

Mark West Charter School Newsletter 3/29/2024

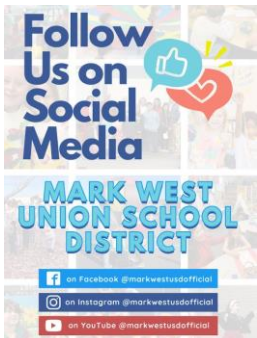


Reminder: April 12 is a school day for all students to make up the missed Monday.

From Ms. Franci: Starting on May 1 with the SBAC Science test for all 8th grade students from 8-10 am, continuing on May 7-9 with the SBAC Language Arts Test for all students from 8-10 am and finishing on May 14-16 with the SBAC Math test for all students from 8-10 am. I have included some test taking tips for you to remind your students. Also, please make sure they have a good breakfast and bring a good snack on these days. Please also make sure students arrive at school on time as we cannot interrupt the classroom once testing has started and they will have to sit in the office until testing is finished. This would require a make-up test for the portion they missed. Thank you for helping to support our students!



Student Visits: We love when alumni come back to visit! This happens often when they have days off different from ours. It makes our day!



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!"

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) in the office know so she can get the paperwork started. Thank you for your cooperation!

From PTA:

- Walk-a-Thon Planning Meeting Wednesday April 3. (5:30PM at the Charter School Room C1)
- PTA Walk-a-Thon on April 19 - "Beach Boardwalk"

March 27, 2024

Subject: Invitation to Join the PTA Board

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a valued member of our school community, I am reaching out to extend an invitation for you to consider joining the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) board.

As you may be aware, our PTA board plays a crucial role in supporting the school's initiatives, organizing events, and fostering a sense of community among parents, teachers, and students. However, as with any organization, transitions are inevitable, and several current board members will be transitioning off the board in the future.

Joining the PTA board is not only an opportunity to make a positive impact on our school but also a chance to develop leadership skills, build relationships, and contribute to your child's educational experience in a meaningful way. Whether you have experience in event planning, fundraising, marketing, finance, or simply a desire to make a positive impact, there is a place for you on the PTA board. Your involvement will not only benefit our children but also provide you with a rewarding opportunity to connect with other parents, build relationships with teachers and staff, and play an active role in our school community. Whether you have prior board experience or are new to the PTA, your willingness to get involved is what matters most.

If you are interested in learning more about the responsibilities and expectations of serving on the PTA board, please join us at our next PTA meeting on March 28 or feel free to reach out to me or any current board member. We would be happy to provide additional information and support as you consider this opportunity.

Thank you for considering this invitation, and I hope to hear from you soon. Together, we can continue to create a supportive and enriching environment for all our children.

Warm regards,

Stacy Small

PTA President

Skyskooter@yahoo.com

MWTigersPTA@gmail.com

See below for board positions and nomination process.

The Board Positions:

* PTA President * Executive Vice President *Vice President of Leadership

*Vice President of Fundraising *Secretary * Treasurer

* Parliamentarian and Membership Committee Leader *Historian and PR Coordinator

All Board positions are held for one year, with a maximum of two consecutive years, starting July 1 st .

Members need to be nominated, run for the position and be voted into the position. Members who are currently on the Board are willing to move positions to allow for new board members, additionally they are not guaranteed a spot on the Board the following year unless they run and are voted in. Nominations are made in March and voted on in the annual election meeting in April.

Our next general meeting will be next Thursday, March 28, at 5:30 on the Mark West Charter campus, in rooms C5 and C6.

