

Seventh Grade Cluster News

The students of the Seventh Grade Teams have been making excellent progress as we approach the mid-year point of the school year. The 7th grade social studies department is currently completing the African Empires Unit. Students have explored the links between West Africa, the Middle East, and Islam through geography, trade, and religious pilgrimage. Students have also created travel websites for African countries with a focus on culture. Understanding how to plan a vacation including flights, accommodations, and more provide students with real world experience. Students are also researching topics for the African Cultural Arts Fair with exhibits on display during the first week of February.

In Math, we continue to work on and improve our critical thinking and problem solving skills. We are currently learning to solve multi-step equations and inequalities. English classes have been finishing up reading *A Christmas Carol*, and finding the “big ideas” and themes that Charles Dickens and the playwright Israel Horowitz try to convey through Scrooge’s evolution and the socio-economic conditions of Victorian England. From there, we have begun writing literary analysis essays in which the students analyze contrasting themes and styles in two pieces of literature.

Seventh grade science students are continuing their studies on adaptations and natural selection. Next we will begin our unit on ecosystems and ecology. Students will investigate how energy flows through plants and animals through the processes of photosynthesis and respiration. We continue to practice writing scientific arguments using evidence to support our claims by using the Claim, Evidence and Reasoning framework. The Teams are excited to see how engaged and enthusiastic our students are as they navigate these more complex lesson topics.