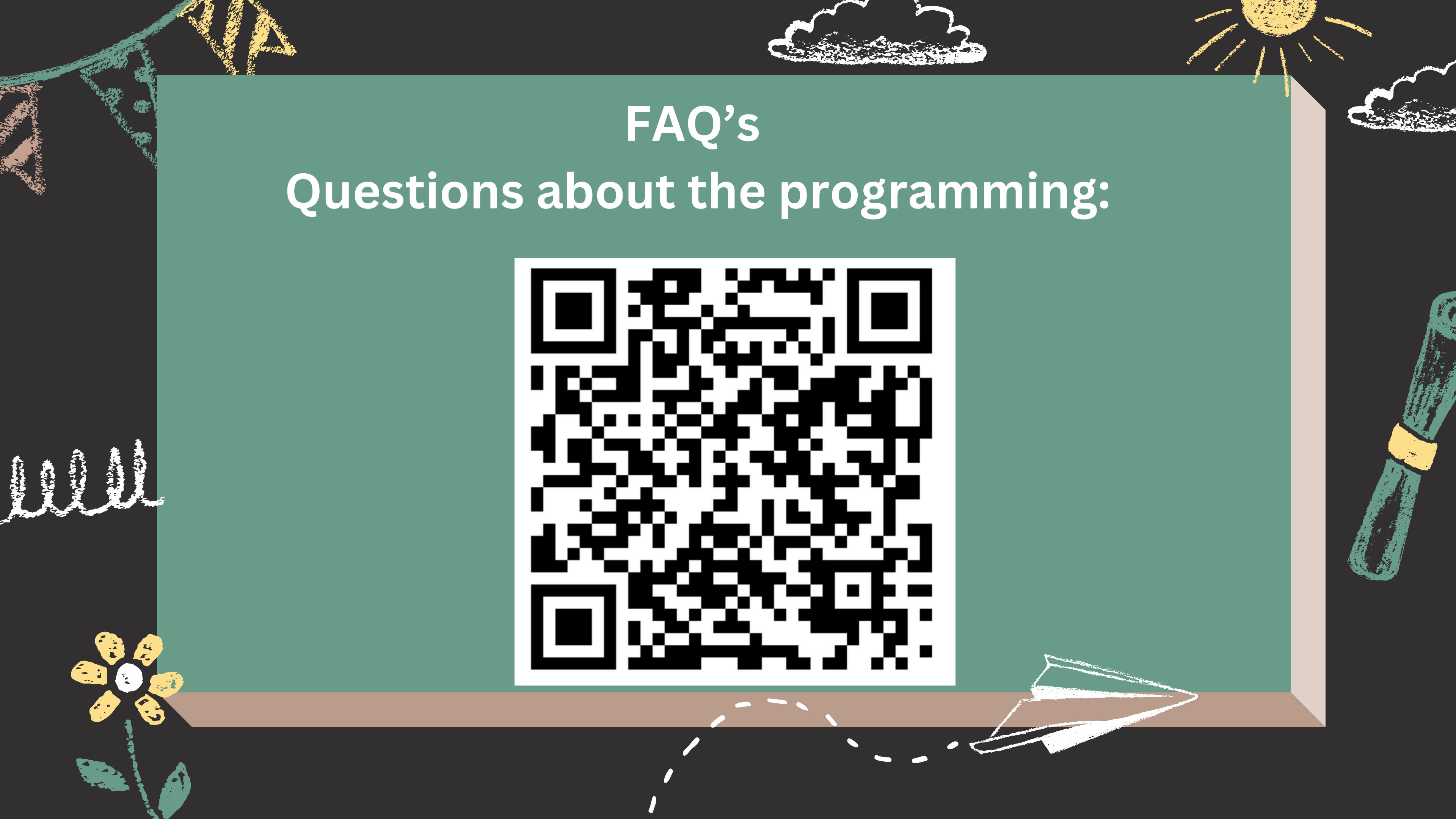


FAQ's

Questions about the programming:



The background is a dark blue chalkboard with a light blue border. At the top left, there are colorful, hand-drawn leaves in shades of green, yellow, and orange. At the top center, there are two white, fluffy clouds. At the top right, there is a bright yellow sun with rays. On the right side, a blue pencil with a yellow eraser is drawn vertically. At the bottom left, there is a yellow flower with a white center and green leaves. At the bottom center, there is a dashed white line forming a semi-circle. At the bottom right, there is a white, hand-drawn arrow pointing towards the center.

HLS RENAISSANCE GIFTED ACADEMY

Parent Information
Night

2024-2025

Agenda

- WELCOME
- OPENING REMARKS
- INTRODUCTION OF TEACHERS
- SIGNATURE RESEARCH PROGRAMS
- STEAM FAIR UPDATES
- SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS



WE ARE ASKING YOU TO HOLD ALL QUESTIONS SO THAT OUR PRESENTERS ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A SMOOTH FLOW OF INFORMATION WITHOUT INTERRUPTIONS IN ORDER TO MANAGE THE PRESENTATION TIME EFFECTIVELY TO COVER ALL CONTENT AND KEY POINTS.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE THIS EVENING RUN SMOOTHLY!



HELLO AND WELCOME
BACK TO SCHOOL!

HERE IS A LITTLE
BIT ABOUT OUR
PROGRAM. →






IN OUR RENAISSANCE CLASSROOMS, WE
EXPECT STUDENTS TO...



-Academic-

- *Maintain High Academic Standards
 - *Engage in Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
 - *Commit to Lifelong Learning
 - *Exhibit Respect and Integrity
 - *Demonstrate Leadership and Collaboration
 - *Strive for Excellence
 - *Communicate effectively
- 





OUR RENAISSANCE PROGRAM...



