



January 4th, 2021

IB Attributes of the Month: **PRINCIPLED**

Ignite Hope: One LIGHT, Many Candles!

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

This week is packed with exciting learning activities! Here’s where we’re headed this week in the classroom.

In **Writing**. Welcome back! We will begin a new section in the Personal Narrative unit of study. This week, students will choose a “seed idea” from their previous journal entries to develop a story. They will “flash draft” that story on Monday and then share it with a small writing group on Tuesday. Students will then learn how to really revise by redrafting on Wednesday and Thursday. In Spelling, students will work in small groups to review new words and begin word sorts in Words Their Way. There will be a spelling test on Friday in Vocabulary A-Z. There is no grammar this week. Our new schedule is to alternate between grammar and spelling every other week.

In **Social Studies** we will continue our new unit entitled “Opportunity motivates people to leave home.” The students will be learning about where we are in place and time through an interactive simulation. They will be split into cooperative groups as they learn about travelling to the New World and difficult decisions that colonists had to make as they left their home countries. This unit is an inquiry into how trade impacts societies, geography influences human settlement, culture, and how significant historical events have an implication for current decisions and influence the future. The concepts we are covering are: **change, connection, trade, and cost & benefits.**

In **Religion** this week we will make connections between Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa. This week Ms. Bakamis will be teaching us the importance of Managing Anxiety during our **Second Step & Self-Care** class on Wednesday morning this week. Each student is responsible for completing the Second Step Homelink #11 with an adult family member by Sunday, January 10th.

In **Math**, this week *Mrs. Smith's* students will finish Chapter 4 over division with 2-digit divisors. There will be plenty of opportunities for chapter review this week in preparation for the Chapter 4 test next Monday. In addition to reviewing Chapter 4 problems, students are required to complete at least 45 minutes of ALEKS by Sunday night (1/10). *Ms. Bakamis'* class will review our lessons in Chapter 4: Dividing by a Two-digit Divisor. The specifics on each lesson/assignment will be posted in Google Classroom. We will have our **Chapter 4 Tests on Thursday, January 7th**. Along with their daily homework, students should also keep up with the required 45 minutes of ALEKS per week (by Sunday night) which is worth 5 points per week in Math! In *Mrs. Dimock's* class students will finish chapter 5, practicing graphing on the coordinate plane. ALEKS assignments will resume as well.

This week in **Reading & Vocabulary**, we will continue working on identifying key ideas & details in groups. We will also be picking up our books to read for our Social Studies Colony Brochure Project. Students should also begin working on our January Digital Reading Logs & finish our December Book Reports this week. Each student should have 15 entries on their Digital Reading Log to receive full credit on this assignment. Our **December Reading Logs are due Monday, January 4th & December Book Reports are due on Friday, January 8th!** As a nightly practice, the students will be expected to complete at LEAST 30 minutes of reading. The students will review their progress on taking AR Quizzes on the books they've read so far this trimester. **Our second trimester goal is 15 AR points.**

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – normal virtual day, specific assignments are listed on our Weekly-at-a-Glance, **Office Hours @ 1 pm - 2 pm**
- **Tuesday** – normal virtual day, specific assignments are listed on our Weekly-at-a-Glance, **Music @ 12:30 pm Robotics @ 1:00 pm**
- **Wednesday** – normal virtual day, *All-School Mass (watch with Ms. Bakamis on Zoom) @ 9:30 am*, specific assignments are listed on our Weekly-at-a-Glance, **Library @ 12:30 pm, Office Hours @ 1 pm - 3 pm**
- **Thursday** – normal virtual day, specific assignments are listed on our Weekly-at-a-Glance, **Office Hours @ 1 pm - 3 pm**
- **Friday** – normal virtual day, Independent Work Day, specific assignments are listed on our Weekly-at-a-Glance, **Office Hours @ 11 am - 1 pm**

Upcoming Important Dates:

- *Monday, January 18th – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, No SCHOOL!*
- *Tuesday, January 19th – Thursday, February 11th – MAP testing window*
- *Friday, January 22nd – Mid-tri reports, Ms. Bakamis's Birthday*
- *Friday, January 29th – Fulcrum Celebration of Light “virtual” event*
- *Friday, February 12th – Accreditation Pre-visit and staff workday for Accreditation, No School*
- *March 15th – 17th – ACCREDITATION VISIT*