



### We need your help!!

Chargers Engaged in Service (C.E.S.) is asking for our school families to donate specific items to create "In Friendship Bags." Bags will be donated to the growing number of homeless WCPSS students and other outreach centers. We are excited to participate in this project to help our community. Specifically, C.E.S. has asked our Troopers Team to donate **HAND AND FEET WARMERS**. These items can be purchased at Dollar Tree/the dollar store or at a sporting good store. If you are able to donate an item or two, **please send in your donation by January 31st**. C.E.S. will be assembling the bags and have them ready to be handed out before Valentine's Day.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Aratcliffe@wcpss, Srobertson2@wcpss.net, or Rstauffer@wcpss.net.

Many thanks for supporting our "In Friendship" project!--C.E.S Club and AFMS Teachers

### ELA/Gabbard:

Students worked so hard on the Found/Blackout Poetry assignment that we completed on Tuesday. I was absolutely impressed with the creativity and out-of-the box thinking by the students. The work was difficult and challenging...productive struggle for sure. As we move forward to our next big project, I hope students will take what they have learned about perseverance and taking a risk and apply it to the writing of our next essay and then on to a poetry unit.

We began an essay project that requires students to write an argument centered around the focus question of: Do we still struggle with any of the same adversities as the people of *Good Masters, Sweet Ladies!*? We are breaking this assignment into sections and this should help students really spend the quality time and effort to create an excellent essay. Moving forward, the tentative schedule is for students to begin typing next Friday and completing it on the following Monday. Of course, we will adjust as needed.

Have a great week!—Mrs. Gabbard

### Dates to Remember:

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>—Quarter 2 ends  
Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>—Teacher Workday  
Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>—Report Cards go home  
Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>—No School  
Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>—Teacher Workday

### Social Studies/Rabb:

Our next unit of study continued this week with our Ancient China Playlist. Since the start of the playlist, we have had lessons on China's geography, Confucianism, Taoism, and analyzing primary source documents. After class today (Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>), students will have had **almost 3 full hours** of classroom time to work on their playlists.

Next week's focus will include the social structure, achievements, and political structures of Ancient China. I have had so many opportunities to interact with students one-on-one or in small groups to help them really understand this material—it's been terrific for me as a teacher!

### NOTE ABOUT THE PLAYLIST:

- Students may complete any **Independent Tasks** at home
- **Partner Tasks MUST GET EMAIL APPROVAL from Mrs. Rabb BEFORE being completed at home**
- Checkpoints may be completed at home if the Partner Work has been approved
- Students may use notes and handouts to take the Checkpoint

### Upcoming Dates:

Playlist for China due **Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**, at the end of your class period

Unit Assessment on China (50%) = **Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Math/Figueroa:***

The advance class will have a quiz on the distributive property during their smart block next week. We are half-way through Unit 7 and the next two units in the advance class will be 7th grade units. The regular math will have a quiz next Thursday on equations. All students will receive their first EOG worksheet this Monday January 27th. Have a good weekend.— Mrs. Figueroa

### **PTSA Info:**

**\*\*For all PTSA information (membership, fundraising, events, & more) please visit their website:**

**[www.afmsptsa.org](http://www.afmsptsa.org)**

### ***Science/Hipps:***

#### **Pass the Plate**

Earthquakes, volcanoes, geysers, tsunamis, subduction (where cool stuff happens), divergent, convergent, and transform boundaries, rifts and trenches all happen because of convection and plate movement. We will be studying these things while primarily upon plate boundaries. Visualizing the movement of tectonic plates is difficult for students. There is also a tremendous time scale here which is hard to comprehend. Often students ask why nobody is crushed when plates move together because they cannot picture plates moving only inches per year. However, this is a fun unit and students always enjoy it.

We have spent a considerable amount of time on heat. Understanding convection and convection currents is essential for this unit. This week we will take convection to its deepest level, underneath the earth's crust!

This week's major focus is to look inside of our Earth by observing what is happening on the outside (earthquakes and volcanoes). Eventually I want all students to be able to explain how we can tell what the inside of our earth looks like, when nobody has ever seen it.

**Assessment Alert! Quiz: Friday**

#### **Key Concepts**

1. Convection occurs because of temperature differences
2. Events on and near the surface of the earth's crust provide clues about the inside of our earth.
3. The outside of our earth is shaped by forces on the inside.
4. Convection causes our tectonic plates to move.

#### **Key Questions**

1. How do we know what the inside of our earth looks like if we have never seen it?
2. What does density have to do with the layers of our Earth?
3. How do we know the location of plate boundaries?
4. What causes earthquakes and volcanoes?

**Science Rocks,  
Mark Hipps**