

# THE EXPLORATORY TEAM GAZETTE

## Team Members

Art - Christina Lutjen

Computer Applications - Cynthia Sabia

French Language - Lisa Urso

Spanish Language - Marybeth Acevedo

Library - Beth Pronovost

Life Management - Lauren Mitchell

Music - Laura Traver

Physical Education/Health - Tim Tredwell, Wendy Waterbury

Technology Education - Philip Unghire



## Art

### 7th Grade Exploratory Classes:

Students are completing their ceramic projects. While waiting for the clay to dry, students created Pop-Art self-portraits based on the work of Roy Lichtenstein. Our final project will be creating a Google Site to showcase our best work and learning. Throughout the year, our projects have incorporated brainstorming, questioning, problem solving, and critical analysis. Thank you for a fun & creative semester! I look forward to seeing the continued creative and artistic growth of our young artists next year!

### 8th Grade Elective Classes:

Students are completing their ceramic unit including hand building clay whistles, slab bowls, and wheel throwing experiences. For our final project, students will work on a silkscreen and drypoint printmaking unit. Throughout the year, our projects have incorporated brainstorming, questioning, problem solving, and critical analysis. Thank you for a fun, creative semester and best wishes as you continue your artistic and creative journey in high school and beyond!

***Please remember to come to the art room before school ends to pick up all artwork!***

***“Some people only dream of meeting their favorite artists.***

***I teach mine.”***

## Computers

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Classes:**

The 7th graders are completing their final Google Slides presentation. We have spent a lot of time on the appropriate use of the tool, as a visual aide to their oral presentations. We have also focused on our oral skills. Many oral presentations are required in 8th grade, high school and beyond. We have spent the last weeks of the semester focused on the skills they will be using here at JW and beyond.

### **8th Grade Elective Classes:**

The 8th grade students are now tasked with creating their portfolio website. This is a very challenging project! They are using Adobe Dreamweaver to create their web pages from scratch, no templates are used. They are required to design a layout, make color choices, and decide what class projects they want to use to represent themselves. This project can be very challenging for students because they are required to use all 3 programs at the same time, Adobe Photoshop, Flash and Dreamweaver. The students are using a lot of critical thinking and creative problem solving to complete their semester.

## Health Exploratory/Physical Education

### **7th Grade Exploratory Health Class**

Mrs Waterbury's health class has begun our last unit of the year, Growth and Development/Grooming and Hygiene.

Students will learn vocabulary and concepts of the changes that are occurring in their adolescent bodies.

This information will lead us to the topics of acne, skin and hair care, dental care, protecting our skin from the sun, good posture and scoliosis, body odor and good hygiene practices.



Mr. Tredwell's health class will finish out the year with the ever-popular growth, development, grooming and hygiene unit. While tackling the various changes that occur during the wondrous time that is adolescence, we'll also discuss many different things we should do on a daily basis to keep ourselves looking and feeling presentable.

## Physical Education

Having finally put a bow on our spring fitness testing, it's time to get outside! If Mother Nature is agreeable, we will have all our 7th and 8th grade students outside playing a variety of our favorite cooperative games for the rest of the school year.

## Library



7th grade Music is wrapping up their time in the library with the Influential Musicians project as they present their digital posters. 8th graders are trying to BreakOut one final time doing some puzzle solving for their Dystopia unit. As we move towards the end of the school year the library is busy collecting the remainder of circulating books. This school year the library circulated over 5,497 books, a 22% increase/student over last year --hope to keep the momentum going as 7th graders come in to check out books to read over the summer!



## Life Management

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Class

7th grade Life Management students completed 5 food production labs with success. We made gluten free, nut free granola, sugar cookies, healthy veggie rice, meatballs with red sauce, and homemade mac-and-cheese. Now, students are applying their newly learned kitchen knowledge by developing a recipe for a healthy afterschool snack. They will market the the snack to the class in a final presentation. For the last week of school, we will celebrate by making personal pizzas with dough made from scratch!

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Class

8th grade Life Management students spent a few weeks exploring the impact of sugar, reading nutrition labels, and analyzing processed foods. Now, 8th grade Life Management students are exploring career prospects. Students prepared for the career unit by completing a Reflected Best Self project. During this project, students were asked to compile feedback, reflect on personal strengths, and align personal strengths with potential industries or specific careers. After compiling responses and writing reflections, 8th grade students are using various websites to explore career paths and opportunities that will help them gain experience during high school.

## Music Exploratory



Exploratory Music classes have completed their “Influential Musicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” project on a website and iPad app called Glogster. Students researched a musician or band that has been influential in the music world. With the help of Miss Pronovost, they learned valuable research skills, for both print and non-print sources. Students compiled all of this information into a digital poster called a “Glog”. They used this to present their musician to the class, so we could all learn about the

different musicians that have had an impact on the music we listen to today. Students also used this project to work on presentation skills that will carry over into other classes.

