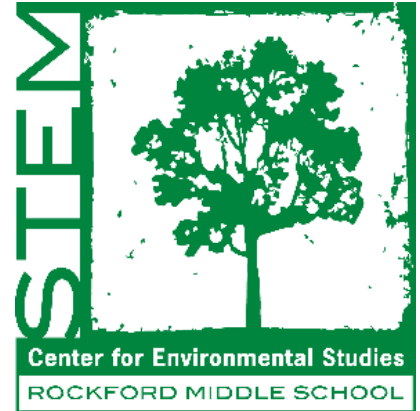


# ROCKFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume, Ph.D.*

Happy Friday! **I love Fridays in the fall** and there is still so much potential for hitting the local football trifecta, for being outside in perfect weather, and some of the best activities arrive in the fall in Minnesota. Yay, us! 🤝



Our superintendent has been repeatedly stressing to the principals that we need to keep our weekly messages short. Let's be real, she is talking to me. I'm sorry, I'm really trying to keep it short. I like to write about the issues that we face here at RMS-CES because I want you to: 1) know about them, and 2) know how I stand on them. I structure the environment you send your child to for nearly 8 hours each day, so I feel the need for a lot of transparency and disclosure. I also depend on the feedback I get from you all as a result of my weekly rants. Make no mistake, ultimately it is the principal that creates the climate of the school, and my weekly bulletin has become one way for me to take the temperature of that climate with you folks.



*Bobbi A. Anderson-Hume*



# A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Continued



There are so many things on my mind to “talk” with you about this week: cell phones, vaping, TikTok and school destruction, bullying, and amazing things I have seen kids do all week, but here I am, already at a half page! I will start with the largest consumer of my brain space these past two weeks, the state of our kids. I understand the fear parents, especially parents of first time middle schoolers, feel at sending us their kids. Every parent has their fearful image of middle school, for me it was of my kid scared and confused, lost in the building and not finding anyone to help, so he is crying and now he hates school and the rest of his life will be a failure because of stupid middle school and no one helping him. And, I was here in the same building with him! I knew my staff was phenomenal and there was a competent and caring adult every 10 feet who would scoop him up, make him laugh, get him to the right spot, and watch for him the next passing time, just in case. My internal mom-voice is loud, though, it buries everything but making sure my baby is okay. I know you have the same voices and the same fears. I want to know how every 5th grader came home, every day. Were they happy? Surprised? Excited now for middle school? Or, was something wrong? Please call or email if something has been wrong.

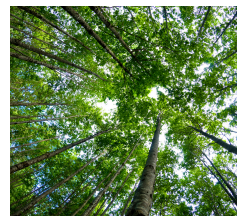
The other thing I am beginning to see, now in my 5th year at RMS-CES, are families searching for school happiness and safety. There are so many kids afraid of their schools, whether they are too big, or too whatever, and they hear about us and take a chance on a visit and fall in love with what I tell them we are. Around 20 percent of RMS-CES students come from other districts. Many come for the environmental and STEM aspects of our school. Most come because they have heard from others how we love and care for our students, how talented the staff is, how our kids get out of their seats, get out of the building, use their hands a lot, and get a personalized approach. So, I think constantly about how these kids are feeling about being here. I wonder if we are meeting their needs quickly enough (because they are new to us and it takes time to find out what makes each kid tick). It is so important to me to create a positive school experience for everyone. And, now I’m already past a full page...I’m DOOMED to failure on this task.

Of course I check in with all these kiddos all day long, but I get the same, “Fine,” you get when you ask how school is going. The real tell about how school is going is how they come home. When you just let them talk, what do they talk about? Is it positive and full of excitement or does your child appear fearful or frustrated? Sometimes it takes time to settle in, for example, my son had a horrible time the first week of high school with the 90-minute classes. He came home angry and frustrated and worried that math was his last 90-minute class of the day and he would never be able to concentrate and why isn’t the high school smart like the middle school, then he napped for two hours every day. This week he felt completely happy and capable and lectured me about how I should run my school more like the high school. However, if the hanging head and droopy shoulders don’t get better after a few days, please call or email me. I am always here to help!



