

# Sixth Grade Updates 2024-2025



## Sixth Grade Updates 2025-26

[Link to webpage where you can see updates and more](#)

**May 29, 2026**

**Hello Families!**

We are in the home stretch! We are still learning and finishing projects, and we are starting to celebrate a year of hard work and fun.

**We hope you are going to the ice cream social tonight, and we hope you have a blast!**

**A2 ZERO Week (May 31-June 6) starts this weekend! There are so many things happening all around the city that week we encourage your family to attend.**

**Have a great weekend!**

**- The Sixth Grade Team**

Curriculum Updates:

ELA

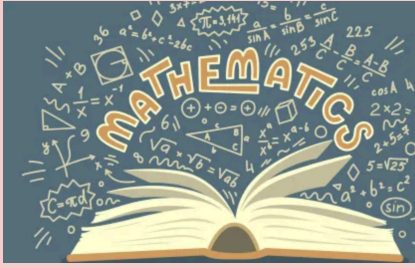


**Vincenz-** This week in ELA learners went through their notebooks to make sure it's ready for the check next week. We also took a post-test.

**If you have any books that belong to our classroom library, I would love to get them back ASAP, so I know what books to repurchase for next year.**

**Davis-** This week we transitioned from building our projects to writing about them! Students did some pre-writing where they thought about the design process, and then analyzed a mentor text example essay, before diving into a rough draft of their own. Ask your student which pieces of figurative language they included in their essay!

## Math



**Math 6:** This week we finished investigation 3 and will be taking our final assessment on Decimal Operations next Wednesday, June 3.

**Math 7:** Next week we will wrap up our final unit of the year. There will be a summative assessment next Friday.

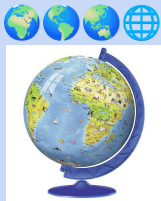
**Please look for any math books at home that your student may have checked out this year and plan to return it asap!** You may hold onto "Filling and Wrapping" until the summative assessment (Friday, June 5th).

## Science



This week we studied how we are made up of cells, how our bodies heal, and how we experience pain. Next week we will learn about mitosis to better understand how we heal.

## World Geography



This week we have been designing our own country as a summative project that ties together all of our learning this year. Students have been engaging their creativity and knowledge we can't wait to share our results next week.

## Needs



We appreciate **snacks!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

## Wishes



[Bell's Wish List](#) If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  
[Smead's Wish List](#)  
[Smead's Book Sweet Wish List](#)  
[Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List](#) filled with books requested by students.  
[Ms. Vincenz's Amazon](#) wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)

### Upcoming Dates:

**5/29 Ice Cream Social**  
**6/9 Half Day and Last Day!**

**May 22, 2026**

**Hello Families!**

It has been a very busy week!

Thank you SO much to all parents for chaperoning, coming to the Gala and talking to students at home about all they have learned. We are so grateful for all of your support.


- [Farmers Market Photos](#) (Photo Credits Allison Bockmon)
- [Kayak Trip Photos](#)

As we are wrapping up our unit on sustainability Ann Arbor is kicking off [A2 ZERO Week](#) from May 31-June 6. There are so many things happening all around the city that week we encourage your family to attend.

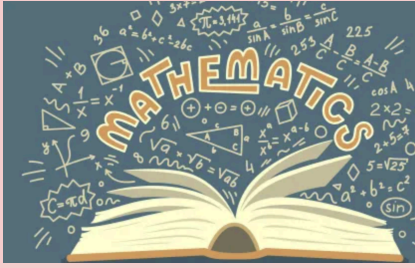
Have a Wonderful Long Weekend!

- The Sixth Grade Team

Curriculum Updates:

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week in ELA, we started to watch the movie version of <u>Tuck Everlasting</u>. If you have any missing or overdue work, it is due by Friday of next week. Please make sure it is turned in by 3:18 that day.</p> <p>If you have any books at home that belong to our school library, please return them to avoid fines.</p> <p><b>If you have any books that belong to our classroom library, I would love to get them back ASAP, so I know what books to repurchase for next year.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Davis-</b> It was a short week together between the two field trips and NWEA testing, but we did make some progress on our final project. Students are creating their own solution to a problem they're having in their lives out of strictly recycled materials. Once they have made their product they will write a story about it, just like William wrote a story about his windmill. Ask your student what they're making, what problem it solves, and if they've had to do any ganyu to purchase tools.</p>
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## Math



**Math 6:** This week we took a quiz over investigation 1 and began our NWEA test. Next week we will finish our NWEA and begin looking at negative rational numbers and absolute values.

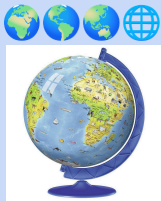
**Math 7:** This week we began exploring the circumference, diameter, radius, and area of circles! We will continue this into next week. **Please look for any math books at home that your student may have checked out this year and plan to return it asap!** You may hold onto "Filling and Wrapping" until the summative assessment (Friday, June 5th).

## Science



What a busy week! We had a great time, and it seems kids learned a lot about sustainability and presenting to others. It was a fun time...and I am glad to have a long weekend for us all to rest up. Next week we will learn about mitosis and how humans heal.

## World Geography



We have had an amazing week participating in two sustainable 0 Carbon emission field trips that utilized and enhanced our learning. Next week we will begin our final project to design our own country. This will pull from all of the information we have learned this year.

## Needs



We appreciate **snacks!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

## Wishes



[Bell's Wish List](#) If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  
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[Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List](#) filled with books requested by students.  
[Ms. Vincenz's Amazon](#) wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)

### Upcoming Dates:

**5/30 No School- Memorial Day**

**May 15, 2026**

**Hello Families!**

We have a very busy week of field trips and Festivities!

**Wednesday 5/20-** We will be walking to the Farmer's Market. Students are given a budget so **please do not send money!** We will be back for lunch. Chaperones, please be here at 8:30 and make sure you have your volunteer form filed in the office. Check in there then come up to MS 4 for your trip guide. We are going to have a great time!

**Thursday 5/21-** We will host parents in the outdoor classroom from 2:30-3:18. Come see student garden projects and taste our farmer's market culinary creations.

**Friday 5/22-** We are walking to Argo to go kayaking! It is a very chill floating trip. We will also be doing some forest bathing with a certified forest therapy guide (Ms Wilson). Chaperones, please be here at 8:30 and make sure you have your volunteer form filed in the office. Check in there then come up to MS 4 for your trip guide. We are going to have a great time!

Curriculum Updates:

ELA



**Vincenz-** This week in ELA, we finished Tuck Everlasting. Next week, we will be watching the movie version of the book. **Please email me, with your learner's name, if you do not want them to watch the movie** ([link here of what is being sent home today](#)).

There will be an alternative assignment.

(Email: [vincenzc@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:vincenzc@aaps.k12.mi.us))

**Davis-** This week we continued reading our novel, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. We are getting so close to the end! In our story this week William successfully built his windmill! He also had to figure out how to light his house, build a lightswitch, and create a circuit breaker, all from random materials he found around

	his village. Next week we will finish our novel and watch the movie version of the story.
<p><b>Math</b></p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we began our Decimal Ops unit. We reviewed place value and were introduced to inequalities. We practiced solving and graphing inequalities. Next week we will have a quiz over investigation 1 and complete the math NWEA.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week we explored the surface and volume of rectangular prisms. We will move on to other polygonal prisms next week!</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> 	<p>We have had a wonderful week with Project Healthy Schools lessons and outdoor work time in our gardens. Students have a plan where they work on items on their to do lists, and mark them finished. They are managing the projects very well.</p> <p>We look forward to hosting our <b>Garden Gala on Thursday, May 21 at 2:30pm.</b></p>
<p><b>World Geography</b></p> 	<p>We have been studying sustainable cities and how cities can be designed around the concept of the 15 minute city. Students had to collaboratively design a city that allowed people to live, work, and play within a 15 minute transit.</p>
<p><b>Needs</b></p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b> Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p><b>Wishes</b></p> 	<p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).</p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.</p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<b>Upcoming Dates:</b>

5/20 Walk to Farmer's Market  
 5/21 2-3:18pm Garden Gala (parents invited!)  
 5/22 Forest and watershed walk and kayak trip  
 5/30 No School- Memorial Day

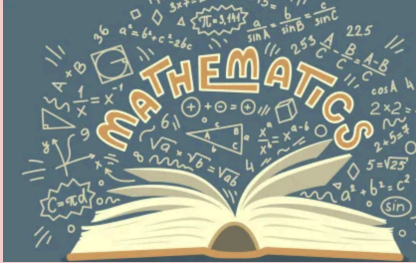
**May 8, 2026**


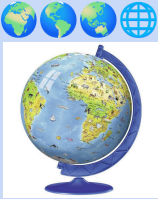


**Hello Families!**

We are starting into the last month of school!!!

There will be three permission slips coming home on Monday for our Farmer's Market Trip and The Kayaking Trip.

We really hope you can come to our **Garden Gala on Thursday, May 21 at 2:30pm**. We will show our garden work and serve the food we made from our Farmer's Market trip.

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week in ELA, we practiced summarizing, IDing figurative language and its impact, and making predictions. We are finishing <u>Tuck Everlasting</u> next week.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we continued reading our novel, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. We are getting so close to the end! In our story this week William successfully built his windmill! He also had to figure out how to light his house, build a lightswitch, and create a circuit breaker, all from random materials he found around his village. Next week we will finish our novel and watch the movie version of the story.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we completed a mini unit on central tendency measures. Next week will begin our last unit of the year, Decimal Ops. You can read more about this unit <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week we explored the surface and and volume of rectangular prisms. We will move on to other polygonal prisms next week!</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>We have had a wonderful week with Project Healthy Schools lessons and outdoor work time in our gardens. Students have a plan where they work on items on their to do lists, and mark them finished.</p>

	<p>They are managing the projects very well.</p> <p>We look forward to hosting our <b>Garden Gala on Thursday, May 21 at 2:30pm.</b></p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>This week we focused on how we can eat and grow food sustainably. Students created a guidebook they should be bringing home to share with their families. Next week we will focus on building and designing cities and communities to be sustainable.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b> Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><b>Ms. Wilson needs biodegradable wipes for cleaning and pencils</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b></p> <p>5/14 Half Day  5/20 Walk to Farmer's Market  5/21 2-3:18pm Garden Gala (parents invited!)  5/22 Forest and watershed walk and kayak trip  5/30 No School- Memorial Day</p>

**May 1, 2026**

Happy May!

This is a very fun month! Thank you to parents that volunteered to chaperone. We have many, and we are grateful. We will send chaperones


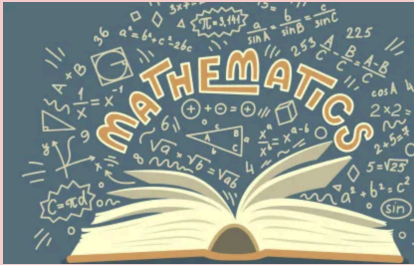
updates within the week. Today is move up day, and the sixth grade students are doing an expo to show the fifth graders what they need to know about sixth grade.

A note from our student teachers:

This week was our last week at STEAM, and we wanted to make sure to say goodbye. Thank you for sharing your wonderful students with us! It was a privilege to see their creativity and curiosity over the course of the semester. They are such a joyful group of kids and definitely made us laugh. We are sad to be leaving before the end of the year but look forward to spending the spring semester completing an English Language Development internship in another district. Let your students know that we loved getting to be their teachers and will miss them very much!

Sincerely,

Ms. Harrelson and Mr. Herrero

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week, we continued to read our novel study, Tuck Everlasting. We looked at figurative language and its impact and character traits. We also talked about how setting (time period) impacted the characters and their behaviors.</p> <p>Next week we will be wrapping up the novel study, and learners will have assessments on the skill they practiced.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we continued reading our novel, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. We are getting so close to the end! In our story this week William successfully built his windmill! He also had to figure out how to light his house, build a lightswitch, and create a circuit breaker, all from random materials he found around his village. Next week we will finish our novel and watch the movie version of the story.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week Mr. Herrero wrapped up the Variables and Patterns unit. Their test was Friday. They tied everything they learned about relationships together and were formally introduced to writing and identifying equations, specifically linear equations.</p>



**Math 7:** This week, we wrapped up our probability unit. Students submitted CER's and probability proposals for our Silk Road game on Wednesday and worked on a performance task related to their probability proposals on Thursday and Friday.

Next week, we will begin our final unit of the year, 3-Dimensional Geometry. Read more about it [here!](#)

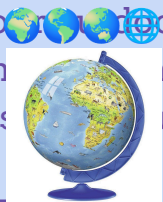
**April 24, 2026**  
**Happy Friday!**  
**Science**



We learned about fossils and fossil fuels this week. We also learned about what is living in our soil. It has been a great week of working on our garden zone projects too.

MStep on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Students will comebooks.

We have so many fun things coming up! We are getting ready for our World Geography Expo on April 30. We also have a lot of work we are doing on our outdoor classroom projects. Students will participate in the Garden Walk, the Garden Gala, and the Hiking and Kayaking Trip. There is fun mixed in with the testing.



