

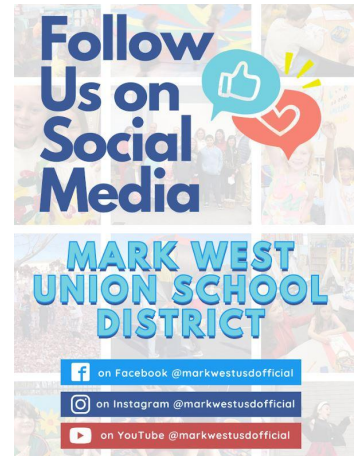
# Mark West Charter School Newsletter 12/21/2023



**From Ms. Franci:** I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Winter Break. I hope you find some time for relaxation. We will be excited to see you in the New Year on January 9th!



**From the District:** "Would you like to stay informed about school and district wide events/activities/programs; or view the school day through the eyes of your child? The Mark West Union School District encourages all of our parents/guardians to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)! Feel free to "like" the posts, comment on posts you find engaging, and share posts of all the wonderful things happening in our district with family and friends!"



The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a three-year plan that describes the goals, actions, services, and expenditures to support positive student outcomes that address state and local priorities for the Mark West Union School District.

We need your help as parents to help determine the best goals for our students. Please complete the following questions to help our district develop the best plan possible. Any questions please reach out to your site Principal.

You can reach the questions at the link or QR Code below.

<https://forms.gle/ixd61kD12h88QMsT6>

Thank you for your input!  
Ms. Franci



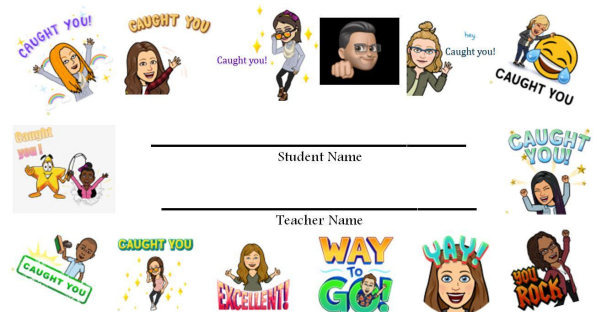
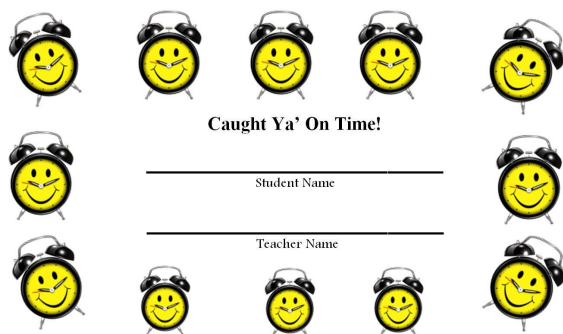
**Independent Study Contracts:** Please remember that we need at least 5 days notice to get an Independent Study ready to go. It takes the teachers quite a bit of time to get all the materials together. The limit is 14 days for the entire year. If you are needing a contract please let Nikki Dale ([ndale@mwusd.org](mailto:ndale@mwusd.org)) in the office know so she can get the paperwork started. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Parents:** Thank you to our Mark West Community for supporting our PTA who in turn supports our teachers and students. The Gift Wrap fundraiser was an amazing success raising over \$10,000.00. We appreciate all the effort to provide for our students!

**Staff:** Through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) work, our staff has been working on revising the tardy policy on campus. At MWCS we have had 22.3% of students with 5 or more morning tardies since the start of the year. With this data in mind, we decided we wanted to try a different approach, looking at tardies with a positive perspective:

- a. 1 week of no tardies = 1 “caught ya on time” (yellow)
- b. 4 “caught ya on times” = 15 extra min of break around the last Friday of the month (\*dates subject to change)
  - i. Month of January will be on Wednesday, January 31
  - ii. Month of February will be on Friday, March 1
  - iii. Month of March will be on Friday, April 5
  - iv. Month of April will be on Friday, May 3
  - v. Month of May will be on Thursday, May 30
- c. Teachers will write the “caught ya on times” and give them to the students at the end of each week.
  - i. Students will then be responsible to hold on to them and turn them in as they head to the extra break (which will be on the elementary play structure) at 9:45 OR they can save them to add them to their “caught ya being good” count that they can turn in for the movie at the end of the quarter
  - ii. Only “caught ya on times” can be used for the extra break time
- d. Students will be responsible to keep their own coupons for the “Caught Ya On Time”.
- e. We will try this out starting in January and then see if we are seeing results in our tardy count during the 3rd quarter.

\*\*\*Please note this is an amendment to the current tardy policy listed in the handbook.



**Students:**

**From Mrs. Sunde:** In 7th grade math class we are working to create a math board game!!



7th grade science class has pets!!

We are trying to come up with 4 really good names! Got any ideas?



