

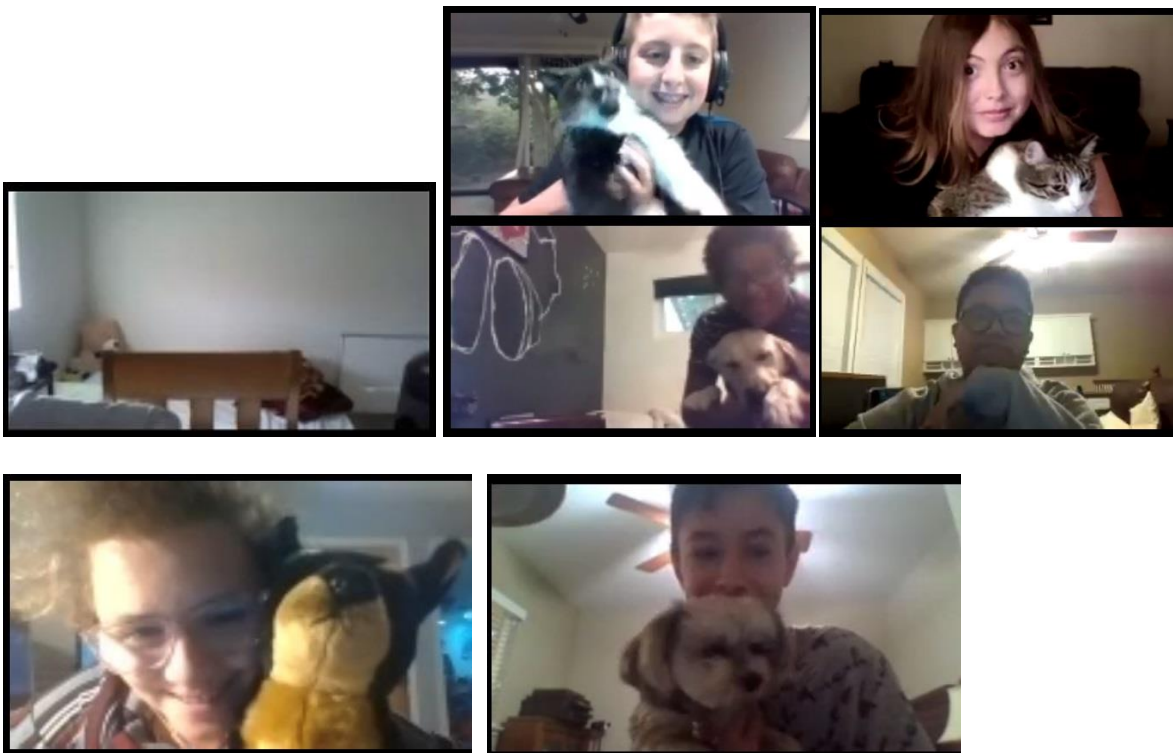
**Mark West Charter School  
Newsletter  
10/16/2020**



**Ms. Franci:** The students and staff are working hard. I join Zooms each week to check in and see what is happening. In 7th grade the students are working on their math projects where they have income from a job (random selection) and have to budget monthly expenses based on that income. In language arts they have completed their novel studies of The Outsiders and are working on their personal narratives. In 8th grade I was able to hear the students and Mr. Calloway present their family history projects. The 8th grade has also completed their cross curricular (science and language arts) novel study of Hidden Figures. I am so proud of all the work everyone is doing!!!

**Spirit Days at MWCS:** September 28-October 1 were the very first District Wide Spirit Days of the year. These were planned by our very own District Student Council. More to be reported at the board meeting!

Monday: Pet/Stuffed Animal Day



Tuesday: Disney Day



Wednesday: Backwards Day



Thursday: Pajama Day



## What's been happening in 8th grade at MWCS...

In order to try to help reach out to the students that we have noticed have not been completing their daily assignments, Ms. Bell & Ms. Chapman set up a “study hall” style Zoom session that will be held once a week. During this session, about 10 selected students meet together to individually work on an assignment (either current or missing) of their choice that they feel like they can accomplish during the 45 minute period. At this time, Ms. Chapman & Ms. Bell check-in with each student, offer assistance, and call home if a student was not in attendance and was messaged to join.

