





Thunder Cluster Update

09/13/24



General Info:

- If you haven't already, feel free to add our **Thunder Cluster Homework Calendar** to your personal Google Calendar by clicking [this link](#), then selecting "add". (*Please note, this must be first done on a computer and not on a phone in order for it to work!*) Students have already added this calendar to their Franklin Google accounts. Homework assignments for all four academic classes will be posted here each night.
- Please note that Google Classroom automatically creates assignments on Google Calendar for students' classwork assignment deadlines. To see an accurate listing of homework assignments, please make sure your student only looks at the **Thunder Cluster Homework Calendar**.
- Some students have been struggling to carry all their belongings from class to class. If it would be helpful, we have suggested that they bring in a small tote bag to help them.  
- Please remind students to charge their chromebooks everyday after school. They should be coming to school with a **fully charged chromebook**. 
- Please see the following message sent earlier today by Ms. Motte:
Don't forget to register your child's chromebook (use this [link](#)). Students who have not yet registered will have limited access to their Chromebooks. We had several students experience this today as they were working in classes. You will need your student's device number to register. This can be found on the cover of their school Chromebook.
In addition to registering, you will have the option to purchase Chromebook insurance for this school year. We highly recommend purchasing the insurance for \$45 instead of paying the repair/replacement fee of \$250 for an uninsured, damaged device.
Please reach out with any questions.
- We will have our first lockdown drill on Monday, September 16. We previewed this with students this morning during advisory and will also review the purpose and expectations of this drill again with them on Monday morning.
- There will be an **early release day on Tuesday, September 17** for teacher professional development. Students will be dismissed at 10:45 am. 

Upcoming Assessments and/or Due Dates:

- Unit 8 Math assessment *tentatively* 9/27

Curriculum Updates:

ELA: Next week in ELA, we will continue working with our first short story, "Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros. While reading this story, we will focus on using active reading strategies, identifying character traits, and point of view. This week students independently read the story and answered guided reading questions as they read to help them get in the habit of pausing periodically to make sure they are comprehending what they are reading.



Next week we will reread and discuss the story as a class to reinforce comprehension. Students will then collect text evidence to help determine character traits for each of the two main characters from the story.

Finally we will review Point of View and why it is important to understand what point of view a story is told from. Students will be asked to retell the story of "Eleven" from Mrs. Price's point of view. They will be able to do this either by writing a journal entry from her perspective, or recording a video blog to recount her side of the story.

Math: This week in Math we continued our work with Data, Variability, and Statistical Questions. Students worked through understanding categorical data vs. numerical data, reading and creating dot plots (line plots) and bar graphs. Students learned about what characteristics make a statistical question and are also working on analyzing data sets. Next week, we will expand on this work by working with histograms (creating and interpreting) as well as working with measures of center and variability and learn how to calculate mean average.

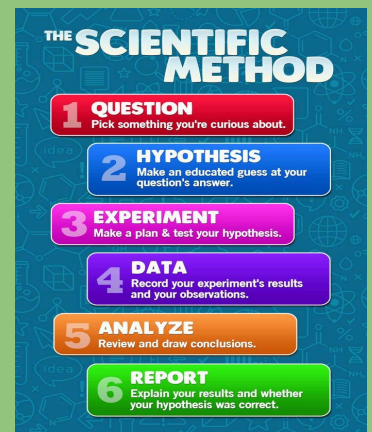
We began Unit 8 Data & Statistics this week. Students received their **purple workbook** in class this past week and set up their notes for this unit. Students should bring their workbook and notebook to class every day. We began discussing the difference between numerical and categorical data, identifying and creating statistical questions, and began to graph data on dot plots. We will continue with these skills next week and learn how to make histograms and calculate mean average. Here is the family support link for [data, variability, and statistical questions](#) so that you can learn more about what your child will be learning in this unit.

Science: This week we continued to work our Inquiry Unit. This week we tested which soapy substance would move pepper the fastest when it is in water. We also tested different liquids (oil, rubbing alcohol, and karo syrup) to find out which substance created a simple lava lamp when water, food coloring and alka seltzer tabs were added. We are still working on identifying the independent variable, dependent variable, control, and constant variables in an experiment.

A great tool for practicing the Inquiry vocabulary is the Wordwall activity on Google Classroom. The students will find the Wordwall link on Google Classroom when it is assigned.

All students have a Virtual Notebook for Science, this is found on their Science Google Classroom. I also keep a virtual notebook for each class. Everyone is able to access my notebook in Google Classroom as well. We have found this to be helpful if a student is absent, misses class, or they want to double check their notes with mine.

Important Vocab: Hypothesis, Control Variable, Constant Variables, Independent Variable, Dependent Variable, Qualitative and Quantitative Observations



Social Studies: This week we learned about what it means to be a social scientist and different subjects and careers within the field of social studies. Students reviewed important vocabulary that will be essential to memorize for the rest of the year, as well as different memorization strategies. I reminded students of resources on Google Classroom and our classroom word wall as valuable resources throughout this year. Students also began an in-class project where they create a



help wanted ad for 1 social scientist career, done either on a poster or a custom Google Sites webpage. We also had a special lesson reviewing basic information about 9/11 and why it's important to "never forget."

Next week, we will be wrapping up our helped wanted ad project in-class and starting our first unit of the year, Human Origins. I'm looking forward to displaying these help wanted projects in my classroom, and I will also include some photos in next week's update! :)

Please remind students to stay updated with Google Classroom and to check in with me in the event they are absent. Students understand that there is an absent bin in my classroom where they can also get paper copies of work when they return.

Teacher Emails:

- Allie Devine, ELA - devinea@franklinps.net
- Amy Foster, Science - fostera@franklinps.net
- Erik Lawson, Special Ed - lawsone@franklinps.net
- Megan Wesson, Math - wessonm@franklinps.net
- Madeline Whelan, Social Studies - whelanm@franklinps.net