*Have an amazing weekend! Page and a half, same as always!*

b  
Dr. Anderson-Hume  
RMS-CES Prinicipal





# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS



## A message from the nurse regarding COVID notification:

As we get back into the swing of things and spend more time together, there are going to be cases of COVID, especially with the Delta variant making its way through. In order to not inundate you with emails, we will not be sending a general notification letter to an entire grade level after every positive case of COVID. We will be alerting you if your child is a close contact of a positive case of COVID. Please be vigilant in monitoring your child for symptoms and keep them home if any present.



# RMS-CES PARENT/COMMUNITY NEWS



## Reminders & Opportunities:

### Publicity Photographs

Throughout the year, photographs and videos are taken in classrooms and at school activities. Some of these may be published in local newspapers, on the local cable station or in Rockford Area Schools' publications and websites. Parents may request that their child's photograph and identifying their name not be published in district productions or websites. The request must be made in writing and sent to the **Rockford Area Schools District Office**, at **6051 Ash Street, Rockford, MN 55373**. (This does not apply to pictures of school events taken by the news media.)



Contact Annie  
Mickelburg in  
our District  
Office

# MONDAY



## October 4th is PICTURE DAY!





# ROCKFORD AREA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION JO VOLLEYBALL

[www.raaasports.com/jo-volleyball](http://www.raaasports.com/jo-volleyball)



## What:

Youth Night at the Rockford High School Volleyball game for Girls & Boys in Grades 3 – 8.

Bring your aspiring volleyball athlete to watch the Rockford High School volleyball team take on Litchfield and learn more about the sport and the RAAA JO Volleyball program. Registered RAAA Volleyball players from the 2020/21 season receive free admission to the games; parents need to purchase admission. Stop by the RAAA JO Volleyball table and learn more about our upcoming season and how to join a team!

## When:

Tuesday, September 28th

## Time:

5:30 pm – 9 pm

C-Team and JV games start at 5:30 pm; Varsity game starts 7 pm

Come for all the games or just what works with your schedule!

## Where:

Rockford High School Gym

## Questions:

[raaajovolleyball@raaasports.com](mailto:raaajovolleyball@raaasports.com)

*“This is not an ISD #883 sponsored event”*





## Fall Open House Event October 2nd, at 12:30 pm

We will be holding a **free** softball intro event for members of the community to “Get Involved in Fastpitch” at 12:30 pm. High School and Rev players will help run a T-ball game for all 6/8U age kids who are interested in playing softball.

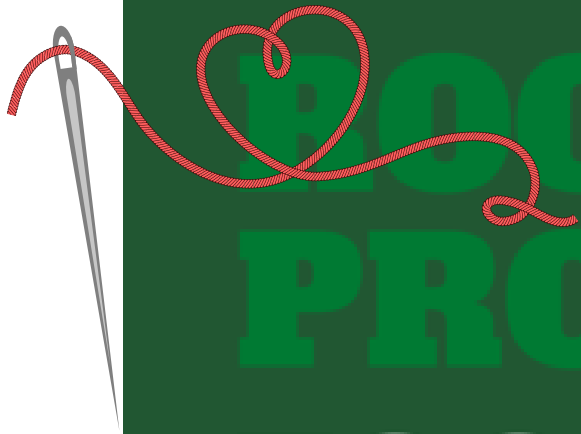
Here are some highlights for the event:

- **Pizza and refreshments will be provided**
- Raffles for bats, helmets and gloves
- **Meet and greet information with board members about available positions**

Sign up for this free event online by filling  
visiting this link:

<https://forms.gle/62ZyrEfnR6yayCmW6>





# ROCKFORD PROM

## FOOTBALL T-SHIRT QUILT RAFFLE

TICKETS \$5 EACH  
FOR SALE AT THIS  
FRIDAY'S GAME AND  
HOMECOMING GAME

---

WINNER ANNOUNCED AT  
HOMECOMING GAME ON  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO  
WIN

This event not sponsored by Rockford Area Schools ISD 883





# ROCKFORD YOUTH WRESTLING

**PreK-Kinder.**

**OR 1st Year Wrestlers**

**Mondays**

**11/15-1/22**

**6:00– 6:45 pm**

**1st-2nd Grade OR 2nd Year Wrestler**

**Tues./Thur. 11/9 – 1/22**

**5:30– 6:15 pm**

**3rd-6th Grade OR 3rd Year Wrestler**

**Tues./Thur. 11/9 – 1/22**

**6:30– 8:00 pm**

## **Why Should Kids Wrestle?**

- There is room for everyone and wrestlers only compete against others in a similar skill/weight
- Wrestling builds intensity, footwork, agility, balance, strength & body awareness
- It is one of the few sports where a child's foot speed, ball-handling skills, hand-eye coordination, & size do not matter