We have been learning about sustainability and how we can follow a model of sustainability that centers on people, the planet, and economics. We have learned about energy and the many benefits of trees.

**Needs**

**We appreciate snacks!**

Thank you for the School Fun Night on April 24th 5-7pm. for: Tournament with prizes (pay to participate) - Spiderman: Into the Spidaverse



Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

**Wishes**



**Ms. Wilson needs biodegradable wipes for cleaning and pencils.** Help with your [snack donations](#) to support this [Bell's Wish List](#). If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations to help us like Yantzeus Phone (@a2steam) or email Bel at 6122) or at the entrance. Those us **Fun Night** is the [memo list](#). [Tina Davis' Book Sweet Wish List](#) filled with books requested by students. by Friday April 24 at noon via Venmo (@a2steam) [Ms. Vincenz's Amazon](#) wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)

For the advanced registration (\$3) or for both the admission donation & advanced registration (\$8), please put **Mario Kart** name of your student in the memo line. The school Venmo is @a2steam. Phone number of the phone number are 6122. Pre-payment means no cash needed for the night. Those needing assistance to join the Mario Kart event can contact Mr. Torian Billings at [billingsst@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:billingsst@aaps.k12.mi.us).

**Upcoming Dates:**  
**4/30 - Fifth Grade move up day**  
**5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development**  
**5/20 Walk to Farmer's Market**  
**5/21 2-3:18pm Garden Gala (parents invited!)**

This is a drop-off event, but adults are welcome to stay and volunteer! **Volunteer roles are available [here](#)**. If you've already reached out about volunteering, check your email for more details.

This event is sponsored by the STEAM Middle School Student Council and the A2 STEAM PTO. Questions? Contact Kory Zhao at [koryzhao@gmail.com](mailto:koryzhao@gmail.com).

## ELA



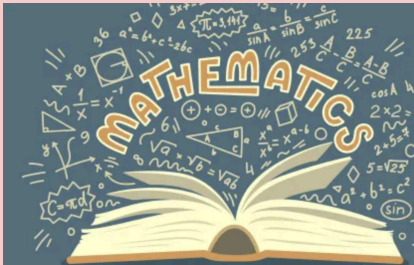
### Vincenz-

This week, we dug into Tuck Everlasting. We noticed how the characters are as people, figurative language, and started to look at Natalie Babbitt's writing style. Ask your learner what they would have done if they heard the Tuck's story about the fountain and why.

Next week we will dig more into the different topics and themes of the story.

**Davis-** This week we continued reading our novel, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. We learned that William and his family survived the famine (hooray!), and also read about how he began to become interested in science/electricity. Ask your student what character traits of William's they believe will help him be successful in making a windmill.

## Math



**Math 6:** This week Mr. Herrero continued the "Variables and Patterns" unit. Students finished Investigation 2, solidifying what they know about tables and graphs and started Investigation 3, which has students represent the relationships they've noticed in previous investigations as equations.


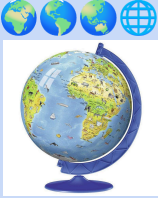


Next week, after M-STEP testing, we'll wrap up the unit with the unit exam scheduled for Friday, May 1.

**Math 7:** This week we introduced the probability proposal process for the Silk Road game and submitted a whole class proposal regarding "Trade" actions.

Next week students will create and submit proposals for probabilities associated with other events in the game. Later in the week we will explore how these probabilities change as events compound on each other.

## Science

We worked on our garden projects to celebrate Earth Day! The kids are doing a beautiful job.

	
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>This week we began thinking about sustainability by thinking about how humans interact with the environment. We learned about the Aral Sea and watched a short documentary called <a href="#">Fools and Dreamers</a>.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><b>Ms. Wilson needs biodegradable wipes for cleaning and pencils</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  <b>4/30- Fifth Grade move up day</b>  <b>5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</b>  <b>5/20 Walk to Farmer's Market</b>  <b>5/21 2-3:18pm Garden Gala (parents invited!)</b>  <b>5/22 Forest and watershed walk and kayak trip</b></p>

**April 17, 2026**

We hope you are doing well after a big week of storms and scary weather. We are grateful to be able to go on the field trips we planned! [River Raisin Photos](#)- Please enjoy these pictures but do not share pictures of students.

We have news of a fun night for Middle school :

A2 STEAM Middle School Fun Night is back!

Join us on Friday April 24th 5-7pm. for:

- Mario Kart Tournament with prizes (pay to participate)
- Movie - *Spiderman: Into the Spideverse*
- Gym activities - volleyball, basketball & cornhole
- Tabletop Gaming
- Trivia
- Free Snacks (Please [help with your snack donations](#) to support this event)

Suggested donation for admission \$5, which can be paid in advance using the @a2steam Venmo (last 4 digits of the phone number are 6122) or at the entrance. Those paying with Venmo should put **Fun Night** in the memo line.

Mario Kart Tournament participation fee:

- \$3 advance registration by Friday April 24 at noon via Venmo (@a2steam).
- \$5 registration at the event

For the advanced registration (\$3) or for both the admission donation & advanced registration (\$8), please put **Mario Kart + name of your student** in the memo line. The school Venmo is @a2steam and the last 4 digits of the phone number are 6122. Pre-payment means no cash needed for the night. Those needing assistance to join the Mario Kart Tournament can contact Mr. Torian Billings at [billingsst@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:billingsst@aaps.k12.mi.us).

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ELA

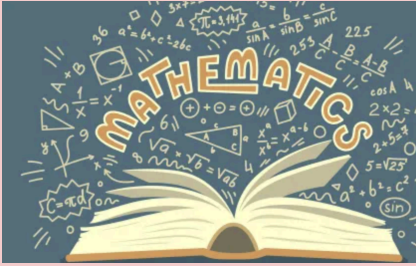


**Vincenz-**

This week, we learned more about pronouns and antecedents by reading an excerpt from Roald Dahl's Boy: Tales of Childhood. Next week we will continue our novel study.

**Davis-** This week we continued reading our novel, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. We learned about how William and his family are experiencing severe hardship with the famine, and people are becoming desperate. We also read a particularly sad chapter that caused us to question William's character. Ask your student if they thought William's actions with Khamba were aligned with what we know of him so far.

**Math**



**Math 6:** This week Mr. Herrero continued the "Variables and Patterns" unit. Students had their first quiz on Monday then started Investigation 2 on Thursday, which formalizes the concept of independent and dependent variables and has students practice using what they know about graphs and tables to make decisions based on the patterns they notice (e.g., "As the price of gas increases, what happens to the number of people wanting to buy gas at the gas station?")

**Math 7:** We launched our Silk Road (probability) unit today and will continue next week!

**Science**

We had a fun week of field trips and learning about protecting our soil. Next week we hope to work on our gardens and learn about what lives in our soil. We will also be celebrating zero waste week!



## World Geography



This week we began thinking about sustainability by thinking about how humans interact with the environment. We learned about the Aral Sea and watched a short documentary called [Fools and Dreamers](#).

	
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><b>Ms. Wilson needs biodegradable wipes for cleaning and pencils</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b></p> <p><b>3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break</b>  <b>4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades</b>  <b>5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</b>  <b>4/17 Sixth Grade Field Trip</b></p>

## April 10, 2026

We hope you had a wonderful break! It is good to be back together again for these last months of school! We have many field trips, our Serviceberry Tree Book and planting, outdoor projects to honor Earth Day(month), Zero Waste Week, Move up day, and so much more. This is going to be so fun.


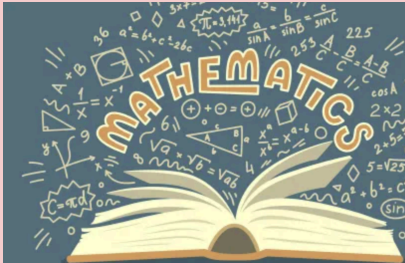
### 4/14- [Leslie Science and Nature Center Field Trip Form](#)






We will walk to Leslie Science and Nature Center to view the DTE Energy House to learn about sustainable energy. We will also take a short hike

through the Black Pond Woods to view and learn about biodiversity. Students need to bring lunch and appropriate shoes and clothing.

4/17- [River Raisin National Battlefield Field Trip Form](#)

We will be going to River Raisin to view the Wyandotte exhibit to learn about how the indigenous people of Michigan adapted to their environment and lived sustainably. We will borrow from this knowledge as we design our own projects. One part of the field trip students will have the opportunity to participate in archery, [students will need this form filled out to participate.](#)

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week in ELA, we started our novel study, <a href="#">Tuck Everlasting</a> by Natalie Babbitt. We also started our intro into pronouns by reading an excerpt from Roald Dahl’s autobiography. Next week, we will notice the pronouns and antecedents.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we continued reading our novel, <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>. We learned about how William and his family are experiencing severe hardship with the famine, and people are becoming desperate. We also read a particularly sad chapter that caused us to question William’s character. Ask your student if they thought William’s actions with Khamba were aligned with what we know of him so far.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week Mr. Herrero began the new unit “Variables and Patterns”. Students practiced organizing data into tables and creating graphs. They will have their first quiz on Monday.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> We are wrapping up our unit on solving linear equations. We will be reviewing material early next week and taking a summative assessment on the content mid-week.</p> <p>Concurrently, we are launching our Silk Road project, which we will dive into after the summative assessment. Read more about the math content standards for this project <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>We toured the outdoor classroom, looking for sustainable features and ways we can make the space more sustainable. Students made groups and picked zones to work in for their projects. We will review how</p>

	<p>to use tools to work outside safely.</p>
<p>World Geography</p>  	<p>We completed a mapping lab to learn about the geography of Central and South West Asia.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><b>Ms. Wilson needs biodegradable wipes for cleaning and pencils</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b><u>Upcoming Dates:</u></b>  <b>3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break</b>  <b>4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades</b>  <b>5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</b>  <b>4/17 Sixth Grade Field Trip</b></p>


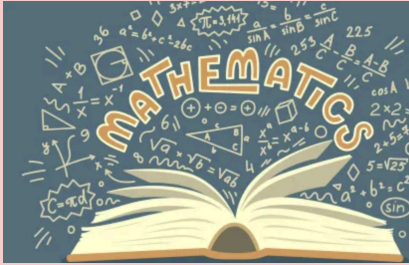
March 27, 2026


Hello Families! We are hoping you have a wonderful week! If you are celebrating a holiday during the week, we wish you a wonderful celebration! When we get back we will be starting a lot of fun projects about sustainability! We will also be going on some field trips! It is going to be a very fun finale to the year! On April 30 we will

host our move up day expo for the fifth grade. We will have a few items in a sign up genius for that event!

Thank you in advance to all chaperones, for all contributions, and for general support. We love this crew, and we want to finish with a lot of fun!

- The Sixth Grade Team

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week in ELA, we compared and contrasted two folktales. Ask your learner what two folktales they analyzed.</p> <p>Next week, we will be starting some grammar and our novel study.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we continued reading our newest novel, <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>. We learned about William's ingenuity and perseverance, and also about the drought and famine that savaged Malawi in 2001. Ask your student the story of William's trip to Chamama, and what the family's "profit" was for their sale of zigumu cakes.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we completed our "Let's Be Rational" unit assessment. If your student would like to improve their score, they may make corrections and turn them in until Friday, April 10. When we return from break, my student teacher Mr. Herrero will begin his lead teaching experience. He has planned a fantastic unit to go along with our next book, "Variables &amp; Patterns". You can learn more about the book <a href="#">here</a>. <a href="#">Here</a> is a letter from him sharing more information.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week we took a summative assessment on Monday and already had one re-take opportunity today. There will be a second retake opportunity the Friday after break.</p> <p>We began a mini unit about solving equations. We will wrap this up at the end of the week when we return from break or possibly early the following week.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>We wrapped up our geology unit this week! Students modeled how humans impact the rock cycle and created posters to show how we can be more sustainable.</p>

	
<p><b>World Geography</b></p> 	<p>We have been gathering information to find out where the goods and products we use each day come from. Students have created infographics to communicate their findings which will be displayed in the school.</p>
<p><b>Needs</b></p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p><b>Wishes</b></p> 	<p><b>Ms. Wilson needs biodegradable wipes for cleaning and pencils</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b><u>Upcoming Dates:</u></b>  <b>4/14 Sixth Grade Field Trip to Leslie Science Center</b>  <b>4/17 Sixth Grade Field Trip to River Raisin NP</b>  <b>4/20-4/24 Sixth Grade Zero Waste Week</b>  <b>4/27 Sixth Grade Watershed Work Day</b>  <b>5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</b></p>

March 20, 2026

**INCLUSION WEEK**

WEEK OF MARCH 23RD 2026

MON JERSEY DAY

We are Marching towards Spring Break with March is Reading Month and Women's History Month.

We have one more week until Spring Break and we will be celebrating Inclusion Week!

Here is a link to the [Schuler's Bookstore fundraiser](#).

We will be starting our grade level book study and service project based on the book [The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We are asking for families to purchase a copy of the book from our local book store [Booksweet](#) for \$20. If you are able to purchase an extra copy of the book to donate to a student that may not be able to purchase the book that would be much appreciated. We will begin the book after Spring Break.

