

## Troopers Team Newsletter

### January 31, 2020



This illustration is by the author of the newsletter.

#### **Dates to Remember:**

Spirit Week is NEXT WEEK! Check the AFMS website for details!

Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>—Report Cards go home

Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>—Winter School Dance

Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>—No School

Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>—Teacher Workday

#### **ELA/Gabbard:**

This has been a very busy week for students! They have completed two poetry introductions and worked on pre-writing for the "Are We Medieval" Adversity Essay. Several pre-writing activities have been completed (or should have been completed by your student) to get them ready to begin typing today. Students will be given approximately 30-40 minutes of additional class time on Monday and the finished product is due into Google Classroom no later than 5:00 PM on Monday evening.

Next week, students will take a benchmark test in ELA and Math. The data collected will be used to formulate instruction moving forward. At the midyear point, it will be valuable to see strengths/weaknesses of each student. After, we will move into our poetry unit by studying and analyzing concrete and free verse poems. These poems will also be centered around the guiding theme of adversity.

Finally, please review PowerSchool information with your child centered around Quarter 2 and 3. Report cards will come home next week so please be on the lookout. When checking PowerSchools with your child, ask them about what is going well and look for any missing and late assignments. Please remember that late work can only be turned in for credit (with a deduction) within a 2-week period of the assigned date.

Have a great weekend and enjoy the Super Bowl!  
Mrs. Gabbard

**Thank you for all the hand and feet warmers that were sent in for our "In Friendship" bags collection.**

#### **Social Studies/Rabb:**

Our unit on Ancient China is almost complete. This week, we have learned how to take notes in outline form and in a lotus diagram. We have learned more about the Silk Road, the Mandate of Heaven, the Dynastic Cycle, early Chinese dynasties, and Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi. Next week, we will extend our learning about the role of family in China and the achievements of the Ancient Chinese.

The study guide for next week's test was distributed in class today. There are 2 quizlets in Google Classroom for students to use as well.

#### **FINAL NOTES and REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE PLAYLIST:**

- Zeros (0s) have been entered into PowerSchools for all missing Playlists and checkpoints.
- Additional class time will not be used for completing Playlist work.
- Completion of makeup Playlist work will follow the AFMS Grading Policy.
- This approach to instruction was meant to provide choice and self-management practice for my students. I learned a great deal during the process about myself as an educator, about my students, and about making instructional changes. Thank you all for your patience as we worked through the challenges and successes of this model.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

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

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>—Start unit on Ancient Greece

**Math/Figueroa:**

Next weekend students will be taking a Benchmark in ELA and Mathematics. ELA will be Tuesday with math being Wednesday. Besides that, there are no test nor quizzes schedule for next week. All math classes will have a test on February 11th. Have a good weekend.

**PTSA Info:**

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

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

**Science/Hipps:****Rock on Planet Earth**

May the force be with you! I am talking about the force (and forces of our Earth) that cause subduction (where cool stuff happens). These movements (caused primarily by convection in the mantle) are our primary focus.

A moving tectonic plate is difficult to visualize, thus hard to understand. For that reason, we will be spending a good deal of time on it throughout the unit. We will also be looking at more evidence that helps to prove that our plates do in fact...move.

This week's focus will be:

1. *Earth layers, and how we know about them,*
2. *Evidence of plate movement,*
3. *Pangaea and Continental Drift.*

**Assessment Alert!**

**Quiz: Wednesday**

**Big Concepts...**

1. **Convection in the mantle cause plate movement.**
2. Our crust is broken into giant sections called tectonic plates.
3. Earth layers are stacked according to their density.
4. We know that there are layers because of the way seismic waves travel through the earth.
5. We know the location of plate boundaries because that is where we find most earthquakes and volcanoes.
6. Most earthquakes and volcanoes occur at plate boundaries because that is where movement and stress build up!

**Science Rocks,  
Mark Hipps**