



NEWSLETTER

October 16, 2026

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

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

Dear Academy Families,

Another busy and productive week has flown by! Each day, we work to make the most of every minute of instructional time. Our students are making great progress, working hard, building knowledge, and developing important skills. It is rewarding to see their growth each day! We are grateful for our wonderful families and the support you provide. Together We Can! Together We Do!

Tours Galore! Growing Champions for Academy

Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed several community members to tour Academy. It is always a pleasure to walk through our school with visitors and show them what makes Academy special. Sometimes, visitors arrive unsure of what to expect, but it is exciting to see their perspectives change as we walk the hallways and peek into classrooms.

I often hear comments like these during our tours:

- I had no idea charter schools are public schools!
- I had no idea that this school was here!
- I wish I had known about this school earlier.
- I love the focus on learning!
- Wow! The students are all looking at the teacher!
- It is so quiet! The students really want to learn!
- The students are happy and respectful!
- The staff are happy!
- Parents are helping in the classrooms? That is wonderful!
- The families are involved and care about the school!

These visits are a great opportunity to showcase our students, staff, and families and share what makes Academy such a special place to learn and grow. We are proud of our school community and love sharing it with others!

Halloween Reminder for K-5th!

Halloween should be a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone at Academy! As you help your child prepare for the festivities, please remember that costumes must be school appropriate. No gore, no blood, and nothing that would frighten our younger students. Thank you for helping us make Halloween fun for everyone!

Thank You! We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Our school community is full of people who generously give their time and talents to make Academy a great place for students! A big thank-you to Paul Baril for clearing the field and the trailhead leading into the woods north of school property. He used a skid steer with a brush cutter attachment and, when that equipment stopped working, brought in a tractor with a brush cutter to get the job done! Our outdoor fitness groups are incredibly grateful and excited to use these areas again. Thank you to Carl for researching, ordering, and replacing the light covers in our back building and for diligently working on our blinds. We appreciate all the time and effort that goes into keeping our school looking its best! We also want to thank Jordan Daggett for decorating our entryway window with a fun Halloween theme. It is absolutely darling, and the students love stopping to look at it as they walk by! Finally, thank you to all the families who lend a hand and support our school in so many ways. We see and appreciate all that you do!

Questions? Needs? We Care!

Please reach out if there is anything we can do to help. We are grateful to be part of such a supportive school community!

With Warm Regards,
Austin Grimes, Principal
907-232-9756

Austin.Grimes@matsuk12.us



Date:	Event:
10/26-30	Middle School Intensive Week
10/27	2 nd Grade Kids Don't Float
10/30	K-5 Halloween Parties



Date:	Event:
11/2-3	Student/Parent/Teacher Conference
11/4-6	Professional Learning No School
11/11	Picture Retakes
11/25	Family Feast Early Release 12:45pm
11/26-27	Happy Thanksgiving! No School



Kindergarten



Hooray, Kindergarten! We have officially introduced all 26 letters of the alphabet and their sounds! The English alphabet has 26 letters that represent 39 sounds. Our assessment this week showed that, on average, our class recognizes 36 of those sounds! What an amazing accomplishment! We are so proud of their hard work and progress.

Next week, we will review the sounds we have learned before beginning our study of two-letter phonograms, which will help students continue building their reading and spelling skills.

During math, we focused on refining number formation and strengthening our counting skills. Students practiced writing numbers and counting quantities by ones, working with groups of objects up to 50. We continue to build accuracy, confidence, and number sense through daily practice.

Ms. Gerard Rachael.Gerard@matsuk12.us



hello FIRST GRADE

FIRST GRADE:

- The class was introduced to the Core-Knowledge story of *Billy Beg*. It is from Ireland and has common threads to the last two stories, although it has a **princess** who is looking for a man to fit a boot.
- Every student has a solid reading strategy to implement every day during their reading time now!
- Writing focus has been punctuating our sentences!

