



NEWSLETTER

September 11, 2026

Principal: Austin Grimes
<http://matsuk12.us/acc>

Phone: 907-746-2358
Fax: 907-746-2368

Dear Academy Families,

An Inspiring Washington DC Learning Experience

I have spent this week with our 31 eighth-grade students, one alumni student, and 13 parents who traveled with us for this incredible learning experience. Once again, our students have represented Academy with pride. They have been wonderfully behaved and have impressed everyone around them with their curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm for learning.

One of the most memorable experiences of our trip was visiting the World War II Memorial and having the opportunity to greet and speak with veterans visiting Washington DC, as part of the Arizona Honor Flight. We were originally scheduled to spend only 30 minutes at the memorial, but our students were so interested in meeting the veterans, hearing their stories, and talking with them that we ended up spending more than an hour together. Watching our students interact with these veterans was truly special. It was a powerful opportunity to connect with history and to reflect on the courage, service, and sacrifice of those who came before us.

Experiences like this are what make our Washington DC trip so meaningful. Our students are not simply visiting historic places. They are learning about the people, events, and ideals that have shaped our nation while developing a deeper appreciation for service, courage, and sacrifice.

We are incredibly grateful to the parents who joined us and helped make this experience possible. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for supporting the unique learning opportunities that are such an important part of the Academy experience.

Seventh grade families, we expect to have information and costs for next year's Washington DC trip available around early January.

Any Questions? Needs?

Please do not hesitate to call, email, or stop in. I am always available to help. We care!

With Warm Regards,

Austin Grimes
Principal
907-232-9756

Austin.Grimes@matsuk12.us



Date:	Event:
9/30	Fall Pictures
Date:	Event:
10/7	KG and 1 st Grade Palmer Lions Vision Screenings
10/7	4 th Grade Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
10/26-30	Middle School Intensive Week
10/27	2 nd Grade Kids Don't Float
10/30	K-5 Halloween Parties



Academy's Robotics Team at the Fair!

The Academy Charter School robotics team did an amazing job exhibiting various robotic projects last Friday at the MSBSD CTE Tech Expo at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer.

Many thanks to Mr. Deal and Mr. Gonzalez for making this possible!



Elementary Cross Country

Meet Schedule:

Thursday, September 17th-Knight Invite at Colony High School
Girl's race starts at 5:30pm, Boys race at 6:00pm

Wednesday, September 30th-District meet at Palmer High School
First race begins at 3:00pm.



Language Arts: Students continued developing their phonemic awareness by learning letter sounds. So far, we have introduced the sounds for O, C, A, D, F, G, S, and Qu. These lowercase letters begin at 2 on the clock, and together, students have practiced 15 sounds. Reviewing the worksheets sent home will help reinforce letter-sound recognition and strengthen foundational reading skills.

Students continued to explore narrative elements, including setting and characters. As you read together, encourage your child to identify these elements in the stories.

Math: Our math instruction focused on identifying, creating, and labeling patterns. Students practiced building repeating patterns, with AB, AAB, and ABC patterns being the most common.

We also explored counting collections. Students counted and organized objects into sets of up to 10 and 20, strengthening one-to-one correspondence, counting accuracy, and number sense.

Classroom Updates: This week marked the end of our current classroom rotations. On Friday, students brought their inside shoes to their new classrooms.

We are proud of the effort and growth students continue to demonstrate each day!

Ms. Gerard Rachael.Gerard@matsuk12.us



THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP WITH OUR SUTTON LIBRARY FIELD TRIP! The class is LOVING having the books they chose to read out loud to the class! This also has them excited about practicing reading during their Read to Self portion of language arts.