Our Renaissance program provides rigorous learning experiences that address the individual needs of gifted students. All Renaissance students acquire a solid foundation in the content areas of mathematics, language and communication arts, social studies, science, and technology literacy. Students work 1-2 years above grade level within core content areas.

Our Renaissance program is founded on enriched interdisciplinary studies, academic depth and complexity, and critical and creative thinking. It is our goal to provide a comprehensive experience that is responsive to the unique academic, creative, and emotional needs of the precocious gifted child.





COMMUNICATION!



Proactive, Productive, and Positive

**Classroom
Teacher:**
Student Academic
Concerns

Homework Questions
Grades
Classroom Issues
Testing

**School Counselor or
Support Facilitator**
SEL and Community
Resources Supports

Social-Emotional
Student Support
Academic Scheduling
Questions
Testing Concerns

Administration
Schoolwide and Policy
Concerns

Disciplinary Actions
Staff Concerns
Curriculum
Concerns
School Policy
Concerns

SPECIFIC TO REN. @ HLS

WE SHOWCASE OUR STUDENT'S TALENTS
AND GIFTEDNESS IN SOME OF THE
FOLLOWING UNIQUE WAYS:

- Annual STEAM Fair
- Grade level specific projects and activities
- Music programs
- Spanish Classes
- PLC Friday STEAM Guest Speakers
- Renaissance Student Leadership Team





Kinder, 1st & 2nd Grade: General Music –
2 days

3rd & 4th Grade: General Music, Orchestra,
Choir

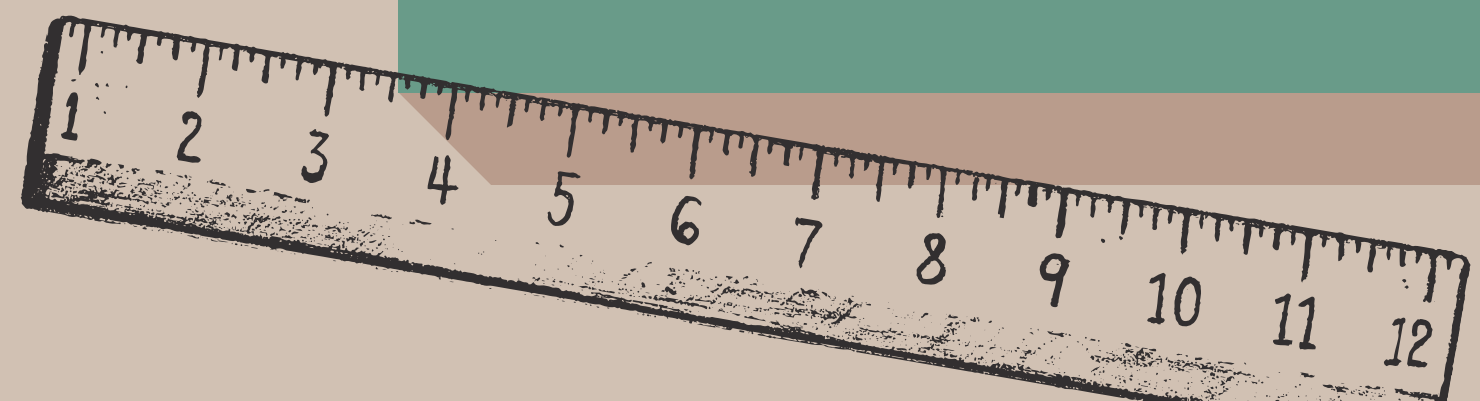
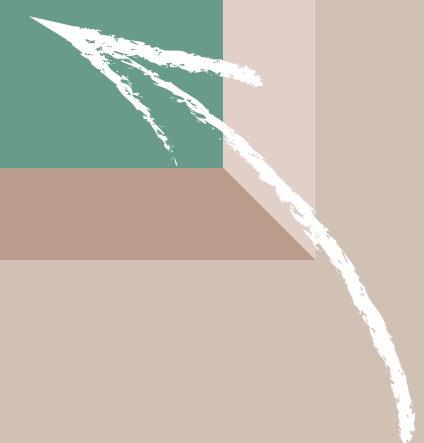
5TH & 6TH GRADE: CHOICE– ORCHESTRA, CHOIR & BAND

7TH & 8TH GRADE: ORCHESTRA, CHOIR, BAND

MARIACHI NINOS DEL DESIERTO: 5TH–8TH GRADE; AFTER SCHOOL

UKULELE: 3RD–8TH GRADE

RENAISSANCE SUPER-STARS



MRS. WILD

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS KINDER

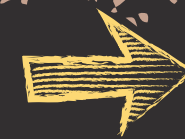
Hello and welcome to Bright Beginnings Kindergarten! My name is Stephaney Wild and I will be your child's teacher this year. This is my sixth year at Highland Lakes, my eighth year as a Bright Beginnings teacher, and my twenty-second year of teaching! I have my Bachelor's Degree from Arizona State University and my Master's Degree from University of Phoenix. I hold a certification in early childhood education as well as a full gifted endorsement. My son is a sixth grader at HLS and plays goalie for a travel hockey team. My daughter started high school this year at Mountain Ridge and is a competitive dancer.

I am so excited to be working with your child this year! I cannot wait to see the growth in each and every learner. I am looking forward to a year full of learning, laughter, and fun.





