



## 6th Grade Newsletter

November 2021

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### *Social Studies*

**News and Information:** Students have been applying their geographers' skills that they learned in Unit 1. They focused on the concepts of adapting and thriving, by diving into the Native or indigenous cultures of North America. Students learned about the tribes in the different regions and how each adapted to the environment in which they lived and what factors led to that society thriving. They wrote about how each group adapted and thrived and what the relationship between these two concepts is. They are continuing to improve their CER writing skills (Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning), especially working to more fully develop their reasoning statements. **Coming SOON:** Olmec, Maya and Aztec civilizations.

**Contact Information:**





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Theo Van Horn, 6th grade social studies teacher - [Theodore\\_VanHorn@dpsk12.org](mailto:Theodore_VanHorn@dpsk12.org)

Linda Chase, 6th grade social studies teacher - [Linda\\_Chase@dpsk12.org](mailto:Linda_Chase@dpsk12.org)





## ***Language Arts***

**News and information:** Students are reading two anchor texts this quarter, [The Lightning Thief](#) and [Wonder](#). They should finish both books by October 14th. The Lightning Thief is being read in class. Wonder should be read independently in class and at home.

We are working on literary skills such as identifying central ideas, identifying themes, analyzing character choices and plot events, and supporting analysis with text evidence. We also read informational texts that pair with our two novels.

Students are learning how to write a narrative story which includes descriptive details, effective pacing and transitions, dialogue, conflict, and resolution. Students are learning to use proper conventions and grammar in their writing.

6th graders engage in speaking and listening through whole group and small group discussions. The unit will culminate with students writing their own hero's journey narrative.

During the second quarter, we will read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and start argumentative writing.

### **Contact Information:**

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Doug Rundle, 6th grade Language Arts teacher [doug\\_rundle@dpsk12.org](mailto:doug_rundle@dpsk12.org)

Jianna Balascio 6th grade Language Arts teacher [jianna\\_balascio@dpsk12.org](mailto:jianna_balascio@dpsk12.org)

## ***Science***



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**News and Information:** This month, students have been exploring how to create scientific arguments while exploring the microscopic work inside of the human gut microbiome. Next we will begin to discover how our body systems work together in order to keep our cells alive and healthy. Students are taking on the roles of Researchers and Scientists and they apply their scientific studies to real life situations.

**Contact Information:**

Kristen Cozzarin, 6th grade science teacher- [Kristen\\_Cozzarin@dpsk12.org](mailto:Kristen_Cozzarin@dpsk12.org)



## ***Math***

**News and information: Students are continuing their learning on ratios, rates, and unit rates, all of the while beginning to apply this knowledge to percentages. Students will dive into percentages and unit conversions during the entire month of October. Their first District Interim Assessment (IA) will take place on Tuesday, October 19th.**

**During the second quarter, 6th graders will continue to build on their knowledge with all types of percentages, ultimately leading into the number systems with rational numbers, such as operations with decimals and fractions.**

### **Parent Resources:**

**<https://access.openupresources.org/curricula/our6-8math/en/grade-6/family.html>**

### **Contact Information:**

Annie Elam, 6th grade Mathematics teacher - [anne\\_elam@dpsk12.net](mailto:anne_elam@dpsk12.net)

Aspen Gray, 6th grade Mathematics teacher - [aspen\\_gray@dpsk12.net](mailto:aspen_gray@dpsk12.net)

Sara Thomaskiwicz, 6th grade Mathematics teacher- [sara\\_thomaskiwicz@dps.com](mailto:sara_thomaskiwicz@dps.com)