Contact us anytime! Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond
Betsy.Mayer@matsuk12.us Jessica.Drummond@matsuk12.us



2ND GRADE

We had another wonderful week of learning! Our students continue to work hard, build confidence, and show how much they are growing as learners.

 **Language Arts:** We are continuing to enjoy our adventures with *My Father's Dragon* and learning about compound words. We have also been practicing our cursive handwriting, and I'm excited to share that we have now learned all of the lowercase cursive letters! 🐉 We will keep practicing to help our handwriting become smoother and more confident.

+ **Math:** We are working hard to master two-digit addition, including regrouping. It has been wonderful to see students building their skills and becoming more confident with these strategies.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Kramer Erin.Saunders@matsuk12.us Kimberly.Kramer@matsuk12.us

The Farring Files

Language Arts: We have spent this week studying the muscular system and the nervous system! We have had fantastic class conversations about how these systems are interconnected and work together to help our bodies function every day. Students also each thoughtfully constructed a paragraph about the reasons why a specific part of their body is their favorite. Some chose their brain for all the knowledge it holds; some chose their legs for helping them run and dance, and some chose their arms for helping them do pushups and play catch!

Math: My class was very excited to begin our division unit this week! We studied how multiplication and division are inverse operations and used our previous knowledge to start exploring various division strategies. The class was amazed how they were able to start solving division equations on day one!

Please remember that if you need to reach out with any questions, the best way to reach me is by email. As always, thank you for your partnership and support, Mrs. Farring Katherine.Farring@matsuk12.us



Grade 3

The Glanville Weekly



Language Arts: We continued with Unit 3 this week! Students learned about joints and muscles, the nervous system, and the brain. We discussed what it means to be vulnerable and invulnerable, connecting these ideas to the Greek myth of Achilles, the warrior after whom the Achilles tendon is named. We also continued exploring how our body systems are interconnected and work together to help us function. In writing, we practiced creating topic and concluding sentences for paragraphs and applied these skills to our next writing project, "The Best Part of Me"! Students also added 30 new words to their Spalding notebooks and took a spelling test. A new spelling list is coming home today.

Math: We wrapped up our introduction to multiplication, took a test, and moved on to division. Students were initially nervous about this new concept, but discovering that division is the inverse operation of multiplication helped ease their nerves! They are doing a wonderful job grasping new concepts and growing in their math confidence! We also began our five-minute multiplication and division tests, and students are improving their fact fluency each day. They also finished creating their own array cities! Students also continued working toward our goal of completing three ALEKS topics each day.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Glanville Megan.Glanville@matsuk12.us



FOURTH GRADE

Nielsen's News:

We are looking forward to sharing all our learning with you at conferences soon! Please contact the office if you need to reschedule yours.

ELA- Your children did so well on the 50-word spelling test last week that we will be doing a one-week review of list P and move on to list Q!

- Grammar: Paragraph editing focusing on capitals and punctuation
- Morphology: prefixes: en- and suffixes: -y, -ly
- Spalding: List P review
- Reading: Middle Ages: 1066: The Battle that Changed History, Henry II and Law and Order & Robin Hood Chapters 6-10
- Writing: Writing opinion paragraphs on serfs and knights

***Please send gray, colored, and/or printed cardstock to use on our final projects. Thanks!**

Math- This week students learned lots of strategies for multiplying with two-digit numbers. We also took a day to review elapsed time (an area the whole class was struggling with in our review.)

Multiplication/ division fluency- Have your child show you their multiplication chart on ALEKS quick tables- most are halfway done or farther.

Multiplying with Two-Digit Numbers: Multiplying 10s, 100s, 1000s, estimating products, model regrouping, distributive property and multiplying with regrouping

Mrs. Nielsen Laurie.Nielsen@matsuk12.us

Benbow's Buzz

Please make sure that your kiddo is remembering to bring weather appropriate gear every day! Although our classroom is generally very toasty, we are reaching freezing temperatures in the morning, so layers are the best bet.

Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up! You should have already received your note with the date and time of your conference. If you are not able to make it, please let us know as soon as possible.

