QUARTER ONE

CANON-MCMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELEMENTARY & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Quarterly newsletter for K-6 families about happenings across our elementary and intermediate schools.



Strong Start to the Year

Dear K-6 Families,

Just like that….quarter one is a wrap! Our elementary and intermediate schools began the year with great enthusiasm and purpose. From the first day of the 2025-2026 school year, students have been busy learning and getting to know their new classmates! Teachers across our schools have been engaging students in meaningful learning experiences that apply cognitive science practices. Using instructional strategies like retrieval practice, clear modeling, and frequent low-stakes assessments to check for understanding, students are more likely to retain information, which is the goal of learning! As quarter two gets underway, your child's teachers will continue to help them develop essential foundational skills to build background knowledge about a variety of topics!

The School Happenings Quarter One newsletters provides a glimps of the amazing learning experiences taking place in our elementary and intermediate schools!

BEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS U.S.News & WORLD REPORT PUBLIC 2026

Congratulations to all of our elementary and intermediate schools for making the U.S. News Best Elementary Schools ranking list!

MATH PILOT

Last Spring, all K-6 math teachers were surveyed about our current math program. Based on the results, the majority of teachers indicated that our current math programs are lacking in several areas.

After reviewing several math programs this past summer, three programs: HMH Into Math, McGraw Hill Reveal Math, and SAVAAS Envision Plus were selected to examine further as they align to our explicit instruction approach to teaching mathematics. At the beginning of the school year, a math task force was created consisting of a few principals and multiple teachers from each grade level to review and evaluate each of the programs to determine which program(s) would be piloted.

Based on this review, K-5 task force teachers and two sixth grade teachers are preparing to pilot SAVVAS enVision Plus later this school year. In addition, McGraw Hill Reveal Math will be piloted by two sixth grade teachers. Feedback from teachers after the pilot will help the math task force make a recommendation to the Canon-McMillan School Board regarding potential adoption. Families of students in classrooms that will be piloting the new math program will receive unit overviews and more information about the pilot start date in upcoming communications.

To learn about the District's process for adopting new curriculum, visit the Curriculum Review Cycle located on the District's website under the Academics tab.

K-5 MATH TASK FORCE





Mr. Grice's second graders at Wylandville showcased their phonemic awareness during their Heggerty lesson. Students practiced listening and manipulating sounds through blending and rhyming activities. These are the building blocks that help students decode and spell words!



Borland Manor first graders in Mrs. Jones class are listening to her read aloud a Geodes story. Students are strenghening their phonemic awareness and building knowledge!

STRUCTURED LITERACY

Foundational literacy skills are essential to learning. They build a solid base for future learning and develop alongside content and concepts to help students build knowledge in all subject areas. Learning the sounds that letters make (e.g. phonemic awareness) is critical for beginning readers to be able to decode and spell words. Our K-2 students develop phonemic awareness and early literacy skills through daily lessons using Heggerty and Fundations.



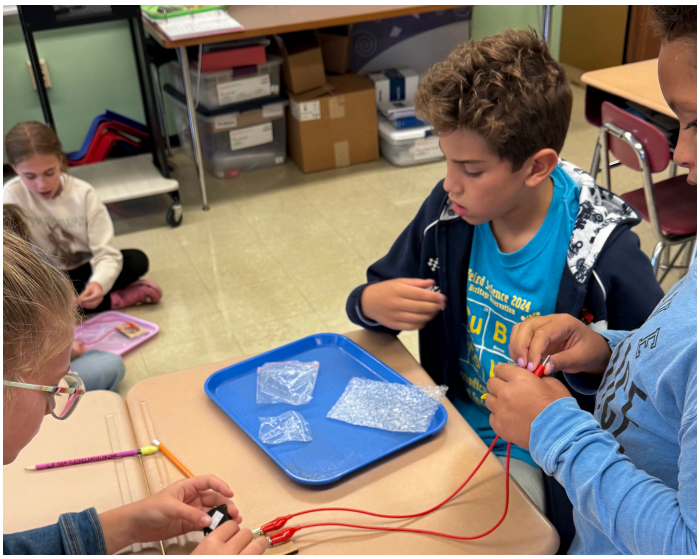
Kindergarten students in Miss Mangis' class at Hills-Hendersonville practiced "sky writing" to learn proper letter formation and sound recognition. This multisensory approach engages students in movement while strengthening their understanding of letters, sounds, and handwriting.

