

Arbutus Middle News

End of 3rd Quarter, April 2019

END OF
3RD QUARTER!



6th Grade



Reading & English

Language Arts students recently completed Unit Three - Embracing My Heritage which culminated in the writing of a PBA where students wrote a speech arguing for or against a specific topic. Students used text support and elaborated on that with other facts as well as personal information. Also, students were recently introduced to vocabulary.com where they have been engaging in monthly JAMS organized by Baltimore County Public Schools to enhance their vocabulary and promote love of learning new words!

GT Language Arts students completed THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER and are currently engaged in the writing of monologues that will be shared in class. Students selected a well-developed character from the novel, and through the use of "voice," colloquialisms, and text support will effectively portray their character during their presentation.

In Reading Foundations, students continue to focus on their vocabulary and reading comprehension. Students are receiving small group instruction to improve upon their decoding of words with numerical prefixes. Also, students are improving their own writing as they develop an invention and create a commercial for their idea. As students engage in these activities, they are preparing for their end of the year i-Ready diagnostic assessment.

As Reading Research students move into the 4th quarter, they also move into Unit 4. In this unit (Making Artistic Connections: Connecting Ideas Through Words and Pictures), students will explore graphic novels, comics, and non-print text in order to notice the similarities and difference between text formats. The graphic novel features (panels, gutters, dialogue bubbles, captions, sound effects) will be taught and used throughout this unit as students develop their ability to create their own graphic novel pages.

Math

Over the next few units students will be applying and solving for independent and dependent variables in algebraic equations. Students will write equations based from data they analyze in tables and graph the algebraic relationships that are represented in the graphs on a coordinate plane. Students will also identify and define various geometric terms and use given formulas in order to determine the area and volume of these polygons.

World Cultures

In sixth grade World Cultures, we have just completed our study of Ancient Greece. We had our Unit test last week, please be sure to check Schoology to see your student's grade on that exam, as well as all of their other grades. As we enter the fourth quarter, we will turn our focus from Greece to Ancient Rome! We will begin studying the Roman Republic, and then on to the Roman Empire and its collapse. This is typically one of the more enjoyable units for students, as we will focus on the geography of Ancient Rome, it's economy, their innovations, and finally the legacy of Ancient Rome. We look forward to finishing the year strong!

Science

The Physics unit focusing on Newton's Laws of Motion. For a summative assessment, students will engage in a culminating event that assesses their understanding of how to predict an object's continued motion, changes in motion, or stability. The theme throughout the unit is helmets, as students will be designing and constructing helmets (to accommodate a large plastic egg) in order to model sport-specific collisions, as well as designing the test apparatus to model those collisions. This is an extension of the Safe Racer unit in Grade 3 which is where students last investigated Newton's Laws of motion using eggs in cars.

Other

As the weather warms, please be sure your child is coming to school dressed appropriately. Dress expectation is outlined on page 4 of the student agenda. Please take some time to review that with your child again. All students must have an agenda with them throughout the day. This is where they can document homework, long term projects, and serves as their hall pass. Students without agendas will not be permitted to leave the classroom. New agendas can be purchased for \$10 from the front office.



7th Grade

End of the Year Field trip to Annapolis on June 7th

Permission slips for our field trip to Annapolis, MD on June 7th were sent home on April 8th.

Starting from the beginning of 4th Quarter on April 8th, the following criteria must be met in order to participate in our end of the year trip:

- Students cannot have more than 3 SIRs
- Students cannot have more than 1 Referral/Administrative Consequence
- Students cannot have books or damaged book payments due to the library or teachers
- Students cannot owe consequences (detentions, assignments, etc.) to teachers or administration
- Students must earn promotion onto 8th grade

Annapolis Groups, Tours, and Chaperone Information

- Students will choose their chaperone based on first choice, second choice, and third choice.
 - We will do our best to accommodate student choices, but it is not guaranteed.
- Once students have been placed into groups, each group will choose the tour they would like to participate.
- Chaperones must be a parent or legal guardian of the student.
- The Women of Achievement tour is limited to 40 students and chaperones.
- Chaperones on the United States Naval Academy tour will require a USA Government Photo ID (driver's license or passport).