**From Mrs. Kaufman:** On Friday, December 15, the strings elective class performed for several 1st-8th grade classes at two brief music assemblies during our usual class time. Our first piece was the French folk song, "Frère Jacques," which we played together and as a round in three groups. Next we added our string sound to a drum track of Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir." And finally, we played an excerpt from Richard Meyer's orchestral piece "Dragonhunter." The string class will continue to learn "Dragonhunter" in the next quarter as well as add a few other pieces to our repertoire.

At this point in the year, it is requested that only students with prior or current experience on violin, viola, or cello join the string class in the third and fourth quarters so that we can continue to build on what we have been learning in regard to playing technique, music reading, etc. Also, students who have been taking the strings class are highly encouraged to continue to sign up for the class every quarter if they want to continue to play.

Bravo, musicians!

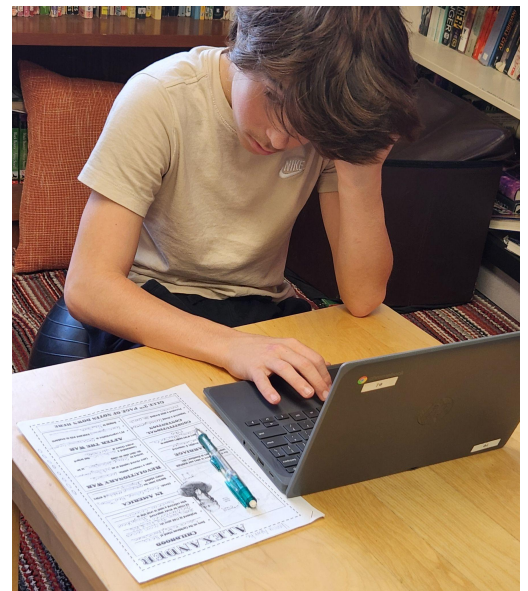


## From Ms. Woods: 8th Grade

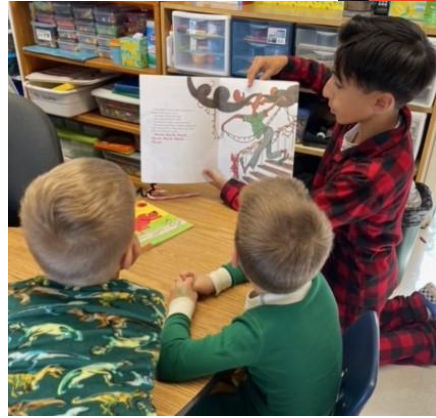
ELA - The class just finished writing narrative essays from the first person perspective. During the course of instruction for this essay, students wrote an outline and a sample essay in their interactive notebooks. This was done to provide the students a reference while writing their own stories. We are continuing to work in our interactive notebooks, taking notes and learning about the different types of figurative language. We are also preparing to hold a trial in class. This trial is based on the novel Lord of the Flies, which the class finished reading a few weeks ago. The trial will be on the death of Piggy. Several students will be prosecuting attorney's, several students will be defense attorney's, some students will be characters from the novel and testify in the trial. Still other students are researching and planning the processes of a fair trial and acting as the Jury. This is a cross curricular activity as the 8th grade has just finished learning about the constitution and the amendments that provide all citizens with the right to a fair trial.



History - We have just finished our unit on the formation of our government, the writing of the constitution and the adoption of the 27 amendments. We are now completing this unit by studying Alexander Hamilton and his influence on the formation of our nation. We will be watching Hamilton in class on Thursday, Dec 21. We are also learning more about our constitutional rights through our Lord of the Flies trial.



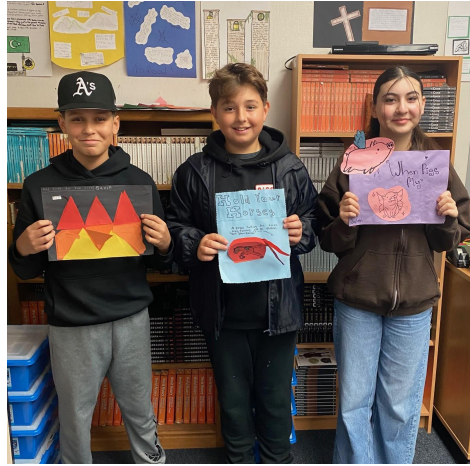
**From Ms. Franci:** One of my favorite times of the year is the day MWC students go to the MWE TK and K rooms to read to them. For the Wednesday rally just before, each MWC student makes a candy cane reindeer for each of the TK/K students and one for themselves. During their reading time they present their little buddy with the reindeer and begin reading the book the little buddy chose. Such a special time!



**From Mrs. Edwards:** Thanks to a generous donation of these beautiful trees the Art Class decorated the District Office and Ms Franci's office. They also made some for themselves to take home!