INVESTIGATING SOLAR ENERGY

Fourth grade students learned about renewable energy through their Amplify Science Energy Conversion unit on solar power. Working collaboratively, students constructed and tested circuits to explore how sunlight can be converted into electrical energy. This hands-on investigation not only strengthened their understanding of scientific principles but also highlighted the importance of sustainable energy sources for the future.



Mrs. Sollon's students at Hills-Hendersonvile had the perfect day to test their solar powered circuits. The sun was shining during this learning experience!







A TASTE OF CULTURE

Fourth grade students started the year exploring the Amplify CKLA Personal Narrative unit. While reading a story about tasting guava in Puerto Rico, Borland Manor students in Mrs. Gagorik's ELA classes experienced the text firsthand by sampling the fruit themselves. This taste sampling helped students connect personally to the story while deepening their understanding of sensory details.





EARLY AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS

Mrs. Simpson's fifth grade students are learning about the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations in Amplify CKLA. By reading knowledge-rich texts and examing visual depictions of life during this time in history, students are building background knowledge before they begin studying European exploration.

SKELETAL SYSTEM

Mrs. Myers' third graders show off their labeled diagrams of the human skeletal system. During this CKLA unit, The Human Body: Systems & Senses, students learn about the skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and nervous systems through reading, discussions, and hands-on learning activities. Students have a lot of fun during this unit of study!



BALANCING FORCES

Third grade students learned how bidges are constructed in science class as they explored the Balancing Forces unit in Amplify Science. Through hands-on investigations, students learned how different forces interact to create balance and stability. Working collaboratively, they designed and tested paper structures to observe how weight and support affect motion. These engaging lessons foster curiosity, problem-solving, and a deeper understanding of scientific principles.



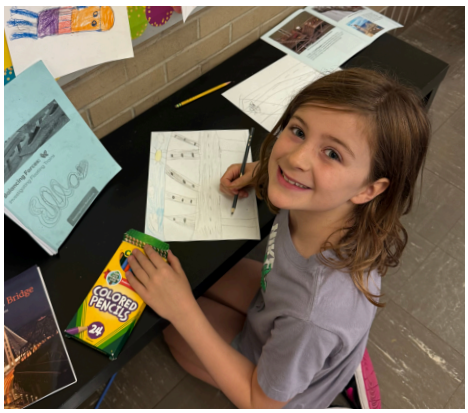


Borland Manor third graders in Miss Jackson's class are constructing their paper bridges. They tested their bridges with pennies!

Mrs. Phyrillas's students at Wylandville sketch their own bridge design with help from Mrs. Callan after learning about differeent typse of bridges.





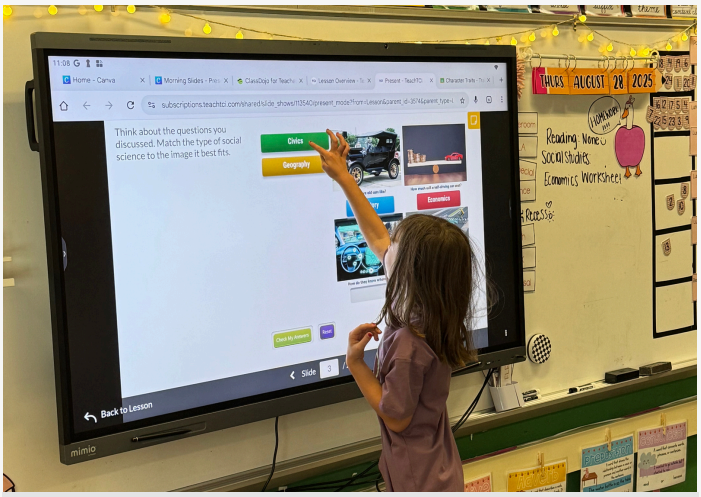


LEARNING ABOUT COMMUNITIES

Second grade students are engaged in the TCI Social Studies Alive! My Community unit, which introduces them to the roles geography, economics, history, and civics play in shaping communities. Students developed an understanding of the shared values and responsibilities that connect all communities.



Mrs. Cole's second graders at Muse working together to build a community!



Mrs. Fuchs' fourth graders at South Central learned about the four core social sciences during social studies class!



