

Mark West Charter School

Newsletter

9/3/2021



Ms. Franci: We are so excited to have students back full time with electives!! The campus is abuzz with laughter and energy. Starting on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 4:30 I will be hosting a parent meeting once a month. These will be recorded and if you cannot make it you can always send me questions ahead of time and I will answer them at the meeting. These will be by Zoom and I will send the link on the Friday before the meeting. Hope to see you there!

Independent Study Contracts: Please remember that we need at least 5 days' notice to get an Independent Study ready to go. It takes the teachers quite a bit of time to get all the materials together. If you are needing a contract please let Nikki Dale in the office know so she can get the paperwork started. Thank you for your cooperation!

Mrs. Sunde (7th grade Math and Science: In 7th grade science we are learning about the parts of a microscope and will soon be using them to look at collected specimens and prepared slides.

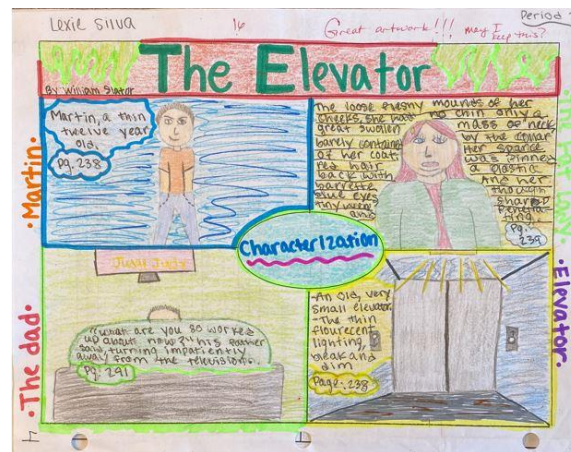


Mr. Carusone (7th grade Language Arts and History): The 7th grade English classes are working in groups to examine the short story, “The Elevator” by William Sleator. The students have already read the story, so now they are using two different colors of highlighters to identify direct and indirect characterization.

After they identify and highlight three examples of direct and indirect characterization, they transfer the quote onto another form where they also document the page number.

If the quote is an example of indirect characterization, they must provide an inference statement explaining their quote.

To wrap it up, the students must create a characterization chart.



Ms. Chapman/Ms. Lemieux(8th grade Math and Science): The eighth graders are working on simplifying and solving expressions in math. In science they are reading “Hidden Figures” and completing a cross curricular unit.

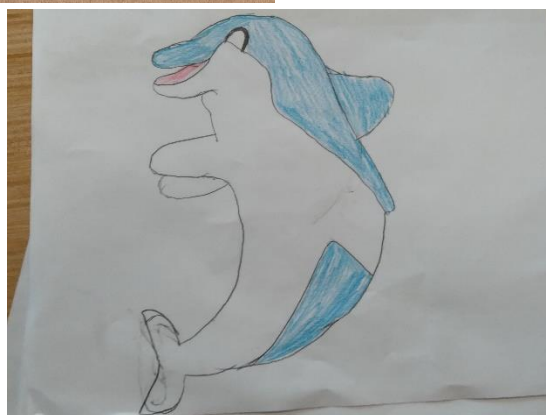
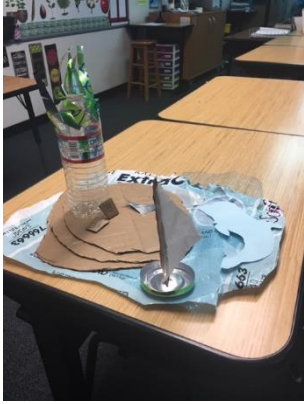


Ms. Woods (8th grade Language Arts and History): In 8th grade we are learning about early European exploration of the Americas through cross curricular lessons. To begin, we did a jigsaw lesson where small groups of students worked collaboratively to research different early settlers of North America and created posters that they presented to the class. This activity transitioned us into our Family History Project. To engage student interest in American History, they are researching their own family immigration, culture, business, or an individual family member. (We have a student who has an ancestor that signed the Declaration of Independence!) Students have six focus questions to choose from for the topic of their research. They will then write a personal narrative about their family, create a visual presentation, and present it in a speech to the class. During the course of these activities, students are learning to organize their research in an outline, write a quality thesis to guide their project, transition from one main point to another and relate them back to support the thesis. Students are also using numerous visual presentation methods including, Prezi, Google Slides, PowerPoint, etc.; and are being taught to use color and themes to enhance their visual presentations.

