South Fayette Intermediate School - October 2019 Building Report

Third Grade

The boys and girls have been very busy in third grade. Students have settled into their routines in the Intermediate School. Boys and girls have learned their way around the building, attended STEAM and Special classes for a few rotations at this point, and some students began instrument lessons.

In math class, the boys and girls have started off the year multiplying!!! The third grade mathematicians have been learning strategies to solve all of the multiplication facts. We have also learned to use the commutative property, distributive property, and associative property.

In language arts, boys and girls are nearing the end of the first unit already! Students have been busy writing narratives about personal experiences. Not only have they been writing, but third graders have also been reading selections on topics such as Roberto Clemente and building the Golden Gate Bridge. Lastly, students have been learning about different types of sentences, subject and predicate, and all about nouns.

Lastly, in social studies the third graders have been learning their way around maps and globes. Students created a compass rose, navigated maps, and created globes. Hopefully the next trip your child takes, he or she can help to get to the destination!

Submitted by
Rochelle Thompson
Third Grade Teacher

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade is Glowing

Fourth grade students are really lighting it up while finishing our science unit on electric circuits. The students were able to build their own circuits and learn the importance of switches in the flow of electricity. Fourth graders learned the significance of series and parallel circuits and how to create examples of each type. Our ROAR theme for October is Responsibility. The students and teachers are spending time reflecting on ways they can lend a hand to those around them. The students will be reading, “Spookly the Square Pumpkin,” and creating their very own unique Spookly! The creative boxes will be displayed on the fourth grade floor throughout the month. Our future looks BRIGHT!

Submitted by
Emily Martin
Fourth Grade Teacher
Fifth Grade

This month in language arts, the students have been studying narrative writing and story structure. To make writing more meaningful and authentic, the students interviewed family members in search of inspiration, similar to the character Eva from “Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street”. The students then used the stories they gathered in these interviews to inspire the plot for their own narratives. The students used literary elements and followed the plot structure to bring their own narratives to life.

The fifth grade students are currently studying stereotypes in social studies. The students are learning what stereotypes are, where they come from, and why they aren’t true. They are also connecting stereotypes to our first unit on Native Americans to further understand why stereotypes are not true statements, and individuals within a group are all different.

In math, the students have completed their first unit on place value. The students learned place values as great as one million and as small as one thousandth. They learned how to write these numbers in word form, standard form, and in expanded form using exponents and fractions. We have now begun Unit 2, which focuses on adding and subtracting decimals. The students use estimation, compensation, and compatible numbers to determine if their answers are reasonable.

Submitted by
Elizabeth Poluszejko
Fifth Grade Teacher

STEAM
An Exciting Start to STEAM

Our Intermediate School students began their first big projects in STEAM. Our third graders are creating LEGO animals. Students will program their LEGO animal to have different adaptations and then program the Sphero robot to take a tour around the zoo. Come check out their creations in the LEGO and Space STEAM labs! Our fourth graders are preparing to send their name to Mars on the 2020 Mars Rover by completing missions from NASA. Currently, the students are creating a scratch project to demonstrate the rotation and revolution between the Earth, Moon, and Sun. Our fifth graders are working on representing themes from fables using hummingbird robotics to add lights, sensors, and motors. We cannot wait to see what they will create!

Submitted by
Victoria Lojek
STEAM Teacher
Fine Arts
News from the Instrumental Music Programs

The 2019-2020 year is off to a busy start in the String Orchestra and Band programs! Over 250 students in third through fifth grade attended Instrument Discovery Days in the music wing where they had the opportunity to try out an instrument to study. Representatives from local music stores brought in various instruments including the Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Trumpet, Alto Saxophone, Flute, Trombone, Clarinet, and Percussion. Students were able to play each instrument and choose their favorite. Instrumental music lessons meet once per week during the school day and second and third year band/strings students also meet as an after school ensemble to rehearse as a full group for concerts. After school Band is available for students in 5th grade and after school String Orchestra is available for students in both 4th and 5th grades. These after school ensembles will perform multiple concerts each year to showcase student’s learning and to build performance skills.

Save the date! The 3rd and 4th grade String Orchestra will hold a winter performance for friends and family at 6:00 pm on the evening of December 10th, 2019 in the SFIS Gymnasium. 4th grade Band and Strings students will also perform music in the hallways for parents, teachers, and fellow classmates during the weeks of December 9th and 16th, 2019. The 5th grade Band, String Orchestra and Choir/Orff Ensembles will perform their annual winter concert on Wednesday, December 4th at the South Fayette High School Auditorium at 7:00pm. The 4th grade Orchestra will perform their spring concert during Celebration of Excellence on Thursday, April 16th at 7:00pm in the Intermediate School Gymnasium. The 5th grade Band, String Orchestra, and Choir/Orff Ensembles will perform their annual spring concert on Tuesday, May 5th at the South Fayette High School Auditorium at 7:00pm during the Arts Showcase. The 3rd grade beginning Strings and 4th grade beginning Band will perform their spring concert for fellow classmates, teachers, and parents on Monday, May 18th at 2:00pm in the Intermediate School Gymnasium. All are welcome! We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your support of music education, which makes all of this possible.

Submitted by
Christina Crivelli
Intermediate Strings Teacher