Questions? Or join our 2-week FREE Intro

Class contact: [raaawrestling@raaasports.com](mailto:raaawrestling@raaasports.com)

**Register online:**

**[www.raaasports.com/raaawrestling](http://www.raaasports.com/raaawrestling)**

*NOT an ISD 883 Sponsored Event*



## RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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### STEM

Makerspace is an elective option during Boost for students who are interested in STEM challenges. Students are currently creating a chair out of paper that can hold a stuffed animal. We will be working through the design process as we continue our projects during first semester.



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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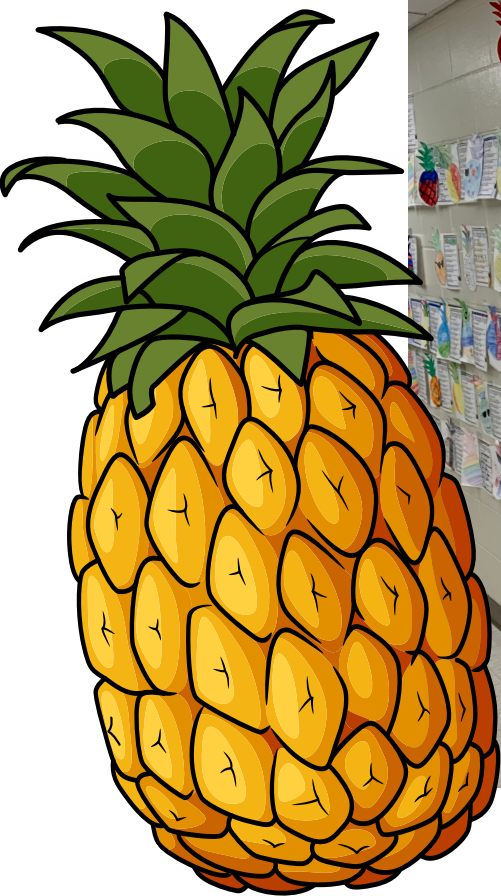
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## Social Studies

Earlier this week, the 5th graders presented their pineapple projects to the class. Each was unique and amazing, just like the students that created them! They are now on display in the hallway as a sign of welcome and hospitality for everyone that enters the building! We also started our first unit of study, The First Americans. Students learned the land bridge theory, and used pictures to make predictions about various regions.





# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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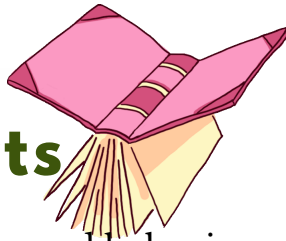
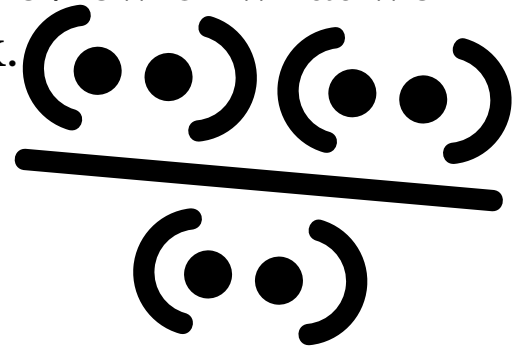
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## Math

This week in math, 5th graders reviewed place values of whole numbers and decimal numbers. We went over our Place Value Puzzle in class and spent extra time practicing how to write a fraction as a decimal. We worked on solving place value word problems by breaking it up step-by-step. We ended our week playing "Place Value Whack It" as a review of what we reviewed this week.