During the session student's work independently on their assignments, with their camera on and either directed towards their work page or facing them to show active engagement. At the end of the time, teachers check to make sure they completed the task they chose, and parents are emailed an update report of what the student(s) accomplished. This first week that study hall was held all 10 students joined and completed at least 1 assignment.

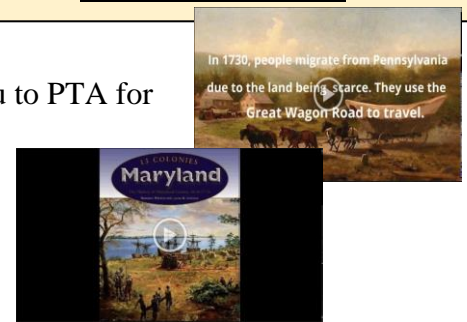
The **8th Grade** has been in full gear integrating all 4 subjects. Together as a cross-curricular core, we finished reading Hidden Figures. This was a great glimpse into history, math and science found in real life applications all allowing teens to build on their annotation skills in language arts.

In math, we are through Chapter 1 and have now started Chapter 2; our first Geometry unit (most teen's favorite). In this chapter we will focus on geometrical transformations which will allow for a lot of graphing and hands-on learning opportunities.

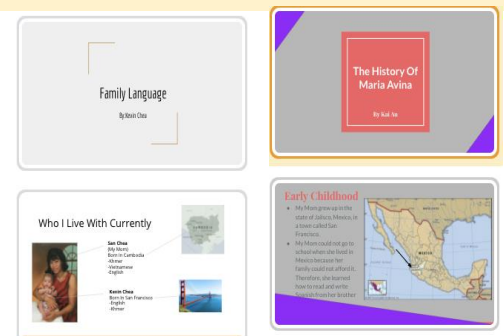
In history, teens completed their first major WeVideo project (thank you to PTA for purchasing our WeVideo account again this year). Teens were assigned the task of creating an advertisement to try to encourage people to come settle in their colony while integrating the things that were important to colonists - agriculture, religion, government, and climate. Many were creative and allowed for the integration of 21st century video editing skills.

Family History Projects (in language arts) are just about completed and teens are learning a lot about family traditions and ancestral history. They have been tasked with completing a google slides presentation and turning it into a timed video to present virtually via zoom, and writing a personal narrative paper focusing on proper use of a thesis, body and conclusion. When students began writing their paper, they first began with a driving question and family interviews - then built from there.