ELA



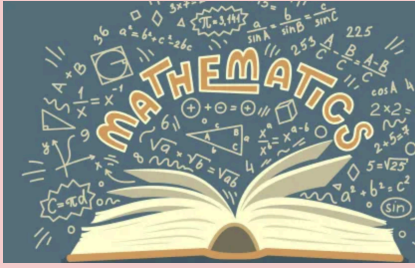
**Vincenz-**

This week we read our last folktale, "Loo-Wit, The Firekeeper" and started our compare/contrast essay. Each part will be chunked and reviewed in class before learners write their own. Please encourage your learner to turn it in each day so that their writing can be checked before we go on to the next part in class.

As your scholar which two folktales they will be comparing and contrasting and what they are about.

**Davis-** This week we continued reading our newest novel, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. We learned about the "vicious cycle" problem of getting electricity in Malawi, and spent time determining the central idea of a chapter. We also analyzed some of William's "habits of character," and found text evidence to support our thinking. Ask your student why it would be such a struggle for William to be able to "touch a wall and get light."

## Math



**Math 6:** This week we wrapped our “Let’s Be Rational” unit. Our summative unit assessment will be next Thursday, March 26. We will have two study guides next week to help prepare for the assessment.

**Math 7:** Our next summative assessment is this Monday! There are a slew of practice materials in today's folder on Schoology for students to use over the weekend to prepare for Monday.

## Science



We had a fun week of learning! We learned about the rock cycle with an Air Head Lab, and we learned about the costs and benefits of mining by mining chocolate chips from a cookie. It was so fun!

## World Geography



We have been gathering information to find out where the goods and products we use each day come from. Students have created infographics to communicate their findings which will be displayed in the school.

## Needs



We appreciate **snacks!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

## Wishes



[Bell's Wish List](#) If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  
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### Upcoming Dates:


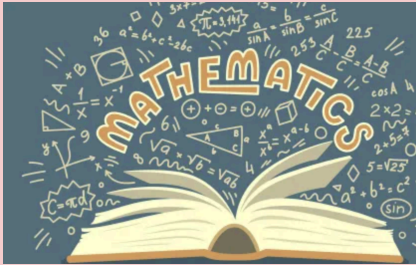
**3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break**  
**4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades**  
**5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development**  
**4/17 Sixth Grade Field Trip**


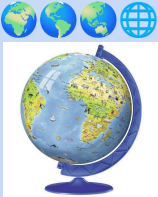


March 13, 2026

Hello Families,  
Our third trimester is off to a great start.

April 17th we will be going on our field trip to River Raisin National Battlefield. This is the trip that was rescheduled from the fall. We will be sending permission slips home after spring break. We will need five parent volunteers to be chaperones. If you are interested in joining us please email Mr. Smead ([smeadn@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:smeadn@aaps.k12.mi.us)).

Next month we are going to engage in a grade level book study and service project based on the book The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We are asking for families to purchase a copy of the book from our local book store Booksweet for \$20. If you are able to purchase an extra copy of the book to donate to a student that may not be able to purchase the book that would be much appreciated. We will begin the book after Spring Break.

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week we read “Anansi and The Turtle” and watched a video of the same story. We looked at the characters, theme, and practiced retelling the story. Now we are comparing and contrasting them.</p> <p>Ask your learners what compare and contrast mean and how to structure a compare/contrast essay.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we started our next novel study, <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> by William Kamkwamba. It is a memoir about William’s experience in Malawi during the devastating drought and famine of 2001. This week we read the prologue and chapter 1, and learned about figurative language. Ask your student what they think about William’s story so far, and what the “fancy” word for a big exaggeration is.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we wrapped up modeling the division of fractions. Students are familiar with the standard algorithm but we are diving deeper into why that algorithm works. Next week we will use all four fraction operations to solve equations.</p>

	<p><b>Math 7:</b> We have been exploring linear relationships this week using tables, graphs, and equations and will continue this next week!</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>This week, students continued exploring different types of plate boundaries. We learned about volcanoes and completed our first mini project from this unit. Students created their own planets with a plate tectonic simulator, and explained how geologic processes shaped the surface of their new planet!</p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>We have been gathering information to find out where the goods and products we use each day come from. Students have created infographics to communicate their findings which will be displayed in the school.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  <b>3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break</b>  <b>4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades</b>  <b>5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</b>  <b>4/17 Sixth Grade Field Trip</b></p>

March 6, 2026  
Hello Families!

We have wrapped up Trimester 2! Students will have a new fifth hour class on Monday! They have shown wonderful growth academically as well as socially and emotionally. We have one more term of sixth grade, and we will be working as a team to finish strong!


A key goal for academics is to develop self management. This looks like managing engagement in class, avoiding distractions and computer misuse, and managing Schoology use and handing in assignments. A key social emotional goal is to grow in emotional intelligence. This can look like [taking accountability for mistakes](#), managing conflicts using [restorative practices](#), [making a full \(4 part\) apology when needed](#), and using [peaceful and kind language rather than aggressive or inappropriate language](#). We will continue to teach the behaviors we want to see and celebrate success and growth.

Next month we are going to engage in a grade level book study and service project based on the book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We are asking for families to purchase a copy of the book from our local book store [Booksweet](#) for \$20. If you are able to purchase an extra copy of the book to donate to a student that may not be able to purchase the book that would be much appreciated.

Have a wonderful weekend!

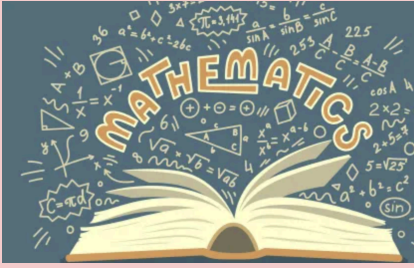
- *The sixth Grade Team*

## Curriculum Updates-

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week we read “A Pillow Full of Feathers” and learned about flat and round characters, themes versus topics, and how folktales are shared. We practiced retelling “A Pillow Full of Feathers” before we figured out who “Anansi” is in our next folktale, “Anansi and Turtle”.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we finished up our folktale unit with presentations! Each student was paired with another, and they had to read their story to their partner, who then came up and presented it to the class. This showed us directly how folktales change over time because they are shared by word of mouth. It was a lot of fun hearing the unique stories the students came up with, and giggling at the ways they changed from story writer to story sharer. Ask your student what their story was about, and how much it changed when presented.</p>
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Next week we jump into our next novel study, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*! It is a beautiful memoir by William Kamkwamba about innovation, overcoming hardship, and perseverance.

### Math



**Math 6:** This week we wrapped up modeling the multiplication of fractions and began exploring the division of fractions and how to model this process. Students are familiar with the standard algorithm but we are diving deeper into why that algorithm works.

**Math 7:** We have been exploring linear relationships this week using tables, graphs, and equations and will continue this next week!

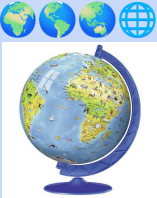
CAS Summative Assessment Retakes took place today at lunch. Next Tuesday is the final opportunity for students to retake this assessment. Before retaking, students must complete test corrections, a retake conference, and assigned practice problems.

### Science



This week we started our geology unit! Students investigated the behavior of plates and modeled what causes Mount Everest to grow and move. We also completed a lab to measure the density of the rocks that make up oceanic and continental crust.

### World Geography



We have been learning about economic systems and will begin working on our, "Where does my stuff come from?" infographic next week.


### Needs



We appreciate **snacks!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

### Wishes


[Bell's Wish List](#) If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  
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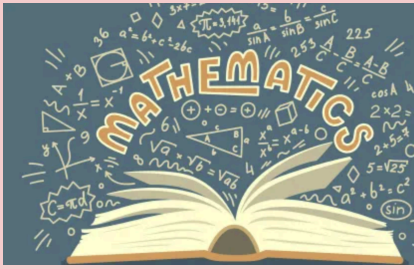
	<p><a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><u>Upcoming Dates:</u>  3/6 - End of Trimester 2  3/9 - Start of Trimester 3  3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break  4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades  5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</p>

February 27, 2026

Next month we are going to engage in a grade level book study and service project based on the book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We are asking for families to purchase a copy of the book from our local book store [Booksweet](#) for \$20. If you are able to purchase an extra copy of the book to donate to a student that may not be able to purchase the book that would be much appreciated.

### Curriculum Updates-

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b>  We are finishing up our poetry unit by writing and reading some poems of our own. Next week, we will start our folktales and compare/contrast unit.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we worked on writing our original folktales. Students first came up with an outline for their stories, including who their protagonist would be, and what natural phenomenon their folktale would explain. They then wrote the rough draft of their folktales, adding details and following the plot pyramid. Next week we will write our final drafts and present our folktales to the class!</p>
<p>Math</p>	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we continued reviewing how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. We also learned how to model the multiplication of fractions, illustrating how the standard algorithm</p>



works. We will continue multiplying fractions next week and then move into dividing fractions.

**Math 7:** This week we launched our linear relationship unit!

Students' CAS unit assessments were returned to them as well. If they are interested in taking a retake for this assessment they should first, correct any incorrect or incomplete questions on their CAS assessment. Next they should schedule a retake conference with me so that I can assign appropriate practice problems for them to prepare for a retake. Finally, they can attend a retake next Thursday, 3/5/26 at lunch or the following Wednesday, 3/11/26 at lunch.

## Science



We are starting a new unit on Monday! Ms. Harrelson will be teaching Geology! [Here is a letter she wrote to introduce the unit!](#)

## World Geography



This week we learned about five major government systems around the world. Students created a 'zine' to share their learning with you including their choice of what government they believe to be "best" based upon our class criteria.

## Needs



We appreciate **snacks!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

## Wishes



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## Upcoming Dates:

**3/6 - End of Trimester 2**

	<p>3/9 - Start of Trimester 3  3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break  4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades  5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</p>
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February 20, 2026

Hello Families!

We are already preparing for the last week of February! Days are getting longer and we are getting excited for Spring!

**Curriculum Updates-**

<p><b>ELA</b></p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b>  This week we did a deep dive into Figurative language. We practiced identifying it, and we started writing it today. Next week we will continue to write it, have our poetry assessment, and write a poem of our own.</p> <p>After that, we will start our Folktale unit.</p>
	<p><b>Davis-</b> This week we finished up reading our folktales with Loo-Wit the Firekeeper, a Native American folktale. We also transitioned to writing our own folktales! Students will draft an original folktale that explains how a natural phenomenon came to be. Ask them what natural phenomenon their folktale explains!</p>
<p><b>Math</b></p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we completed our unit Comparing Bits &amp; Pieces along with the unit assessment. After mid-winter break we will begin on our next unit, Let's Be Rational. You can learn more about this unit <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> We are quickly approaching the end of our current unit. The summative assessment is next Wednesday!</p> <p>Next Thursday we will begin our next unit on linear relationships! Read more about it <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p>We are having a great time learning about Tsunamis. Students learned about the DART detection system and modeled before, during and after a tsunami. Next</p>

	<p>week students will create their projects that will mitigate damage, improve warning effectiveness or Assess the Hazard for adaptations. We will be doing some lessons as we go to help with designs and test mitigating walls with a lab.</p>
<p><b>World Geography</b></p> 	<p>We finished our investigation into the Mexico City Water Crisis and students wrote a Claim Evidence Reasoning about the reasons for unequal access to water. Next week we will discuss government and government systems.</p>
<p><b>Needs</b></p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p><b>Wishes</b></p> 	<p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  <b>3/6 - End of Trimester 2</b>  <b>3/9 - Start of Trimester 3</b>  <b>3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break</b>  <b>4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades</b>  <b>5/5 - No School for students, Staff Professional Development</b></p>

February 12, 2026


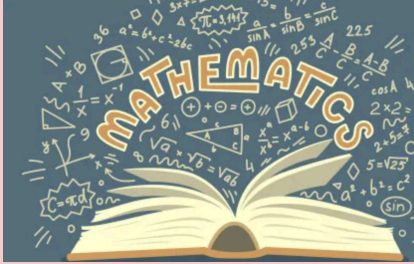
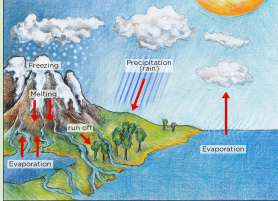

Hello Families,



Thank you to parents that came by to check out NAAPID. If you want to know more about our Black History Celebrations, you can ask your child to tell you what they know about the Beloved Community. Students shared such beautiful and thoughtful ideas about how to implement what we have learned in our own community to

celebrate everyone in this wonderful community, and those in our larger global community.

Have a wonderful Mid-Winter Break! We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday.