## Language Arts

5th grade Readers brainstormed behavior expectations as well as teacher expectations this past week. The behavior list will become the classroom contract that students will have posted in the room as a reminder of what is needed in order for students to be successful learners. The teacher list will be posted as well as a reminder for Mrs. Mateyka of what kind of teacher is needed for students to learn. Fifth graders also organized their Reader's Notebook and learned about Wednesday Writes, Magic 40, Just Right Books and what a Book Nook is. Book orders are due by next Friday, September 24th.



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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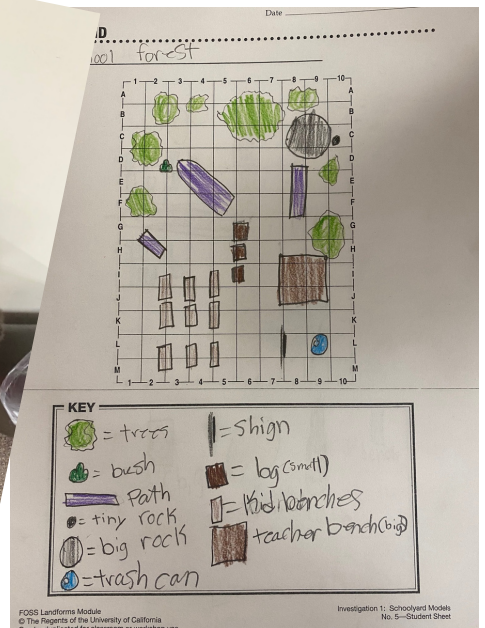
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## Science

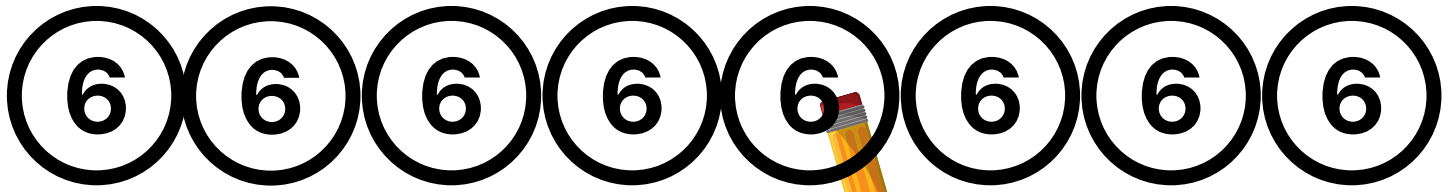
This week in 5th grade science, students began their unit on maps and models. We started by heading out to the school forest to gather information. The next day, we created a model of the school forest.

Finally, we turned that model into a map of the school forest! Students discussed the benefits and limitations of both maps and models.





# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

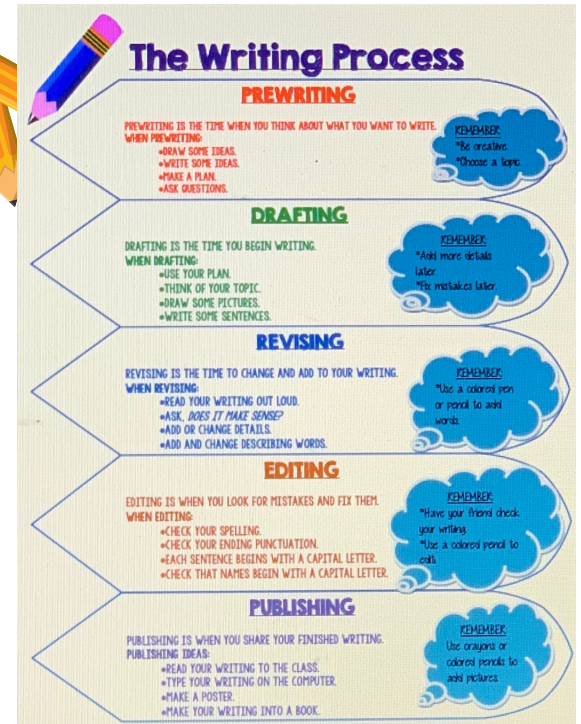


## Language Arts

This week sixth graders continued with their weekly bell ringer schedule and worked with the writing process. Students reflected and wrote about their names much like the main character Unhei in the story *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi. She struggled with her identity after a move with her family to a new country, a new town, and a new school; unfortunately her grandmother stayed behind in Korea. Unhei contemplated changing to a new American name to help fit in, but thankfully her new friends Joey and Mr. Kim came to her aid. They helped her realize that she liked her name best. Joey was given a Korean nickname, Chinku. This was one of our vocabulary words from last week along with falafel and kimchi. Check in with your sixth grader for its meaning.

