



# Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy Principal's Newsletter

November 2022

Lori O'Mara, Principal

## Principal's Message

### Hello Families-

Thank you for all of your support in getting the school year off to a good start. At this point EVERYTHING is in full swing.

**Academics-** We have completed the first marking period! I'm so proud of all of the hard work being engaged in by our students and staff. We have 511 students who earned a grade point average of 90% or greater in their classes. They have been named to the Principal's List for Marking Period 1. Students who maintain a 90% or greater in every marking period are named to the year-long Principal's List and are acknowledged at the end of the year Awards Ceremonies. Several classes have already engaged in academic trips and all students have already participated in academic screeners. Our school-wide reading contest Fall into Reading is beginning this week and is kicked off with our Scholastic Book Fair the week of October 31.

**SEL-** Our PBIS Program is in full swing with a school-wide kick-off and the opening of the Tiger Token Trading Post where students use their Tiger Tokens to select items or experiences. Students have been earning Tiger Tokens in class and from out of class staff as well. We continue to reinforce the behaviors which we believe characterize Tiger PRIDE (Punctuality, Respect, Independence, Determination and Enthusiasm). This is all captured on the PBIS Rewards App. Ask your child to show you theirs.

Our **Restorative Circles** are running with all students in grade 6,7 and 8. And, the DESSA screener will be implemented in the coming month. The DESSA screener is a strengths-based assessment which informs school-wide and student-level decisions about the next SEL learning steps. We also held a week-long celebration for Anti-Bullying where we engaged in activities designed to promote REACHING OUT to help yourself or a friend in need.

**Activities-** Clubs, dances, trips and celebrations-we've had it all, already! The clubs are running very steadily with active attendance in most clubs throughout the week. Encourage your child to get involved. It is a nice opportunity to socialize around common interests and build that college-ready resume. Every club is endeavoring to go on a trip, produce an activity for the school or engage in a service project this year. So far RKA students have gone to Wave Hill, out hiking on Croton on Hudson, and Johnson avenue for the Halloween celebration. Our Honor Society is also about to announce their latest community service project coming in November!

The **HS Halloween Dance** was awesome, and we look forward to the **MS Fall Dance** in the next couple of weeks. Many thanks to our World Languages Department who designed and hosted the Hispanic Heritage Celebration for staff and students.

**Athletics-** Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Girls Volleyball are all playoff-bound with excellent win/loss records! The Cross Country team was recently featured in the Riverdale Press highlighting their accomplishments. Good luck to our teams in their final games. And, let's get ready for Winter Sports, too!

**Finally-** I hope we can all send well-wishes to our Class of 2023 Seniors as they engage in college application season. The school supported them by hosting a hugely attended College Fair, held a parade through the school for them, brought in CUNY and SUNY reps, are holding one-on-one application support meetings, and held several parent nights on FAFSA and the application process. The entire High School engaged in Triple C Day focusing on College, Career, and Culture.

Please remember to make sure you have activated your **NYCSA account** which will allow you to see report cards, attendance, and shortly, student's assignment level data! Contact JPrince4@schools.nyc.gov for all the info.

Lori O'Mara

### Upcoming Dates

**Halloween Spirit Day**— 10/31  
**Fall Into Reading**—Month of November  
**Coffee with the Principal (virtual)**—11/4, 9:00 AM  
**Turn back the clocks**—11/6  
**5th Grade Parent Tours**—11/18, 12/2 (in person) 8:45 AM.  
 11/3 (virtual)  
**Election Day (no classes)**—11/8  
**MS Dance**—11/9, 5:00-8:00  
**Veteran's Day (schools closed)**— 11/11