### Curriculum Updates-

<p><b>ELA</b></p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week we continued to study poetry by looking at seven steps to analyze it. Ask your learners about “On Turning Ten” and “Oranges” to see what they took away from the two poems we analyzed.</p> <p>After break, we will dig deeper into figurative language.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we continued on in our folktales unit. We analyzed our first two stories, Baba Yaga and Anansi the Spider, read four different versions of Maui and the Sun, and read our first Native American folktale, Loo-Wit the Fire-Keeper. Ask your student why there could be four different versions of the Maui story, and which story so far they have enjoyed the most.</p>
<p><b>Math</b></p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we completed our unit Comparing Bits &amp; Pieces along with the unit assessment. After mid-winter break we will begin on our next unit, Let’s Be Rational. You can learn more about this unit <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> We will continue to explore unit rates and proportions next week!</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> 	<p>Students started the Oceans and Tsunamis unit this week. We are learning about waves and currents as well as the dangers of Tsunamis. Students will create a way to protect people from Tsunami dangers this month. .</p>
<p><b>World Geography</b></p> 	<p>We have been examining the Mexico City Water Crisis and will continue that work next week. Students will be writing a Claim Evidence and Reasoning response to the question; “Why is access to water unequal in and around Mexico City?”</p>

<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  <b>2/13-2/17 - No School, Mid-Winter break</b>  <b>2/17 - Ramadan starts at sunset</b>  <b>2/18 Ash Wednesday/ Lent Begins</b>  <b>3/6 - End of Trimester 2</b>  <b>3/9 - Start of Trimester 3</b>  <b>3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break</b>  <b>4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades</b></p>

February 6, 2026

Hello Families!

We hope you are having a wonderful week. Students have been working hard and are ready for a well deserved break coming up next week, starting on Friday.

NAAPID is on Monday. We will have a symposium of Ted Talks in the morning and a film festival in the afternoon. We will be writing about and discussing the theme: Creating a Beloved Community. We hope you can join us for part or all of the day.

We hope you are safe out there on these icy roads, and we hope you have a wonderful weekend. Please see the curriculum updates below.

**Curriculum Updates- Repeated from last week due to a short week.**

## ELA



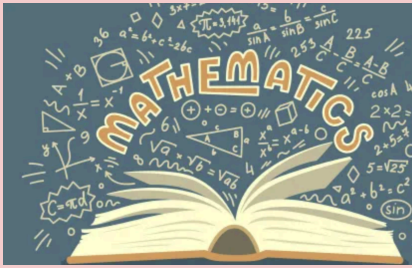
### Vincenz-

This week in ELA, we started out poetry unit that takes scholars through the 7 steps to analyze a poem. Ask your scholar about "On Turning Ten" by Billy Collins, and what they took away from reading the poem.

*I am also so happy to be back! I noticed looking in the gradebook that learners have some overdue things from Mrs. Walsh's time at STEAM. Please make sure you turn in any missing work by next Thursday or talk with me about how to make up missing assignments if you no longer have them. Action/Adventure drafts should be 3 pages, and will be entered as a completion grade.*  
-Ms. Vincenz (vincenzc@aaps.k12.mi.us)

**Davis-** This week we finished creating the compare/contrast essay presentations and started presenting them! About half of the class has presented so far, and the other half will present on Monday. The presentations have been great and it's a lot of fun to see the topics the students chose!

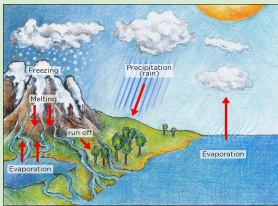
## Math



**Math 6:** This week we completed our last investigation in Comparing Bits & Pieces. We will review next week and complete the summative unit assessment on Wednesday.

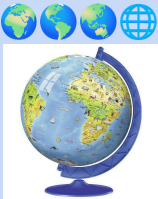
**Math 7:** This week we completed our first investigation in our new unit. We introduced ratios and proportions and will begin to explore how to compare and scale rates next week.

## Science



We wrapped up our learning about water and climate with some district assessments this week. We also celebrated our work on the play. I am very proud of the district assessment work. Students are showing thoughtful understanding of the key concepts of sixth grade science. I wonder if they can sing you the song about convection currents. Next week we will begin an Oceans and Tsunamis Unit.



## World Geography



This week we completed a Mapping Lab on the Geography of Africa. Students learned about the physical, political, and economic geography of Africa. Students learned a lot and next week we are going to begin looking at economic and government systems.

## Needs

We appreciate **snacks!**

	<p>Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b><u>Upcoming Dates:</u></b></p> <p><b>2/9 - NAAPID</b>  <b>2/13-2/17 - No School, Mid-Winter break</b>  <b>2/17 - Ramadan starts at sunset</b>  <b>3/6 - End of Trimester 2</b>  <b>3/9 - Start of Trimester 3</b>  <b>3/30-4/3 - No School, Spring break</b>  <b>4/9 - PSAT for 8th grade, late start for 6th and 7th grades</b></p>

January 23, 2026

We hope you are staying cozy on this Cold Day! We have a couple things coming up.

Students will be presenting a short 3 act play for the 2nd-5th grade students on Friday, January 30 at 2:35. It is about protecting our water cycle. If you want to come watch please let Jeanie Wilson know ([wilsonje@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:wilsonje@aaps.k12.mi.us)), and we intend to send a link to the video of the play next week.

NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) is February 9. We will have a morning of speakers and an afternoon of informative and inspiring cinema. Parents are invited to join us for any part of the day. Mr. Billings will send more information about the schedule.

**Curriculum Updates- Repeated from last week due to a short week.**

## ELA

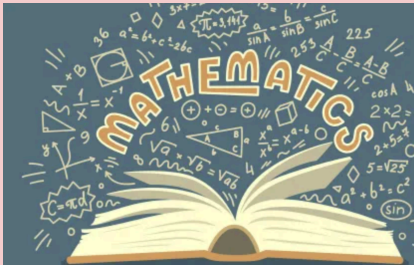


### Vincenz-Walsh-

This week we continued our Adventure study which now includes planning an adventure story, which we will be working on over the next two weeks or so. Our class time will include mini lessons on the art of writing such as snapshots to add detail and the proper way to write and punctuate dialogue. Mrs. Vincenz will be back Feb. 2, so this is my last week with the students. Thank you all for your support!

**Davis-** This week we finished creating the compare/contrast essay presentations and started presenting them! About half of the class has presented so far, and the other half will present on Monday. The presentations have been great and it's a lot of fun to see the topics the students chose!

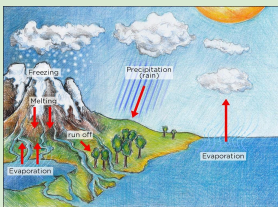
## Math



**Math 6:** This week we worked on finding unit rates and explored ways that they can be helpful. We will continue this work next week as well.

**Math 7:**

## Science



This week we wrote a play that we will perform for younger students on January 30 at 2:30pm. Parents are welcome to come see it. It is a very short play in three short acts. We also did an experiment to see what happens to air when it is heated. We read about climate change and weather too.

## World Geography



This week we began our exploration into the borders we will be researching for our presentations. We will continue this work next week.

## Needs




We appreciate **snacks!**

Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

## Wishes

[Wilson's Wish List](#) And [here is the sign up](#) for **animal**

	<p><b>help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  1/26-1/29 - NWEA Testing  1/30- Sixth Grade Play at 2:35pm  2/9 - NAAPID  2/13-2/17 - No School, Mid-Winter break  2/17 - Ramadan starts at sunset</p>

January 16, 2026

Our Student teachers started today! We are so excited to have them here. [Please see this letter from U of M about this program.](#)


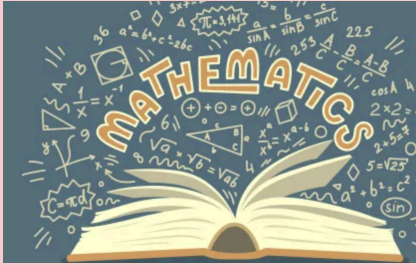
On Monday, we will be celebrating Martin Luther King Junior. Here are some of the ways to celebrate:

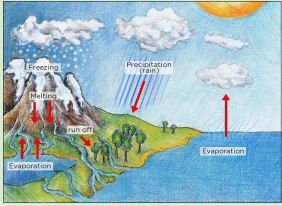



**Local MLK Events for kids, all events on January 19, 2026.**

- [MLK Day Service Project](#): Ypsilanti Library, Michigan Ave Branch  
2:00-2:00pm
- [UM MLK Children & Youth Day, U of M School of Education](#), Ann Arbor, Michigan, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- [The Movement Made Us All](#), Lecture/Discussion With Authors David Dennis, Sr and David Dennis, Jr, UM Helmut Stern Auditorium  
6:00-7:30PM
- [Henry Ford Museum](#) - Events all weekend, Free Admission Monday  
1/19/26 Dearborn, Michigan
- [Ann Arbor Art Center MLK Celebration](#), Ann Arbor, Michigan 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

- [Various Options at the AADL:](#)
  - MLK and Militarism Today: Downtown Branch of AADL, Ann Arbor Michigan 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
  - Lego Mosaic Installation : Downtown Branch of AADL, Ann Arbor Michigan
- [The Washtenaw County African American Museum of History and Culture](#) will be open from 12-4pm
- A virtual option: The African American Museum of History and Culture has a list of [resources, videos and books.](#)

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-Walsh-</b> This week we continued our Adventure study which now includes planning a mystery story, which we will be working on over the next two weeks or so. Our class time will include mini lessons on the art of writing such as snapshots to add detail and the proper way to write and punctuate dialogue. Mrs. Vincenz will be back Feb. 2, just so everyone is aware.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we wrapped up writing the drafts of our compare/contrast essays, and started converting them into Google slides presentations. Next week we'll finish up our presentations and present them to the class! Our next unit will be Folktales, where we'll learn about the history of oral traditions and read various folktales from around the world.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we worked on finding unit rates and explored ways that they can be helpful. We will continue this work next week as well.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> Our public art project is in full swing. Many students began working on their final product today. They will have time in class next Tuesday and Wednesday to complete their final products. Next Thursday and Friday, we will begin comparing angles, areas, and distances in our final product and original images to see how they changed as they were scaled.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>This week we wrote a play that we will perform for younger students on January 30 at 2:30pm. Parents are welcome to come see it. It is a very short play in</p>

	<p>three short acts. We also did an experiment to see what happens to air when it is heated. We read about climate change and weather too.</p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>This week we began our exploration into the borders we will be researching for our presentations. We will continue this work next week.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  <b>1/19 - No School, MLK Jr. Day</b>  <b>1/26-1/29 - NWEA Testing</b>  <b>2/9 - NAAPID</b>  <b>2/13-2/17 - No School, Mid-Winter break</b>  <b>2/17 - Ramadan starts at sunset</b></p>

January 9, 2026

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful break!

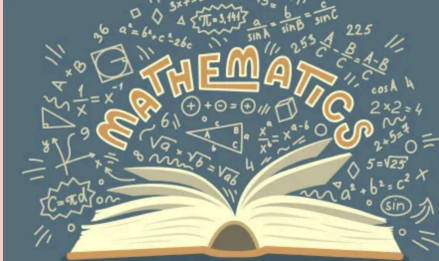
Students in all core classes are doing more work on paper and more hands-on learning as we park our computers more than we have in the past in response to research that is showing the need to use computers less and write more. We are

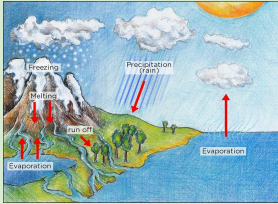




proud of students that are showing incredible growth and flexibility. We look forward to seeing the creativity and critical thinking continue to grow!

We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

- The Sixth Grade Team

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-Walsh-</b> This week we started an Adventure Unit. Students learned about Greek and Latin roots that will help with vocabulary development as well as understanding of some of our adventure terms. We are also going to get back to studying some poetry on Fridays. Mrs. Vincenz will be back Feb. 2, just so everyone is aware.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we took a brief detour from our compare and contrast project as we got back into our classroom routines and thought about our “one word” for 2026. After creating our “one word” project we got back to our compare/contrast essays, drafting our introduction and similarities paragraphs. Next week we’ll draft our differences and conclusions paragraphs, before moving on to incorporating our writing into a Google Slides presentation. Ask your student what their one word is (and how they plan to live it at home), and also what topic they chose for their compare/contrast essay.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we continued our work with ratios. We explored how to use tables to find equivalent ratios. Next week we will focus on finding a unit rate and why it is helpful.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week we launched our public art mini-project. It will last about two weeks and students will develop ideas around similarity, scale factor, and coordinate rules.</p> <p>Today we used class-time to retake/complete the ATN unit assessment that students took the Thursday before break. Next Friday at lunch is the final opportunity for students to retake this assessment.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>We are having a great time learning about the water cycle. This week we made a water cycle in a jar and a water table to study how heat and gravity move water. We will look more closely at stormwater and storms next week.</p>

	
<p><b>World Geography</b></p>  	<p>We have begun our unit on borders and how borders change and impact people. This week we looked at the Mexico US Border, North and South Korea and Spain and Morocco. Next week we will continue our investigation.</p>
<p><b>Needs</b></p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p><b>Wishes</b></p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
	<p><b><u>Upcoming Dates:</u></b>  <b>1/19 - No School, MLK Jr. Day</b>  <b>1/26-1/29 - NWEA Testing</b>  <b>2/9 - NAAPID</b>  <b>2/13-2/17 - No School, Mid-Winter break</b>  <b>2/17 - Ramadan starts at sunset</b></p>

**December 19, 2025**

**Happiest of Winter Break!**

**Thank you for a wonderful Fall of 2025! We look forward to seeing you in winter 2026! We have collected computers for break. We hope kids will spend some time outside. We also hope they have some time to**

## Curriculum Updates

### ELA

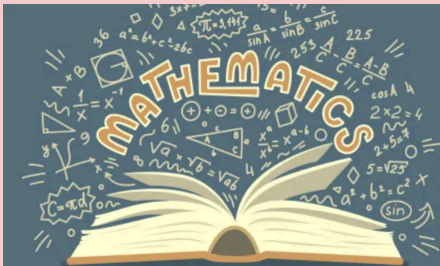


#### **Vincenz-Walsh-**

This week we worked on finishing up our mini research projects. Students created infographics as well as bibliographies for their research. Due to the enormous number of absences due to illness, students who were sick will be able to finish up on their return after break. Students also have the option to present their infographic after break for a little bit of extra credit. I hope everyone has a restful and rejuvenating break!!!