We also wrote about the importance of goal setting and set a goal for ourselves this year. It is a busy and active classroom, making learning engaging and fun, while staying focused on academic excellence.



Rally Days at Charter: Our leadership class led by Mrs. Sunde came up with some great ideas for our rallies. On August 18 the students had the options of origami, kickball, flag football, and board games. August 25 we had team competitions in activities like keeping a balloon in the air without using your hands, trying to be the last one standing with an unpoped balloon tied around your ankle, and being the first to mummify one of your classmates. September 1 were classroom games like 4 corners, drawing, board games and a recycled art contest. The winners of recycled sculptures is seen below. Trent Purvis, Leah Maples, William Ortega and Taylor Hannah. The students enjoyed the activities and are looking forward to the next one!



From Mrs. Kaufman (Music Teacher): In the first couple weeks of the Music Exploration elective, students have been learning to read written rhythms and to maintain a steady beat as a group (which is not an easy task!) Students have also begun learning a piece called "Seven" on bucket drums that involves two separate rhythm parts. Here students are playing a warm-up called "8 on a Hand" on the bucket drums.



Mrs. Kaufman is excited to welcome interested Charter students to a new music elective class this year! The Music Exploration class will give students the chance to explore a variety of percussion instruments while learning about musical concepts like beat, rhythm, composition, melody, harmony, texture, dynamics, etc. Students will tap into their creative sides as they collaborate and develop musical pieces for performance. Students with experience on other instruments or with singing will be encouraged to incorporate these skills in their pieces. However, no previous experience in music is required! Mrs. Kaufman is looking forward to the sounds we will create!

From Mrs. Lemieux (RSP Teacher): Study Schedule Sample (Academic Academy and Directed Studies): Students created their own evening schedule to help them organize their evening activities and make sure they have enough time to do homework/study.

Participation Rubric (Academic Academy, Math Squared, and Directed Studies): Students assess their participation using a participation at the end of each class to reflect on their level of participation and identify areas of improvement. They also include a motivational message at the beginning of the week.

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
3:00			Turn work			
3:15	Get home	Get home		Get home	Get home	
3:30	Start HW	Start HW	Classroom	Start HW	Start HW	
3:45						
4:00						
4:15						
4:30	Play videogame	Play videogame	Play videogame	Play videogame	Play videogame	
4:45						
5:00	Clean the house	Volleyball	Clean the house		Clean the house	
5:15						
5:30						
5:45						
6:00	Dinner		Dinner	Volleyball	Dinner	
6:15						
6:30	HW		HW		HW	
6:45		Dinner		Dinner		
7:00						

Mindset Phrase for the Week: <u>improve myself and grow!</u>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put a plus in the box if you think you met the target area for the day. Final rubric score subject to review by the teacher. Teacher will agree w/ determination before being used as final score for week. 						
Often Target Area	Examples	M	T	Th	F	Total
Academic	Following assignment directions, persevering on difficult tasks		+		+	
Participation	Active Listening		+		+	
	Participating		+		+	
	Attempting difficult problems		+		+	
Cleanliness	Being respectful to self and others		+		+	
Responsibility	Identifying own areas for improvement		+		+	
Asking questions			+		+	

Important dates:

September 6: Labor Day – No School

September 9: Charter Presentation at Mark West for 6th graders

September 10: Charter Presentation at San Miguel for 6th graders

September 13: Charter Parent Meeting for current parents at 4:30 by Zoom

September 13: PTA General Meeting at 5:30

September 14: District Board Meeting at 5:00

September 16: Charter Presentation at Riebli for 6th graders

September 16: Charter Parent Information Night for incoming 6th grade parents at 5:30 by Zoom

September 16: Dine and Donate for PTA at Homerun Pizza (See Jupiter Message for details.)

October 8: Parent Conference Day (by Zoom) – No School for Students

October 15: End of first Quarter for Charter

October 19: District Board Meeting at 5:00

October 29: Report Cards go home for Charter

October 31: Halloween