



Grade Level Updates

October 7, 2025 | Monroe PTO Meeting

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten has been busy learning all about Monroe. We have settled into our school routines and met lots of new friends. We are busy working on letter names, letter sounds, and handwriting in Bridge2Read (B2R). In CKLA we are finishing our unit on nursery rhymes. We have enjoyed finding all the rhyming words and acting out the nursery rhymes. We have so many favorites! In math, we have been working on our numbers to 5, with number ID, number writing, and working with both 5-frames and 10-frames. We have also enjoyed learning lots of new math games and exploring patterns.

First Grade:

September was spent learning all about first grade! Classrooms worked hard to set rules and routines. Our phonics focus was on consonant sounds and short vowels. In math, we used a number rack as a tool for counting and representing numbers. We began our first Project Lead the Way (PLTW) unit last week. We will have a blast in the coming weeks learning more about how engineers were inspired by nature.

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 its government, 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 who loves to get food in extremely creative ways.

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.

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Third Grade:

We have really enjoyed our first unit in our new CKLA Curriculum. We've been entertained by hearing and reading classic tales like *The Wind in the Willows*, *Mulan*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Sir Gus*. Learning about themes, fun vocabulary, and writing skills needed to produce a strong opinion paragraph were just a few highlights.

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. In addition, we have just started our PLTW Motion and Stability Unit, with an emphasis on flight.

Lastly, we were fortunate to enjoy a few hours at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Your students were great representatives of the Monroe Way, as they were out learning in public.



Fourth Grade:

Fourth grade is in the Middle Ages! We are talking about Knights, Castles, Lords/Ladies and Serfs, Roman Empire, and the Black Plague, which the kids LOVE. We will then learn about King Henry, the Magna Carta, and the Battle that changed everything. While learning all of this, we will be writing informational paragraphs with text evidence, learning about nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases. In Morphology, we are learning prefixes, suffixes, and roots. In math we are starting multiplication. In PLTW we are in our energy unit. We made potato batteries and lit LED lights. The kids loved it!

Fifth Grade:

Fifth grade has had a busy first month! Our kids are adjusting to being the leaders of the school and practicing being role models. We have had a blast with our new reading curriculum, doing personal narratives. Kids wrote about how they got their name and finished by writing about the most disgusting thing they have ever eaten. They got to read personal narratives about Rosa Parks, a Cuban immigrant learning about American Thanksgiving, and a Chinese immigrant who had no middle name.

In math, we just wrapped up our first unit learning about multiplication strategies, volume and surface area of 3D shapes, and of course, everyone's favorite, long division **pause for groans from the group**

In science, we are learning about different states of matter, what happens to their mass and volume, and currently, mixing different substances together to form a mixture or chemical reaction.