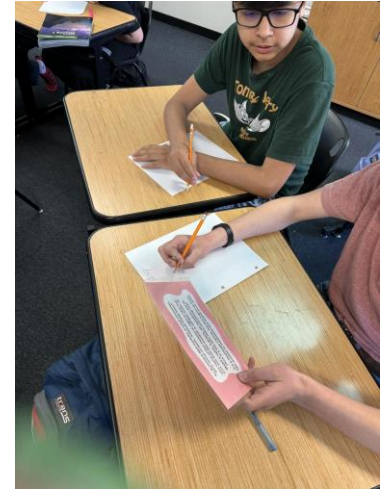
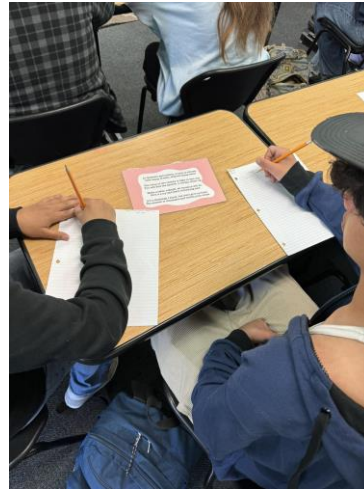
Staff: Our site has been working on reducing the number of tardies. For the first 2 quarters we were at 27% with 5 or more tardies. In January we changed to a positive incentive for “No Tardies” for the month and you get extra recess at the end of the month. This has decreased our percentage to 22% with 5 or more tardies. Thank you to all students, families and staff for your hard work!

Students:

From Ms. Dickey:

Math 8

We have continued our work with linear equations, by learning about systems of linear equations and how to solve them. After learning of the methods used to solve, students worked a partner, to explain in writing how to solve the system. In preparation for an upcoming unit test students solved systems of equations by extracting information from word problems. In celebration of “Pi Day,” students completed an art project that incorporated working with number PI and circles. Their creativity on this assignment was fun to see and now decorates our room!



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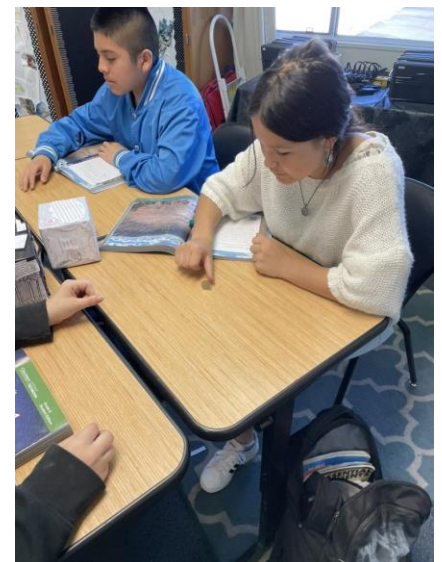
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8th Grade Science

We wrapped up our Chemistry unit with two fun projects. Students “adopted” an element that they then researched. They had to then create a “baby block” with the pertinent information they learned. They had to create the block by drawing it themselves and they are amazing! Students worked with partners to create mini periodic tables. They had to decide on size, colors and appearance. Both of these projects came out great and really highlighted the students’ knowledge.



We started learning about physics with a quick, fun hands-on activity where one student spun a quarter on its axis (representing the Earth) and their partner to knock it off its axis (representing an asteroid hitting the Earth).



had

From Mr. Carusone:

My 7th grade English students picked a controversial topic, conducted research on both sides of the topic, completed an argumentative outline, created an argumentative Google slide presentation, and delivered an argumentative speech. See attached student outline, parent letter, and photos from speeches.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we delve into our curriculum, I wanted to inform you about an upcoming assignment in our English class that I believe will be both challenging and rewarding for your student.

In the next few weeks, we will be working on an assignment centered around the development and delivery of an argumentative speech. This project is designed to enhance your student's critical thinking skills, public speaking abilities, and their capacity to articulate and defend their perspectives on various issues.

Here are some key details about the assignment:

Assignment Overview:

Topic Selection: Students will have the opportunity to choose a topic of personal interest from a list provided, ensuring that they are passionate about the subject matter.

Research: We will spend class time researching credible sources and learning how to synthesize information effectively.

Speech Structure: I will provide guidance on structuring a compelling argumentative speech, including the introduction, body paragraphs, counter argument, and conclusion.

Google Slide Presentation: Students will create a slide presentation to accompany their argumentative speech.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed on their research, organization, delivery, and ability to respond to questions and counterarguments. I will provide a detailed rubric closer to the due date to clarify the expectations.

Support and Guidance:

I am committed to supporting each student throughout the process. If your student encounters challenges or needs additional guidance, please encourage them to reach out to me during class or after school.