KINDER



Poetry notebooks



Field trips - Tolmachoff Farms, The Polar Express movie, Children's Museum



Little Red Hen Literature Study - bread making



Gingerbread Literature Study - cookie baking activity



100th day celebration



Animal reports - Diorama presentations



Heroes Day



Marble Runs for STEAM fair



Pumpkin centers

MRS. DUPREST 1ST GRADE

This is my 4th year at Highland Lakes and 4th year teaching 1st grade Renaissance. I am a native Arizonan and have my degree from the University of Arizona. Go Cats! I have 1 son who will be going into the 3rd grade here at HLS.

I am extremely excited to meet and teach this new class of learners. We will be diving into many fascinating and exciting topics. Our accomplishments will be showcased in many creative ways.

I can't wait to get to know each student and their families!

courtney.duprest@dvusd.org





Inventors Unit & Invention Convention

Ancient Greece Unit & Wax Museum

Market Day Project

I- Search Research Project

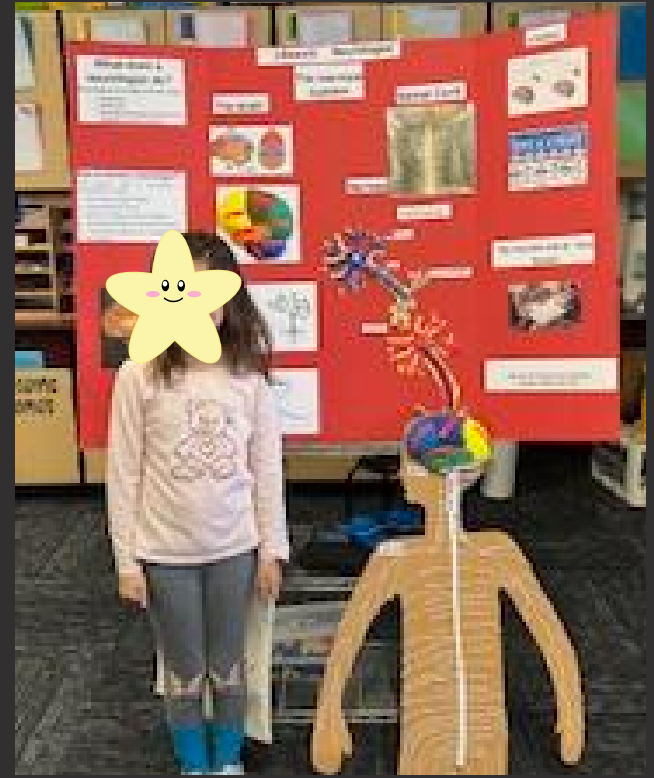
Animal Research & Projects

Poets Corner and Poetry Book

Mystery Readers

STEAM & Craft Days

Field Trips: World Wildlife Zoo, Aspira retirement Community (100th day of school)



SOME OF OUR UNITS & PROJECTS 1ST GRADE REN



MRS. MARTIN 2ND GRADE

This is my 5th year at Highland Lakes and 4th year teaching 2nd grade Renaissance. I have 2 children in the Renaissance Program.

One is in 4th, the other in 7th.

I was born, grew up, graduated from college, married my husband and began my teaching career; all in California. My husband and I moved to Arizona in 2010 and have since had our 3 babies and settled in Glendale.

I am thrilled to teach and learn from my incredible new 2nd graders! It's going to be a great year!

brandy.martin@dvusd.org



*
MRS. MARTIN'S
2ND GRADE



- ➔ Makers Craft Days
- ➔ "Stem Bins" & STEAM activities
- ➔ Field Trips: Crayola Factory & Arizona Science Center
- ➔ Historical Biography & Wax Museum
- ➔ Landform Project
- ➔ I- Search Research Project
- ➔ Ancient Egypt Unit and Museum
- ➔ Biome Research Presentation



3RD GRADE - MS. AMOS

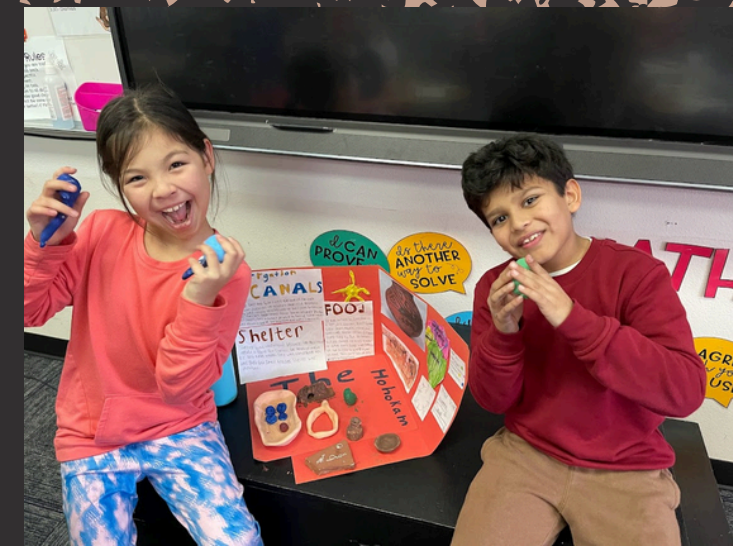
This is my 13th year teaching Renaissance here are Highland Lakes, but this is my 24 year teaching. I have two daughters that go to school here at HLS. Noelle is in 7th Grade and Irelynn is in 6th Grade. They have grown so fast and it has been amazing having them here at the same school where I teach!

I graduated in 2000 from ASU with a major in Elementary Education. In 2009, I graduated from NAU with a Master's in Elementary Education, specializing in Reading.