Students had the opportunity to peer revise & edit with their classmates towards the end of the week. Final drafts are due on Monday, 9/20, either handwritten on final draft paper from class or submitted electronically via Google Classroom. Name glyphs are due on Tuesday, 9/21.

**Reminder:** Next week, students will take their FAST reading test in Language Arts class on Monday, 9/20 & Tuesday, 9/21; they will need a book for independent reading when they are finished. **Please remember to charge chromebooks Sunday night!**





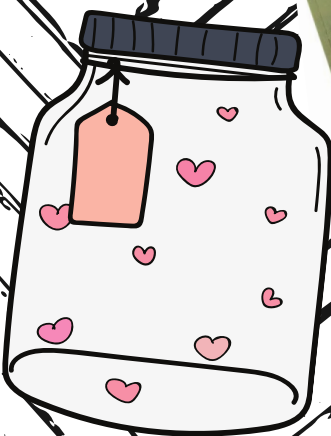
# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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## Language Arts *continued*



WHAT NAME  
WILL SHE  
CHOOSE?



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

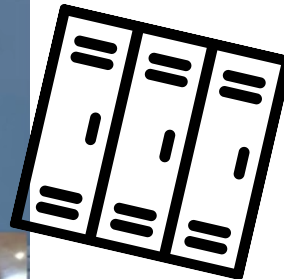


Eight circles, each containing the number 6.

# Social Studies



This week in social studies sixth graders completed a virtual locker assignment as a get to know you activity. The virtual locker also helped students brush up on their technology skills. Students placed items in their virtual locker that described them and things they like to do. After completing their virtual locker, students recorded a Flipgrid describing what they put in their locker.





# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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## Art

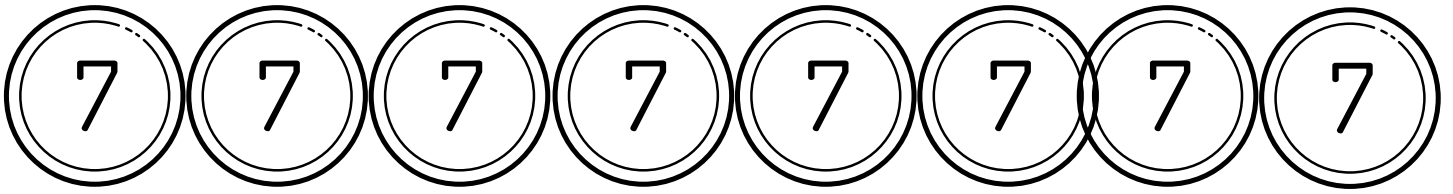
6th graders finished up their contour line drawing unit this week. We spent time outside drawing plants from the raised bed gardens and completed a drawing of their shoe.



6TH GRADE  
CONTOUR  
LINE DRAWINGS



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

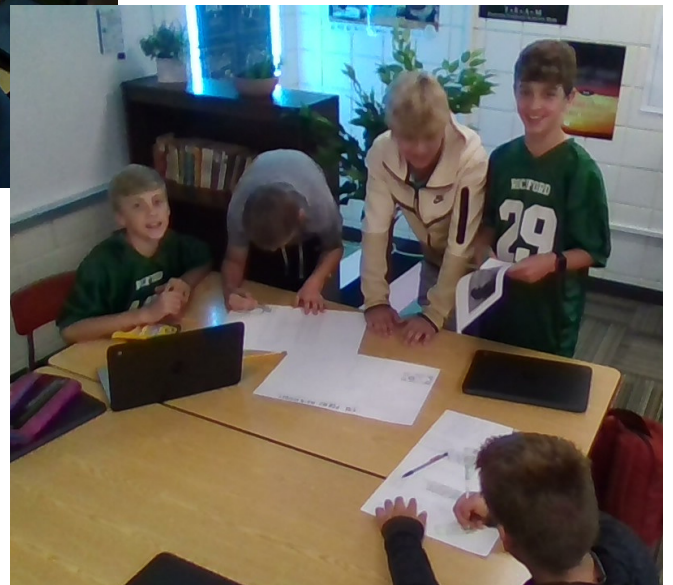


## Math

7th grade math students worked on a Fermi math project in which they studied the tragic events of 9/11. Students were able to ask questions and research facts and events that they were interested in. Fermi is named after an Italian physicist who created the first nuclear reactor.

