



NEWSLETTER

September 12, 2025

Principal: Barbara Gerard
<http://matsuk12.us/acc>

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Dear Academy Families,

I hope you are well! We have had a busy week, and everyone is settling in!

Friday Electives

Friday Electives are starting for our middle school students. The goal of these electives aligns with learning and brain science, which emphasizes the importance of varying activities or changing the learning up. We know that incorporating breaks helps the brain absorb information more effectively. This approach supports building a strong 'filing system' for better recall and access to new knowledge!

Questions? Thoughts? Concerns?

Please do not hesitate to ask questions! Stop in, call, email!
WE CARE! I CARE!!

With Warm Regards,
Barbara
Barbara Gerard, Principal
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Looking for **Parent**
Volunteers!

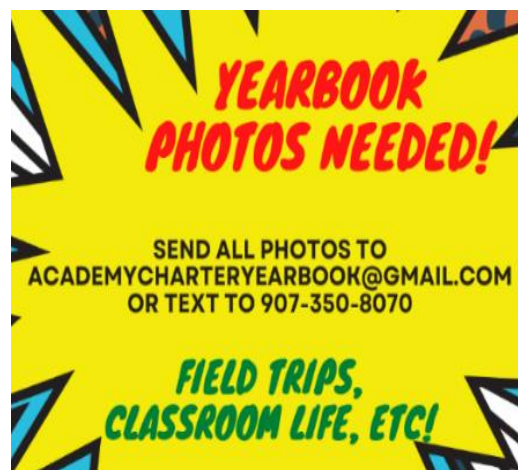
- Clean KG classroom windows
- Once a week classroom organizer-Spanish
- Fish tank maintainer-once weekly-Spanish
- Sweep sidewalks
- Replace air filters
- Add door stop to front door
- We are collecting empty paper towel rolls; the teacher needs 100!
- There are laminating projects in the office



Date:	Event:
9/16	2 nd Grade Botanical Gardens Fieldtrip
9/18	2 nd Grade Farm Fieldtrip
9/24	Fall Pictures



10/13-17	Middle School Intensive Week
10/24	K-5 Halloween Parties
10/27-28	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
10/29-31	Professional Learning-No School for Students





Kindergarten began learning letter sounds last week. So far, we have learned the sounds for O, C, A, D, F, G, S and Qu. Each of these lowercase letters start at 2 on the clock and have a combined 15 sounds. Going over the worksheets

that come home with your child can help review these sounds. Our stories this week were about camping. Students have been illustrating a poem called *Sleeping Outdoors*. We continued to talk about narrative elements of setting and characters. As you read, see if they can identify these elements.

Our math block focused on patterns. Students practiced making different patterns and labeled them. Most common were AB and AAB patterns. We also pulled out our counting collections. Students counted various objects in sets up to ten and twenty. They are very hard workers.

This week was our last week in the current room assignments. On Friday students carried their inside shoes to the other classroom. Since we have new students, some students moved ability groups and will remain in the same classroom for another rotation. The families involved were contacted ahead of time.

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Mrs. Berg

Verona.Berg@matsuk12.us



Students have been building their reading and writing stamina every day. Some groups are able to use flexible seating now because they could sustain reading for ten minutes. Students have begun their writing journey by labeling pictures.

- As the students are reading to themselves with their good-fit books, we are establishing personalized goals. As a new reading strategy is introduced, a Parent Pipeline paper will come home describing each one.
- They are progressing in writing by learning the difference between incomplete and complete sentences.

We have wrapped up our number sense chapters in math and have headed into learning vocabulary and strategies for adding. They LOVE the card games *Garbage*, *War*, and *Make a Ten*.

Please watch our spelling videos posted on FB about the format for home as well as how spelling "tests" will be given and collected (not sent home) to then be shared during our October conferences. THE ONLY HOMEWORK IS SPELLING AND DOES **NOT** NEED TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL.

Contact us anytime!

Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond

Betsy.Mayer@matsuk12.us

Jessica.Drummond@matsuk12.us



We had a great week of MAP testing last week—thank you to all the parents for supporting your students and helping them do their best!