## Electives

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| <p><b>Visual Arts (Navy)</b><br/>Navy Visual Arts students are finishing their "Paramount Paintings". After choosing an object that is important to them, they utilized their painting practice to work on an acrylic painting. Students focused on making original colors, tints, and shades. These are turning out to be very colorful and expressive pieces!</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:Aaryn_Novy@dpsk12.org">Aaryn_Novy@dpsk12.org</a></p> | <p><b>Visual Arts (Marigold)</b><br/>Marigold Visual Arts students are finishing their "faux enamel" pins using 4 different idioms that they designed based on their literal meanings. Students used shrink film to design each idiom pin and added color by blending colored pencils and using a technique called burnishing. We will shrink these pins and create some packaging to accompany their completed pins!</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:Aaryn_Novy@dpsk12.org">Aaryn_Novy@dpsk12.org</a></p> |
| <p><b>Spanish</b><br/>Hola familias! For 6th graders and Spanish 1b ask your students about the last short movie we have recorded in Spanish class! It was about a little toy horse on a stick, and it was hilarious. Spanish 1b students are already reading an advanced novel about Pirates. I am so proud!!</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:PABLO_GOMEZLILLO@dpsk12.org">PABLO_GOMEZLILLO@dpsk12.org</a></p>                                      | <p><b>Theatre Arts</b><br/>Drama students are working hard to select, edit, and rehearse their small group scenes, which we will present to the class for critique in a couple of weeks. Ask your student what scene they are working on and if you can support them in practicing their lines!</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:Meghan_Gates@dpsk12.org">Meghan_Gates@dpsk12.org</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Dance</b><br/>Dancers are working hard on performance prep for the Showcase Performance on December 16th at 7pm. We hope to see you there!</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:Elizabeth_Brennan-OConnell@dpsk12.org">Elizabeth_Brennan-OConnell@dpsk12.org</a></p>  | <p><b>Life Skills</b><br/>Life Skills students are working on interior design and household management. We are incorporating the Hasbro Game of Life to simulate how we all travel through life and have to manage different responsibilities and issues. In the coming months we will be making decor and cooking!</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:Lillian_brown@dpsk12.org">Lillian_brown@dpsk12.org</a></p>   |
| <p><b>STEM: Medical Detectives</b><br/>Team's leading team of medical detectives is beginning to tackle the complex nervous system! We have made models of neurons and posted neural pathways on the floor. We will soon look into neurological disease and medical tests.</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:Keisha_Cervera@dpsk12.org">Keisha_Cervera@dpsk12.org</a></p>  | <p><b>STEM: Design and Modeling</b><br/>Early last month, students designed wooden puzzle cubes to fill a need for a local furniture company. For the second half of October, students learned how to make 3D models in TinkerCAD.</p> <p>contact: <a href="mailto:JUSTIN_WALKER@dpsk12.org">JUSTIN_WALKER@dpsk12.org</a></p>  |





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| <p><b>Phys Ed</b><br/>Students will be working on fitness and comprehensive health, and we will be starting our basketball unit. We are excited for this fun, collaborative unit!<br/>contact: <a href="mailto:Alvin_Barnett@dpsk12.org">Alvin_Barnett@dpsk12.org</a></p>  | <p><b>Creative Writing</b><br/>Our Creative Writing students are currently working to produce their own chap books on a variety of chosen topics. They will even have their own cover!<br/>contact: <a href="mailto:SUZI_SMITH@dpsk12.org">SUZI_SMITH@dpsk12.org</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Band &amp; Orchestra</b><br/>This last week of October and first week of November, all orchestra, band, and choir classes are performing mini-concerts called 'Musical Snapshots' in the cafeteria for others to enjoy during lunch time. Ask your student which pieces they are performing and be sure to show them some support and pride at home as they embark on their first time performing publicly together this year!<br/>contact: <a href="mailto:CAROLYN_WARPINSKI@dpsk12.org">CAROLYN_WARPINSKI@dpsk12.org</a></p> | <p><b>Creative Music Production</b><br/>We are finishing up our Instrument Skills unit the first two weeks of November, and then we will begin our final unit of the semester, Songwriting. Students will create the instrumental accompaniments either digitally on the computer or using live instruments, and will write their own lyrics too.<br/>contact: <a href="mailto:Randal_Runyan@dpsk12.org">Randal_Runyan@dpsk12.org</a></p> |