All About Geography

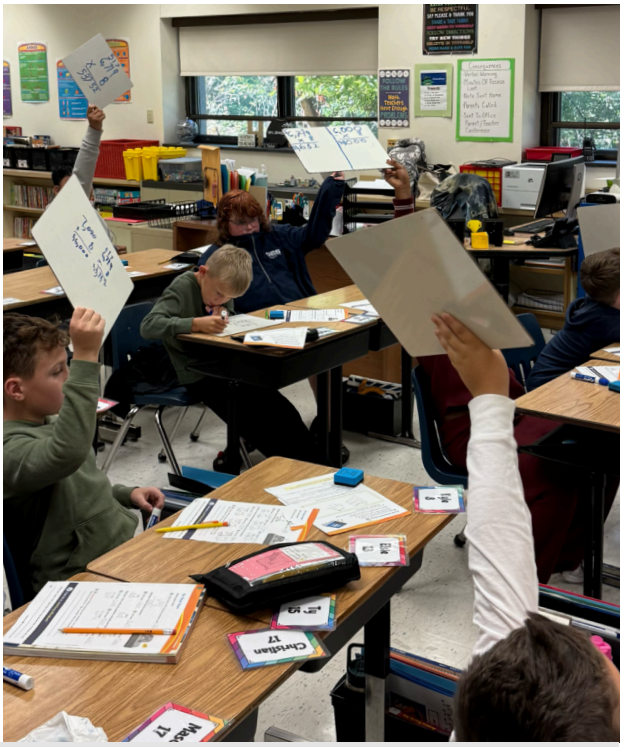
Mrs. Parris' third graders at Hills-Hendersonville explored continents, oceans, and the lines of latitude and longitude during Social Studies Alive! Our Community and Beyond unit. As a culminating hands-on activity, they discovered how a globe represents Earth!



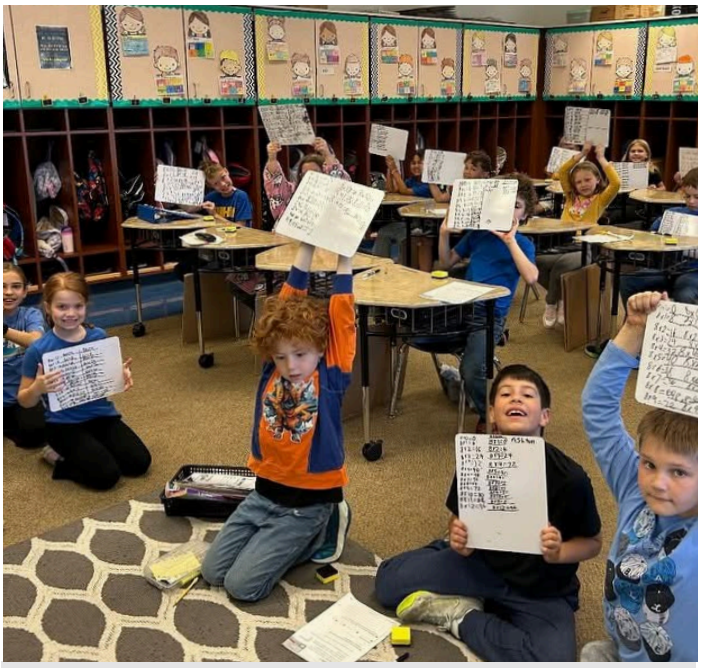
BUILDING MATH FLUENCY

During students' elementary years, it is critical that they master their basic math facts. Math fact fluency is the foundation for students' success in mathematics in later grades. Fact fluency in math is a student's ability to quickly recall basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Throughout the school year, your child's math teacher will continue to help them committ these basic facts to their long-term memory. The goal is for students to recall their math facts automatically, which will enable them to solve more complex mathematical problems!

Flashcards are an inexpensive and effective tool to help your child practice their basic facts at home!



Mrs. Hoeffler's fourth graders practiced multiplication probelms on their mini whiteboards!



Mrs. Ward's third graders at Muse practiced multiplication facts on their mini whiteboards after a round of jumping jacks and squats!