Our last unit of the year will focus on the blues genre. We will study the history of it and how blues songs are composed. This will culminate in students writing a blues song of their own!

## **Jazz Ensemble**

Congratulations on an outstanding performance at the spring concert! And a special thank you to John Baczewski, Valley student, for drumming with us! Jazz Band students may sleep in for the remainder of the school year. I would like to wish the 8<sup>th</sup> graders well as they move on to music in high school and look forward to an exciting year with the 7<sup>th</sup> (soon-to-be 8<sup>th</sup>!) graders. Auditions for next year will occur in mid-September.



## **Band (7th & 8th)**

Congratulations on a wonderful performance! 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands should be very proud of their hard work and successful performance at the spring concert. We are currently reflecting on our performance, through class discussion and written assessments. We performed our Armed Forces medley at the JW Memorial Day ceremony and marched at the Chester Memorial Day Parade. All students did a great job, and were very respectful, as we remembered those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

## **Chorus (7th & 8th)**

What a stellar performance! 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choruses should be very proud of their expressive performance at the spring concert. We are currently reflecting on our performance, through class discussion and written assessments. We are also brushing up on our solfege/sight-reading skills, including assessments on pitch-reading. Both choruses sang the national anthem at the JW Memorial Day ceremony. Eighth graders are also diligently preparing their “graduation” song for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night.



## **Technology Education**

When I talk about the CCPS Rubric this is what the students are doing to complete their work in my class.



## Critical and Creative

### Problem Solving Rubric

**Section A = What is the actual problem you have to solve.**

**Section B = Come up with possible solutions to the problems you are working with.**

**Section C = Pick the best Idea**

**Section D = Create a product that use Section C as its basis.**

**Section E = Evaluate your product for what went well and what could be improved.**

### 7th Grade Exploratory

We have completed taking the tests on the machines the students will need to use on their projects. Students had to pass each test with an 80 or above. We have started to work on our CCPS projects and their personal woodworking projects. We will continue to use our machines to help complete these projects.

If you would, please review the steps above on how to create an excellent CCPS project. Reviewing this will prepare you better for any questions you may ask your child as to what they are doing in class. Students are working in teams of three to make a table tennis ball launcher using only the materials that I provide them with only. They must be able to launch a ball over 24 feet and hit a 5 gallon bucket 4 out of 5 times or toss the table tennis ball into the bucket at 10 feet.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective:

I have taught students how to use the 4 machines that they need to use this year, the Bandsaw, Drill Press, Jigsaw and Sander. Students needed to pass the test on each machine with an 80 or above before they can use the machine.

We have started work on our Objects in Motion product. Besides using the machines, students are applying the *steps for creating a CCPS project*, shown above, on their project. Students use the science that they learned to help them make their decisions in the design process. Students are also using the the steps to create a successful CCPS product. The CO2 powered cars are being built at a safe steady pace.

## World Languages

### French

#### 7th Grade Elective Classes:

Seventh grade French students are currently working on their final project: An autobiography, using the language that they have acquired throughout the school year. They will be able to introduce themselves and identify their nationality, talk about classes in school, and talk about

some of the activities that they do throughout the day. This will be a project that is both written and recorded, and will be due June 6th (for B day students) and June 7th (for A day students).

It has been a pleasure to work with your children, both this year, and over the last eighteen in Region 4. I will be leaving John Winthrop at the end of the school year to teach at Rocky Hill High School. Thank you for helping to make my experience a positive one!

### **8th Grade Classes:**

Eighth grade French students are currently working on their final project: A trip to a Francophone country. They will be researching flight information, monuments and fun facts, and coming up with a list of what to pack, and where to dine. This is a group project, and students are expected to write and record their presentations. The final presentation will be due Friday, June 7th.



It has been a pleasure to work with your children, both this year, and over the last eighteen in Region 4. I will be leaving John Winthrop at the end of the school year to teach at Rocky Hill High School. Thank you for helping to make my experience a positive one!

## **Spanish**

### **7th grade classes:**

Seventh grade Spanish students are currently working on their final project: An autobiography, using the language that they have acquired throughout the school year. They will be able to introduce themselves and identify their nationality, talk about classes in school, and talk about some of the activities that they do throughout the day. This will be a project that is both written and recorded, and will be due June 10th (for B day students) and June 7th (for A day students).

### **8th grade classes**

Eighth grade students are currently working on their final project: Un espectáculo de arte. The students will play the role of event planners that need to create a night of art in a famous or historic site in a Spanish-speaking country. The night needs to include an art exhibition and food, as well as a play, a dance, or a movie. This is a group project, and students are expected to write and record their presentations. The final presentation will be due Friday, June 7th.

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