**Davis-** This week we began our compare and contrast research projects. We kicked off this unit by comparing and contrasting store brand and name brand snacks, and then looked at similarities and differences of Freak the Mighty the book and the movie. Students then chose their compare and contrast topic, and after learning about how to research safely and find credible sources, they began to compile some facts about their topic. After break we will use this information to begin drafting our compare and contrast essays. Ask your student what topic they chose, and what some of their similarities and differences are. I hope you all have a wonderful and restful winter break!

### Math



**Math 6:** This week we continued our work with ratios. We explored various strategies to find equivalent ratios. Upon our return from break we will work on making ratio tables and finding unit rate. Thank you for all of your support this year! Have a wonderful holiday!

**Math 7:** We took a summative assessment on Thursday. These have been graded and returned to students who were present on Friday.

If your student was absent on Thursday, they need to schedule a time with me to take the assessment if they did not check in with me and take the assessment on Friday.

Students may begin the retake process over break. Any questions that were not completed or answered incorrectly can be redone for full credit. Retake instructions can be found [here](#).

### Science

Thank you SO much for all the support for the Hygge Project and the Hot Cocoa Party! Students should have brought home portfolios. Some are still


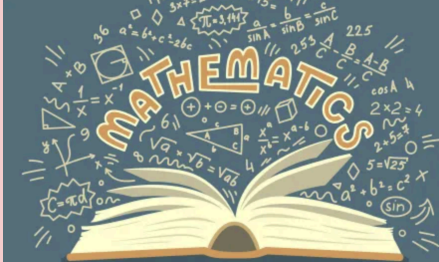

	<p>working on organizing skills, and they might have to complete their portfolios in the new year, or they might not make it home. We will be doing a water project in January, and students will make another portfolio for that project. I am grateful for the feedback from students and parents as I make some adjustments to meet the current needs of students. I am so grateful for you all.</p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>Students have been hard at work completing their <a href="#">Natural Hazard Design Solutions</a>. We have uploaded our projects to this website. This represents the culmination of two full weeks of investigation, ideation, design, and revision.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  12/22-1/2 - Winter Break</p>

December 12, 2025

Hello Families!

We are winding down 2025! On Friday, December 19, we would like to have a Hot Cocoa Party. We will also be making mixes for our hygge kits as we study the density of each ingredient. Here is a [Sign up Genius](#) for ingredients.

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-Walsh-</b> This week students continued to work on nonfiction and we began a short, mini research project. Students may choose a topic of their choice, take notes, create a bibliography and then produce an infographic on their topic. We are hoping to have this done by Th. Dec. 18, but if we run into glitches we will pick it up when we return from break. A reminder that Mrs. Vincenz will return to class on Mon. Feb. 2.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we presented our body biographies and watched the movie version of Freak the Mighty. Students enjoyed seeing the story come to life, and noting the differences between the book and the movie. Next week we'll use these as the jumping off point for our compare and contrast unit! Ask your student which version they liked better - the book or the movie - and why.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we began our new unit on ratios. We are learning about what a ratio statement is and how to create equivalent ratios. You can learn more about the new unit <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> We are wrapping up our unit on rational number operations. Next Thursday, we will have our end-of-unit summative assessment. Students should utilize the daily practice problems and formative assessments to prepare for the upcoming assessment.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>This week we learned about winter precipitation . We looked at graphs to understand the role of temperature in whether we have snow, sleet or freezing rain. We also learned why hail is not a winter precipitation! Students will make models and Venn Diagrams next week. Students are making portfolios of their work. We did everything on paper, and students have shown increase focus and work quality (as studies have started to show). <a href="#">Here is a sign up genius of things we need for the coziness project.</a></p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>This week we investigated plate tectonics and learned about local geographer, <a href="#">Marie Tharp!</a> Students have begun ideating their products to mitigate the impact of a natural hazard and will</p>

	<p>work on creating their product, a model, or a prototype, next week.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b>  12/19- Hot Cocoa Party <a href="#">Sign up</a>  12/22-1/2 - Winter Break</p>


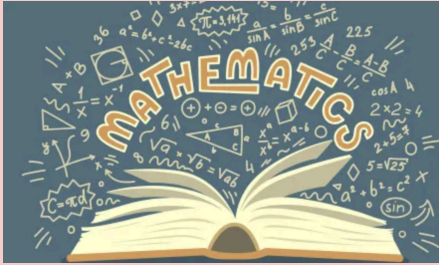
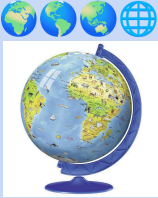
December 5, 2025



We sent home report cards in envelopes today. They can also be accessed on powerschool. We are looking forward to two more weeks of 2025, and then a nice break. We hope you are staying cozy!

- The Sixth Grade Team

### Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p>	<p><b>Vincenz-Walsh-</b>  This week students began a new Nonfiction Unit. We studied the five nonfiction signposts that will help guide our reading throughout the unit. Next week we will be looking at the main idea and details</p>
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	<p>of an article, and then we will launch into a short research project which should wrap up by winter break.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week students worked hard on their summative body biography projects. They are working in groups to analyze our story <i>Freak the Mighty</i> through focusing on one character. They put their final touches on them on Friday and will present on Monday. Next week we'll watch the movie version of our story which will launch us into our next unit, Compare and Contrast! Ask your student which character they are analyzing and how they feel about their body biography.</p>
<p><b>Math</b></p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we completed our Prime Time unit and assessment. Next week we will begin a new unit called Comparing Bits &amp; Pieces. You can learn more about the new unit <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week, we developed algorithms for identifying the signs of multiplication and division problems of rational numbers. We will have a check-up on the material next Tuesday and start wrapping up the unit by the end of next week. The summative assessment will take place the week before break, so it is a good time for students to make sure they have been using the daily practice problems when needed!</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Here is a sign up genius of things we need for the coziness project.</a></p> <p>We are off to an amazing start. We had a parent come in today to help us learn to knit and crochet. We also made some candles. It has been so fun! Meanwhile we are seeing such incredible learning about blizzards and storms. Students have been writing about and modeling storm formation. Next week we will learn about hail and begin our comparison writing.</p>
<p><b>World Geography</b></p> 	<p>What a disaster! We learned about the Blizzard of 1978 and investigated a Hurricane or Tornado of our choice. Next we will shake things up and learn about plate tectonics.</p>
<p><b>Needs</b></p>	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b> Students like fruit snacks and nut free</p>

	<p>granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b></p> <p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).</p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.</p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b></p> <p>11/20 - Fall Expo for Middle School- <b>Sixth Grade is in the MPR at 5:30pm</b></p> <p>11/25 - End of Trimester 1</p> <p>11/26-11/28 - Thanksgiving break</p> <p>12/1 - Start of Trimester 2</p> <p>12/22-1/2 - Winter Break</p>

November 21, 2021

The students did an amazing job with their Fall Projects! We will be finalizing grades on Monday and Tuesday, and when students come back from the Thanksgiving Break, it will be with a fresh start, and a new Trimester. Students learned a lot about working with a team, being independent learners, and taking responsibility for managing their work. We would like to foster this further in the new trimester. If your child has a question about an assignment, please help them write an email to their teachers. They are working on communicating needs and self-advocacy, and you can support this. It will be a short three weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter Break. It will be wonderful.

## Curriculum Updates

## ELA

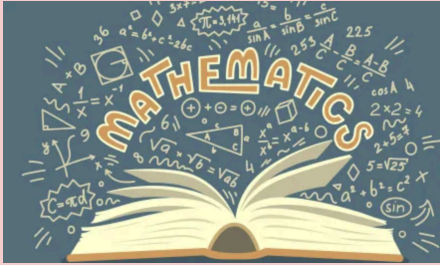


### Vincenz-Walsh-

This week students completed a one pager for a summative assessment. They analyzed the THEME in Trash and then submitted it. After that we watched "Fantastic Mr. Fox" which has similar themes. Between now and Thanksgiving Break we will talk about the similar themes as well as take inventory of what we have read over the first Trimester.

**Davis-** This week we reached the sad and dramatic conclusion of our book, *Freak the Mighty*. We then moved into our summative project, analyzing the characters from the story. They will be working in small groups to complete a "body biography." Ask your student what they thought of the story's ending, and which character they are analyzing.

## Math



**Math 6:** This week we explored ways to find the prime factorization of a number and how to use exponents. Next week and after Thanksgiving break we will explore the distributive property and order of operations.

**Math 7:** This week, we focused some energy on preparing for and celebrating Expo. We also developed an algorithm for adding rational numbers.

## Science



[Here is a sign up genius of things we need for the coziness project.](#)

This will be a fun way to learn about blizzards and hail. Students get to work individually on this project, with some natural collaboration.



## World Geography



This week we did lots to get ready for expo and the end of the trimester. Students engaged in creating the mural map that now hangs in the MPR, completing missing work and revising assignments. Our next unit is on natural hazards!

## Needs

We appreciate **snacks!**  
Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  
They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

	
<p><b>Wishes</b></p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b></p> <p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).</p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.</p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Dates</b></p>	<p><b>Upcoming Dates:</b></p> <p>11/20 - Fall Expo for Middle School- <b>Sixth Grade is in the MPR at 5:30pm</b></p> <p>11/25 - End of Trimester 1</p> <p>11/26-11/28 - Thanksgiving break</p> <p>12/1 - Start of Trimester 2</p> <p>12/22-1/2 - Winter Break</p>

November 14, 2025

We have had a great week working on our Tiny House Projects. Students will be ready to share their work with you all at the Expo on Thursday, November 20 at 5:30pm in the MPR!

We will be starting a new project after Thanksgiving, and [we would love any donations of yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks](#). We will be making cozy things as we learn about the weather.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday to celebrate outstanding project work!  
-The Sixth Grade Team

## Curriculum Updates

## ELA



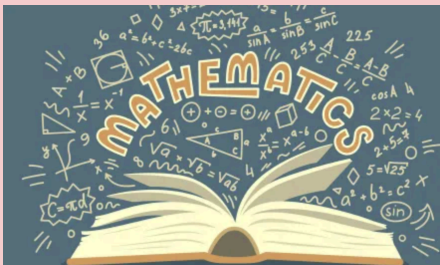
### Vincenz-Walsh-

This week we are finishing *Trash* by Andy Mulligan and talking about themes and evidence. Students are filling out their last packet that details the end of the novel (kind of complicated and fast) as well as making a storyboard for the whole novel (6 most important scenes).

**Davis-** We've reached the climax of our book and will be finishing up our story next week! The students are LOVING this story, and were on the edges of their seats as they learned how "Freak the Mighty struck again." We also talked about Max's internal and external conflicts, as well as how a character's actions showed their traits. Ask your student what they thought of Freak's rescue plan, and if they have a friend they would do anything for.

Next week we'll finish the story, and move right into our next unit, Compare and Contrast, kicking it off with watching the movie version of the story.

## Math



**Math 6:** This week we explored ways to find the greatest common factor and the least common multiple of two numbers. Next week we explore ways to find the prime factorization of a number and how to use exponents.

**Math 7:** We began a new unit this week! We explored modeling changes in values on a number line and using a "chip" model. Students were asked to reflect on how practice problems impacted their learning in the last unit and to make a plan for applying it to this unit.



Next week, we will look to develop algorithms for the addition and subtraction of positive and negative integers.

## Science



We finished building this week! Students worked so hard! They also wrote scientific arguments to show how they modified their houses for light and heat. They wrote thoughtful claims with thorough evidence from class activities, and reasoning that explains the science concepts we learned that they applied to their project work. They also took a quiz to show understanding of the big concepts and unit standards. Students are doing a great job!