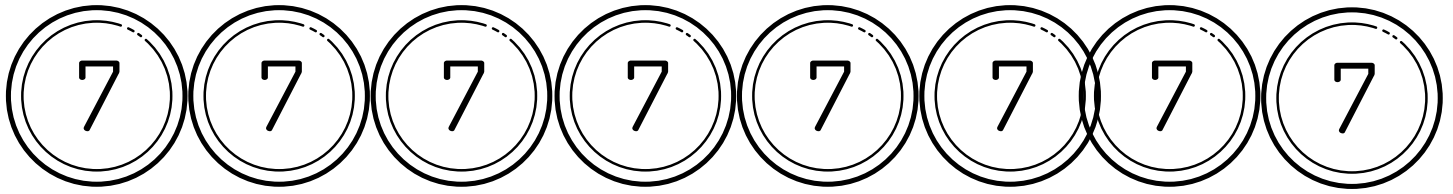
Enrico Fermi was known for being able to ask questions that kept the learning and curiosity process going.

The question students solved for was “how many \$1 bills would it take to cover the entire outside of both World Trade Centers (north and south). This allowed students to research cool facts and try and get an understanding of how impressive these buildings really were.





# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## Science

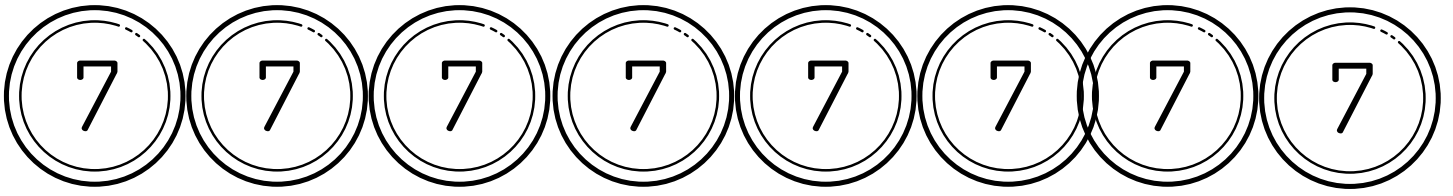
Reviewing data collection and using the Scientific Method, put us off to a great start so far! Using the variable of light vs darkness with seed germination has been our first lab this year. After only 3 days we are starting to see results. More to come!



We are also reviewing how people collect data differently. By flipping pennies and discussing Titles, Variables, Units and Ordered Pairs we are leaning what consistencies we need to have!