Friday, June 7th

7th Grade - Annapolis, MD Field Trip

8:30 am – Leave AMS

9:15 am – Arrive to Annapolis

9:30 am – Organize into tour groups

9:45 am – 11:15 am – Tours

- African American Heritage
- Colonial Myths and Legends
- United States Naval Academy
- Women of Achievement

11:15 – 1:15 pm – Lunch and touring of Annapolis with group/chaperone

1:15 pm: Return to buses to leave by 1:30 – meet at Annapolis City Dock (same location as drop-off)

1:30 pm – Leave Annapolis to return to AMS by 2:30 pm

Pre-Algebra

The 7th grade Pre-Algebra students just wrapped up Unit 3, Expressions, Equations, & Inequalities. In unit 4, students will be learning about Statistics and Probability. The unit is broken down into 4 sections-Analyzing & Comparing Data (using measures of central tendency to compare data in dot and box plots), Random Samples & Populations, Experimental Probability, and Theoretical Probability and Simulations.

Algebra

Algebra I students just finished up Unit 2, Exploring Linear Relationships. We're jumping over Unit 3 and into Unit 4, Quadratic and Other Functions. The unit is broken down into 4 sections – Polynomial Expressions, Graphs of Quadratic Functions, Solving Quadratic Equations, and Other Functions. This content is a sizable piece of what will be assessed by PARCC.

World Cultures

The 7th Grade World History Students will be examining the pre-Columbian settlements in North America. The students will be taking part in lessons that explain the political, social and economic growth of the Maya, Aztecs, Incas and the Eastern Woodland Indians. They will also take part in a historical inquiry and determine who is responsible for the collapse of the Mayan, Aztec and Incan civilizations. The students will also take part in a short Financial Literacy mini unit at the end of the semester.

Science

In the upcoming unit students will learn the principles of different forces including magnetic fields, electromagnetic fields, gravitational forces, and potential energy. Students will be introduced to the properties of magnets, electromagnets, and magnetic fields produced by electricity. They will examine the factors like magnitude of force and distance apart that affect the strength of the electric and magnetic forces. Later, students will conduct an investigation to look specifically at how a build-up of electric or magnetic fields within an object can cause the object to attract or repel another charged or magnetized object; the key idea being that a field can exist between two objects that are not touching. Finally, students will study how the mass of an object can affect interactions with forces, in particular, gravity. Students will also use a model to show how objects are affected by both force and distance which can in turn affect the amount of potential energy.

World Languages

Quarter 4 is quickly approaching and students taking a World Language will be entering their last unit. If your students take Chinese, please note that they will have a comprehensive Final Exam given near the end of the school year. Spanish students will be working on foundational skills and reading Spanish language books in order to create their own! Please make sure your student is studying at home in order to come to class prepared.

Standard Language Arts

Students in the Seventh Grade are completing a unit entitled "Choosing to Appreciate Historical Fiction" which will engage students in reading a variety of paired historical nonfiction and historical fiction texts based on the same event. The students will participate in a variety of activities designed to help them understand how writers of fiction use historically accurate information but yet alter the actual moment in history to create a fictionalized text. During this unit of study, students will read factual information about several different moments in American history and analyze how the writers of history organized their information. Then, they will study a novel by Walter Dean Myers entitled *Harlem Summer*. At the end of the unit, students will compose a narrative based on a historical event in which the students use and alter history.

GT/AA Language Arts

Students are currently researching argumentative topics and will synthesize their research by creating an essay, editorial, speech, or public service announcement/commercial.

The following standards will be covered through their research and final product:

- **RI7.6** Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.
- **RI7.8** Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.
- **W7.1** Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- **W7.9** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.