- A paper called, "Parent Pipeline," came home in folders this week describing picking good-fit books. The kids were able to maintain reading MUCH more easily when they chose the books in their book boxes rather than when I had just chosen books for them. They are REALLY looking forward to reading from our flexible seating options!
- They are progressing in writing by learning the difference between incomplete and complete sentences.
- Spalding is running smoothly, and we will be holding onto all the spelling tests to share results with you at conferences.
- Students are working hard using multiple ways to count on, always starting with the larger addend, and becoming partners in ten pros!

Contact us anytime!

Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond Betsy.Mayer@matsuk12.us Jessica.Drummond@matsuk12.us



Another sweet week in second grade! We had a wonderfully sticky and fun day getting the honey out of the frames! The students loved being part of the process and getting to see how our hard work in the garden and with our bees comes together. We also made labels for our honey bottles, and they will be **ready for purchase soon!** 🍯 🐝

We also took a little trip into the world of **fairy tales** this week. We had so much fun revisiting some favorite stories and discovering some new ones along the way. The students enjoyed talking about the characters, settings, and familiar fairy-tale elements.

In **Math**, we have been practicing telling time to the **hour and half hour**. We are working hard to become time-telling experts!

It has been another fun-filled week of learning, exploring, and making memories. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful group of second graders, and we love watching them learn and grow each week!

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Kramer

Erin.Saunders@matsuk12.us

Kimberly.Kramer@matsuk12.us



Grade 3



The Farring Files

Reading: This week, we worked our way through the writing process to construct opinion papers. Each student selected a character from "The Wind in the Willows" and identified a theme that they portrayed throughout the story. They then filled in an idea web, constructed a rough draft, edited, and concluded with writing final drafts of their opinion papers! As we wrap up our unit about classic tales, we are excited to begin the next: Animal Classifications. Students will also take their first 30-word spelling test next week. Thank you for helping them study at home!

Math: Students have been showing their mastery of adding multi-digit numbers through standard algorithm and word problems. We are now reviewing the steps to subtract multi-digit numbers with and without regrouping.

As always, thank you for your support and partnership!

Mrs. Farring Katherine.Farring@matsuk12.us

The Glanville Weekly

Language Arts: We wrapped up our first unit of the year! The students wrote the final drafts of their opinion paragraphs, read *Alice in Wonderland*, and finished the week by watching *The Wind in the Willows* movie. Next week, we will begin Unit 2 on animal classifications.

In Spalding, the students entered 20 new words into their notebooks and took their second spelling test. A new spelling list is coming home today for our first 30-word spelling test next Friday!

Math: We continued Chapter 2 in addition. We practiced addition patterns and strategies, including estimation and mental addition. We ended the week by working on three-digit addition problems. Next week, we will wrap up the chapter and take our first math test. The students also continued working toward our goal of completing three ALEKS topics each day!

Mrs. Glanville Megan.Glanville@matsuk12.us



FOURTH GRADE



Nielsen's News:

- *Please save cereal boxes for our next unit's final project. Thanks!
- *Keep an eye out for the permission slip for the Alaska Animal Conservation Center.

ELA- Your children are working very hard in all these areas.

- Grammar: irregular verbs, adverbs
- Spalding: Rules 11, 13, & 14
- Novel study: Because of Winn Dixie- discussing theme and story conflicts
- Writing: drafting and revising personal narratives

Math-

- Multiplication/ division fluency
- Addition and Subtraction strategies: subtracting whole numbers, across zero, drawing diagrams to solve, and story problems

Mrs. Nielsen

Laurie.Nielsen@matsuk12.us

Benbow's Buzz

Permission slips for our October 7th field trip to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center came home this week! Please fill out the form and return it as soon as possible so we can have everything organized and ready for the big day! Also note that we are only accepting cash for this trip.

Language Arts - Our Daily Language Review this week covered subject/verb agreement, prefixes, sentence editing and irregular verbs. We then work on sentence construction, which consists of identifying and correcting fragments and run-on sentences, as well as unscrambling sentences and writing all four sentence types. We are getting closer to the end of The War with Grandpa and are pausing to practice written responses, identifying new vocabulary and discussing the chapters as we go. We are continuing the work on our Personal Narratives by practicing writing beginning sentences, to ensure that they "hook" the reader's attention and then completing the introductory paragraph. During lunch, we are getting closer to the end of Treasure Island.