This week, we focused on language arts routines while finishing up our last fall assessment.

In math, we wrapped up our first-grade review and really solidified the addition and subtraction strategies we learned last year. Our second graders are off to a strong start, and we're excited for all the learning ahead! We can already tell it's going to be a fantastic year together.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Kramer

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Kimberly.Kramer@matsuk12.us

Grade 3

Grimes Gambit

Language Arts Update: This week, we entered our first 20 words from Section O into our Spalding books! Students focused on correct handwriting and learned about the different rules and jobs for each word. We also finished *Alice in Wonderland* during our partner reading and practiced answering comprehension questions to check for understanding. Next week will be our final week of *Classical Tales*, and we'll finally discover what happens to Mr. Toad!

Math Update: This week, students worked on three- and four-digit addition with regrouping. They also completed a knowledge check in ALEKS to ensure mastery of the topics we've covered so far this year. Next week, we'll begin three- and four-digit subtraction with regrouping. I've set up assignments in Prodigy to give students extra practice with the skills we're learning. If your student would like to play Prodigy at home, please make sure they log in through Clever and use our class accounts.

Mrs. Grimes Austin.Grimes@matsuk12.us

The Glanville Weekly

Language Arts: We reached our final week of Unit 1: *Classic Tales* and finished the last chapter of *The Wind in the Willows* on Thursday. It was a bittersweet moment since the students truly loved the story. For our last project, the students wrote opinion paragraphs. They chose a character and the theme that best portrayed them, supporting their ideas with reasons and examples from the text. They planned, drafted, revised, and produced fabulous final drafts! We also wrapped up *Alice in Wonderland*. Next week, we'll begin Unit 2, where we'll dive into nonfiction text features focusing on Animal Classifications. Today, we also took our 22-word spelling test since I accidentally added two extra words to the list. We'll begin learning 30 words starting next week. Look for the new spelling list coming home today. Thank you for your continued support by practicing the words and their corresponding rules at home!

Math: We have started our chapter on addition and are exploring the properties and patterns we see in problems. This math group loves the challenges and is pushing forward—I love seeing their confidence grow in their mathematical abilities! We are also working on using good math vocabulary. Ask your student: *What is the sum in an addition or subtraction problem?*

The students are doing fabulous with their ALEKS pie. Nearly every day, they meet their goal of completing 3 topics independently—way to go!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Glanville Megan.Glanville@matsuk12.us

FOURTH GRADE

Nielsen's News:

ELA- It has been a very productive week!

- Grammar: dialogue, similes & metaphors
- Spalding: List N review
- Novel study: Because of Winn Dixie- discussing main idea & drawing conclusions
- Writing: began drafting our personal narratives for unit 1

Math-

- Multiplication/ division fluency
- Continued review of place value
- Addition and Subtraction strategies: patterns, mental math, estimation with rounding, & adding whole numbers

Mrs. Nielsen
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Benbow's Buzz

Language Arts - We began spelling homework and tests this week! You should have seen a spelling list disguised as cursive practice coming home. Each morning we practice sentence writing, which consists of identifying and correcting fragments and run-on sentences, as well as unscrambling sentences and writing all four sentence types. We finished reading *The War with Grandpa* and are beginning to write our personal narratives. During lunch, we are continuing to read *Treasure Island*, which is starting to get exciting as the hunt for treasure is about to begin! (I am reading while the class eats their lunch two days a week 😊)

Math - We spent this week reviewing and strengthening our understanding of Place Value while we learned multiple digit addition and subtraction. We then practiced checking our work by doing the inverse operation or by estimating to check for reasonableness. Automatic recall of the basic multiplication facts is vital to success in fourth grade math. Although we will practice multiplication facts every day in class, I do ask you to make sure that your child finds time at home to practice as well. Just a few minutes a day can make such a difference.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!
cherie.benbow@matsuk12.us

5TH GRADE

The Manley Minute:

Language Arts: We've been reviewing and brushing up on our cursive handwriting. This tied in perfectly with finishing up our thank-you letters to the rangers from our Denali trip. These letters were thoughtful, well-written, and full of gratitude. We've also just started reading a new class novel by Miguel de Cervantes titled *Don Quixote*. Students are already laughing at the wild adventures and silly imagination of the main character. Along the way, we'll be talking about humor, imagination vs. reality, and what makes a true hero.