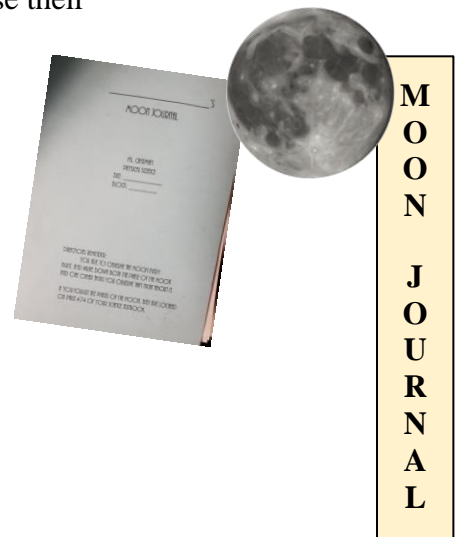
### 13 Colony Wevideo



### FHP Presentation

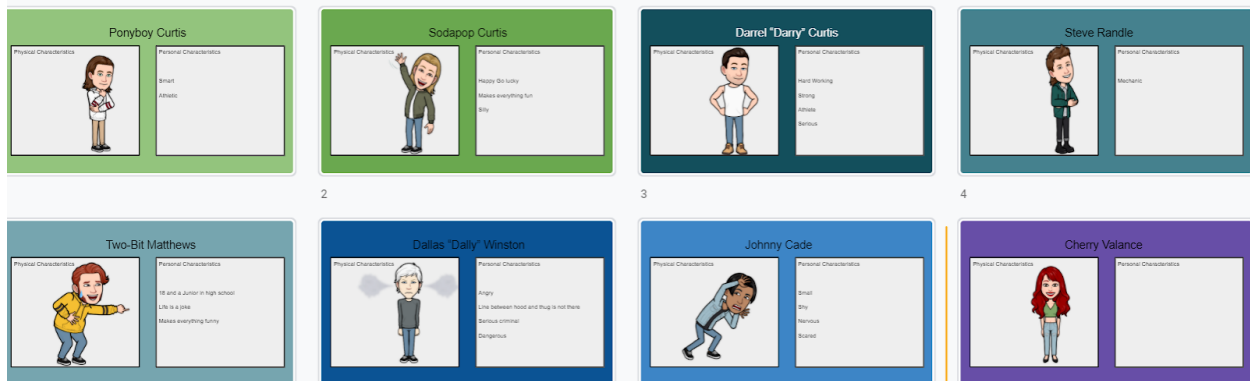


Moon Journals are in full swing. Each day teens are expected to use their scientific observational skills to record the moon and the phase they believe it is in. This is a great opportunity for teens to notice that the moon isn't always out when they think it should be, and start to think about why.

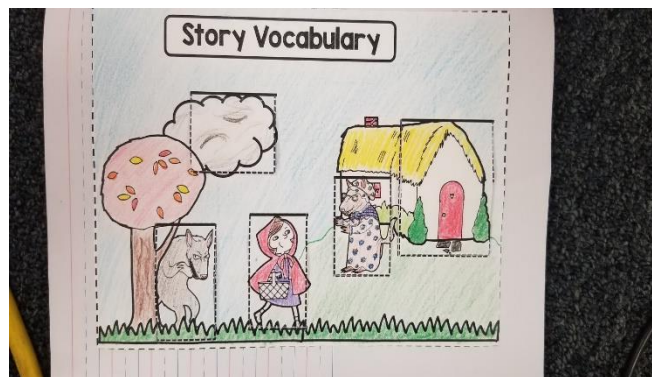
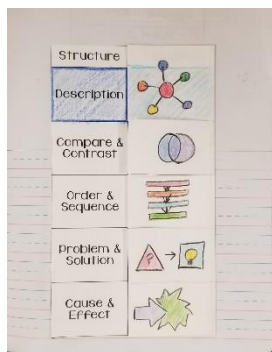


### 7th Grade ELA/History

Students have been reading S.E. Hinton's novel The Outsiders. This novel is always a favorite among the students. One of the first assignments they completed was a character chart giving both physical and personal characteristics. Some students chose to do this using emoji's to show the physical traits.



We also had two Flipgid assignments where students verbally responded in a video to a prompt; and we completed common core response questions that touch on standards for comprehension, figurative language, author's purpose, etc. Once we finished reading the novel students began writing their own personal narratives. The Outsiders is written as a personal narrative. In this essay, we are focusing on the use of descriptive language, including figurative language; timing and pacing of a story, and the personal narrative story format (Exposition, rise in action, climax, fall in action, resolution). These skills are taught partially through the use of interactive notebooks.



In History we have covered the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire and are now learning about The beginnings of Islam. Students completed lesson reviews, performance tasks, and tests. I have started using photographs of the locations we are studying as my background during Zoom lessons and videos to increase the level of student interest in these subjects.

**Important Dates:**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| October 16       | End of First Quarter   |
| October 26       | Charter Parent Meeting   |
| October 26       | PTA Meeting (6:00 pm)  |
| October 26 – 30  | District Wide Spirit Week (see slides for activities)                    |
| October 30       | Report Cards mailed home   |
| October 30       | PTA Event Kona Ice Truck – time to be determined                         |
| November 9       | Charter Parent Meeting   |
| November 10      | District Board Meeting (5:00 pm)   |
| November 11      | Veterans Day – No School   |
| November 18      | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Virtual Field Trip to the Buck Institute (9:00 am) |
| November 23 – 27 | Thanksgiving Break – No School   |