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.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at cherie.benbow@matsuk12.us



5TH GRADE



After an incredible time exploring Denali National Park, our 5th graders returned to school ready to show their rigor and resilience!

This week, students tackled MAP testing in reading, math, and language usage. Even with a full schedule, we made time to write thank you letters to the rangers and chaperones who helped make our trip to Denali epic. After reviewing MAP scores, final placement letters for language arts classes went home on Friday.

Mrs. Manley and Mrs. Sturgis

Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us

SCHUMACHER MATH

We had some catch-up time in math class after MAP testing. I enjoyed working with 4th and some 5th graders on place value models.

Watch for the Take-Home-and-Bring-Back folder; it'll transport student papers and work to finish.

Mr. Schumacher

Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us

K-5 Lab Classes



3rd Grade: Students finished their eye projects and learned about still-life drawing and shading techniques. They applied these new skills to pumpkin drawings.

4th Grade: Students began drawing boot camp! They practiced contour drawing, drawing from observation, and an introduction to using shading techniques to add dimension to their artwork.

5th Grade: Students continued working on and completing their split self-portraits. Next, they will begin drawing boot camp, where they will review drawing techniques and learn about proportion, advanced color shading, and negative space.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Glanville



Kindergarten: Digital Citizen- Head (learning to use our head to tell if things are real or fake media).

1st Grade: Curiosity Tellers (How we show curiosity for others)

2nd Grade: Keeping Online Accounts Safe, Including Others When Using Technology

Mrs. Nielsen



Español with Señorita Catarina

Kindergarten students are learning to introduce themselves. We listened to the traditional Spanish folk tale Medio Pollito. Kindergartners learned that Hispanic stories don't always end in happily ever after.

First and second graders are still following the exploits of la Maestra Chiquitita. They are learning vocabulary for classroom objects and singing and dancing to weather songs.



Kindergarten worked on fine motor skills by tracing lines and completing a variety of tasks that exercise the muscles used to grip and control a pencil.

First grade worked on adding details to sentences and unscrambling sentences, which they then wrote and practiced using capital letters, finger spaces and ending punctuation.

Second grade wrote opinion papers this week, clearly stating which type of pet they would rather have and why. Second grade also reviewed parts of speech with a coloring paper.

Mrs. Sturgis and Ms. Benbow



This week in 3rd Grade Science we took a deeper dive into inheritance and traits and even looked into Gregor Mendel!

This week in 4th Grade Science we took a closer look at the eye and how each part of the eye works together so we can see!

This week in 5th Grade Science we dove in headfirst into terrariums and what types of things an Ecologist studies and how their findings can affect the world around them.

Mr. and Mrs. Farring

katherine.farring@matsuk12.us

timothy.farring@matsuk12.us



3rd grade - They have reviewed river vocabulary as well as learned facts about the Volga, Mississippi and Amazon Rivers.

4th grade - They reviewed mountain vocabulary and learned about the Appalachian, Rocky, and Atlas Mountains as well as the Alps.

5th grade - This week's study has revolved around the Mayan Empire.

Mrs. Mayer and Mrs. Drummond



Outdoor Fitness

If you have a weed whacker or tall grass mower, the trails in the loop and woods still need your help! Delayed school construction means we'll have good trail access and extended hill use this year, but we'll need to clean up the mess first.

Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grades worked out in the gym and practiced disc toss relays and consecutive-catch teamwork this week. Middle school students who miss class due to injuries and school district sports events will be excused. Other absences will require a make-up workout sheet to be completed. Your student will need initials and a signature from a supervising adult to earn up to 80% of the points for the missed class. Attending the whole class is 20% of their grade.