### Upcoming Dates

**Triple C**—11/13  
**Senior Spirit Week**—11/14-11/18  
**SLT Meeting**—11/16, 3:00  
**P/T Cconferences (virtual)**—11/17, 6:00-8:30, 11/18  
 (half day of classes), 1:00-3:00.  
**You Make a Difference (virtual)** —11/23, 9:00 AM  
**Thanksgiving (schools closed)**—11/24-11/25  
**Honor Society meetings (invited students)**—11/28, 3:00  
**Teen Theater production**—12/2 and 12/3 7:00 PM (details TBD)  
**End of Marking Period 2**—12/2 11:20 7:00 PM

# Grade 6 Family Newsletter

## November 2022

### Social Studies

Using the DOE *Passport* Curriculum, students have been enjoying learning about our world through the lens of geography. They have created travel brochures using the Five Themes of Geography and will continue to develop their map-reading skills. We will also be examining how humans have shaped the world through their interactions with their environment. Next, we will focus on prehistoric times, practicing using the skills of archeologists like analyzing artifacts and conducting research, in order to learn about the amazing ways early humans adapted to their environment to create the foundations that led to the rise of civilizations.



### Science

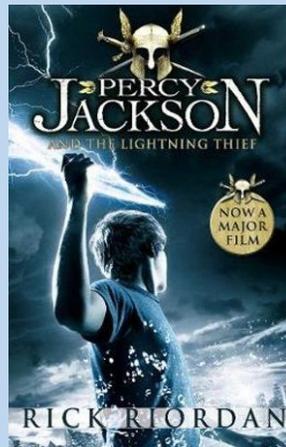
The school year has gotten off to a good start. We are using an exciting curriculum called *Amplify Science*. This program helps teachers deliver a literacy-rich course of instruction enabling students to take on the roles of scientists and engineers to solve real world problems. Sixth grade students have already finished a unit called Harnessing Human Energy, where students are challenged to design a way for rescue workers to get energy to the electrical devices they use on rescue missions, far from electrical outlets. To do this, students have learned about possible sources of energy, and figuring out ways to capture that energy. Our current unit, Thermal Energy, has students play the role of thermal scientists working with the principal of a fictional school, in order to help choose a new heater system. The principal is considering two proposed systems, both of which would use water to heat the school. However, these systems differ in important ways.

### Math/Math Thru Technology

We have just finished our first unit on Geometry. Students have learned how to identify and find the area of polygons and irregular figures. After this, we learned how to identify polyhedral, determine volume, and calculate the surface area of 3-dimensional figures. Next, we'll be working with ratios, equivalence, and rates. All assignments are listed on Google Classroom. Our daily classwork is done on student.desmos.com.

### ELA

We are currently reading *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. Students are working on writing evidence-based paragraphs using the RACE method. Looking ahead, we will be diving into understanding unfamiliar vocabulary and answering multiple-choice questions using various reading strategies.



### Literature

Literature Circles are in full swing! Student groups have started their first text based on their interests and reading level. Each group collaborated to create their own reading schedule and expected to finish their first novel by November 30th. We have begun examining the exposition of their stories, focusing on the setting, characters, and point of view. In the coming weeks, students will begin to identify the conflict within their own text. Be sure to ask you child about their book!

## Fall Into Reading!!

Month of November

Great Prizes!

Register here! [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexEAFkYVKIENYDoP3eGowWPa8kKFbVzy8-9BLH-wxfqrCPg/viewform?usp=sf link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexEAFkYVKIENYDoP3eGowWPa8kKFbVzy8-9BLH-wxfqrCPg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

# Grade 7 Family Newsletter

## October 2022

### ELA

Students have been hard at work developing their literacy skills. We opened the semester with reviewing protocols and setting up classroom agreements for the school year. We had a wonderful time seeing *The Music Man* on Broadway. We have all turned our attention to our first unit of study in our new EL Education curriculum. We are currently reading *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park. Please monitor your child's progress on Google Classroom, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you have