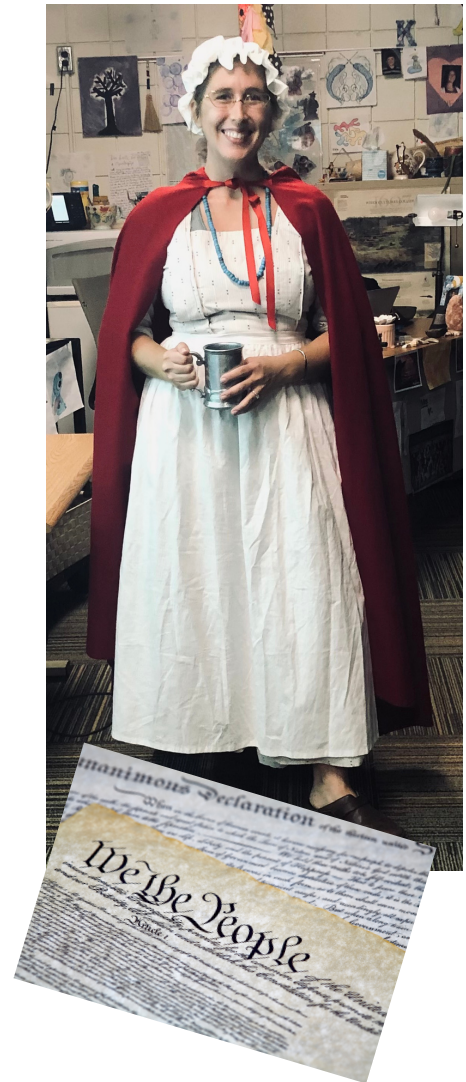


# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## Social Studies

This week in 7th grade Social Studies historians were visited by Ms. Kaufman's doppelganger, Trinity Dogood. Trinity came to share her excitement about the "upcoming" convention being held in Philadelphia (1787). Delegates were invited from all 13 states with the goal of revising/replacing the Articles of Confederation. Students learned about the issues debated at the convention, and the compromises made. Resulting in the creation of the Constitution of the United States.





# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

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## WEB LEADERS

Thank you to our 8th grade WEB  
leaders for welcoming 5th graders to  
RMS-CES!

**THANK YOU**

We hope you all have a great year!

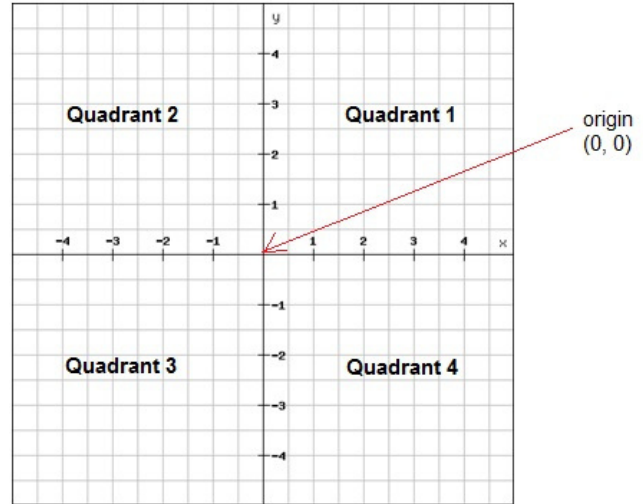
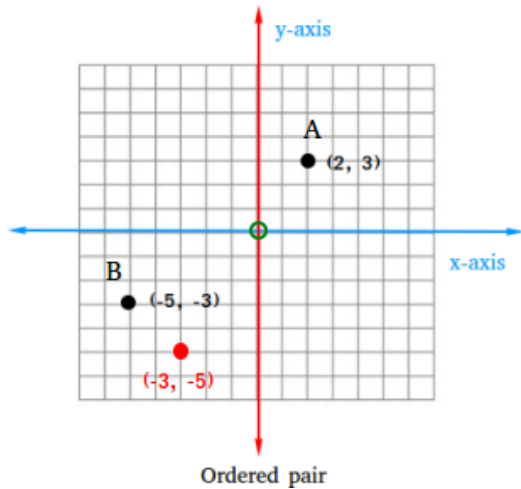




# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS

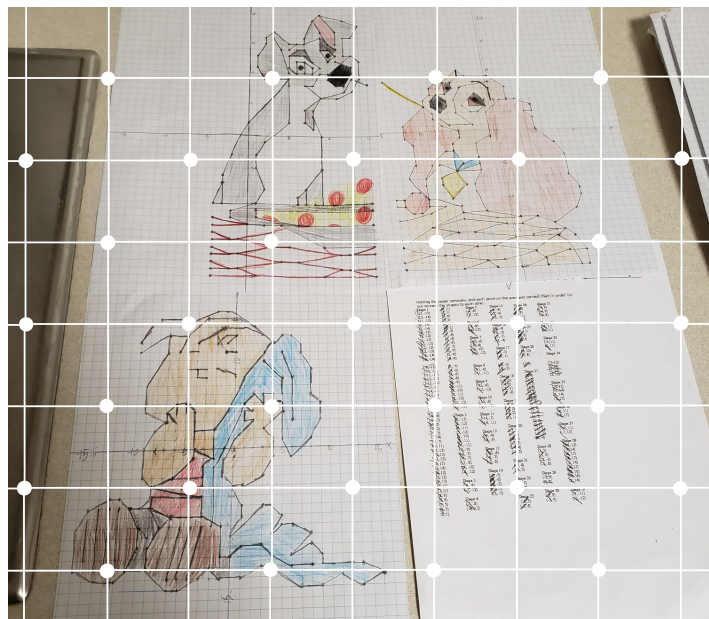


## Math



This week 8th grade mathematics students reviewed the coordinate plane and graphing ordered pairs. Students created a personal coordinate plane using symbols and pictures to represent things in their lives placing them in the quadrant that made the most sense. Students also plotted coordinate points connecting one point to the next to create a picture.

