missouri. Students are also currently completing their aReading benchmark screening in our tier classes rather than in their Literature classes. Providing students this option allowed students the comfort of working in a smaller environment where they are more comfortable with peers of their level. Students have taken advantage of this by cheering each other on in completing the screening and celebrating their growth. The cheering and celebrating continues biweekly as students complete their progress monitoring. Students will continue to practice their reading skills using holiday-based activities to support the skills they need to focus on.

Spanish – Cristy Quinn

Spanish 8th grade:

Students are learning to tell the time in Spanish.

The spelling and the pronunciation of numbers will be practiced daily.

Students will be able to say at what time an event is: class schedule, after school activities.

Verb tener - to have.

Holiday vocabulary words.

Spanish 7th grade:

Students will be practicing the spelling and pronunciation of numbers with nouns.

Time telling in Spanish, subject pronouns and holiday vocabulary words.

Spanish 6th grade:

Spelling and pronunciation of numbers 0 - 100.

Students will learn to introduce themselves and someone else.

Holiday vocabulary words.

Technology – Ron Averill

The sixth grade Tech classes are quickly coming to an end. This has been a quarter class so it has moved pretty quickly. The students are anxiously anticipating the activities at the end of the quarter. They will have the opportunity to test out their delta wing gliders that they have built during the quarter as well as flying the hot air balloons that they made out of tissue paper.

The seventh and eighth grade classes are completing their last expedition. They are also finishing this semester with a special activity that is called the “bird saver” activity. The students were required to develop a “bird saver” which will be used to safely return a bird to its nest that is located 10 feet off the ground. The activity includes brainstorming, steps of construction, a presentation, the construction of the “bird saver”, and the application of the product in a simulation that is located in the gym.