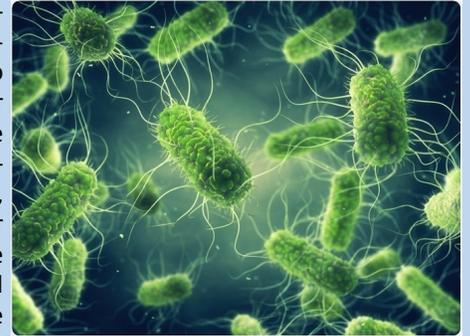


### Math/Math Through Technology

We are midway through our second unit, which introduces proportional relationships. The first part of the unit uses tables to recognize proportional relationships and calculate the constant of proportionality. Part 2 uses equations to analyze proportional relationships. Part 3 uses graphs to recognize and analyze proportional relationships, and Part 4 models real-world situations using representations of proportional relationships. Some key vocabulary terms to remember: equivalent ratios, proportional relationship, constant of proportionality, reciprocal, origin, and coordinate plane.

### Science

Students have been learning about the role of microorganisms in our bodies to keep us healthy. After discovering the relative size and scale of microorganisms and molecules, students applied their understandings to a case study of a patient infected with bacteria that cause food poisoning. They used



this case study as evidence to craft a scientific argument against a fictitious senator who is attempting to remove public funding from their scientific research institute. As we move into our next unit on metabolism, students are revisiting molecules and cells to determine what a cell needs to function properly. This will set us up to evaluate data from a medical patient to discover what mysterious disease or condition is making them sick..

### Social Studies

We are learning about three regions of Colonial America: New Amsterdam, Middle, and Southern. Students interact with primary sources through stations that include table twitters and 5-3-1 analysis. Students read documents and respond with a question and statement. They write five things they notice, three important details and the main idea. They are developing critical analysis skills that can be applied to all interactions with historical documents. Next, we will cover the road to American Independence.



### Spanish

We have been learning about Hispanic Heritage Month and working on a project in collaboration with our school librarian, Ms. Loving. Students were given a Spanish-speaking country and a cultural aspect and did research based on that. It was our way of recognizing Hispanic culture, communities, and individuals that make a difference in the lives of others. The final presentation will be a gallery walk in the library.

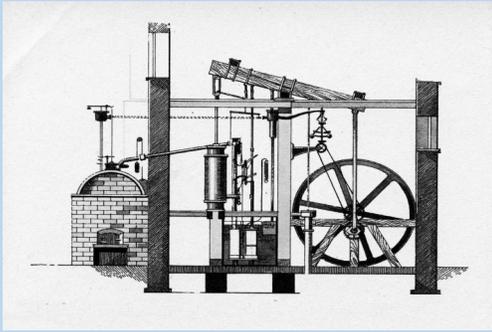


# Grade 8 Family Newsletter

## November 2022

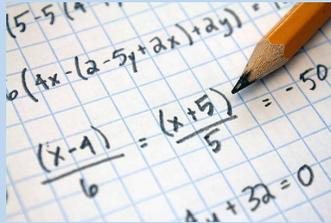
### Social Studies

Hello! As we close our first Marking Period, we have completed our earliest units: Reconstruction and The Industrial Revolution. Students successfully completed their first complete essay and their first unit test. Project work continues to support both content and skills including speaking and listening skills. In the second marking period we will build on these skills in the context of Immigration.



### Algebra

We have spent the first marking period learning how to use different representations to model a linear or exponential relationship. Now, we are exploring linear equations and will soon move to linear inequalities. This work is foundational for Algebra, and will be referenced throughout the year. Our next unit will have us looking at describing data in our statistics unit. Please be sure your children bring their graphing calculators and device every day—it is essential!