Language Arts - Spelling lists went home Monday with instructions to focus not only on the spelling of the words, but on the actual cursive writing as well. We are continuing to focus on letter formation and size, as well as making sure that our letters are resting on the baseline. This is very important because it will have an impact on spelling tests if I cannot tell if it was a cursive error or a spelling error. 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. The Daily Language Review this week covered analogies, reflexive pronouns, sentence editing and identifying comparative and frequently misspelled words. We continued reading Robin Hood and having daily discussions of the previous night's reading. In our Middle Ages unit, we learned about feudalism and the hierarchy of citizens during that time. We also discussed the three major events that led to the Middle Ages; see if your kiddo can tell you about them!

Math - We spent this week creating more understanding of the multiplication process and the difference between factors and multiples. Automatic recall of 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

Sturgis Super Students!

Language Arts-This week the class finished our introduction/review of all 29 Spalding Spelling Rules. Now that we have covered all of them, we will move our focus to using those rules to help students become better spellers.

For our reading and writing skills, the class enjoyed a "Point of View" activity, and an "Emotions Guessing Game." They showed great creativity and I am looking forward to seeing these skills develop in their writing.

Math-The class is plugging along on our division chapters. This week the students worked on using an area model and partial products to break down what is going on in a division problem. After that, they worked through the traditional division algorithm with one-digit divisors. Next week we will tackle two-digit divisors.

Mrs. Sturgis
Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us



The Manley Minute:

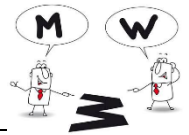
Language Arts: We are continuing our Personal Narratives unit. This week we looked at point of view and tone. To practice this, we read short passages and then wrote responses from the point of view of four different characters by putting ourselves in the character's shoes. We used nonfiction passages to practice sequence and reviewed similes and metaphors to create vivid imagery and bring writing to life.

Just a reminder that students take the pretest for their spelling tests on Thursday. If they pass the pretest with an A, they do not need to take the test on Friday.

Math: Although students still need to master their multiplication facts, their confidence levels greatly increased this week as we have been working on multiplying large numbers. We started with three-digit numbers multiplied by one-digit numbers and worked our way up to multiplying three-digit numbers by two-digit numbers! Students learned the regular algorithm and the area model to multiply.

Our class average is 57% for our ALEKS completion! Keep up the good work!

Mrs. Manley Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us



SCHUMACHER MATH

My math class worked hard with decimal operations this week. I will be assessing these skills in preparation for their bridge project scoring.

Students are working hard to complete their whole numbers pie slice in ALEKS to earn a party. We're getting closer, but students will need to commit time to get there.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. Schumacher
Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us



Outdoor Fitness



Thank you to the Pohl family for their weed whacking on the trails in the woods near school! Their work will help runners and beginning bikers have an excellent experience during fitness class.

We are getting chilly in fitness class! Holding metal weights and handlebars is unpleasant without gloves. Also send warm socks or boots to keep toes happy. Students can use ski/snowboard helmets for ear warmth during cold weather biking; others choose ear bags, headbands or hair beards.

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

K-5 Lab Classes



3rd Grade: We worked on our Square 1 Art project this week! Students drew an adorable fox among the trees, then brought it to life with paint. They practiced using different shades to shade their artwork. We also started painting the backgrounds for their Rousseau Tigers project.

4th Grade: We worked on our Square 1 Art project this week! Students drew polar bears wearing fun sweaters and added texture to their fur using lines of different sizes. Before coloring the sweaters, students carefully selected three to four colors they thought would look great together.

5th Grade: We worked on our Square 1 Art project this week! Students chose their own animals to draw wearing ski goggles, then added reflections in the lenses to show what their animals were seeing.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Glanville



Technology with the littles is going great! Kindergarten finished with the last Digital Citizen: Heart, learning to have respect for others online. Kindergarten and first grade also worked on hand-eye coordination and concrete computer skills on Starfall. Second grade is doing wonderful building motor memory with hand posture on home row for typing.