My favorite part of my job is that I get to witness that spark ignite when they are learning something new and exciting. I love having conversations with them in class and I love their enthusiasm about learning. I have the best job!



misty.amos@dvusd.org



Maker's Space



STEAM Fridays & STEM Bins



Native Americans of AZ Project



Novel Studies and Book Talks



Field Trip to S'edav Va'aki Museum (formerly known as Pueblo Grande Museum)



Continental Math Competitions



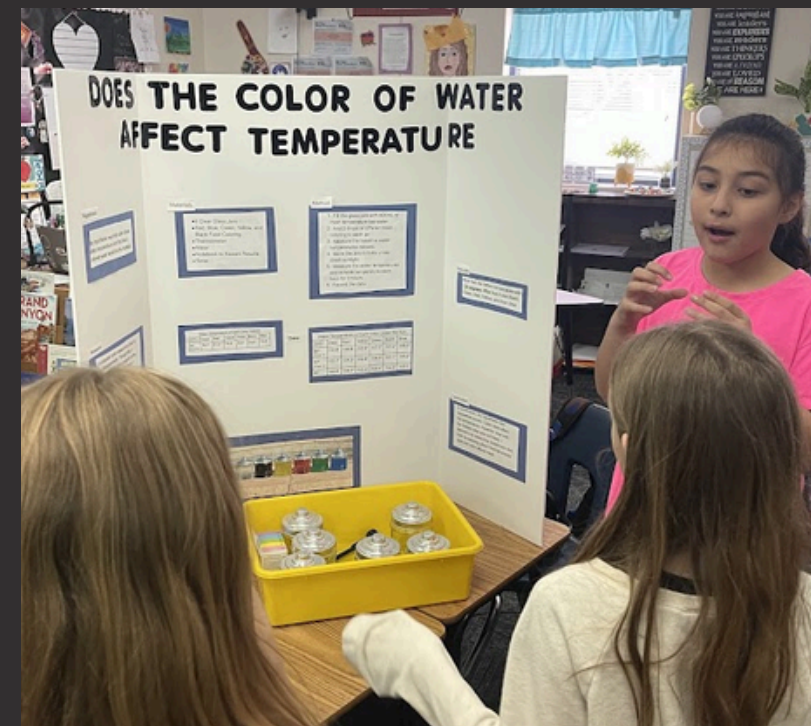
My Inquiry Research Project



I-Search Research Project



Pele's Peak Volcano Simulation Project & Luau



MS. AMOS'
3RD GRADE

MRS. POTTS- 4TH GRADE

This year starts my 16th year as a Renaissance teacher and every year brings great fun, interesting challenges, and learning opportunities for both myself and my students.

I earned my undergrad degree at Grand Canyon University, and my masters at NAU. I taught 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade for 17 years before joining the Renaissance program.

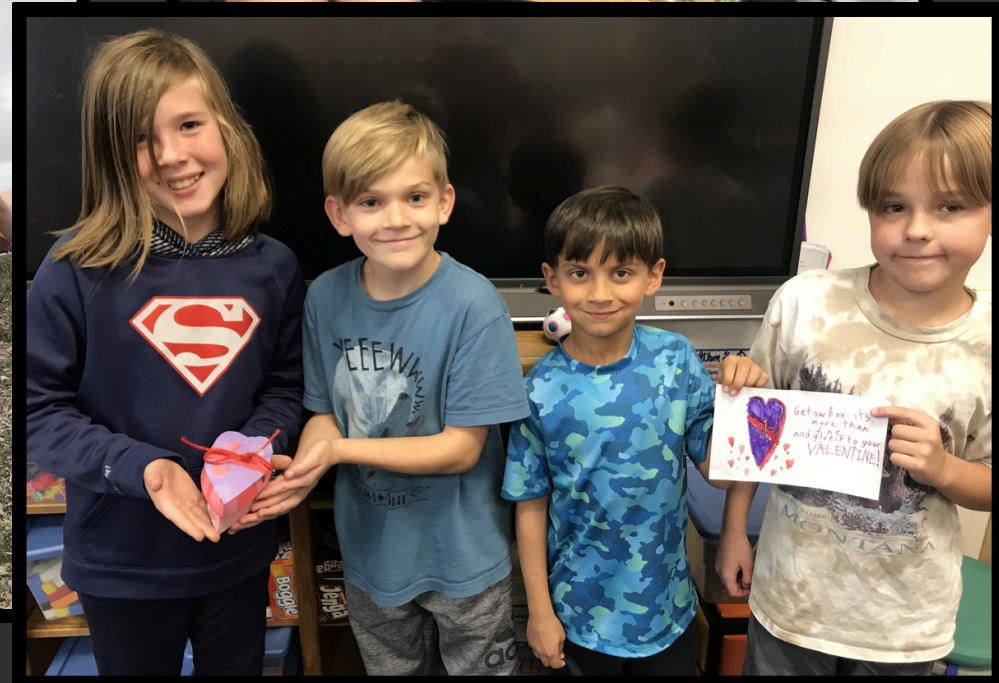
My goal for each of my students is to help them understand and reach their incredible potential. I look forward to partnering with you in your child's education.

