

PYP (Primary Years Program) 3rd and 4th grade

Where we are in place and time unit!

Start Date: March 20th

Central Idea: **People Migrate Based on Need**

Dear 3rd and 4th grade families,

We are excited to announce the start of our next PYP unit which will begin on **March 20th**.



The lines of inquiry for this unit are: **people migrate for different reasons, pioneers regularly have to make decisions that have moral and survival consequences, it takes careful consideration to plan and execute a successful trip, and journal writing.**

The teacher questions that will drive our inquiry are:

1. **Why would pioneers leave their homes?**
2. **What characteristics would a pioneer need to survive on the trail to be a successful member of the wagon family/train?**
3. **What supplies would a person need to to survive a long trip west?**

These teacher questions and our learning activities (which are tied to our standards) will all be discovered by the children through the concepts (big ideas) of **causation, perspective, responsibility, cooperation, preparation, perseverance** and **decision making**. These concepts will be explored across all subject areas (when they naturally align) so that they truly become transdisciplinary.

As we have already discussed, this year is a transition year as we move towards the philosophical shift in not only assessing if your son/daughter was able to acquire the knowledge of this content, but if he/she is able to make meaning of this content. Our end goal is to have your child make meaning of the content, then TRANSFER this knowledge to a situation that wasn't explicitly taught.

Having our students take action after learning is an important part of our IB education. **Please let us know if you notice any actions at home that are a result of this unit.**

Lastly, if you are, or know of someone, who is knowledgeable in this content, please let your child's teacher know so we can plan for a classroom visit. In addition, if you have any artifacts, books, educational videos, etc. about this content, please get in touch with your child's teacher as we would love to utilize all our resources to make this learning experience as rich as possible. Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas!

We need your help in preparing for one of the learning activities! Throughout this unit, your child will be doing a combination of writing and drawing tasks that will together become their Oregon Trail Journal. As a writer, they will put themselves in the place of a person traveling the trail in 1846. They'll have to use their imagination to capture the thoughts and feelings of this adventure, and the information from class to describe the places and happenings along the route.

Some of the work we'll do together, some they will do independently. If they think and work hard during this project, they will have an Oregon Trail Journal they can be very proud to keep.

We ask that you send your child to school with a journal to use for this project. You can create these journals at home by using the following recipe for aged paper OR you can buy a journal. Each journal must have between 20-25 pages (or more if they love to write and draw) and have a cover. If you are making the journal, the cover can be made of fabric, poster board, or any other material your child is inspired to use. Usually they would be bound together with string or leather. In previous years, some parents bought an aged looking journal from a local store.

We will begin our westward journey on Wednesday, March 20th. Please send your child's journal to school **no later than Wednesday, March 20th** so your child doesn't fall behind. These journals will be used for assessment of student understanding (and to help drive our instruction) throughout the weeks of this unit.

Please let your child's teacher know if you have any questions or can support this unit content!

With thanks,

Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Rathke

Aged Paper Recipe

Things needed:

9 x 13 cake pan

instant coffee, tea bags **or** already prepared cold coffee

water

paper-lined notebook and/or plain paper

cookie sheet

Things to do:

1. Mix coffee or tea with water (or plain cold coffee) and put in 9 x 13 cake pan. Use enough coffee or tea to make water quite dark.
2. Put paper in coffee or tea water. Leave in 30 seconds to 1 minute. Do only 1 sheet at a time.
3. Drain excess water off. Place on cookie sheet only 1 layer deep.
4. Air dry (takes forever!) or oven dry at 150-200 degrees. Be very careful not to burn. Check it every minute.
5. You will need 20-25 sheets for your journal.
6. Lastly, make a cover and bind together!