

Middle School Community Day Highlights 24-25

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Our 6th grade students explored the theme of *Our Common Ground* in the Fall, focusing on building community, respect, and trust *within* their grade level before extending it to others. Students participated in empathy-building activities to, including guided nature walks on campus to analyze how environmental ecosystems can be symbolic of human connections. Students built a bird's nest using only clothespins to mimic a bird's beak. Lastly, in our Impact Studio, 6th graders created a class tapestry, each contributing a square that represents themselves.

In the Spring, 6th grade students expanded to *Flow Forward*, exploring the impact of water in our Denver community at CSU Spur. Connecting to their reading of the novel *Dry*, students applied their learning about water scarcity to the environments surrounding them, developing skills like testing water pollutant levels and how curious people access water in Colorado!

Our Common Ground



Flowing Forward



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Our 7th grade students delved into the theme of *Building Bridges* in the Fall, focusing on overcoming differences in experience, perspective, and identity, with an emphasis on the stories of refugees. Students heard from Nga Vúong-Sandoval, a Vietnamese refugee, and took part in hands-on workshops such as comic reading and writing, mapping exercises, and a United Nation's simulation with World Denver.

In the Spring, 7th graders headed to the Denver Zoo, to continue *Nurturing Connections* with our surrounding community. Connecting to their Science curriculum, students learned about migration patterns and barriers to travel for birds in Colorado, practicing perspective taking to brainstorm solutions. In addition, students learned about animals of the Serengeti to broaden their scientific explorations.

Building Bridges



Nurturing Connections



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In the Fall, 8th grade students reflected on being *Seeds of Change* within the Kent Denver community and beyond, symbolizing their roles as leaders of the Middle School and future Upper Schoolers. Connecting to their curricular themes of sustainability, students worked to maintain our on campus Tiny Farm and Apple Orchard and learned about the UN's Sustainability Development Goals with World Denver during an environmental simulation.

As they closed out their Middle School experience, 8th grade students *Branched Out* and expanded on their contributions other the natural environment. Students helped animals at The Urban Farm have clean habitats, participated in a cleanup of the High Line Canal with Denver Water, and a small group of select students went to Sunrise Community Center to build connections, play games, and learn from elders receiving care.

Seeds of Change



Branching Out

