Grade Level Updates

October 6, 2026 | Monroe PTO Public Meeting

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten is off to a wonderful start! Our students are settling into the routines at Monroe - learning what quiet, respectful hallway behavior looks and sounds like, practicing how to take turns on the rug, and making plenty of new friends. In phonics, we've been busy practicing uppercase and lowercase letters and their sounds, as well as having fun reading and acting out favorite nursery rhymes. During math, we are working on identifying and writing numbers 0 through 10 and exploring several new workplace games. While transitioning to a full school day is a big step, the students' stamina is growing every single day. We can't wait for an amazing year ahead!

First Grade:

First grade is off to a great start! We jumped right in with our learning. We completed Unit 1 in Knowledge which was all about fables and folktales. This week we are starting our next unit which is all about the human body. We will finish reviewing short vowels in Bridge2Read and move on to digraphs (-th, -sh. -ch, etc). In math we will finish unit 1 this week. Students have been using a number rack to represent numbers and solve problems. Unit 2 will be all about adding and subtracting. In Project Lead the Way (PLTW) we are in our first unit, Designs Inspired by Nature. Students have compared and contrasted parents and their offspring. This week they are learning about structure and function. They will get to use the design process to create a pair of animal ears. We will finish the unit at the end of October with a fun project about biomimicry.

Second Grade:

Second grade began the year learning about the characteristics of fairy tales and folktales. We loved reading Beauty and the Beast (It was different from the movie!) and learning about the expansion of the United States through folktales. Paul Bunyon and Casey Jones were some of our favorites! Now, we're reading about ancient Greece and learning about their governments, religion, jobs and contributions. In phonics, we've been busy brushing up on our skills by reviewing vowel sounds, digraphs and blends. We practice these skills by reading stories in *The Cat Bandit.* He's a trickster that loves to get food in extremely creative ways.

Second Grade (continued):

In math, we've been learning our basic addition and subtraction facts to 20. Our goal is to be efficient mathematicians so we learn strategies to help us solve these facts with automaticity. We're also learning how to tell time! Plus, we're learning about 1s, 10s, and 100s and how important understanding these concepts are for our math system.

In PLTW, we're learning about matter. We're exploring the 3 states of matter (solid, liquid and gas). Our final project will be to design and make a model of a cooler to keep a popsicle from melting.

Third Grade:

We are truly honored to be working with your children. We have enjoyed this first month of learning and growing together as communities of learners. In ELA we've been surprised by and laughing with the characters in The Wind in the Willows, Mulan, and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. We are sharpening our writing skills as we add adjectives to our opinion writings about which characters best show the theme of responsibility, irresponsibility, friendship, or hospitality. In Math, we've been sharpening our basic facts through games and problem solving, while also working with very large numbers, and multi-step story problems with 2-digit addition and subtraction focused on using friendly number strategies all while showing the steps of our thinking. In addition, we have been learning about habitats and fossils in our STEM Unit focused on Environmental Changes. We are looking forward to a fun-filled year of learning ahead!

Fourth Grade:

Fourth grade is moving along very nicely so far. We are finishing up our first math unit on adding and subtracting. In STEM we are working on energy - this week we are busy figuring out how energy transfers using solar panels, hand cranks, hand warmers, and potatoes. The challenge is to see how many potatoes each class can connect correctly and still light the LED bulb at the end. In CKLA we are just finishing up our unit on Personal Narratives. We had a great time writing 6 word stories about ourselves and different aspects of our lives. We also used sensory details and created a menu item for either a 5 star or a monster restaurant. The kids had a great time with this assignment. They are hanging in the hallway - check them out. We are on to our Medieval Times Unit next week. Bring on the Black Plague!

Fifth Grade:

5th grade has had a fun start to the year! As in any year, 5th graders are taking on leadership roles in the school and being role models. This year, we have 5th graders getting Kindergarten and 1st grade parent pickups and front/backdoor walkers at the end of the day!

In the classroom, we have redesigned how we think about science to reflect a more hands-on and experimental approach. The kids have been loving the experiments with mixtures, including watching vinegar and baking soda react.

Our team also took a new approach to math to help kids get more practice and repetition. We are seeing a big impact early, as students are starting to master finding volume, surface area, and everyone's favorite, long division.

Fifth Grade (Continued):

After seeing big results with our KAT framework last year, it has been fun watching our new group of students come in from 4th grade with an understanding of comprehension and how to find the main idea. We are working to level up our game as teachers, empowering students to create a lot more things on their own to use in class with their peers.