

Troopers Team Newsletter

February 14, 2020



Dates to Remember:

Monday, February 17th—No School
Tuesday, February 18th—Teacher Workday
Thursday, February 20th—Family Conferences
Friday, February 21st—Neon Glow Dance!!
Monday, March 9th—Teacher Workday
Wednesday, March 11th—Spring Picture Day
Friday, April 3rd—Quarter 3 ends
Saturday, April 4th—Beginning of Spring Break
Tuesday, April 14th—School Resumes/Spring Break ends

ELA/Gabbard:

In ELA, we continue to study poetry and literary elements. Students have read, listened to, and analyzed several concrete poems from our EL Workbook. We are also using song lyrics, commercials and poetry using dialect to enrich our study. As we continue, students will be involved in a Paideia Seminar (most likely next Friday) covering our 3 main literary texts (ROAR, Mother to Son, The Rose That Grew From Concrete) and students will be expected to be well versed in the meaning and structure of each piece. We are devoting a large amount of time in class to complete our studies, but some preparation will need to be completed at home.

Long term, we tentatively will have our Seminar next Friday, visit the Media Center on the 24th, complete a quiz and narrative of adversity project by Friday, February 28th, and begin our new module on Monday, March 2nd. Please note those dates are tentative and depend on how fast/slow students move through the objectives and associated activities.
Mrs. Gabbard

**Thank you for the sweet treats to help us celebrate Valentines' Day!
We are very appreciative!**

Social Studies/Rabb:

Our Ancient China assessment was Monday and went well. Overall, the class averages ranged from 76% to 83%...I was thrilled!

Reflection on Playlist: I have spent a lot of time thinking about the playlist activities for our China unit. My students had mixed reviews of that process—and I am finalizing the grades for the playlist (I graded the China test first). I am also reviewing the student survey results about the playlist.

New Unit!: We have started our unit on Ancient Greece! Students have a good bit of background knowledge, particularly about Greek mythology, because of their Percy Jackson unit in ELA earlier this year. Our topics this week included:

- How geography of Ancient Greece influenced the development of the civilization
- The impact of early Greeks (Minoans and Myceneans)..with a little Trojan War information thrown in too!
- The ideas that influenced the different governments found in Ancient Greece (monarchy, oligarchy, tyranny, and democracy)

Upcoming Due Dates:

February 28th—Greece DBQ assessment (40%)
March 5th—Greece Notebook Check (40%)

Classroom Updates: I've put a monthly calendar on the wall in the classroom. On it, students will find lesson topics and homework assignments for the upcoming week. My hope is that having this info displayed in the classroom will give everyone a better sense of what is headed their way in social studies!

Team Website: Please make sure you are checking the team website regularly. Each of us update our pages often—it is an excellent place to start if your student is absent. Students are responsible for the work they missed during their absence according to our AFMS Grading Policy.

Math/Figueroa:

The next test date has been changed for all classes. For all classes it will be next Thursday, February 20th. The next unit for my advance class will be another 7th grade unit, Proportional Relationships and Percentages and my regular math will be going into Unit 7, Rational Numbers. EOG 2 is due February 27th. Enjoy Valentine's Day and have a good weekend.

PTSA Info:

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

www.afmsptsa.org

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

Plate tectonics and convection in the mantle should not be a big mystery to your students. We have some misconceptions to work out, and a few students need to do some extra learning, but we are on pace. This week we will be deepening our understanding of plate tectonics as begin to examine the evidence that proves the scientific theory of plate tectonics. From there we will focus upon the types of plate movements and the impact this has upon our land.

Plate movements is the most fun part of plate tectonics. Understanding how gigantic masses of land push, pull, slide past, and subduct, is essential. These movements cause earthquakes and volcanoes, large mountain range and valley formations, long strings of volcanic islands, and the formation of new crust.

A quick note about SPIRALS

Spirals provide a mechanism for students to remember concepts learned throughout the year (spiral back). I recently added a back page to look forward, as a way to focus upon key concepts that we are learning now. Students may use notes, ask parent help, and even, "search it up." My goal is for them to get the right answer. Yet to many students are performing poorly because they are just guessing on the correct answers, and simply want to turn it in.

Assessment Alert

Plate Tectonic Test I is **Friday**. Today's quiz will be returned on Wednesday and should be an indicator of student preparedness.

This week's Focus:

1. Evidence that proves plate movements or Continental Drift
2. Plate movements (convergent boundaries, divergent boundaries, transform boundaries, and subduction).

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