kim.potts@dvusd.org





MRS. POTTS'
4TH GRADE



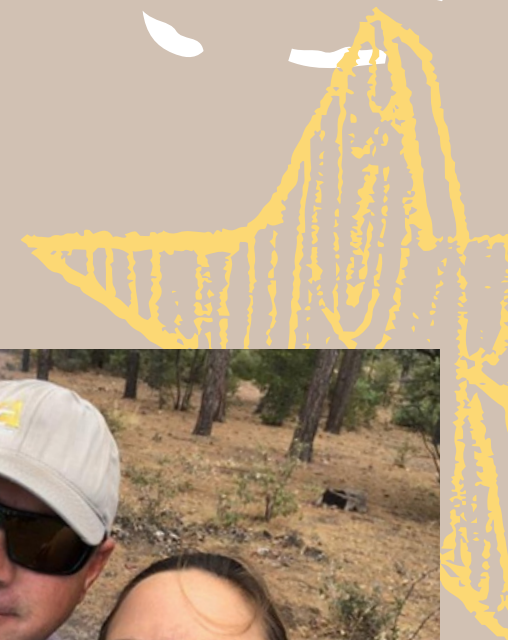
- Volume Zoo
- Novel Studies
- Culture Museum
- Lego Robotics
- STEAM Bins
- Independent Inquiry Research
- I Search Research Project
- Math Olympiad Competition
- Electricity City Project
- Natural Disaster Simulations



MRS. ELAM'S 5TH GRADE

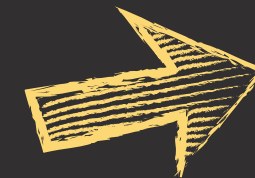
This is my 26th year teaching. I have taught 4th grade for 15 years and 5th grade for 11 years. I am starting my 5th year at Highland Lakes and absolutely love being here.

My teaching philosophy centers around the whole child, making sure they have a safe learning environment to explore their interests and curiosities while expanding their academic knowledge.





5TH GRADE



- Illustrative Math
- Literature book studies
- Revolutionary War through Civil War
- Simple Machines projects
- I-Solve research project
- Math Olympiad
- US Region Amusement Park
- Monthly Choice Boards
- Hands On Science
- STEM Challenges
- Problem Based Learning
- Passion Projects





6TH GRADE MRS. UNTHANK



- This is my 20th year of teaching.
- I have been teaching at HLS for 5 years.
- Previously taught gifted 2nd, 3rd, and 6th grade.
- Incorporate all learning styles.
- Engage students in critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- Focus on student responsibility and discovering strong study skills.
- Parent of 2 highly gifted students.





WHAT DO WE DO
IN 6TH GRADE?



Project based Learning



Illustrative Math



Novel Studies



I SOLVE Project



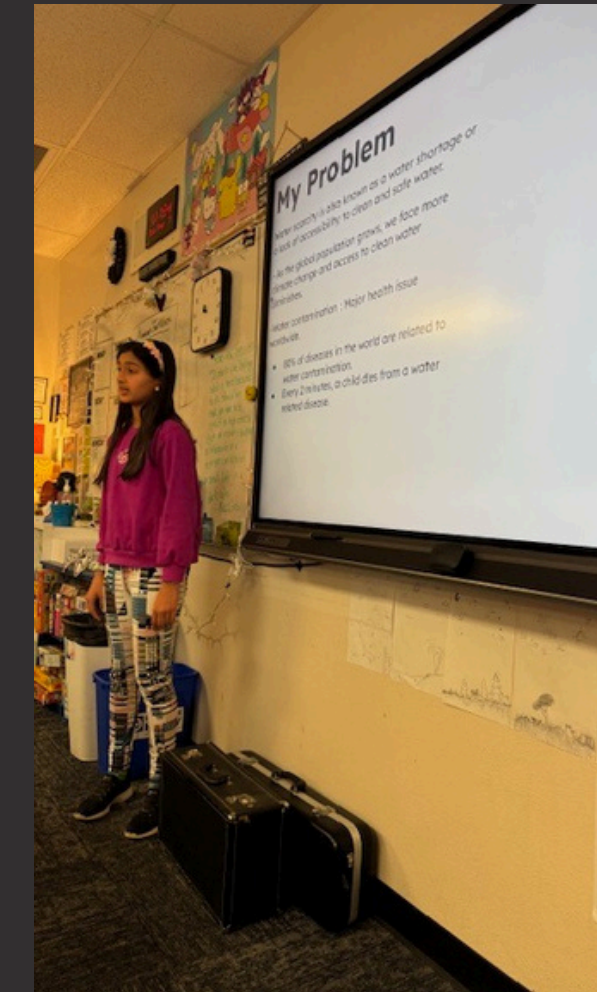
Math Olympiad



Independent Choice Projects



Hands On Learning



K-6 SPANISH

Hola, I am the Spanish Renaissance Teacher, Lindsay Lerma, better known to your kids as Señora (Sra.) Lerma.

This is my second year at Highland Lakes. I am grateful to be working here and am very fortunate to work with an amazing administration, a dedicated group of educators, and wonderful students.



I love teaching Spanish and I am passionate about building communities. One way I feel I can contribute to community building is by teaching Spanish. Learning a new language has many benefits.

One of the benefits is that it helps build deeper connections with people and perspectives, in return this will help your child thrive in their community, make friends and become a global citizen.

The curriculum for Spanish is called Sonrisas (:

lindsay.lerma@dvusd.org

Middle School Renaissance



**Pancake
Breakfast**



**Duct Tape
Trashion Show**

**Student
Leadership
Opportunities**

FUTURE CITIES



**Capstone
Research
Paper**

Field Trips!





SARAH CRABTREE

MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY

My teaching philosophy centers on fostering a positive learning environment that nurtures intellectual curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking.