Parental Involvement:

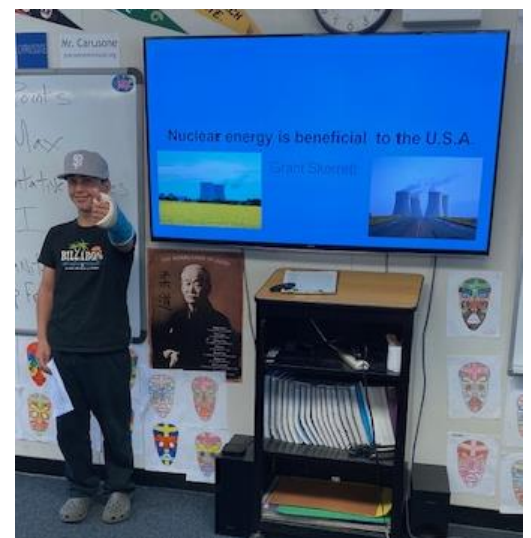
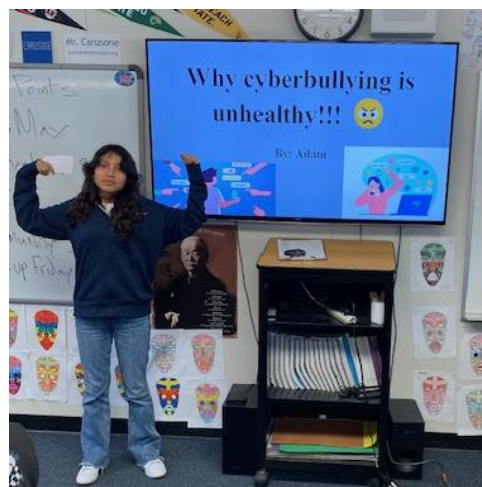
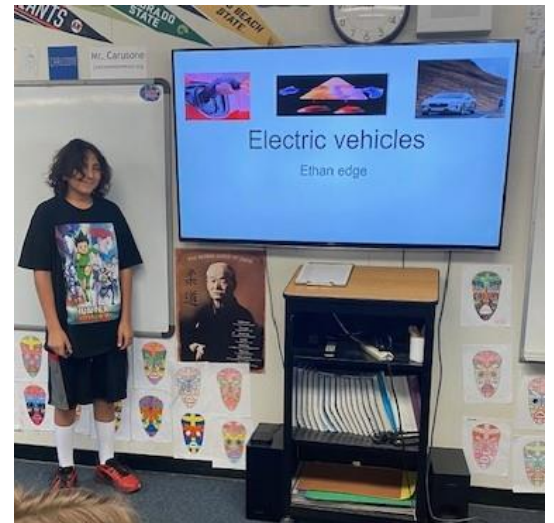
Your support is crucial, and I encourage you to engage in discussions with your students about the list of possible topics (attached English Google Classroom Stream). After your students choose a topic, I encourage you to continue to engage in discussions with your students and help them refine their arguments. If you have any concerns or questions about the assignment, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I believe that this project will not only sharpen your student's academic skills but also boost their confidence in expressing their opinions. I am excited to see the diverse and thoughtful perspectives that will emerge from this assignment.

Thank you for your continued support. I am looking forward to a successful and enriching learning experience for your student.

Best regards,

Joe Carusone
Teacher
7th grade English-History
Mark West Charter School



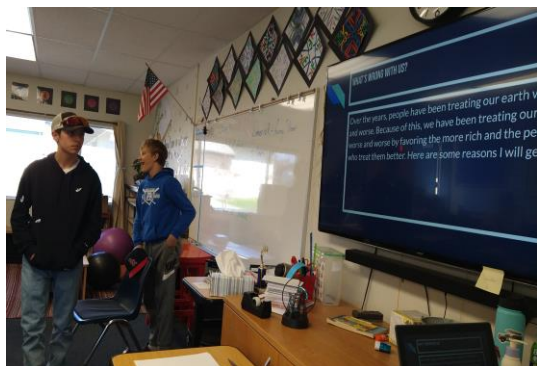
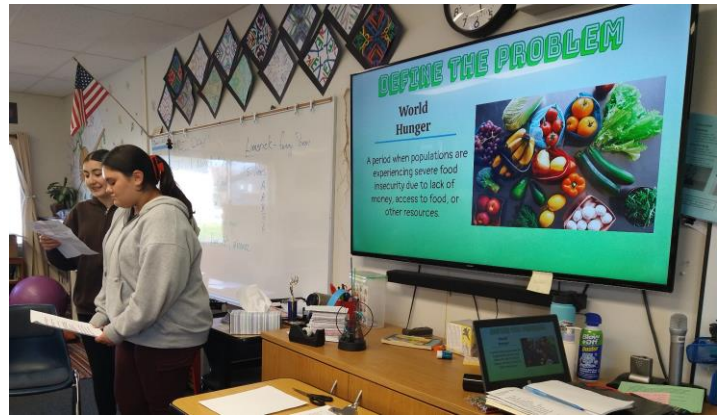
From Mrs. Kaufman:

The Charter strings elective class is continuing to learn the techniques and skills needed to make music as a group playing the violin, viola, cello, and bass. We're starting off with a blues piece this quarter and plan to add a few more pieces to our repertoire. Stay tuned for our final performance during our class in late May, and save the date of Saturday, May 11 when the Charter students will join the elementary music students for an extra credit performance at the LBC Farmer's Market. We hope to see you there!



From Mrs. Minor:

We have closed out the quarter with everyone working on their slide presentation, with collaborations and research about various problems. We looked at creative problem solving for solutions for real life problems. Job well done on the CommUnity Engagement class projects.

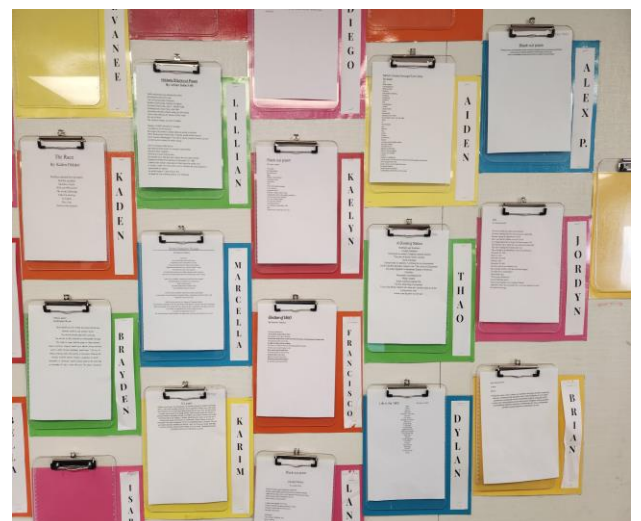
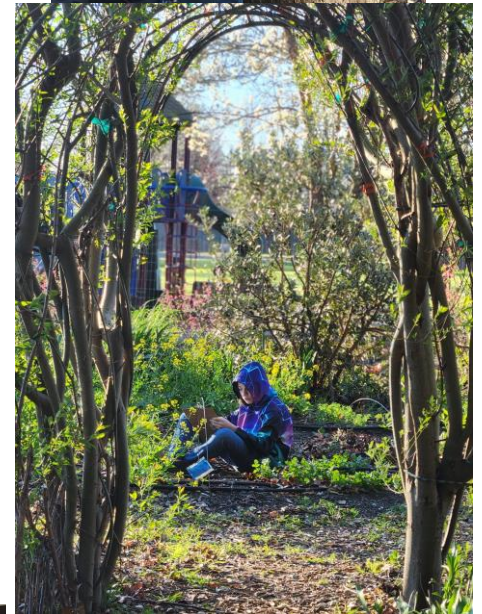
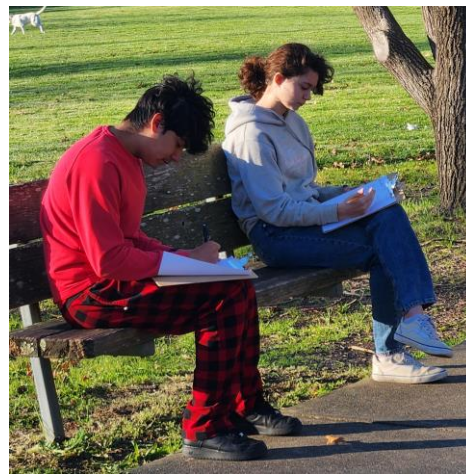
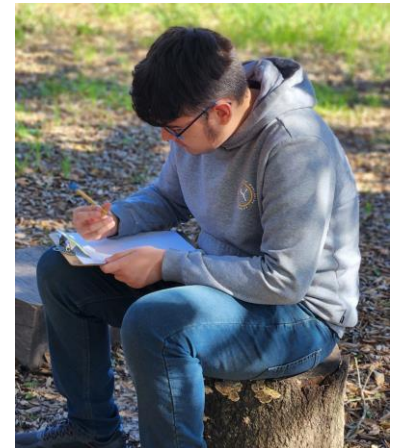