Math: We've kicked off the year in math by diving into Chapter 1: Place Value. Students are learning to read, write, and understand numbers through the thousandths place. They've been practicing writing numbers in standard, written, and expanded form, as well as comparing and ordering decimals. This foundational work is setting us up for success in the chapters ahead!

To support learning, students are encouraged to complete ALEKS topics at home each week. A little extra practice goes a long way in building confidence and mastery. Please e-mail me if you have difficulty logging in.

Mrs. Manley
Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us

Sturgis Super Students!

Language Arts: Our first regular week of Language Arts was great. Students practiced Spalding sounds and reviewed manuscript handwriting. They also studied different syllable division patterns which we will use next week as we dive into our first spelling list.

We also began our first unit called "Personal Narratives." In this unit students will read a variety of personal narratives and write their own. For our first lessons, the students practiced "Thinking While Reading" and began the pre-writing process for their own personal narrative about a memorable first experience such as flying in an airplane or riding a bike.

Math: It was nice to start settling into our math routine this week. Students worked on Aleks topics, practiced their math facts, and expanded their understanding of place value to the thousandths place. Next week we will do some more activities to challenge their thinking and develop strong connections in their brains so they can apply place value to future math lessons.

Mrs. Sturgis
Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us

SCHUMACHER MATH

This week all fourth and fifth graders worked diligently on My Slide presentations, lessons in place value, a place value chart, and a Powers of Ten slideshow. Watch for your child's homework folder which has a spot for you to sign that they showed you their homework assignment is daily ALEKS topics and daily Quicktables practice. We did a quiz Thursday and had non-screen game time for students that completed their work by Friday.

Be sure to reach out with an email or stop by after school if you have great ideas or concerns. Have a good weekend!

Mr. Schumacher Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us



4th-8th Grade Outdoor Fitness

Trail skills practice continues with all our younger groups who are progressing well. Older students are biking hard, running, carrying weight, and/or playing games. All middle school students will be encouraged to change out of their uniform before exercise and layer up clothing to match the day's weather.

Mr. Schumacher Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us
Mrs. Molly Molly.Nichols@matsuk12.us

K-5 Lab Classes



Our artists have been busy this week! Third grade practiced shading techniques and are creating beautiful pumpkin still life studies. Fourth and fifth graders worked on self-portraits and kicked off a drawing bootcamp to strengthen their skills. In bootcamp, fourth grade will be focusing on shading while fifth grade will be dabbling in proportion—the goal is to take their skills to the next level. It's wonderful to see so much creativity and growth happening in the art room!

Mrs. Grimes and Mrs. Saunders



It has been a wonderful start with Kindergarten, First, and Second grade! The Digital Citizens introduced this week were:

Guts- trust our gut and be safe by following these rules: ask permission, only talk to people you know, and only go to sites and apps you have permission to go to. Head- use your head to decide if what you see on the internet is true and real. Strategies to help are ask parents, check multiple resources, and use common sense.

!!!NEW THIS YEAR!!! NEW GRADING

- 1- Be Present: Attendance is key for success in Technology class
- 2- Digital Citizenship: Be smart, safe, and kind
- 3- Knowledge and Innovation: Learn, create, and problem solve
- 4- Above and Beyond: Help a friend

My expectation is each child is aiming to earn at least a 3 and then sometimes a 4. Ask your child what he earned today!



Español with Señorita Catarina

Kindergarten students are learning how Spanish sounds different from English. They are practicing introductions conversationally and through song. They are dancing their hearts out to traditional Hispanic children's songs! First and second graders are going down to the farm. They helped me by chorally reading small sections of Pollita Chiquita and became very invested in telling the King that the sky was falling! Students are working on learning to speak and write the names of farm animals in Spanish.