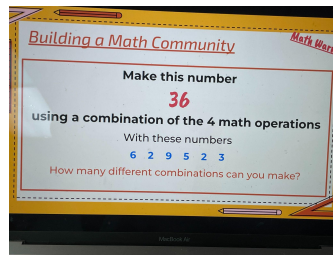
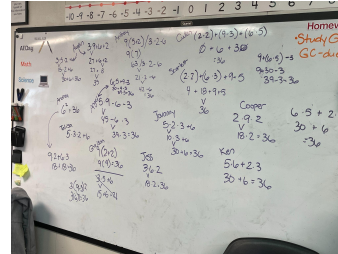
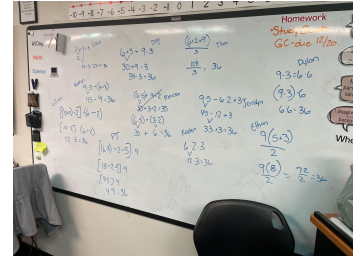


**From Mr. Carusone:** My 7th grade English students researched and created an illustrated idiom (a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words [e.g., *raining cats and dogs*, *see the light* ]).



## From Ms. Dickey: Math 8

This month we started learning about linear equations (which we will dive into right after winter break). We ended the quarter, month and calendar year with some fun with math. We played various types of dominos to practice math skills from addition through angles. We also worked through a “magic trick” where I was able to “guess” everyone’s number (and then talked about how it isn’t a trick and I didn’t guess (it was an algebraic expression that made it work). Students were presented with a math challenge (getting the answer 36 using the 4 math operations and only the numbers 6, 2, 9, 5, 2, 3. They came up with some great (and correct) ways to solve the challenge!



## 8th Grade Science

We wrapped up our unit on human impact (climate change). Students, working in small groups, created *amazing* videos about what is being done to combat climate change. The videos were creative, informative and thoughtful!

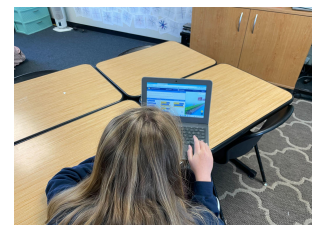
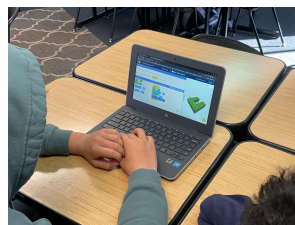


## Algebra

In Algebra we learned about polynomials and multiplying them. We briefly touched on functions and ended the quarter starting to investigate systems of linear equations.

## Coding

Students completed many creative projects in coding; animating a poem, making music and creating their games, to name a few!



*The Mark West USD is looking to add more support to our personnel staff. We are hiring paraeducators, yard supervisors, office support, lunch heaters and crossing guards. These positions are flexible; you can choose how much you'd like to work. If you've thought about working at your child's school, this is the perfect opportunity.*

*To apply, visit <https://mwusd.org/employment> to fill out an application.*

*For more information, please contact Marcia Noxon at (707)524-2970 or [mnoxon@mwusd.org](mailto:mnoxon@mwusd.org).*

*We look forward to adding you to the Mark West District family!*

Mark West Union School District

# SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

BE A PART OF THE MARK WEST DISTRICT FAMILY!

We are looking for Classified Personnel:

- Paraeducators
- Yard Supervisors
- Office Support
- Lunch Heaters
- Crossing Guards



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Please contact Marcia Noxon at  
(707) 524-2970 or  
[mnoxon@mwusd.org](mailto:mnoxon@mwusd.org) for more  
information

Visit the District website to complete  
a Classified application  
<https://mwusd.org/employment/>  
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## **Important dates:**

December 21: MWCS End of 2nd Quarter

December 22 - January 8: Winter Break - No School

January 9: School resumes after Winter Break

Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 11: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 12: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

January 16: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 17: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 1:20pm

January 18: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

Kindergarten Information Night

January 19: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

MWCS 2nd Quarter Report cards sent home

January 22: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 23: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 25: Vine Burger Dine and Donate

Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

PTA General Meeting - 5:30pm

January 26: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 27: PTA San Jose Sharks Game

January 29: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

January 30: 7th and 8th grades field trip to the LBC

Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

MWCS Enrollment Lottery at 4:00pm in C5

January 31: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 1:20pm

February 1: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

PTA Skate Night at Cal-Skate

February 2: 7th grade field trip to the California Academy of Science

Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

February 5: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

February 6: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

February 7: Walk and Roll to School

Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 1:20pm

DELAC Meeting at 5:30 in Room C5

February 8: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

PTA Board Meeting at 5:30 pm

February 9: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 3:15pm

February 12: Lincoln's Birthday - No School

February 14: Valentine's Day

Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 1:20pm

February 19: Presidents' Day - No School

February 22: PTA General Meeting at 5:30pm

February 23: PTA Golden State Warriors Game

February 28: Charter Girls Basketball Practice at 1:20pm