

AMS STEM *December Parent Update*



Zach completes an "Hour of Code". All students demonstrated coding basics in this national event!



Derby Sponsorship forms were sent home. If you know someone who would like to sponsor a team, please pass along the form. If anyone needs more, the PDF version is available on Schoology to print.



Sidney channels her inner John Adams while giving a speech about our second president.

Hi Everyone,
This is your STEM Parent Update for the month of December! It was a short month, but the students still managed to accomplish a lot. In the next few weeks, we will begin preparing for the Soap Box Derby STEM Gravity Racing Challenge coming up in May. Teams from all over the country come to compete and test their racing skills. Our students will also participate in additional contests that require writing and technological skills, such as a GRC infomercial showcasing their team, projects focusing on the history of the sport, press-release, and a photography contest. The past two years, our students have been very successful winning many plaques and trophies. This project has something for every students interest and skillset.

7th Grade



Christian congratulates C.J. and Victor on their 1st and 2nd place finishes at last year's Soap Box Derby.

- Students are finishing up the Medical Detectives unit and are learning about various body systems and discovering how each body system interacts via dissection and other activities.
- In January, students will begin the Automation and Robotics Unit (Mrs. Chine's favorite). In the beginning, students will explain gear ratios, the relationship between torque and speed, and the purpose of various different mechanisms used in everyday life.
- Using their knowledge of mechanisms, students will design and build a prototype of a device that will perform a specific task using Vex Robotics kits. Later in the year, students will put motors and sensors on their devices and learn how to program their creations. Stay tuned to see a showcase of their prototypes on our YouTube channel.
- In math, students are focusing on solving real world problems using ratio, proportion and percent. Emphasis is on determining cost of clearance items and percent markup of retail items and correlates well with the post Holiday shopping sales!



Students are encouraged to logon to build and maintain basic math and reading skills over break!



If you have not already, please check out our learning management system, Schoolology. Most curriculum, assignments and discussion boards are found there. Your child can log you in.



Alexis and Sydney pose after their sheep eye dissection. In this lab, students identified parts of eye and explained how vision works.



JC and Mitchell prepare their labels for the sheep brain dissection. Focus was on identifying parts of the brain, their function and the similarity and differences between the sheep and human brain.

8th Grade



Nick Hall with his certificate of completion for the *Hour of Code*

- The new year will also bring fresh new projects for the 8th grade students. First, all of the students should have finished their second novel, *i Robot*, during the break. We will have a few projects and assignments related to the book in the next couple of weeks.
- The Green Architecture unit will be in full swing when everyone returns. The students will be learning how to measure, scale, estimate materials, design floor plans on paper as well as using professional architectural software, and also building a 3D scaled model of a building in class using scaled dimensional lumber. ****If you can send in a tape measure with your child for class use that would help out.



8th graders with their presents from the gift exchange. Fun.



Charles Carson pretending to give his speech...

Both the 7th and 8th grade students worked very hard on their informational speeches. They did a great job, and we all learned a lot about their historical figures.

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