From Ms. Woods:

8th Grade ELA and History

We spent three weeks learning about different forms of poetry and writing poems. Students learned about Concrete, Black Out, Epic, Sonnet, Haiku, Tanka, Rhyming and free verse poetry, as well as about Poetry slams. We finished our unit on the Friday before Spring Break by writing poetry in the park. This is a wonderful day of sitting quietly in nature, reflecting and writing. The work the students produce is amazing. Now we are starting our Unit on the “Diary of Anne Frank”.

In History we are finishing up the Civil War Era and jumping forward to WWII. As we read the “Diary of Anne Frank”, students will also learn the history of what led to WWII, how and why the US got involved, and how the war ended. As we finish that unit we will look at industrialism before and after WWII and women’s influence on History.



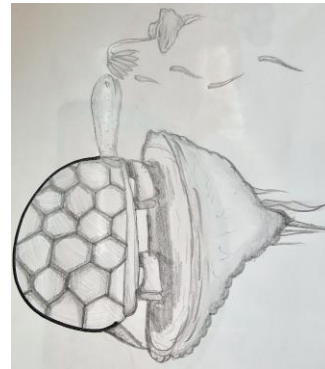
From Mrs. Sunde:

7th grade had a bike class day. We learned how to safely ride our bikes on the street.



From Mrs. Edwards:

These are the finished products of a clay project, Valentine Gnome painting and turning the letters of the alphabet into drawings.



Assembly: On Thursday, March 28 we had a dynamic cultural assembly presented by Tina Rogers. The students learned about African American culture through dance, instruments and artifacts. The students danced and interacted during the assembly. It was so fun!



Student Dance: On Friday, March 8 our student council along with Mrs. Sunde hosted a “Neon” dance. The gym was turned into a dance space with black lights, neon face paint, glow sticks and food. It was so fun to watch the students interact with each other. A fun time was had by all!



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. 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 for more
information

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

April 1: Non-Instruction day (No Students)

April 2: Mark West Education Foundation Meeting at D.O. at 5:00pm

April 3: DELAC Meeting in Room C5 at MWCS at 5:30pm

Walk-a-Thon Planning Meeting in Room C1 at MWCS at 5:30pm

April 5: MWCS Report Cards sent home with students

April 9: District Board Meeting, 5:00 pm at the D.O.

April 11: MWCS “No Tardy” Extra Recess

PTA Board Meeting at 5:30 pm

April 12: This is a school day for students.

April 15: Professional Development Day for staff - No school for students

April 19: Walk-a-thon Day!

April 25: PTA General Meeting in Room C5 at 5:30 pm

May 1: SBAC Science Test - All 8th grade at 8:00am

May 7-9: SBAC English/Language Arts Test - All students at 8:00am

May 14-16: SBAC Math Test - All students at 8:00am

May 16: MWCS Open House at 5:30pm

May 9: PTA Board Meeting at 5:30pm

May 10: MWCS “No Tardy” Extra Recess

Mad Science Assembly at 1:15pm (Thank you PTA!)

May 14: District Board Meeting, 4:00 pm at the D.O. (8th grade is presenting)

May 16: MWCS Open House at 5:30pm

May 17: Professional Development Day for staff - No school for students

May 23: PTA General Meeting in Room C5 at 5:30 pm

May 24: Honor Roll Field Trip

May 27: Memorial Day - No School

May 31: All School Field trip to Epicenter

June 4: District Board Meeting, 4:00 pm at the D.O.

June 4: PTA Board Meeting at 5:30pm

June 5: MWCS “No Tardy” Extra Recess

June 7: 8th grade Promotion in gym at 8:30am

June 3-7: MWCS Releases everyday at 12:30pm