

LEVEL 3

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Academics and More

Welcome back! Our hybrid of in-class and distance-online students and teachers is working surprisingly well so far. In our 2-week Orientation cycle, students have had a number of lessons to set the stage for our academic year. Language, literature, and writing lessons have included different formats for literature responses, issues hiding in literature texts, writing issue-based paragraphs, introduction to apprentice sentences, and how to prepare etymology cards. In science, we've had a lesson on the Timeline of Light, in which we covered the history of the universe and how our thematic cycles in physical science this year are tied in to it. Students are now completing a science follow-up work of their choice. In Geography and Current Events, students learned how to access *Upfront Magazine* online, and wrote an opinion paragraph in response to the *Upfront Magazine* article, "Are Smartphones Making Us Stupid?" In Personal World work, each student is setting a semester goal. As part of the process, students are first exploring how realistic their goal is, how motivated they are to pursue it, and what specific steps they'll take to implement it.

In math, we've picked up where summer work left off. We've also been doing substantial review and practice for our upcoming Stanford Achievement Test Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

We all continue to learn more about the power, nuances, (and limitations) of Google Classroom, and how we can more smoothly integrate it with our work. In music, students are currently exploring the software Chrome Music Lab, and we are working on figuring out how to make everyone's compositions play properly over Zoom. (If you know, please tell us!)



Standardized Testing This Coming Monday-Wednesday

This coming Monday-Wednesday, we'll be making up the standardized testing students missed last Spring. The testing will occur mostly on Monday and Wednesday mornings, with a shorter section on Tuesday morning.

Our distance learners should prepare a clean, uncluttered desk or table at which to sit. All students, both in-class and distance learners, should have water to drink during the testing and healthy snacks to have in between tests.

Summer Report

For a summer of restricted movement and travel, our 7th and 8th graders had a variety of adventures. Here are some highlights:

Rian spent a month in Nevada, where he visited Rock Canyon State Park; Simeon won an online gaming tournament and received a \$1,000 prize, Ale has almost finished building his own computer; Diver took online classes in art, video-making, and animation; Jacob and Austin enjoyed a fishing trip together; Avery has been fishing competitively, as well as with her family (on one of their trips, they had an intimate and peaceful encounter with a whale shark!); Mary Ann has continued her highly successful jewelry business and has been enjoying time with her new baby sister, Claire (Baby Claire is also Beronica's big summer sharing); Jacob built a model of a pirate ship.

(More next week)



Picture taken by Rian

as he biked to Red Rock Canyon State Park



Austin and Jacob's Fishing Trip



Mary Ann with Baby Clair



Jacob and His Ship Model



Diver with a Piece of Her Art



Ale and His Hand Built Computer



Avery with One of Her Catches

Online Help after School

Although we don't have our former tutorial structure, both Beronica and I are available most weekdays (except Mondays) to help students after school (until

about 4:45 PM) in any areas they may need or want help in. Students should text us if they wish to set up a time.

Thank you to... 

 The Zinhan family, for getting hula hoops all of the in-class 7th and 8th graders. It's been a great activity for social distancing outside!

Level 3 Families, we are always grateful for all you contribute to our middle school program.

Questions?

PARENTS AND STUDENTS: We encourage you to contact us with any questions and concerns. The best time to call us is in the evening; alternatively, you can email or text us any time:

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-The Level 3 Team (Robin, Deana, and Beronica)

Please send any email address changes and updates to redidin@centermontessori.org