



October 4th, 2021

IB Attributes of the Month: Caring & Balanced

Building a world of JOY!

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." - Arthur Ashe

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

In **Religion** this week we will continue our unit that focuses on God, Our Creator, and Father. In this unit the students will learn that God Creates Us, God Saves Us, God's Revelation, how God Directs Our Lives, & Celebrating Ordinary Time. Since October is the month we honor Mary we will be reflecting on how we can be more like her in our own lives. We'll also be participating in the Virtus Safety lesson on *Being a Safe Friend*. In our third **Second Step** lesson we will learn about Being Assertive. **Each student will be responsible for completing a Homelink connected to the lesson with an adult every week.**

In **Math** with Ms. Bakamis, we continue our unit on Place Value & Number Relationships. In this unit the students will learn to generalize place value, extend place value through decimals, read & write decimals, compare decimals, & use place value to round decimals. After each lesson, the students will work on a page of related questions. They will also have a page of questions to work on at home. This practice will help them make meaning of the new skills and transfer them to their own lives. In **Math** with Mr. Carson, we'll have our first **unit test on Wednesday October 6th**. We will be well prepared for the test as we've spent time working on reviewing materials. I was asked by a student "when will we ever have to explain math in the "real" world?" I told them "every single time you do math in a business setting, you will be asked to defend or explain your solutions." Perhaps parents could share instances at work when they were required to explain math. **In addition to daily classwork, each student will be expected to complete at LEAST 5 topics in ALEKS every week by Monday morning @ 8:00 am.**

In **Reading & Spelling** with Ms. Bakamis, we will continue working on our reading comprehension skills at our own levels and will continue completing AR tests (our 1st Trimester Goal is 15 points). We will be reading books & articles that are connected to our Science unit on ecosystems & the world around us. **As a nightly**

practice, our expectation is to complete at LEAST 30 minutes of reading. Students will begin working on new Spelling lists at their own level. Our expectation is that they practice their words three different ways in their Spelling composition notebooks. **These will be collected on Friday and we will have our Spelling Assessment on Thursday, October 7th!**

In **Writing** with Mrs. Smith, students have learned techniques for writing personal narratives: turning points (first time, last time, time they realized something), & telling a story from their point of view (maintaining perspective). This week students will use a narrative writing checklist to take stock of their writing & set goals for the next section of the narrative writing unit--the writing process (rehearsing, drafting, revising & editing). In grammar, students will have a short quiz on parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, & interjections). Definitions & examples of each are in their interactive grammar notebooks.

In **Science** we will continue our unit on how organic matter cycles through our living world in systems of interdependent parts. Many of our lessons will focus on ecology and will help the students develop the idea that plants, animals, and fungi form a system of connected parts, with each part dependent on the other parts for its material nourishment. This will tie in nicely with our upcoming trip to Camp Seymour.

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – Morning prayer led by 8th Grade students, Music in the classroom
- **Tuesday** – Music in the classroom, *Make-up MAPS Tests*, **2:00 pm dismissal**
- **Wednesday** – Music in the classroom
- **Thursday** – Music in the classroom, **Spelling Practices Due & Assessment**, Library
- **Friday** – Music in the classroom, Library, Design/Robotics

Upcoming Important Dates:

- **Friday, October 15th** - No school for Teacher Inservice Day
- **Monday, October 18th** - FEAST OF ST. LUKE & St. Luke-A-Thon! Students and staff can wear running gear related to St. Luke. He is the Patron Saint of Artists and Physicians. He also is one of the authors of the gospels.
- **Thursday, October 21st** - Great Washington ShakeOut! Earthquake drill will happen at 10:21AM
- **Friday, October 22nd** - Mid tri-reports
- **Tuesday, October 26th - Friday, October 29th** - 5th Grade Attends Camp Seymour