[Here is a sign up genius of things we need for the coziness project.](#)

<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>We have been doing our first mapping lab, an investigation into a specific region using different thematic maps . During this activity we have been learning about the geography of Latin America.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
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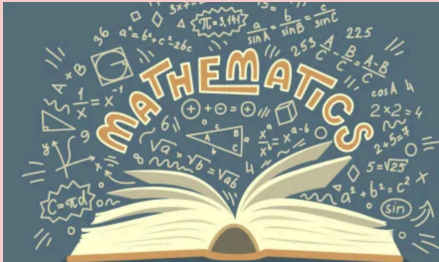

November 7, 2025

We hope you are having a great week. We are getting close to the end of the first trimester, so we are giving kids some time to revise and complete assignments. We also ask that if a student needs anything from their teachers, they talk to them or email them rather than having parents reach out. Please help them write emails if they need to. The grades in middle school do not count or hold kids back in any way, but the habits we build in middle school help us become our best selves. Please

encourage your child to advocate for themselves any time they can. This is the most important skill they will learn and need for high school.

Have a great weekend!  
-The Sixth Grade Team

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-Walsh-</b> This week we continued <i>Trash</i> by Andy Mulligan. Students are focusing on theme and figurative language this week. Ask your student about some of the themes we have explored so far in the book. It is fast-paced and exciting as the boys from the dump try to solve a mystery. Also, please have your student check their grade in ELA as many are missing packets from previous weeks. Thanks!</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we continued reading <i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick. We've looked at how the events of the story map onto the plot pyramid, and the character traits of Max and Freak. Ask your student what they think of Loretta and Iggy Lee, and what they think a theme of the book is thus far.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we practiced finding factors and multiples of numbers. We identified numbers as prime, composite or square. Next week we will work on finding the greatest common factor and the least common multiple of two numbers.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week, students wrapped up the data analysis and synthesis components of our Fall Expo Project. They have 2 weeks to complete or redo any portions of the project they would like to improve. Students should email me when they complete or re-do a portion of the project so that I know it needs to be graded!</p> <p>Next week, we will begin a new unit on rational number operations. Read more about it <a href="#">here!</a></p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>This week we took a closer look at what happens to molecules when heat is added. We are also looking at what happens to water molecules when heated. We will be learning about the water cycle in the location where our houses are so we can make sustainable choices. We also continue to build!</p>

<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>Students have been hard at work this week finishing up their presentations and are excited to share their work with you on November 20th! We also completed our deep dive into map projections so ask your student about which map projection they think is best and why.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b> Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
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October 31, 2025

Hello Families,


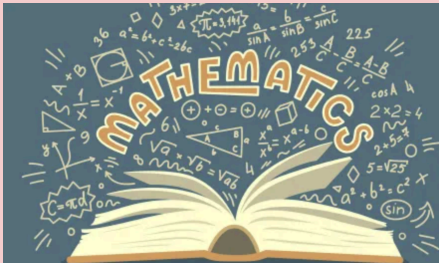
We hope you have had a great week. We have been working a lot on our houses and talking a lot about what it means to have housing security in a community. We have also been talking a bit about food costs and food assistance.


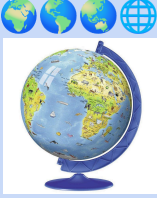


With the Federal Government shut down many families in our community will no longer receive SNAP benefits starting November 1. If you need help please reach out to our team or the main office so we can help connect you with resources.

If you are able to make donations we would recommend monetary or nonperishable food donations to [Food Gatherers](#). As an established community resource they are best equipped to support those in need. Additionally, the STEAM PTO is accepting Venmo (A2 STEAM PTO) and Cash Donations. We are also collecting gift cards for groceries in the office. If choosing to donate gift cards please make them in smaller amounts such as \$25-50 so it is easier to distribute.

No school this upcoming Tuesday, 11/4, due to the local election. Please go out and vote! AAPS and the [AAEA](#) have endorsed the Career and Technical Education Millage. This would expand opportunities for students not only in AAPS but across the county.

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-Walsh-</b> This week we continued the exciting novel, <i>Trash</i>. Students are focusing on characters as well as vocabulary and understanding corruption in an unnamed 3rd world country. I was planning on showing them the movie after the novel, but it's rated R, so we will NOT be doing that. Ask your student what it means to have a multi first person point of view in a book.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we dove into our first novel study, <i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick. So far we've learned who the main characters are, gotten a taste of the conflict, and learned some great new vocabulary words. Ask your student how they would describe Freak and Max, what it means to be a "spitting image," and why for Max that is a bad thing.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we began our second unit, Prime Time. See <a href="#">this link</a> for more information. We found methods for finding factors and multiples of a number and played some games to help solidify our understanding. Next week we will work on finding the greatest common factor and the least common multiple of two numbers.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week, students completed their qualitative data analysis and began their quantitative data analysis. They will wrap the analysis up on Monday and spend next Wednesday-Friday synthesizing their</p>

	findings.
<p><b>Science</b></p> 	<p>This week we took a closer look at what happens to molecules when heat is added. We are also looking at what happens to water molecules when heated. We will be learning about the water cycle in the location where our houses are so we can make sustainable choices. We also continue to build!</p>
<p><b>World Geography</b></p> 	<p>We have been investigating different map projections to decide which one we should use in schools. Students are practicing analysis skills and using Claim Evidence and Reasoning (CER) to develop an argument.</p>
<p><b>Needs</b></p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
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## Most Needed Food Items

Food Gatherers appreciates all types of non-perishable food donations, however, we have the most requests from our partner agencies for the following items. For donation hours and instructions, please visit our website: [www.foodgatherers.org](http://www.foodgatherers.org).

### Non-perishable food

- Hearty soups (beef stew, chili, etc.)
- Canned meats (tuna fish, chicken, etc.)
- Canned vegetables
- Packaged pasta & rice
- Whole grain cereal & oatmeal
- Baking & cooking supplies (flour, sugar, oil, etc.)
- Condiments
- Nut butters or jelly
- Kid-friendly snacks (granola bars, goldfish, etc.)
- Baby food & formula
- Ensure & other nutritional supplement drinks

### Personal care items

- Baby items (diapers, wipes, etc.)
- Soap & shampoo
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Disposable razors

#### *Please note:*

*Food Gatherers prefers low/no sodium canned food and food made from whole grains.*

*We cannot accept opened containers and expired products. Please avoid items with glass packaging.*

Food Gatherers | 1 Carrot Way, Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
[www.foodgatherers.org](http://www.foodgatherers.org) | 734-761-2796  
[info@foodgatherers.org](mailto:info@foodgatherers.org)

October 24, 2025

Hello Families!

We hope you are having a wonderful week.

Next week is Spirit Week!

Monday: Anything but a backpack day

Tuesday: Decades Day

Wednesday: PJ day/ Bring a stuffie

Thursday: Dress like a teacher day

Friday: Dress like a character day

One big ask: We are having some space concerns with the animals. We are also concerned they are overwhelmed by the number of students interacting with them. We have an idea:

We are hoping that parents that have already generously agreed to take them for the weekend might be willing to take them for the entire week so they are only in the classroom on Fridays when they are switching from one home to another. This way the animals can stay a part of the community, and kids can have a special day to visit with them, but we are no longer having the problems we were having.

Please let me know if you are interested in taking the piggies permanently, or until summer, after the winter break. I wish it was not so tricky these days for me to care for them, but I think they need a different environment.


[Here are Care Instructions for the animals.](#)

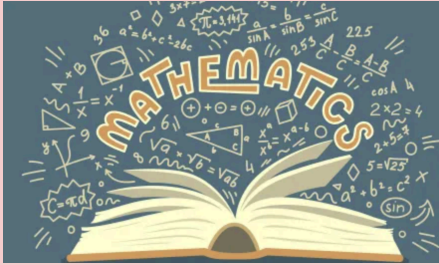
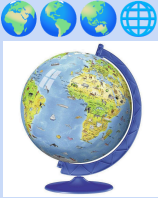

Please contact Jeanie Wilson ([wilsonje@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:wilsonje@aaps.k12.mi.us)) with any questions about this.

Note:

We do not have a quiz bowl team nor a middle school science olympiad team. If you have any interest in taking one of these on as the adult and coach, please let us know.

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-Walsh-</b> This week in ELA, we started reading <i>Trash</i> by Andy Mulligan. Students completed a packet that asked them to analyze characters as well as motivations in their choices. We talked about character development and Point of View (1st and 3rd person).</p> <p>We will continue this novel for approximately one month. Students are reading in class, but please make sure they are reading at home (novel of choice) for 20 minutes as well. You can contact me at <a href="mailto:walshjen@aaps.k12.mi.us">walshjen@aaps.k12.mi.us</a> if you need to ask a question or check on your student. I will be in for Mrs. Vincenz until Jan. 30, and she will return from maternity leave on Feb. 2.</p>
	<p><b>Davis-</b> This week we wrapped up the first half of our literary analysis unit by reading our third and final short story, "Skitter Hitter" by Jason Reynolds. We also talked about character development, and analyzed the character traits of our two main characters. Ask your student how Stevie and Pia changed from the beginning of the story to the end.</p>

	<p>Next week we dive into our first novel study, <i>Freak the Mighty</i> by Rodman Philbrick. It is a lovely story of overcoming adversity, finding your voice, and the power of friendship. It's going to be a very fun few weeks!</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we completed our Covering and Surrounding unit. Tests will be handed back on Monday. Next week we will begin our next unit, Prime Time. See <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week, we dove into the data from the survey we sent out a few weeks ago, all 101 responses. Students are wrapping up their analysis of one set of qualitative data, specifically related to the feature of indigenous civilizations that they are focusing on. Next week, they will analyze a second set of qualitative data and begin some quantitative data analysis! <b>If students did not complete their first set of qualitative data analysis in class, they should complete it at home this weekend!!!</b></p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>We have been building and learning about insulation this week. It has been perfect with the weather because we can talk about what insulates our bodies well is similar to what insulates our houses well. We have been drawing models and writing about what we are learning about insulation. The houses are really coming along! If you have popsicle sticks you want to give us, we would love that. They make incredible wood flooring!</p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>We have been editing and revising our Tiny House Presentations. We have learned about how to give and receive feedback to improve our work. We have seen that collaborating with partners from other groups helps improve everyone's work.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b> Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p>	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games</p>



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## Upcoming Dates

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10/31 - Half Day, dismissal at 11:15

11/4 - No School, Election Day

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11/25 - End of Trimester 1

11/26-11/28 - Thanksgiving break

12/1 - Start of Trimester 2

12/22-1/2 - Winter Break

October 17, 2025

Thank you for coming to conferences!

It was a long four day week with conferences, but when we asked kids about it they were thrilled with how it went. We heard them share how proud of themselves they are and how much they liked sharing their interests and successes with you. Thank you!

If you were not able to come to conferences, that is totally fine. Please go over the student-led conference slides with your child and email their advisory teacher or just reply to this email with any questions, concerns or comments. We are hoping you will have a rich conversation about what students need to be their best, and anything we, the adults in their lives, can do to support them.

### Project Work Time:

We are starting to build our Tiny Houses, and we are trying some new things that might be a bit messy. We cannot wait to see how they work together, handle challenging situations, and problem solve while learning important math, science, and geography concepts. We would appreciate clean items like styrofoam containers.

Thank you for all you do!

- The Sixth Grade Team

## Curriculum Updates

### ELA

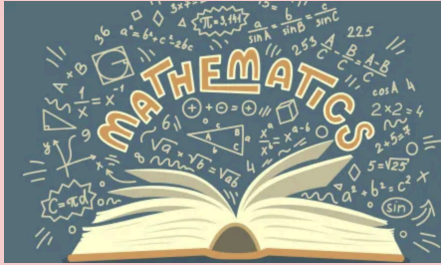


**Vincenz-Walsh-** This week in ELA, we continued to learn about [signposts](#) and how they connect to [literary elements](#). We wrote and spoke about how our evidence supported our claims. Next week, we will be starting our novel study by reading some short stories.

Please remind scholars to turn in their [homework assignment](#) **on Tuesday if they did not turn it in today**. Many have already turned it in!

**Davis-** This week we continued on in our literary analysis unit as we talked about literary conflict and analyzed the signposts in our second short story, "The Medicine Bag" by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneeve. As your student what kind of conflict Martin is experiencing, and if you think he was right to try and hide his grandfather from his friends.

### Math



**Math 6:** This week we completed our final unit task of calculating the surface area and volume of prisms. We will wrap up our unit by reviewing next week and completing the test on Thursday. A study guide will be given out on Tuesday.

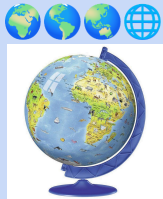
**Math 7:** This week began modeling and measuring qualitative and quantitative data. Next week students will use the tools we learned this week and apply to survey data we have collected.

### Science



We had a lot of fun designing, building and testing cups this week as we seek to understand how heat transfers. We will apply what we learned to help our houses stay cool and/or warm. We are so excited to start building houses next week!

### World Geography



This week we have been drawing our designs for our houses. We also looked at the Micro Studio Apartments in NYC and a 280 sq. ft. Tiny House in Washington for inspiration and ideas to incorporate into our designs. Next week we begin building our models.

