

January 2021

January 7, 2021

Hello Jr High parents – It was great to see how all the kids (and I!) remembered how to find our school again. :) Good to see everyone!

I thought you might like a brief overview of upcoming studies. Any questions, or if you're interested in more detail, just let me know.

– HISTORY: We started the week learning about the Great-Depression-That-Was-Overshadowed-by-the-Great-Depression, the one in the 1890s, when half the farmers in Kansas lost their farms and the US Bank had to go to J.P. Morgan personally for a bailout (how's that for a switch!). We're going to move through to the early 1900s, when the United States began stepping on the world stage.

– LANGUAGE ARTS: We've finished *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*, the story of a white farm girl in the 1890s who likes science, and are starting *The Mighty Miss Malone*, the story of a black girl in the city in the other Great Depression. Both are strong characters, and we'll have some good language-arts contrasts to pursue.

– MATH: We're making sure our work with probability is nailed down, and are about to start the next book in the *Beast Academy* series. It'll get us to "Expressions and Equations" after some work that goes deeper into 3D-solids and integers.

– SCIENCE: Electricity is about to wind up, and then we'll take a look at matter. That will progress to Earth studies, including weather and the atmosphere, then outward bound to space.

Writing Workshop, Art, Spanish, and Music will continue their progress along the lines of our fall session. In Projects, we hope to move on to building some tables for the Toddler Community that they need.

...and of course, we're continuing to reinforce good health guidelines regarding Covid-19.

Thanks to everyone, holler whenever you need me, and I'm looking forward to a fun and productive spring session! I'll keep in touch.

Bests, Elizabeth.

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January 27, 2021

Hello jr high parents - in case your student missed school on Tuesday, here's a snapshot of what we were up to, along with homework to do tonight for Thursday:

**MATH:** I gave back homework pages 11-13 in BAP. We dissected one of the problems, the tube-in-a-cube one, and I collected the next assignment. So, to catch up, everyone, read page 30 in BAP carefully and do page 31. Also, read the next lesson (Mrs Q on volume) as we're diving into that on Thursday.

**HISTORY/LANGUAGE ARTS:** We had a pleasant discussion on the two chapters that were assigned for Tuesday, which included Jimmie singing "Shenandoah" and "Motherless Child." We pulled up versions of them to listen to on my iPad, and got to do a little jelling out. One of the characters in MMM used to play harmonica for Bessie Smith, so we got to listen to some of her great old blues also. A lot of fun. Assignment is to read Chapters 24 to 26 in MMM.

**PROJECTS:** Mr. DiNinno came in the afternoon, and the kids got to use a power sander and other tools to finish a stool, bat houses, and continue getting our table project well underway for the Toddler Community.

We're looking to raise money for a set of rackets and birdies for crossminton - ask your student about it. It's very fun, and teaching us about gross vs net profit!

See you tomorrow! Bests, Elizabeth.