Grade 8 Team

Hard to believe we are already into 4th quarter! Just think, in about two and a half months, our 8th graders will be leaving us to start their high school years. We will continue to work hard to prepare them for 9th grade!

The students in Algebra I begin their study of the structure of quadratic and polynomial expressions and equations. They identify the characteristics of these equations and expressions, and perform operations on them. The unit puts heavy emphasis on the relationship between the form of a quadratic function and the graph of the function, emphasizing the key graphical characteristics identified from the structure and form of the quadratic function (i.e. standard, vertex, factored forms). The students continue their study of quadratic functions, focusing on solving quadratic equations algebraically. In math 8, students are starting out fourth quarter finishing up analyzing scatter plots and two-way tables. Their next unit is exploring transformations of geometric figures. These transformations include translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations. GT Geometry students are wrapping up the unit on properties of triangles before moving into exploring polygons and quadrilaterals. In this unit, students will become experts on their quadrilateral and then present it to the class.

In the first half of Quarter 4, U.S. History students will come close to finishing Unit 5: Sectionalism and Slavery. Students will investigate early social reform movements and their influence on the lives of Americans. Students will examine the quality of life of enslaved people and the efforts of enslaved peoples and abolitionists to resist, escape, and abolish slavery. Students will construct support for the concept of sectionalism through an examination of the political, economic, and social characteristics of the North and South. Students will learn that slavery was one of the key components of sectionalism. Students will examine the government's attempts to resolve the widening chasm between the two regions, the election of 1860 and the ultimate disunion of the country.

Advanced Academic U.S. History students will have their Quarter 4 Project broken up into 5 reflection prompts with 5 different due dates (each entry cannot be turned in over a week late. Advanced Academic U.S. History students will read the graphic novel *The Underground Abductor*, individually respond to five reflection prompts about the novel and participate in three lessons about Harriet Tubman's life in context of Unit 5 and civic action. Additionally, the *Underground Abductor* is a compliment to the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* that the students will be reading at the same time in ELA. Students will use this book study to more in-depth understanding of slave resistance and civic action against injustice.

The unit "The Challenge of Living in a Divided Nation" will engage Standard Language Arts students in a close examination of the structure of texts to convey meaning. Students will analyze the stylistic choices - word choice and/or rhetorical devices - made by writers to develop central ideas and overarching themes. They will study texts in various forms including film clips and print/visual texts, as well as shorter and longer texts of both fiction and non-fiction. Texts will frequently be presented as "sets" to encourage students to compare the way different authors express similar themes or ideas.

For the Performance Based Assessment, students will compose a literary analysis by explaining how the structure of two differing forms of text conveys a similar meaning. Students will evaluate the effectiveness of each form by examining the stylistic choices of each author to develop a similar, central theme.

During this unit, students will engage in a "Whole Novels" study of *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*, which is related to the theme of the challenges associated with living in a divided nation.

The unit "Language and Community" will offer Advanced Academic Language Arts students the opportunity to explore how language can influence a community. To that end, students will analyze the use of rhetoric by various writers and speakers and apply rhetorical skills to a piece of original writing. Students will read various speeches, poems, letters, and articles related to the seminal texts, identify elements of rhetoric used by the writers, and evaluate the effectiveness of the rhetoric.

The unit culminates with a PBA in which students select and analyze the rhetoric used in two commencement speeches and use one of those speeches as a mentor text in which to compose their own "farewell to middle school" speech.

There are two seminal texts for this unit to be taught using the Whole Novels approach. The first text is *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Online reader response journal entries for this text focus on Douglass's use of the rhetorical appeals. The second text is *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Online reader response journal entries for this text will be more reflective and creative, as students will take on the character of one of Lincoln's conspirators and write a historical fiction journal response for each chapter read.

Standard science students are well into their climate detectives unit. We will be starting to look at how humans impact climate both locally and around the globe. When we wrap up with the climate detectives unit we will be looking at how humans use resources and how our resource use affects the world around us.