Students then colored the pictures in to really make them Pop.

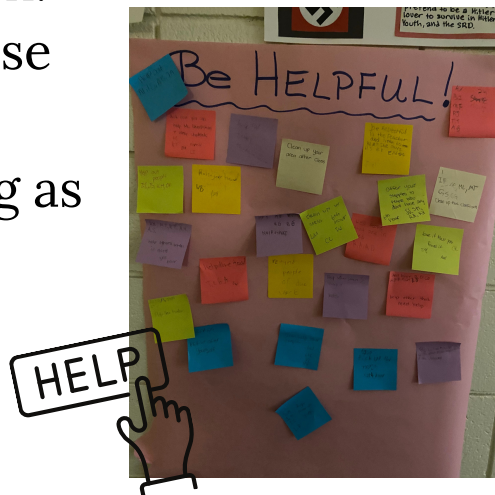
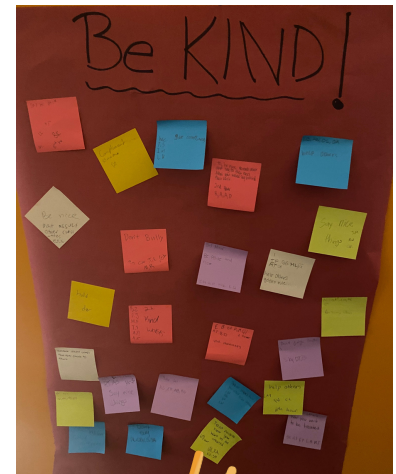
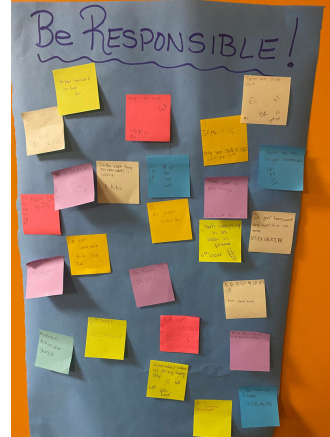
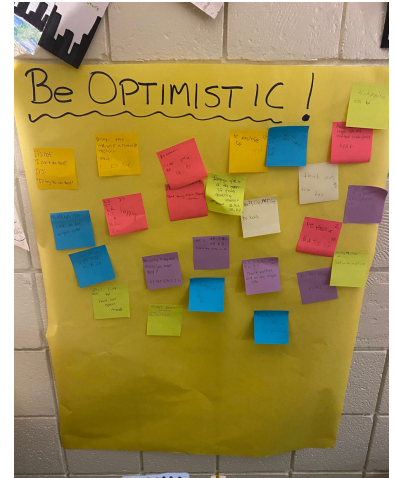


# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## Language Arts

As the saying goes, “It takes a village...”, and our LA8 classroom is no exception. In Week 1, I asked the 8th Grade “villagers” to come up with a rule to ensure that we all had access to learning in a safe space. From their responses, 5 major themes emerged and became the basis for our Reasonable Room Rules. Working in teams this week, students rotated through each theme and wrote a descriptor at each station. Based on their work, these rules will become the foundation for functioning as a community in our classroom this year.



# RMS-CES CLASS NEWS



## Global Studies

This week in 8th grade students presented their Powtoon animated video from week 1, reviewed how to use a Chromebook effectively in class, discussed a video called What is school for?, and *participated in a Senate-style debate*



## Agri-Science

This week we started our Ag Careers Unit. In small groups, students brainstormed important skills for any career, careers they'd consider, and even ideas of career success. We spent time practicing email etiquette with peers and also completed a career finder assessment using the FFA AgExplorer website. In our ag literacy book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, we read about William's early childhood memories, his dog, and how his love for science was discovered with radios.