7th Grade

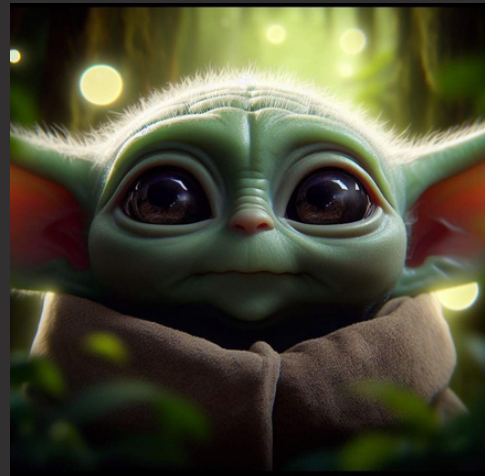
- Transcendentalism
- Romanticism
- Abolitionism
- Feminism (Women's Suffrage)
- Industrialism
- WWII Literature
- The Iliad
- The Odyssey

8th Grade

- Utopia/Dystopia
- Science Fiction
- Tales of the Strange, Mysterious, and Ironic (short story unit)
- The Pursuit of Justice Unit
- Warriors Don't Cry
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Shakespeare Plays and Poetry



My teaching philosophy centers on a classroom that looks at the whole child, and encouraging students to take an active roll in their education and learning.



7TH GRADE

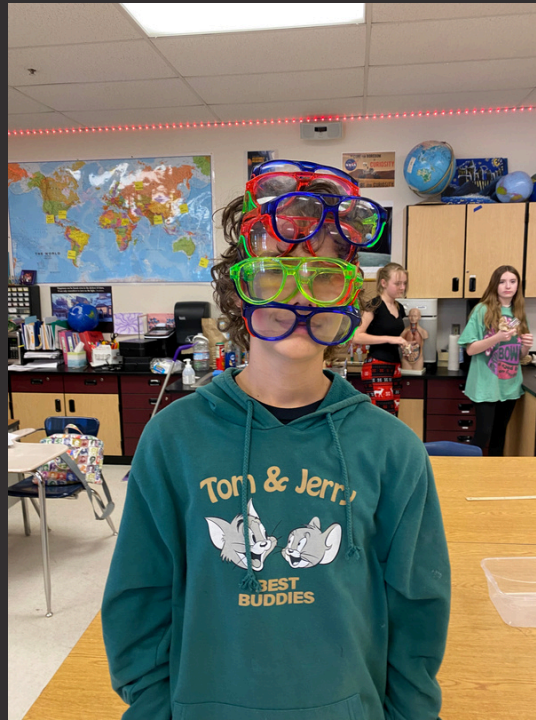
- Scientific Revolution & Enlightenment
- Revolutions
- Global Industrialization
- World War I
- 1920s
- 1930s
- World War II
- Geography
- Economics

8TH GRADE

- Origins of Government
- The Constitution: Structure & Principles
- Citizenship & Civic Participation
- Functions of American Government
- Understanding the Law
- Geography
- Economics



BRANDEE KNIERIM *



➔ 7TH GRADE

- 1ST QUARTER: NEWTON'S LAWS, GRAVITY AND MAGNETS
- 2ND QUARTER: WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER CYCLES AND CONVECTION
- 3RD QUARTER: EARTH'S CHANGING SURFACE
- 4TH QUARTER: CELLS, METABOLIC REACTIONS, MATTER CYCLING AND PHOTOSYNTHESIS

➔ 8TH GRADE

- 1ST QUARTER: ENERGY FORMS, ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, AND POWERING OUR WORLD
- 2ND QUARTER: NATURAL DISASTERS, GEOLOGIC HAZARDS, PH ACIDIFICATION
- 3RD QUARTER: FOSSILS, GEOLOGIC TIMELINE, NATURAL SELCTION
- 4TH QUARTER: DNA, INTERPRETTING THE CODE, EVOLUTION AND MUTATIONS



TINA SMITH

I am honored to be your child's Middle School Math teacher and I am committed to create a classroom where students are inspired to work to develop their full potential. In addition to learning the subject level appropriate mathematic standards, my students will learn the importance of perseverance when completing challenging tasks and the value of communicating their mathematical reasoning in a clear, precise manner.

MATH 8

GEOMETRY 1-2 HONORS

ALGEBRA 1-2 HONORS

ALGEBRA 3-4 HONORS



7TH/8TH GRADE SPANISH

¡Qué chévere! 1



¡Qué chévere! 2



Spanish is an elective that receives High School credit.

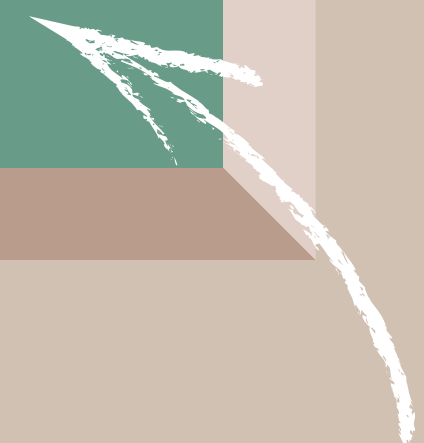
The first year is Spanish 1-2.
The second year is Spanish 3-4.
Second year is an Honors course with a 5.0 GPA.