Mr. Schumacher and Mrs. Nichols

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



Middle School Cross Country

Our first season of Middle School Cross Country is coming to an end. Next week is our last meet at Colony High School. Please make sure your student is at Colony High by 2:30 in their uniform, ready to run. Thank you for all your support through this quick but amazing season!

~Coach Strohmeier & Coach Zerkel



Middle School Spanish

Sixth graders are taking their second vocabulary test this week about the most important room in the house - el baño - the bathroom. Sixth graders made mini-baños, labeled their bathrooms at home, drew tiny bathroom pictures, played flashcard games, created Play-Doh baños and had probing conversations about their bathrooms. Students continue to produce quality work they can be very proud of however about one third of the class is SO humble they do not affix their names to their work. Students who have missing grades for work **know** they did are advised to check the Sin Nombre (No Name) drawer in my classroom.

Seventh and eighth graders are on trips this week and did not attend Spanish class.

Señorita Cady.Agoff@matsuk12.us



Sixth grade is still plugging along! After a successful week of MAP testing and a nice long weekend, we are happy to be back at work and settling into our routines.

In **Language Arts**, students are working through *Black Ships Before Troy* as we continue our study of Greek literature and mythology. We are also learning about **idioms** and how figurative language adds meaning and interest to our writing.

In **Math**, students have been busy working on **geometry**, building their skills and applying what they are learning to a variety of problems.

In **Social Studies**, we are wrapping up our study of **Ancient Greece**. Students are putting their knowledge and creativity to work on their culminating **Greek Theme Park projects**, incorporating what they have learned about Greek history, culture, mythology, and daily life.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out.

Mrs. Zerkel and Mr. Chadwell

Katherine.Zerkel@matsuk12.us Jordan.Chadwell@matsuk12.us



It was a short week for science, as we met only once on Wednesday. Students began exploring different types of natural hazards and identifying patterns in where they occur. If the Activity 4 packet was not completed in class, please finish it at home so that we are ready to discuss it on Monday.

Enjoy your weekend!

Mrs. Strohmeier Cindy.Strohmeier@matsuk12.us

7TH GRADE

Kennicott!

This week, the 7th grade had an amazing time at the Kennicott Copper Mine and Root Glacier. Students stepped back in time to experience firsthand what they have been studying for the past few weeks and left with a greater appreciation for Alaska's mining history and industrialization, glaciers, and the perseverance of those who established and restored such a unique national historic landmark.

Many thanks to our parents who participated in and supported this field trip. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Wright, Ms. Twohy, Ms. Dunham

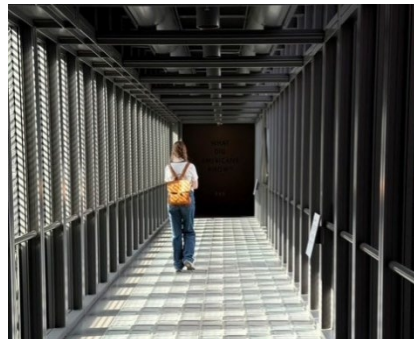


Special thank you to Daphne Kramer for the photos!



It is hard to believe that our 2026 Washington D.C tour is in the books! An enormous THANK YOU to all of our chaperones- we greatly appreciate each & every one of you. While it is difficult to sum into words all we experienced, here are a few statistics from the week:

- 5 Days in Washington D.C.
- 4 Nights in the Hotel
- 31 Students
- 7,646 Flight Miles
- 62,000+ Walking Steps
- 12 Memorials
- 1 Cathedral
- 5 Museums
- 2 Historic Presidential Homes
- And so much more.....



We are so proud of the growth in these 8th grade students, in addition to being unbelievably grateful for this experience. Have a wonderful weekend and I hope the students have the opportunity to get some well-deserved rest!

Mrs. Molina

Stacy.Molina@matsuk12.us