In Writing Lab, the Kindergarteners are building strength in their writing hands by doing strengthening exercises. We are also working on penmanship. First graders were asked to unscramble and correct sentences. An example is - fast ran brown the cat. Second graders were asked to write sentences about a specific topic.

Mrs. Kile and Mrs. Sturgis



3rd Grade Science: This week we kept pondering about the world around us specifically with how offspring get their traits from their parents, and how the genetic code works, by making clay models of a new creature based off a genetic code they had to decipher.

4th Grade Science: This week we looked into each other's eyes. To try and figure out how do eyeballs work? Students had a lot of fun making a working model of a human eye and seeing how the retina, pupil, and iris all work together!

5th Grade: This week we looked into how the world works around us by building terrariums and learning about how an ecosystem is a mixture of living and non-living things that all work together!

Ms. Heppner & Mr. Farring
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Timothy.Farring@matsuk12.us



3rd grade - World Rivers

4th grade - World Mountains

5th grade - Maya, Aztec, and Inca

Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond



Middle School Spanish

Sixth graders did well on their first vocabulary tests! Ask your sixth grader how confident they felt taking this test and what study strategies they used. Sixth graders touched on the concept of cognates and learned about some historically significant Afro-Latino people as we roll into Hispanic Heritage month.

Seventh Graders are working with adjectives upon adjectives. We are listening to native speakers describe themselves, and we are describing ourselves both orally and in written form. We are getting the hang of using adjectives correctly in Spanish class.

Eighth grade Typhoons are learning to speak about the future while still using present tense verbs. They will be working on their Time Capsule letters this weekend. Letters will be emailed to a website that sends the letters back to students at a future date.

Eighth grade Hurricanes are reviewing the verb Tener and Tener expressions. They are becoming quite proficient at recognizing and using cognates. They are also studying chore vocabulary.

Señorita Cady.Agoff@matsuk12.us



6th grade finished their Greek simulation, and both language arts classes have moved into our unit on poetry. In math, Mrs. Zerkel's class is working through Chapter 2 on fractions, decimals, and percents. Mr. Chadwell's group is wrapping up percent change. In social studies, both classes finished the week with their unit test on the Greeks. As we are rapidly approaching October and the end of the first quarter, please check ParentVue and/or have students check their grades regularly in StudentVue. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Chadwell and Mrs. Zerkel Jordan.Chadwell@matsuk12.us Katherine.Zerkel@matsuk12.us

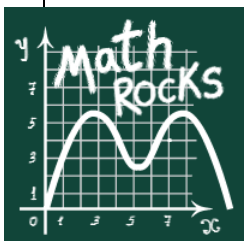


Students finished designing their paper airplane labs and carried out their procedures! They collected and recorded their data, created a chart, and then analyzed it. Students were able to draw conclusions and determine if their original hypothesis was proved or disproved. We finished the week by typing up all their information into a final lab report. After some review, students should be ready for their unit test next week.

Mrs. Strohmeier Cynthia.Strohmeier@matsuk12.us

Great job on MAP assessments last week! Following MAP sessions, my math class enjoyed working on an integrated math/language project last week along with the other 6th grade math classes. This week in 6th grade math we have been finishing our introduction to ratios and looking at their relationship to fractions. Next week we'll dive into how fractions and decimals are related. With our opening weeks and beginning of the year assessments now over, remember to expect homework every school day besides Friday. Students may need to catch up on ALEKS topics at home; they should have 3 topics for every school day, which means 15 topics in a normal week.

Have a great weekend! Mrs. Heppner Natalie.Heppner@matsuk12.us



7TH GRADE

Wrights Winners!

Wright 7th LA: In our one hour of class this week, students organized their Kennecott notes and worked on their second new site critique. Hopefully we can make up for lost time next week!

Wright 7th math: Students began chapter 2's focus on integers. They're reviewing operations with integers in various forms. 10 ALEKS topics are due each Monday.

Wright 7th history: This week, students took notes on the definition and goals of Progressives. They learned about the temperance and suffrage movements, the US gov't's attitude toward child labor and the beginning of a shift away from laissez-faire toward more labor protections for citizens. Any notes they didn't finish on Teddy Roosevelt are due Monday.