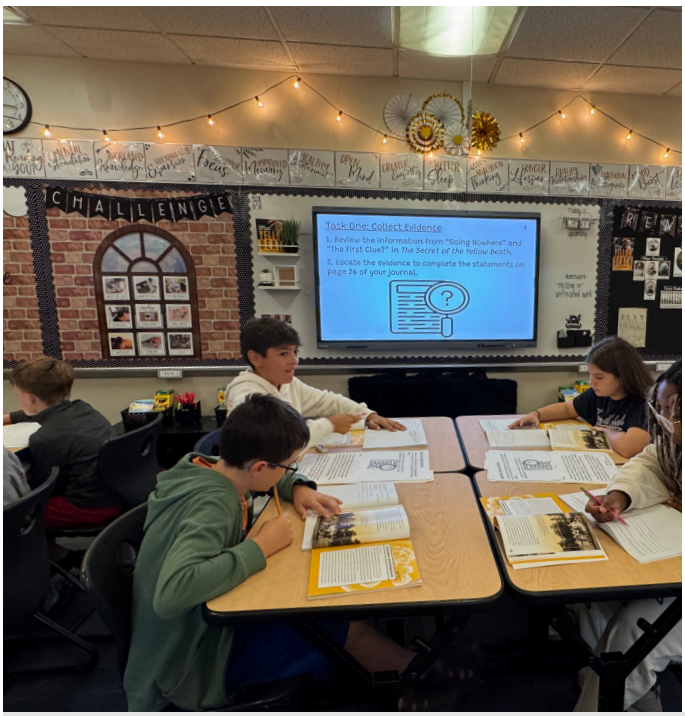
Hills-Henderson third graders spent time at the end of Mrs. Parris' class practicing their multiplication facts!

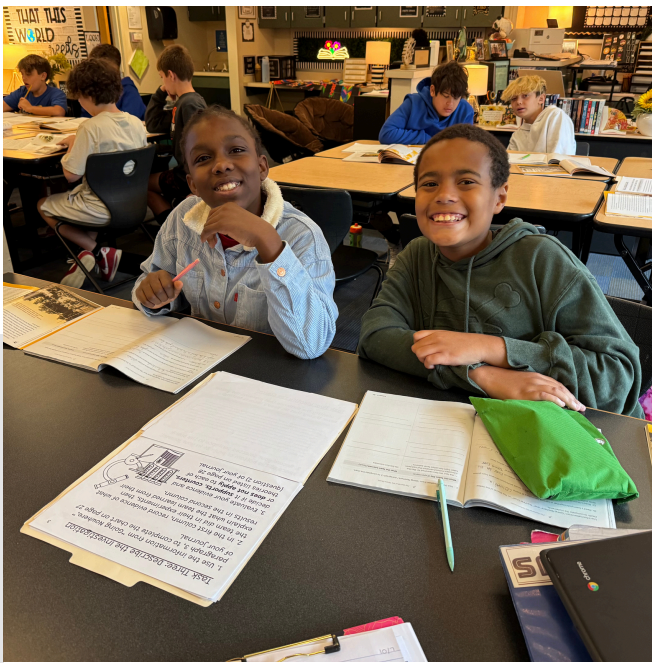
Mysteries and Investigations

Sixth graders are learning about the Yellow Fever disease in Amplify's Mysteries and Investigations unit. Mrs. Rinehart's North Strabane Intermediate students were discussing what characteristics were necessary to be heroic while studying the four doctors who were assigned to work on finding the cause of Yellow Fever in 1900 in Cuba. To stretch students' thinking and promote discussion, students completed a hexagonal thinking activity. This activity required students to think critically to make connections between the four doctors.









Mrs. Asbury's sixth graders at Cecil Intermediate were putting their research skills to work as they investigated the causes of the Yellow Fever outbreak in Cuba. Students analyzed the text to help them determine the cause of the disease!

New Attendance System



A few weeks ago, Wylandville and Canon-McMillan Middle School began piloting SafeArrival, an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for families to let the school know when their child is going to be absent.

With the absence reporting system SafeArrival, families can conveniently report their child's absence in advance, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, using one of three options: PowerSchool Mobile app, MyPowerHub, or using an interactive toll-free number.

We are getting positive feedback from our pilot school families about using SafeArrival as we work through some minor issues, which is expected.

SafeArrival will be launched to all K-12 families starting the second semester of the 2025-2026 school year. To learn more about this absence management system, visit the SafeArrival page on the District's webiste. More information will be shared with all families in January.

GREAT PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL



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