Mrs. Nielsen



Español with Señorita Catarina

Kindergartners are learning numbers in Spanish class! They are conversing about their age and guessing their teacher's age. Guesses ranged from 8 to 101!

First and second graders are learning parts of the face vocabulary and constructing their own monstruos. They are also listening and chanting along with one of their favorite Halloween stories - Diez Fantasmitas Timidos.



3rd grade - Introduction to the 13 Colonies!

4th grade - Alaska maps are in the making!

5th grade - Age of Exploration! Spice Islands & Portugese exploration as well as European immigration to the Americas.

Mrs. Mayer and Mrs. Drummond



We welcomed back our younger students this week. All of the grades have been working on developing their fine motor skills, using their creativity for some story planning, and learning how words fit together to form a sentence.

Mrs. Sturgis and Ms. Benbow

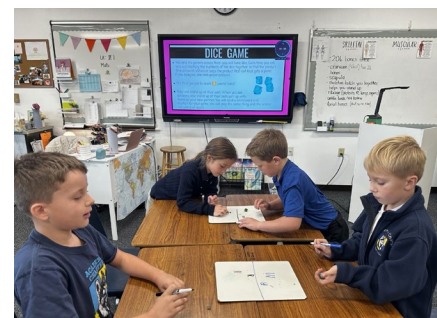
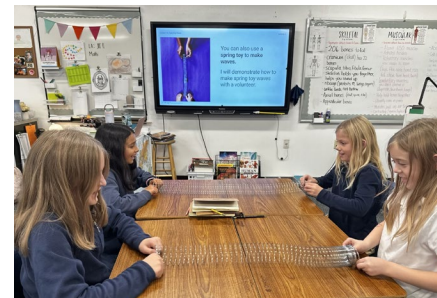


3rd Grade Science: This week in 3rd Grade Science we started our look into weather patterns and how those patterns can affect animals in different ecosystems.

4th Grade Science: This week in 4th Grade Science we have been looking into sound waves and how they are formed and how different Animals communicate with each other

5th Grade Science: This week in 5th Grade Science we are leaving Earth and taking a look at the Earth, Moon, and Sun as a system.

Mr. and Mrs. Farring
katherine.farring@matsuk12.us
timothy.farring@matsuk12.us





Middle School Spanish

Sixth graders are taking a break from home decorating and learning the most important words in any language - the courteous words. We have acted out various social flubs and the kind words necessary to excuse them. Sixth graders are creating their own game boards this week to help them practice their Spanish vocabulary. Progress reports and self-reflection on effort in Spanish class went home this Friday to be signed and returned.

Seventh graders did a wonderful job creating their own Guess Who Boards last week. This week they have been able to use those boards to practice their adjectives and have played some very contentious rounds of Fishbowl to practice vocabulary. Progress reports and self-reflection on effort in Spanish class went home this Friday to be signed and returned.

Eighth graders finished their writings about their future selves and have turned to predicting the futures of some of our kindergartners! They watched a heartfelt cinematic short about La Leyenda de la Espantapajaros and were able to understand most of the gist of the story. Students who are taking the opportunity to try out a variety of different choices on their choice boards are enriching their learning considerably and I am proud of them!

Spanish 1 students showed great facility working with regular ER verbs and did well on their grammar tests. The class is working on slipping into more natural extemporaneous conversations in Spanish class no matter the original assignment. Students watched an informational video in extremely fast Spanish about La Leyenda de la Chupacabras and were able to understand a majority of the information. Students learned about the two contractions used in Spanish and drew some excellent Chewbacca portraits to help them remember. Spanish 1 students are noticing their language skills being enhanced considerably when they do their choice boards with fidelity. I am proud of their efforts as well!



Señorita Cady.Agoff@matsuk12.us

Middle School Art-Ventures with Ms. Christensen

October and fall are nearing the end, and students are busy finishing their Square 1 art projects. Sixth graders are completing their "Water Tower" artwork, and seventh graders are working on sunset artwork inspired by artist Robin Mead. Look for their finished artwork soon!