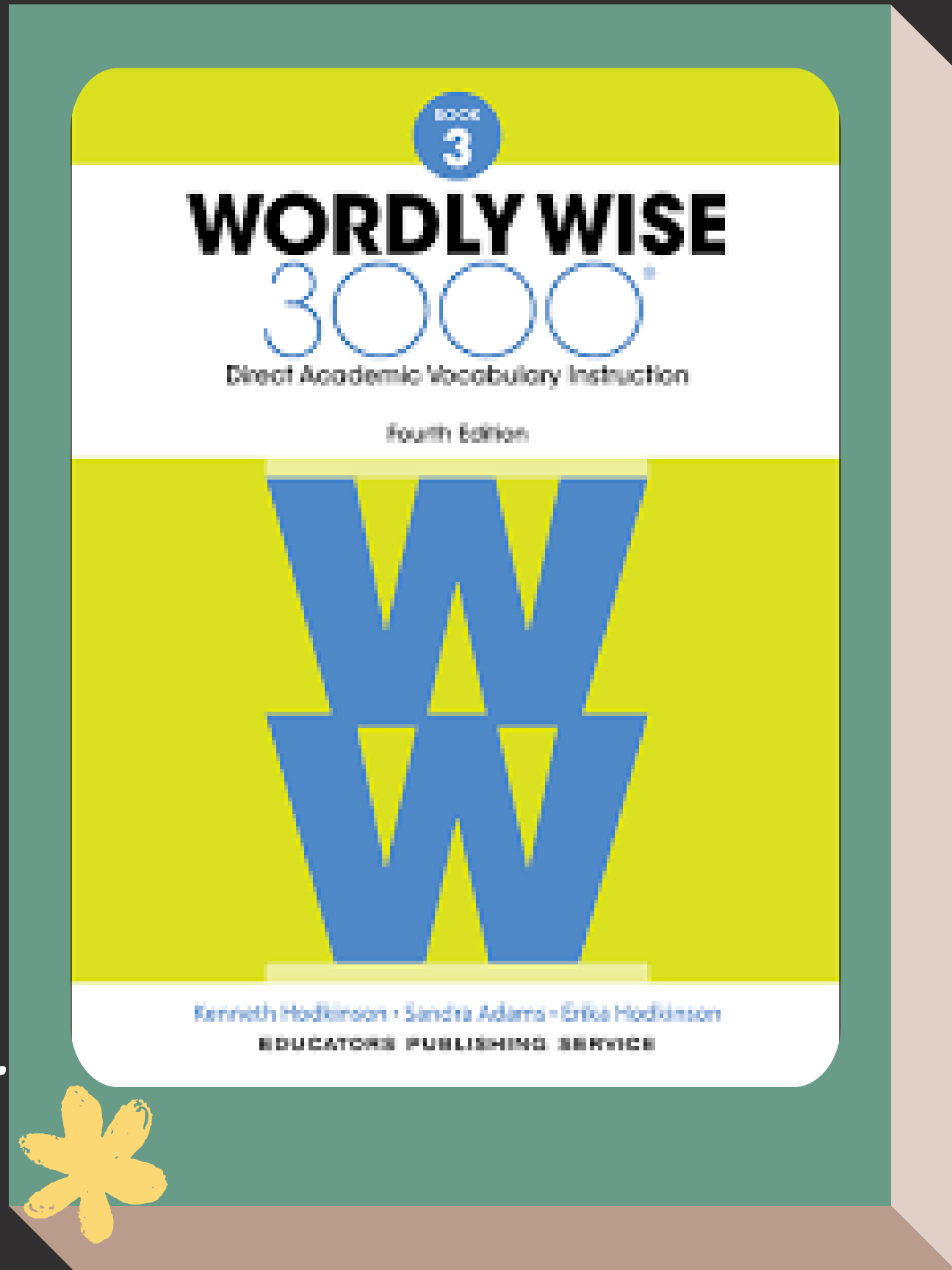


Grading is proficiency based upon the student's ability to listen, speak, read and write in Spanish.

Instructor: Lynn Sullivan

RENAISSANCE CURRICULUM





Our Unique Curriculum

- JACOBS LADDER
- JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS
- WILLIAM & MARY
- WORDLY WISE
- JR. GREAT BOOKS



Overview of I-Search



I-Search is a type of research paper that focuses on the process of searching for information, rather than just the final results. The format allows the writer to document their personal search for knowledge on a specific topic, often reflecting on what they learned and how they learned it.

- **Personal Engagement**
- **Narrative Structure**
- **Reflection on the Process**
- **Incorporation of Sources**
- **Conclusion/Reflection**

1st Grade:

- What is Research?
- How do we research?
- Pick a topic
- Go through the process as a class
- Choose presentation format

Grades 2-4

- **CHOOSE A CAREER OR TRADE TO STUDY.**
- **READ RESOURCES AND TAKE NOTES**
- **CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW WITH AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD**
- **WRITE A “STORY OF THE SEARCH”**
- **WRITE AN INFORMATIONAL SECTION**
- **REFLECT ON THE PROCESS**
- **CITE SOURCES**
- **CREATE A PRESENTATION**

Overview of I Solve



- PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT
- NARRATIVE STRUCTURE
- REFLECTION ON THE PROCESS
- INCORPORATION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES
- PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS
- CONCLUSION/REFLECTION



5TH GRADE

FOCUS ON LOCAL PROBLEM

6TH GRADE

FOCUS ON GLOBAL PROBLEM



• Renaissance 5th and 6th grade continues with the research and writing process with an I Search research project.

• This project provides students with the opportunity to focus their research to a specific problem and encourages them to develop a solution to help their problem.

• Students will incorporate the skills they have learned from grades 1-3 and can even focus on a problem specific to the topic they have previously chosen.



