



Grade Level Updates

May 19, 2026 | Monroe PTO Public Meeting

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten has been having a fun spring. We enjoyed our last two field trips—one to the farm and one to Mississippi Gateway Park! We also have enjoyed building and coding with the Lego We-dos and completing our final PLTW project on structure and function and the human body. It is so fun to see how much the kindergarten students have grown in both reading, writing and math this year. Lastly, we are enjoying our alphabet countdown with daily fun activities until the end of the year!

First Grade:

First graders have been hard at work preparing for the end of the year! In ELA, we are wrapping up our Bridge2Read phonics program with vowel-consonant r and long vowel teams. Each day, we read fluency passages to help us work on being accurate readers with expression and a good rate. It is amazing to see the growth of readers throughout the year. We have completed our unit on American Independence and this week, the History of the Earth. Students will be writing their families a letter about what they have learned. Our last unit will be "Adventure Stories: Tales from the Edge." In math, we are reviewing all we have learned in first grade. Most of our last unit was about counting by 1, 2, 5, and 10 and solving addition and subtraction problems. In STEM, we are completing our unit on light and sound. In April, we went to the Works museum and had a blast learning more about sound and getting to explore the museum. This week, we will go to Springbrook Nature Center and learn more about insects and birds.

Second Grade:

Second grade finished their reading domain, Building Blocks: All About Nutrition. Students explored a number of topics regarding the human body, including cells, tissues, organs, and body systems—with a focus on the digestive and excretory systems. Students also learned about the elements of good nutrition and other keys to good health. Each student designed a balanced lunch and wrote about the nutrients, vitamins and/or minerals found in each food choice and how it helped their body. We'll end our year reading about The War of 1812!

In math, we've been working hard at mastering different addition and subtraction strategies to solve 2 digit by 2 digit problems and extend those strategies to solve 3 digit by 3 digit problems. Students will end the year exploring the position and motion of objects. They will be challenged to build working marble runs and generate hypotheses about the variables that affect the speed and distance in which the marble will roll.

Second Grade (continued):

In PLTW, students explored how the surface of the Earth is always changing. They were introduced to different kinds of maps and explored how these maps conveyed different kinds of information about the world we live in, including where water is found on Earth. Students investigated the different forces that shape the surface of the Earth and designed solutions to limit the impact of erosion on a fictional community.

Third Grade:

What an amazing year of learning in the third grade!! Recently, we finished reading a novel together, "Stella Diaz has Something to Say." We laughed together with some of the experiences Stella encountered, as well as connected with her character on one or more occasions. This occurred as she navigated third grade while finding her own voice, strength, and confidence, even though she faced several challenges. Currently, we are in a unit, "All That Jazz", and are enjoying listening to the stories and histories of the musicians and their hard work. In addition, many of us are tapping our toes to the varied sounds of jazz heard daily in our classrooms.

In Math, we have been covering many topics: reading tables and graphs; finding perimeters and areas; solving multi-step problems and multi-digit multiplication; elapsed time as well as fractions on a line. The students used their skills and worked really hard on the MCA tests we took last month. They truly did their BEST work! We are continuing to spend time deepening those skills and applying them in many ways so students will be ready for 4th grade.

Our current PLTW Unit has been on life cycles, with a focus on pollinators. We made some amazing connections as we toured the MN Landscape Arboretum and conducted some research on bees and their habitats. The students are in the process of presenting the Bee Habitats they created which reflect what the bees need to continue their own life cycles. The students are recognizing how a break in the life cycle of the bees could negatively impact the human population.

If you are a parent of a third grade student, you should be proud of the deep sharing of thinking and connecting of ideas we, the third grade teachers, are hearing on a daily basis. I hope that you are also witnessing that same level of communication at home. You are raising amazing children. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your precious young humans. 😊

Have a wonderful summer filled with all good things!!

Fourth Grade:

4th grade just had our final field trip to Campfire MN. We had a fantastic time. We spent time learning about animal adaptations, building shelters in the woods, went on a nature hike where we watched and listened (for 2 minutes - that was as long as they could not talk or move) in nature, and our last activity was team building games. We just completed our CKLA unit on fairytales from around the world. The students are in the middle of taking a fairytale or folktale and modernizing it as their own. They are enjoying this project. Currently, there are many versions of the Three Little Bears in video games trying different things. In math we are ending with a fraction unit on equivalent and comparing fractions. We have divided the grade level into 4 groups and are working slowly at each level. Our final PLTW unit is on structures and functions of plants and animals.

Fourth Grade (continued):

We will be looking at how plants and animals adapt to their environment. Our project for this unit is the students will be creating their own fictitious plant. Should be a great way to end the year.

Fifth Grade:

5th grade is having a fun end to the year, and we are happy that MCA's are past us. In April, we took our trip to Crystal Cave, which is always a favorite. The kids love going into the cave and doing gem mining. They are also counting down the days to the Maple Grove Community Center in the last week!

In science, we did our Starbase kits in April. It was fun to bring a little bit of Starbase to Monroe. We have also started our robotics unit. Right now we are building and completing the challenge for robot 1. We still have two more builds to do before the end of the year.

As our time with the school year closes, we are also taking the time to reflect on their time at Monroe. We always put together a 5th-grade video for them highlighting the year and their time at Monroe. We know the last day brings a lot of emotions and some uncertainty for middle school, but we know that they are ready.

We also shared the news with the kids that they get free yearbooks because of PTO! Needless to say, they were very excited.