### Needs



We appreciate **snacks and Kleenex!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

## Wishes



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October 9, 2025


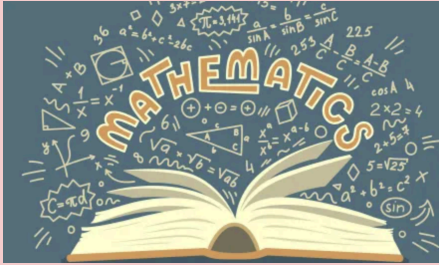
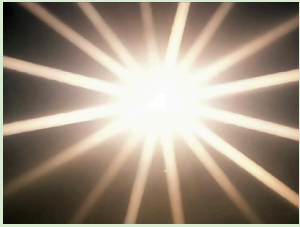

Hello, and Happy Fall Break!




In the coming weeks we will begin building our tiny house models, if you have old shoe boxes or shoe box sized cardboard boxes please send them in for our students to use for construction. This is a very fun and very challenging project. One of the biggest challenges is communication and group consensus. We are so proud of our students and the very challenging work they do!

We look forward to Conferences this week! Please reach out if you need an alternative time. Please double check you have a time set on the advisory class listing here! Your child will present to you with teacher support. We encourage parents to be curious and compassionate rather than critical or confrontational. Students are growing at their pace, and with the support of staff and parents, they will do amazing things! Some sentence starters for parents: "I wonder if there are ways to manage time to get work done in a way that feels good...." or "It seems this is a challenge for you. How can we all support you in this..."

Looking forward to this opportunity to celebrate student learning and growth! Please take note of **Student-Led conferences** coming up October 14 and 16! Please sign up for a time with your child's advisory teacher. We can schedule on other days by appointment if necessary.

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week in ELA, we continued to learn about <a href="#">signposts</a> and how they connect to <a href="#">literary elements</a>. We wrote and spoke about how our evidence supported our claims. Next week, we will be starting our novel study by reading some short stories.</p> <p>Please remind scholars to turn in their <a href="#">homework assignment</a> on <b>Tuesday if they did not turn it in today</b>. Many have already turned it in!</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we continued to think about literary analysis with our short story "Raymond's Run." We analyzed Squeaky's character development, and worked on writing a complete paragraph to answer a prompt. Ask your student what three pieces are needed to write a complete paragraph.</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we practiced finding the area and circumference of circles. We also completed our last check up for this unit. Next week we will pull together everything we have learned about measuring two dimensional figures and apply it to calculating the surface area and volume of three dimensional figures.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> Our first unit assessment was this Wednesday. Next week, we will begin our first PBL project of the year!</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>We have completed our learning about light energy, and we will move forward to learn about heat transfer, absorption and thermal energy so students can insulate their homes. We will explore ideas as we make a thermal cup to keep a beverage cold. Thank you for your support and sending in shoe boxes as we start to build.</p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>We have been working on incorporating indigenous knowledge into our house designs as well as designing to mitigate natural hazards. Next week we will finalize designs and begin building. If you</p>

	<p>have any shoe boxes or similarly sized cardboard boxes please send them in, thank you!</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks and Kleenex!</b> Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b>  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p>10/10 and 10/13 - No School, Fall Break  10/14, 16 - Student-Led Parent/Teacher Conferences  10/31 - Half Day, dismissal at 11:15  11/4 - No School, Election Day  11/20 - Fall Expo for Middle School</p>

October 3, 2025

Hello Families!

We hope you have had a great week.

Grade Updates: Your child is supposed to send you emailed grade updates on Thursdays. We know some kids are not doing this, so if you did not receive an email from your child, please go over grades with them this weekend. They can log into Schoology and show you how they are doing. We emphasize that grades are not a big deal, but doing all assignments, learning time management, and asking for help when needed are important skills we need to develop. We are concerned that some students are playing on computers instead of using them to do work and learning activities. If your child has many missing assignments, this might be a good question to ask.

Field Trip News: We have planned a field trip for Tuesday, October 7. Due to the Federal Government Shut Down it is not certain we can go. We are hoping it will be sorted and opened by Tuesday!

The trip:

We are going to the River Raisin National Battleground to learn about traditional Wyandotte Housing designs. We want to know more about how the people indigenous to this area built homes using natural resources and sustainable practices. We want to learn how they kept homes warm in the winter and cool in the summer. We will need a packed lunch and clothes to be outside for a couple hours. We are excited about this trip and look forward to a fun day!

[Field Trip Permission Slip](#)

[Archery Permission Slip](#) (Optional)

Here is a snapshot of what they day will look like with different timing for each group:



Field Trip Schedule GROUP 1	
10:30 - 10:45	Arrival: Welcome, Orientation, Bathroom
10:50 - 11:20	Archery
11:25 - 11:55	Trading Post
12:00 - 12:20	Native Lifeways Tour
12:25 - 12:45	Mini Theater Film
12:50 - 1:20	Lunch
1:20 - 1:30	Clean up Lunch Area and Depart

Fun Run Today: We will run and we will have fun, and we hope your family can help us fund project supplies and field trips etc by donating. Thank you for whatever support you can give.

Please take note of **Student-Led** conferences coming up October 14 and 16! Please sign up for a time with your child's advisory teacher. We can schedule on other days by appointment if necessary.

[Wilson](#)

[Smead](#)

[Bell](#)

Have a wonderful weekend!

- The Sixth Grade Team

Curriculum Updates

## ELA



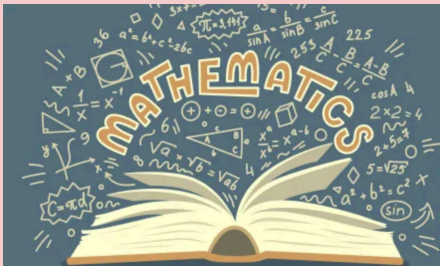
**Vincenz-** This week in ELA, we learned about [signposts](#) and how they connect to [literary elements](#). Next week, we will have a notebook check, practice using signposts to prove different literary elements, and learners will take an (open-note) assessment on finding signposts independently.

NWEA scores were sent home today *for Reading*. Please reach out to Ms. Vincenz with any questions ([vincenzc@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:vincenzc@aaps.k12.mi.us)).

Please remind scholars to turn in their [homework assignment](#) on **Wednesday if they did not turn it in today**. Many have already turned it in!

**Davis-** This week we dove into our literary analysis unit! We had a “respectful debate” to get our minds ready for book discussions, read a nonfiction article about whether or not personalities change over time, and read our first short story, “Raymond’s Run” by Toni Cade Bambara. Ask your student if they think Squeaky is a flat or a round character.

## Math



**Math 6:** This week we designed triangles and parallelograms with given constraints. Next week we will design polygons on a coordinate grid and practice finding the area of a circle. Next Friday we will have our investigation 3 quiz.

**Math 7:** Our first unit assessment is this coming Wednesday! To prepare, students can work through practice problems posted in the daily folders on Schoology or find additional practice related to the “Shapes and Designs” unit in the “Additional Practice by Unit” folder on Schoology.

## Science



This week we learned about how much solar irradiation our locations receive by looking at a model and map. We also looked up day length for each month and graphed the data. We are thinking about what kind of windows we want to use, where to place them, and what size they need to be.



## World Geography



This week we began designing our house. We drew ideas for the exterior and began brainstorming the floorplan. If anyone has a background in architecture/engineering and has the time to speak to our kids and show them how professionals design houses, buildings, or structures that would be a great value add to our project.

## Needs

We appreciate **snacks and Kleenex!**

	<p>Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for <b>animal help</b></p> <p><a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).</p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a></p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.</p> <p><a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p>10/3 - Color Run</p> <p>10/3- Skyline Homecoming Parade</p> <p>10/7 - River Raisin Field Trip</p> <p>10/10 and 10/13 - No School, Fall Break</p> <p>10/14, 16 - Student-Led Parent/Teacher Conferences</p> <p>10/31 - Half Day, dismissal at 11:15</p> <p>11/4 - No School, Election Day</p> <p>11/20 - Fall Expo for Middle School</p>

September 26, 2025

Hello Families!

This week we started to grade reports on Thursday. We do this every week by helping students complete a grade report and telling them to email it to you. You should have received one yesterday. We have your email address, but you can also review this with your child if you did not receive their report. We find a weekly check of grades and reporting them to parents helps students build the self-management skills and agency we want them to develop and bring to high school.

We started Trails to wellness this week. We learn about naming our feelings, and managing stress. Students learn tools to help with mental health and overall wellbeing. We have been using this program for many years with wonderful results.

We are going on a field trip to the River Raisin National Battlefield on Tuesday, October 7. We will be learning about the homes of the Wyandot tribe as we

investigate ways to use natural resources to keep our warms warm in the winter and cool in the summer. There are two permission slips coming home, one for the trip and one to participate in archery on the trip, please sign and return as soon as possible.

*Remember* that there is no school on Monday, September 29.

Please take note of conferences coming up in October!

Please sign up for a time with your child's advisory teacher.

[Wilson](#)


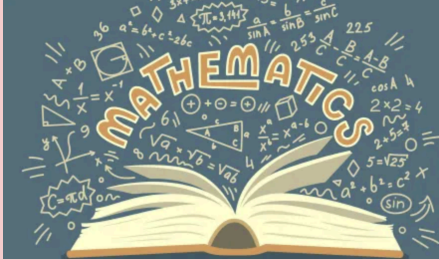
[Smead](#)

[Bell](#)

Thank you for a great week!

The Sixth Grade Team

## Curriculum Updates

<p>ELA</p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week, we learned about the <a href="#">theme</a> and introduced CER writings (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) writings.</p> <p>Next week we will dig deeper into literary terms and signposts. Please remind scholars to turn in their <a href="#">homework assignment</a> on <b>Tuesday</b>. Many have already turned it in!</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week we wrapped up our mini literature terms unit with learning about signposts, reviewing theme, and taking a unit quiz. Students did really well on their quizzes and have clearly learned a lot already! Next week we dive into literary analysis!</p>
<p>Math</p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we identified and used formulas for finding the area of triangles and parallelograms. We took our second check up today. Next week we will investigate how to design polygons under constraints and on coordinate planes.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> Next week, we will wrap up our first unit! The end-of-unit assessment will follow the next week on October 8th. Students can prepare for the assessment by reviewing the daily practice problems posted daily on Schoology in our weekly folder -&gt; daily folder -&gt; agenda. The problems themselves can be found in our math book, which they can sign out from me or access through Schoology in the "Access to math books" folder. We are currently wrapping up the book, "Shapes and Designs".</p>

<p>Science</p> 	<p>We had a great week testing how light behaves with different materials. We will look at how much light our house gets next week in order to plan window placement and materials for the Tiny Houses.</p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>We spent this time finding the locations of our tiny houses using latitude and longitude. We also made climographs for our tiny house locations.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks and Kleenex!</b> Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for animal help  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p>9/29 - No School (Professional Development for Teachers and Staff)  10/1 - Count Day  10/3 - Color Run  10/3- Skyline Homecoming Parade  10/7 - River Raisin Field Trip  10/10 and 10/13 - No School, Fall Break  10/14, 16 - Student-Led Parent/Teacher Conferences  10/31 - Half Day, dismissal at 11:15  11/4 - No School, Election Day  11/20 - Fall Expo for Middle School</p>

September 19, 2025

Hello Families!

We hope you have had a wonderful week. We had some chats this week about grades, and we want you to know what we are saying to our students. We are telling students that grades are there to help them see how much of the content or task they were able to complete. They are not very meaningful at this stage because the whole point is to learn to self manage, build learning and engagement skills, and practice communicating about grades with teachers. We will support them in sending emails when there is a grade concern or if they need more support on something.

Please take note of conferences coming up in October!

Please sign up for a time with your child's advisory teacher.

[Wilson](#)

[Smead](#)

[Bell](#)

Thank you for a great week!

The Sixth Grade Team

## Curriculum Updates

ELA

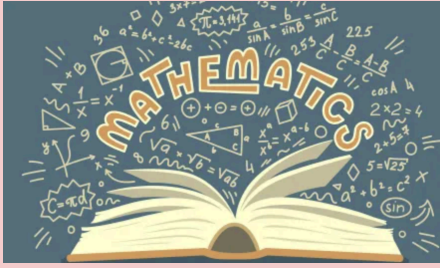


**Vincenz-** This week in ELA, we learned how to use dialogue effectively in our writing, how to summarize a story (fiction text), and theme was introduced (the message or moral of a story). Next week we will continue to practice these skills and learn about plot elements and figurative language.

On Monday, scholars have their [first homework assignment due](#). Many have already turned it in!

**Davis-** This week we continued with our literature terms unit, and covered inferencing, the plot pyramid, and theme. Ask your student to tell you the theme of their favorite book or movie. Hint: they shouldn't give you a single word! Next week we'll finish out this mini unit by learning about literary signposts, before diving into our first major unit of the year, literary analysis! We'll read several short stories, as well as the novel *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. It's a very fun unit, and I'm excited to dive into literature with these kiddos!

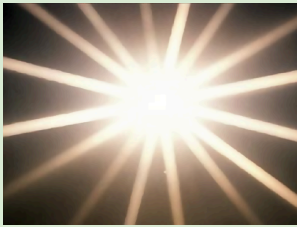
## Math



**Math 6:** This week we continued working on finding the perimeter and area of rectangles and triangles. We took our first check up on Wednesday, so be sure to ask your student how they feel about their progress so far. Next week we will continue our study of area by introducing formulas that can be used.