Capstone Research Paper

- Two week timeframe
- Completed in class
- Follows William and Mary CFGE Research Model

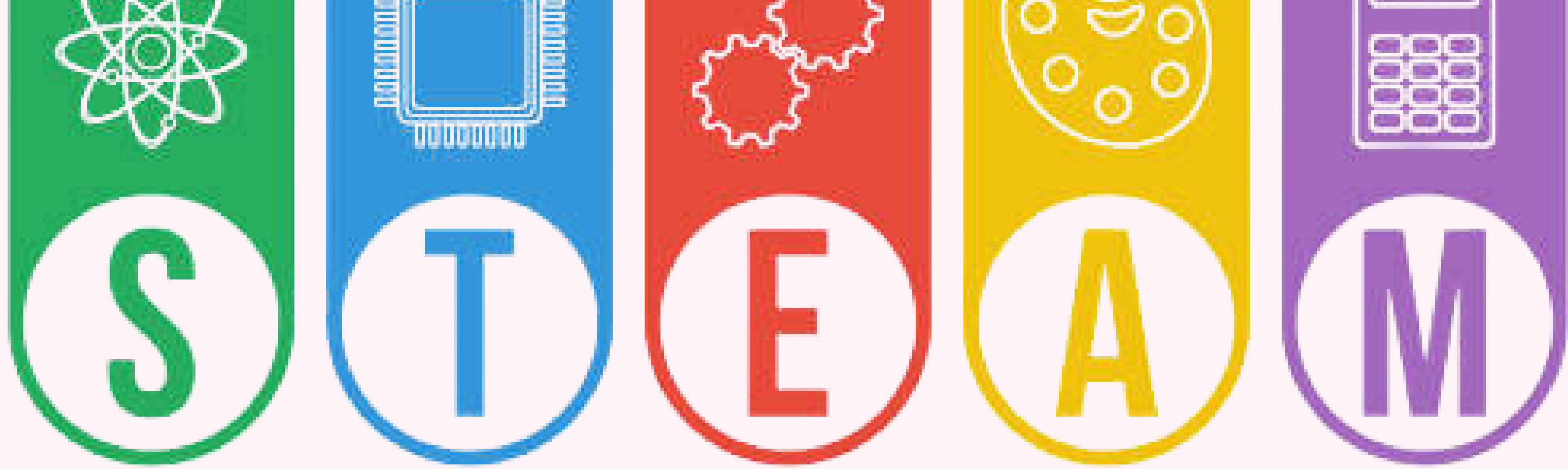
7th Grade

- 2-4 page length.
- MLA format.
- Four source minimum
- At least three sources must be cited in the body of the essay.
- Students will generate a minimum of 15 note cards or notes from their sources.
- Students must create an outline of their essay including a thesis, concrete details, and commentary.
- Students will include a works cited page at the end of their essay.

8th Grade

- 4-6 page length.
- MLA format.
- Six source minimum
- At least four sources must be cited in the body of the essay.
- Students will generate a minimum of 20 note cards .
- Students must create an outline of their essay including a thesis, concrete details, and commentary.
- Students will include a works cited page at the end of their essay.

*The Capstone Research Paper topic is not related to the STEAM Fair Project



April 30th!

Multi-family/Grade Level Options

Increased Emphasis on the “A”

Renaissance Student Clubs

Grades 2-3

Continental Math League

Grades 3-8

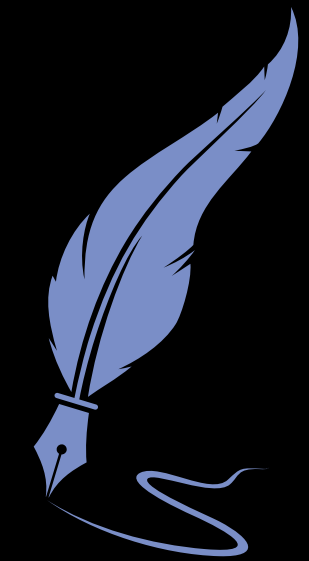
Rubik's Cube

Grades 4-8

Student Leadership
Representatives



Rubik's
Cube



Literary Publications

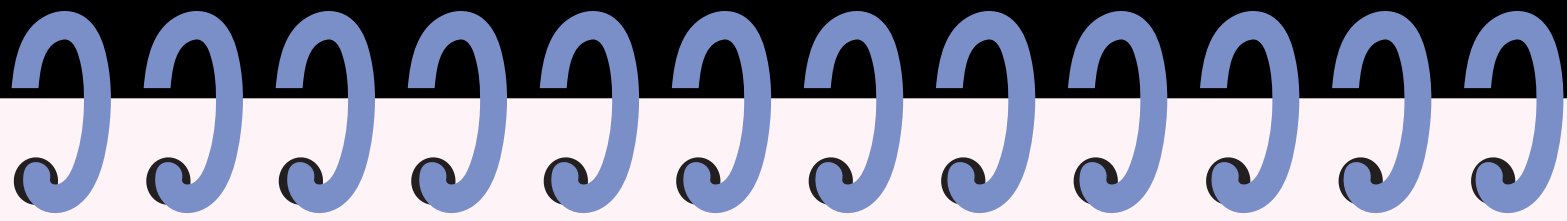


FUTURE CITY

Math Olympiad



Renaissance Student Clubs



Grades 6-8

Speech and Debate Club

Dungeon's and Dragons

*6th Grade pending application approval

Middle School

Literary Publication Production

Video Announcement Crew

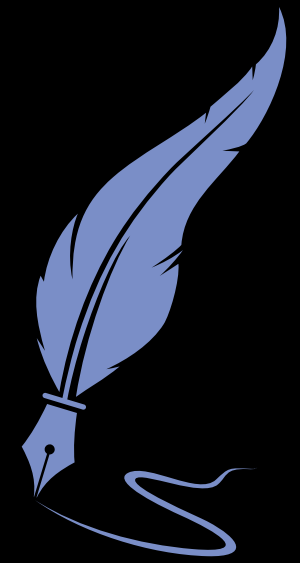
Student Leadership Council

Future City Competition

Dungeons and Dragons



**Rubik's
Cube**



Literary Publications



Math Olympiad



WE ARE HERE FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Please always assume positive intent.
We teach these amazing young minds
because we care. If you have any
questions or concerns, please
communicate with your child's
teacher.