Some students from seventh grade have completed their fall abstract birch collages, pictured here. We worked on narrowing a color palette and how to mix fall colors.



It's been another busy and productive week in 6th grade!

In **Language Arts**, students are working hard on their first research papers as they explore the fascinating history of the Salem Witch Trials. We're excited to see them develop their research and writing skills! Mrs. Zerkel's class has also started reading their new novel, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, which ties in beautifully with our Salem unit.

In **Math**, Mrs. Zerkel's class continues to strengthen their understanding of decimals, fractions, and percents while also exploring positive and negative integers. Mr. Chadwell's class is working with integers and variables as they build their algebraic thinking skills.

In **Social Studies**, students continue their journey through world religions, learning about beliefs, traditions, and cultures around the world.

It's exciting to see our 6th graders tackling new challenges and growing as learners!
Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Zerkel and Mr. Chadwell

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



Our 6th graders spent the week exploring the mechanics of plate tectonics. Students participated in a hands-on experiment using a vial of hot water and red dye placed in cold water. They were able to observe the warm water rising out of the vial! When they reversed the setup, they noticed that the same movement did not occur. This experiment helped students better understand convection currents and the important role they play in moving Earth's lithospheric plates. Students also received a study guide to help them prepare for our Unit 1 test on Monday, October 19th!

Mrs. Strohmeier Cindy.Strohmeier@matsuk12.us



7TH GRADE



Wrights Winners!

The class's Kennecott website is complete and ready to be enjoyed. Please use [this link](#) to view and enjoy student-written articles, photographs and infographics on their adventure Sept. 8-10.

Wright 7th LA: The propaganda unit is in the rear-view mirror as students tested Thursday. In preparation, they took a quiz on unit vocabulary terms Wednesday and had a week to create a presidential campaign poster classifying three different types of propaganda used. They finished up their Kennecott website and it's ready for viewing. They also gave their second book presentations for their historical novels and received feedback to turn their news site critique paper into a final draft.

Wright 7th math: Students tested on Chapter 4's exponents and roots Monday. They're already knee-deep in Chapter 5's focus on ratios, unit rates and scale. Ten ALEKS topics are **due Monday**.

Wright 7th history: The class spent two of their three class days prepping for the Russian Revolution/gov't types test. They identified types and forms of government in their card matching and station activities. They had the opportunity to work steadily on their hosen Russian Revolution review project and share the link so others could use their project to review. They finished up notes on a documentary about this time period.

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

Mrs. Wright Melodie.Wright@matsuk12.us

"A child without education is like a bird without wings." —Tibetan Proverb

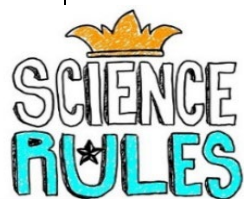
In English this week, students practiced the reading skills of determining the author's purpose and evaluating evidence and demonstrated their knowledge of the assigned Week 7 vocabulary words ("port"). They were given ten more words with the roots "miss, mit." They worked with three more literary devices: onomatopoeia, repetition, and assonance, then practiced identifying all eight in given sentences and demonstrating their knowledge with a quiz. They also worked through the writing process and composed a poem about themselves using literary devices for creativity and a thesaurus to strengthen word choice. They reviewed the elements of plot, exposition, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution, building their skills for analyzing short stories and novels. This week's writing topic focused on doing your personal best and how to respond when we fail despite giving our best effort.

In Math, students began Chapter 1 on Ratios and Proportional Reasoning. They completed Lessons 1 -3 (Rates, Complex Fractions and Unit Rate, and Convert Unit Rates), completing and reviewing the homework assignments and completing quizzes for the first two lessons. They entered the new vocabulary and example questions into their notebooks for support on the eventual chapter assessment. I encourage you to use the quiz scores as indicators of readiness for subsequent lessons. If the quiz score is less than 85%, more instruction and practice are needed. That's where ALEKS, the posted videos, and additional support from the online textbook can help. As a reminder, students are required to complete ten topics or more each week in ALEKS. Please encourage them to work on these at home. They should choose to work on lessons targeting what we are working on in class.