All hand-outs and homework are on ConnectEd or Classroom. Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Wright

Melodie.Wright@matsuk12.us



“Success doesn’t come to you; you’ve got to go to it.” – Marva Collins

This week, students completed MAP tests in the areas of Reading, Math, and Language Usage. This data provides us with a baseline for the beginning of the seventh-grade year and instructional insight into where students’ current strengths and weaknesses lie.

Students in English resumed practicing our daily skills in editing, grammar, and reading comprehension. They demonstrated knowledge of Week 2’s vocabulary and spelling words (“man/manu”) and were assigned Week 3’s words (“spec”). Students responded to their third writing prompt on diversity, identifying what they have in common with others and what makes them unique and unrepeatable. Students also reviewed verbs and end marks.

This week in Math, students continued to build math fluency, noticing improvements already made with daily practice, and warmed up with daily math problems that target various skills. Students demonstrated their knowledge of Lessons 4 & 5 (Multiplying and Dividing Integers) and prepared for the Chapter 3 assessments (skills and vocabulary). They completed the tests on Friday. Students are reinforcing lessons with the two-sided riddle sheets given on Monday and due Friday, as well. They should also be working in ALEKS, mastering 10 topics each week (preferably choosing topics connected to integers).

For History, students start the week using atlases to answer the week’s 9 questions, supporting growth in map reading and geographic awareness. They also finished Chapter 4: From Farms to Factories and Cities, completing notes on each of the chapter’s sections. They read about and viewed supplementary videos featuring the Spinning Jenny, the cotton gin, factories and machines, and urban slums, and identified the positive and negative effects of each. Chapter 5: The Rise of Capitalism provided information about the features of capitalism and mercantilism, along with other economic concepts. Students completed a Venn diagram, analyzing similarities and differences between the two. Chapter 6 introduced Adam Smith and his ideas about capitalism. Students answered targeted questions based on the reading and created graphic representations to support their answers.

Together, this will be a great year!

Ms. Twohy Tuesday.Twohy@matsuk12.us



Seventh grade science is finishing up our study of glaciers. In class, students presented their slide show on glacial features and commented on the features that they observed at Kennecott. Next Tuesday, students should be prepared to take the test on glacial features and the creatures that live on and in the ice. Our glacier hike at Kennecott was a fabulous way to make learning come to life!

Mrs. Dunham Susan.Dunham@matsuk12.us



The eighth-grade return from Washington DC has been fast and furious. Not only did we dive right back into a full school week, but we also faced MAP testing head on, even in the face of jetlag. I am so proud of their efforts as well as their desire to dig in and give their very best on these assessments.

My math class had limited direct instructional time due to MAP testing however, we have had many mini-lessons, and the students are already tackling increasingly core complex topics. Additionally, my math class has already earned their first class incentive celebration for their ALEKS class average and they are well on their way to their second goal. Way to go!!!

My English I students completed George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, and they were absolutely engrossed in this novella. They are also becoming increasingly comfortable with the Harkness method of discussion that we utilize in our classroom, and I am so proud of their progress. I am already seeing so much growth regarding their discussion skills. We rounded out our week with our unit exam on Thursday afternoon!

Today all the 8th graders enjoyed their first official all-middle school elective of the year. Be sure to ask your child about their experience!

Have a fantastic weekend!

Mrs. Molina

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Manley's Minute: English 1

We're almost finished reading *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, and students have been deeply engaged in discussions about the book's themes of innocence, friendship, and prejudice. Many are making thoughtful predictions about how the story will end, and our conversations have been rich and reflective.

Their recent trip to Washington DC, especially the Holocaust Museum, has had a powerful impact on how students view the novel. It gave them real-world context and helped deepen their understanding of the historical events behind the story.

This week we also read the paired passage "The House Dog and the Wolf," which sparked great discussion about freedom, safety, and obedience.

Mrs. Manley Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us



Late start this week due to map testing, however, a great week working with linear equations and opening the door into the world of line graphs.



Due to map testing and the late start Thursday, we did not have 8th grade science this week.

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