Advanced Academic science students will be given an opportunity to go on a field trip. Space is limited to only 30 students for each day and there will be two days. This field trip is on a first come, first served basis. Be on the lookout for permission slips coming out soon!

As always, please regularly check Schoology for assignment and grade information, as well as course updates posted by your teachers.



Music Department

Springtime is Performance Time in the AMS Music Department! We have a number of important performances coming up so please take a second and mark on your calendars all of the exciting opportunities your music students have coming up!

Congratulations to all of our band and orchestra students who participated in the BCPS Solo and Ensemble Festival in February. This year we had more than 50 students participate, and 30 of these students received a Superior rating and will be representing AMS at the Maryland State Orchestra (May 11th) and Winds and Percussion (May 18th) Solo and Ensemble Festival. These students also had the opportunity to be featured in our Music Department Spring Recital at the Charlestown Auditorium on April 8th. Great job everybody! The AWE, Jazz Band, Concert Orchestra, and Festival Choir will host our 5th grade students from our feeder elementary schools at our annual AMS Side-by-Side Concert on Tuesday, April 17th. Rehearsals will go until 5:15 that day, followed by dinner in the cafeteria, and then the concert at 6:30. This is a great opportunity for our incoming 5th graders to see what we're all about as a music department at AMS and to get them excited about joining us next year!

The week of May 5th will see the AWE participate in the Maryland State Band Festival, an honor this ensemble earned by receiving Superior ratings at the county festival in March. Again, more information is forthcoming in the form of a permission slip.

Our Spring Concerts will be on the following dates:

Monday, May 20th – 6th Grade Band, Orchestra, and Chorus

Tuesday, May 21st – 7th Grade Band, Orchestra, and Chorus

Wednesday, May 22nd – AWE, Concert Orchestra, and 8th Grade Chorus

Thursday, May 23rd – Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, Festival Choir, and Show Choir

All concerts will start at 6:30 in the AMS Gymnasium with a report time of 6:00 for students. Please come out and support our students as they showcase what they have learned in class since August, we think you'll be impressed!

Our Music in the Parks competition is Saturday, June 1st in Hershey, PA! Students will soon be receiving a detailed itinerary of the schedule that day, including what time they need to report to AMS that morning, and what time they need to be picked up that evening. Please make sure that your child is paid in full as soon as possible as the music department has payment deadlines that must be met for us to go on this important and exciting trip! Also, if you would like to purchase extra "chaperone" tickets, you may do so at a cost of \$35 a piece by Friday, April 26th. We will not be able to make any changes to our ticket numbers after this day!

Finally, information went home with your music student last week about Baltimore County's Summer Music Camp, held from June 18th to June 26th at Perry Hall High School. This day-time music camp allows your child to continue their musical learning and culminates in an outdoor concert at the scenic Oregon Ridge Park in Hunt Valley. Transportation to and from AMS to PHHS is included in your registration fee, and financial assistance is available on a first-come, first-serve basis for those families that qualify. Please see, sign, and return the information sent home with your child!

Please feel free to email your child's music teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress in class, check out our Music Department website (arbutusmiddleschoolmusic.wordpress.com) for more information, and like us on Facebook to receive the latest updates about the goings-on in the music department.

Music Makes a Difference,

Kelly Boyle

James Miskimon

Caitlin Blough



You can still preorder your AMS 2019 yearbook! It's not too late!

Our next in-school Preorder Blast will be during the week of May 20-24. Students can purchase their yearbooks all that week during lunch for \$30, cash or money order.

If you would like to preorder at school prior to the Blast in May, you can send in your \$30 to the front office and they will be sure to turn it in to Mrs. Bruce. Mrs. Bruce will send your receipt home with your child. As always, you can preorder your yearbook on the AMS school website. Just click on the "Yearbook" tab on the left side of the site.