Students in History continued practicing their geography and atlas skills. Each Monday, students use atlases to learn about the geography of our world and the parts of an atlas by answering eight given questions. We began wrapping up the Industrial Revolution Unit with a Harkness discussion on the assigned *The Men Who Built America* series. Students did further research and presented America's Story from their assigned character's lens. This week's focus was on a culminating review in preparation for the final assessments beginning on Monday.

Together, this will be a great year!

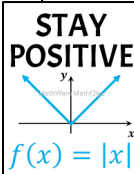
Ms. Twohy Tuesday.Twohy@matsuk12.us



Cell analogy projects were turned in on Thursday, and they looked fantastic! I'm looking forward to reading all the creative analogies the students came up with. In class this week, we discussed how cells and their organelles work together as part of the larger system of an organism. We also took notes on how cells obtain and use energy, focusing on the roles of photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Students received a study guide to help them prepare for our **unit test on Tuesday, the 20th**. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Strohmeier cynthia.strohmeier@matsuk12.us

Maciel's Math Masters



Our class had a blast taking math outdoors! Students practiced converting different rates of speed into feet per second through running, hopping, rolling a ball, and throwing a frisbee. We then explored proportional relationships using real-world examples like doubling recipes and earning hourly wages. Students also learned to recognize nonproportional relationships by examining first-month discounts and one-time fees added to standard rates. Their hard work paid off on the mid-chapter quiz, where the class earned an impressive 90% average! Students are making fantastic progress in ALEKS, and we can't wait to celebrate with some pie when they reach the halfway milestone. I'm so proud of their continued hard work and growth!

Mrs. Maciel Ashleigh.Maciel@matsuk12.us



A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who attended the Last Frontier Honor Flight Homecoming! This is always such a powerful and meaningful event, and I am especially grateful to the parents who graciously stepped up in my absence. The veterans deeply appreciate your warm welcome and support. I am so proud of our students for showing up to honor them!

In Math, we continued computing with scientific notation, took a quiz on the material, and began exploring perfect squares. Woven into all of this is the continued practice and refinement of essential skills, including operations with decimals and integers. These foundational skills support everything we do as we tackle more complex concepts.

This week in Civics, students prepared for and completed their midterm exam! We also squeezed in some creative time to complete our annual Square One Art projects. Since we don't have a regular art block, it was wonderful to make room for artistic expression.

In Honors English I, we began Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Students learned about Shelley's life and personal history, explored how this famous novel came to be, and started reading the first several chapters.

All students have received their Intensive placements, and excitement is in the air! We have one more week of regular classes before diving into Intensives. Afterward, students will enjoy a break while we hold conferences and participate in teacher professional development days. There is plenty to look forward to as we move through the remainder of October!

Have a great weekend,

Mrs. Molina

Stacy.Molina@matsuk12.us



Manley's Minute: English 1

This week we are continuing to strengthen our writing skills through paragraph editing. Improving grammar, punctuation, and capitalization will help students accomplish their goal of becoming more confident in their writing.

We have also continued reading *Animal Farm* and have made it through Chapter 5! As we read, students are recognizing the theme of power in leadership emerging. Our Harkness discussion focused on two questions: 1) How do the pigs' actions, such as keeping the milk and apples for themselves, foreshadow their growing dominance and the betrayal of the revolution's original ideals? 2) How does Squealer use persuasive language, fear, and manipulation to justify the pigs' privileges and convince the other animals to accept their decisions?

Mrs. Manley

Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us



We just keep cruising right along! We are working our way through the next chapter on linear functions and students are performing well!



This week in 8th grade Science we looked into what the moon is made out of and how we could replicate the crater patterns on the moon's surface!

Mr. Farring Timothy.Farring@matsuk12.us