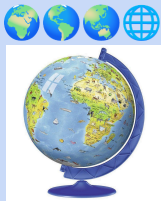
**Math 7:** This week, we began investigating the interior angle sums of polygons, regular and irregular. Next week, we will explore tiling polygons and the exterior angles of polygons.

## Science



This week we learned about one way mirrors. We investigated how they work with a box they could play with. Students drew a model and learned how to use a list of must haves to self-assess work completion. We also went outside with a variety of objects to see what we could figure out about light. We learned about opaque, transparent, translucent and reflective materials.

## World Geography



We had a busy week in Social Studies. On Monday we looked at how the tilt of the earth causes the seasons. On Wednesday we had Constitution Day and we ended the week with a nonfiction reading about tiny houses. Next week will begin learning about our specific locations.

## Needs



We appreciate **snacks and Kleenex!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.

## Wishes



[Wilson's Wish List](#) And [here is the sign up](#) for animal help

[Bell's Wish List](#) If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).

[Smead's Wish List](#)

[Smead's Book Sweet Wish List](#)

[Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List](#) filled with books requested by students.

[Ms. Vincenz's Amazon](#) wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)

## Upcoming Dates

September 12, 2025

Hello Families!

Thank you to those of you that came to Curriculum Night!

[Here are our slides for curriculum night.](#)

Please reach out to any of us with any questions. If you reply to this email with any questions, your concern will be sent on to whomever can help. We are here to help you and your student have a wonderful sixth grade experience.

Here are the links to sign up for conferences. We do student-led conferences at STEAM because they have been shown in research to be a more effective way of building connections for the parent, student and teacher connection and communication. They also give students agency over their academic and personal growth. We are present to support the student and to answer any questions that come up that need teacher input.

Please sign up for a time with your child's advisory teacher.

[Wilson](#)

[Smead](#)

[Bell](#)

Chromebooks have been dispersed and are in use. We use them sparingly. Research has shown that students need to create and write by hand to form deep understanding. We use chromebooks to extend our learning. Students bring them to classes, but they sit in charging stations unless needed. We use them in Tree Time for enrichment work, and we use them for reflecting and finalizing project work. Students are allowed to bring them home, but they are also allowed to leave them in our charging stations overnight. We encourage students to complete work at school and use home time to read and play outside when possible. We continue to follow research and best practices on this topic.

Thank you for a great week!

The Sixth Grade Team

### Curriculum Updates

**ELA**

**Vincenz-** This week in ELA, learners learned about how sensory details (imagery) can be used to introduce character and to paint a picture of the setting (when/where a story takes place). We



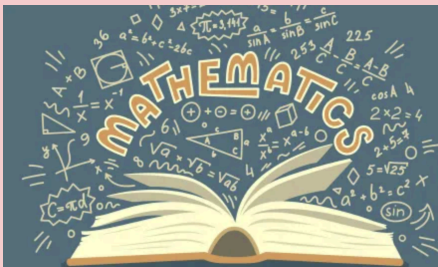
started to explore dialogue, and we practiced sustained free writing.

Next week, learners' first [homework assignment](#) will come home, and we will continue to learn about dialogue, explore plot, and be introduced to different literary terms.

You can find the slides shared on curriculum night [HERE](#). Please reach out with any questions.

**Davis-** This week in ELA we began our first mini unit of the year - Literature Terms! We'll spend about two weeks learning all of the terms we'll need to be successful when we start our first larger unit, Literary Analysis. Ask your student what an inference is, and who they think Tony Spagoni was. Also, my apologies for not making it to curriculum night last night. I was home sick with the back-to-school crud. You can find my sixth grade slides [here](#).

## Math



**Math 6:** We began our first unit Covering and Surrounding this week. We reviewed how to find the area and perimeter of rectangles and learned some new strategies for estimating the area and perimeter of irregular shapes. We will have our first check up next week on Wednesday.

**Math 7:** This week we explored angles. Estimating, sketching, and measuring! Next week we will explore angles in two-dimensional shapes.

My Curriculum night slides can be found [here](#).

## Science



Students worked with our amazing student teacher, Ms. Harrelson, to create passive solar fairy houses in the outdoor classroom. Next week we will apply what we learned to design houses all over the world to mitigate homelessness.

[Here is a video for curriculum night for sixth grade](#)




[Here is a link to my syllabus](#)

Please email me with any questions. Thanks!

## World Geography



We have been investigating the connections between climate and latitude and physical features. Next week we will continue our look into locations as we prepare for our Tiny House project.

	<p>Here are my <a href="#">curriculum night slides</a>.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most.  They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.  Tissues- Tis the season of allergies and runny noses. Tissue donations are much appreciated.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for animal help  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p>9/11- Curriculum night 5:30-7:30pm</p>

**September 5, 2025**

**Here is the information you need for signing up for clubs and sports:**

Hello STEAM Families,

Welcome Back! This year we will continue to offer 4 seasons instead of 5. Each season will last 9 weeks instead of 6. All of the same sports will still be available except swimming, and boys volleyball has been moved to season 1. Please click [here](#) to check out the timeline of the 4 seasons and the sports offered during each.

Sign up for Season 1 Athletics is now live - families can sign students up for an after school athletic activity using [this Google form](#). Season 1 begins on Tuesday, September 2nd and runs through Friday, November 7th. (6th Grade sports begin the week of September 8th).

**Deadline for Signup is Thursday August 28th.**

This season Clague athletics will be joining STEAM for soccer and field hockey because of construction on their campus. There will be one  $\frac{7}{8}$  combined STEAM/Clague soccer team and one  $\frac{7}{8}$  combined STEAM/Clague field hockey team. Cuts will take place if tryout numbers are larger than allotted roster spots.

Remember that we have one “late/activity bus” designed to support the participation of middle school students in clubs and athletics. This **late bus runs Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays**, servicing our northside neighborhoods. The exact schedule of the bus will be posted on the athletics website as soon as we have it.

### **STEAM Season 1 Athletic Activities**

**[7/8th Grade Boy's Soccer \(M, T, Th 3:30-4:45\)](#)**

**Coach:** TBD

**[7/8th Girls Volleyball \(M, T, Th 3:30-4:45\)](#)**

**Coach:** TBD

**[7/8th Boys Volleyball \(M, T, Th 3:30-4:45\)](#)**

**Coach:** TBD

**[6th Grade Boy's Soccer \(T-Th 3:30-4:30\)](#)**

**Coach:** TBD

**[6th Grade Girls Volleyball \(T-Th 3:30-4:30\)](#)**

**Coach:** TBD

**[6th Grade Boys Volleyball \(T-Th 3:30-4:30\)](#)**

**Coach:** TBD

**[6/7/8 Co-Ed Cross Country \(M, T, Th 3:30-4:45\)](#)**

**Coach:** Molly Lipton [liptonm@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:liptonm@aaps.k12.mi.us)

**[Field Hockey with Clague Middle School \(M, T, Thu 3:15-4:30\)](#)**

**Coach:** Matt Curry [currym@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:currym@aaps.k12.mi.us)

Please find more information about our non-athletic clubs [here](#). You can sign up on the website or by clicking this [ClubSignUp](#).

You can learn more about each Season 1 activity on our STEAM Athletics website [here](#). Students will need a sports physical on file in order to participate in any of the Season 1 activities. Completed physical forms can be emailed to Amanda Stowe-Blanchard [stowea@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:stowea@aaps.k12.mi.us). Learn more about sports physicals [here](#)

Pay to participate information is found on our athletics site or click the link below for enrollment directions.

[2025-2026 Pay to Participate Enrollment Directions](#)

Please let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to the start of Season 1!


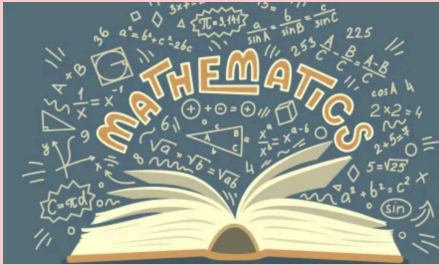
Amanda Stowe-Blanchard  
Athletic Director & 5th grade teacher, A2 STEAM  
[stowea@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:stowea@aaps.k12.mi.us)

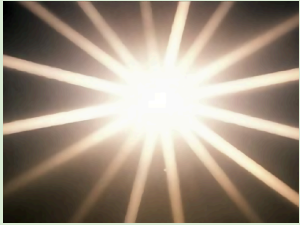



Torian Billings  
Principal, A2 STEAM

**[NOTE: D and D club begins November 10!](#)**

Here are the curriculum updates for this week:

## Curriculum Updates

<p><b>ELA</b></p> 	<p><b>Vincenz-</b> This week in ELA we took our district pretests, explored our classroom library, and started to brainstorm topics we care about to inspire our writing.</p> <p>Next week, we will start our 10 minutes of reading at the start of class. Please remind your scholar to bring their book from home if they want to read something they have already started.</p> <p><b>Davis-</b> This week in ELA we took our district pre-tests and explored our classroom library. Students were able to do a book tasting and also enjoyed our first Free Reading Friday. They did a great job sustaining independent reading for the whole class period!</p>
<p><b>Math</b></p> 	<p><b>Math 6:</b> This week we continued getting to know one another. We also practiced working well in groups and working through productive struggle. Next week we will dive into our first unit, Covering and Surrounding.</p> <p><b>Math 7:</b> This week, we continued thinking slowly/deeply about problems and worked on other strategies for working together on math.</p> <p>Next week we will begin our first unit. Read more about it <a href="#">here!</a></p>
<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p>We had a fun week harnessing the Sun to melt</p>

	<p>chocolate chips and learning how to use lux meters. I will be away this coming week. I will not be here for curriculum night, but I made a video for you to see what we do in Sixth Grade Science.  <a href="#">Here is a video for curriculum night for sixth grade</a>  <a href="#">Here is a link to my syllabus</a>  Please email me with any questions. Thanks!</p>
<p>World Geography</p> 	<p>We have completed our “Teach Us Your Name” project which you will be able to see at curriculum night. We also worked on our group work norms and completed our district common assessment. It was a busy four days! Next week we will begin talking about location. Ask your student about their favorite place, where it is and what they like about it.</p>
<p>Needs</p> 	<p>We appreciate <b>snacks!</b>  Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to focus when hungry.  Tissues- Tis the season of allergies and runny noses. Tissue donations are much appreciated.</p>
<p>Wishes</p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for animal help  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>
<p>Upcoming Dates</p>	<p>9/11- Curriculum night 5:30-7:30pm</p>

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August 28, 2025

Welcome to Sixth Grade at STEAM! We are off to a great start! Every week you will receive a link to this newsletter. It is also available on our website linked above.

Curriculum Updates

## ELA

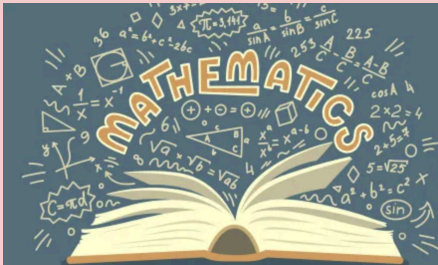


**Vincenz-** This week in ELA, we went over our classroom [library agreement](#) (due next Friday) and our [class syllabus/overview](#). We also read our first text, The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi and talked about how the main character, Unhei, is as a person and what we learn about her.

Next week, we will get into independent reading and reflect on different texts and whether they are windows, mirrors, or sliding glass doors.

**Davis-** This week in ELA we spent a lot of time getting to know one another and our classroom routines. We also started our first round of our year-long collaboration system, Teams and Themes. Ask your student what the name of their team is and about the collaborative drawing they created today!

## Math



**Math 6:** This week we spent time playing games and getting to know one another. We created "All About Me" math posters as well as posters that identify how math is used in the world everyday.

**Math 7:** This week, we practiced thinking slowly/deeply about problems and worked on other strategies for working together on math.

## Science



We had a wonderful first week! Students learned about how we are made up of the elements that formed in stars. They made beautiful posters to show their learning. Next week we will start investigating how light behaves by using lux meters outside in the outdoor classroom.



## World Geography



It has been so great getting to know all of our students this week. We are diving into our first project in which we examine our names and how names reflect identity and culture.

## Needs

We appreciate **snacks!** Students like fruit snacks and nut free granola bars the most. They are often hungry, and it is hard to

	<p>focus when hungry. Tissues- Tis the season of allergies and runny noses. Tissue donations are much appreciated.</p>
<p><b>Wishes</b></p> 	<p><a href="#">Wilson's Wish List</a> And <a href="#">here is the sign up</a> for animal help  <a href="#">Bell's Wish List</a> If you have any math related games that you no longer use or need, we will happily accept those donations (things like Yahtzee, Phase 10, etc.).  <a href="#">Smead's Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Smead's Book Sweet Wish List</a>  <a href="#">Ms. Davis' Book Sweet Wish List</a> filled with books requested by students.  <a href="#">Ms. Vincenz's Amazon</a> wish list with book requests from scholars (I would also love pencils!)</p>

Upcoming Dates:

August 29- September 1- No School for Labor Day