### Spanish

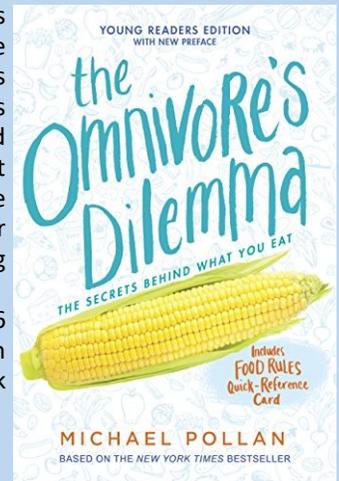
Currently, we are reviewing content from the 7th grade. Students were given their username and password to their online textbook: <https://my.hrw.com>. We have been learning about Hispanic Heritage Month and working on a project in collaboration with our school librarian, Ms. Loving. Students were given a Spanish-speaking country and a cultural aspect and did research based on that. It was our way of recognizing Hispanic culture, communities, and individuals that make a difference in the lives of others. The final presentation will be a gallery walk in the library.



**HISPANIC  
HERITAGE MONTH**

### ELA

Students are reading *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan, in order to investigate the secrets behind America's food industry. As we explore this non-fiction text, we will not only engage in daily class discussions about practicing mindfulness in our own food choices, but think critically about how problems in America's food industry continue to be sustained. We will also use the book to practice comprehension skills in information reading, such as: delineating the author's arguments to answer the module questions: Where does our food come from? What factors influence our access to healthy food? And more. Students must also continue developing their independent reading assignments—a book report every 6 or 7 weeks based on an appropriate book of their choice.



### Living Environment



We are studying Unit 1—The Marathon Runner. Students have been presented with the story of a woman who collapsed after successfully completing a marathon.

To figure out what happened, they've planned and conducted investigations related to how body systems interact to effectively monitor and respond to both internal and external environmental changes. They've developed and used models to illustrate processes that occur in the human body in order to maintain homeostasis—including gas exchange, glucose regulation, thermoregulation, and water balance. They will use this model to write an explanation of what happened to the marathon runner.



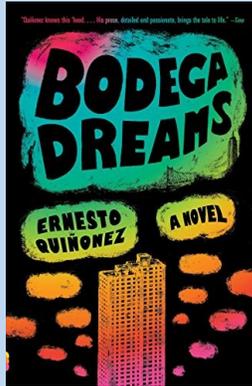
# High School ELA Family Newsletter

## Grade 9

We have kicked off with a narrative writing unit, focused on the theories of growth mindset and neuroplasticity, and how these can set students up for success in high school. Through our writing process we examined the unhelpful ideas we have about ourselves and how “training our brains” can help us become more successful in school, and in life in general!

## Grade 10

Students will participate in a unit designed around the novel, *Bodega Dreams*, by Ernesto Quinonez. The novel is an exploration of identity through the lens of young LatinX characters growing up in NYC. One of the essential questions we will discuss is whether or not our environment affects and influences our ability to succeed. We will also focus on identifying and analyzing the central idea of the text—a skill necessary for the Regents exam in 11th grade.



## Grade 11

We have begun the year with a skill-based unit. We are focusing on the NYS Regents exam and the SATs this year. We are practicing higher-level close reading, evidence-based writing, and public speaking skills, and have learned several strategies for analysis. We will “flip the classroom” to teach lessons on McCarthyism through primary documents. We’ve read academic and popular articles on the Salem Witch Trials and will use these to write persuasive research essays which will prepare them for college work, as well as the next text we will read, Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*.



## Grade 12

Seniors are working on their college essays, learning ways to improve storytelling. We have focused on writing strong introductions, strong conclusions, and incorporating more details. We will soon finish these essays and ensure they are polished in time for many of the college application deadlines.

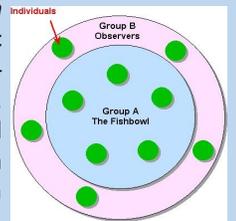


## AP Language & Composition

We have begun the year with a skill-based unit. We are focusing on the NYS Regents exam and the SATs this year. We are practicing higher-level close reading, evidence-based writing, and public speaking skills, and have learned several strategies for analysis. We will “flip the classroom” to teach lessons on McCarthyism through primary documents. We’ve read academic and popular articles on the Salem Witch Trials and will use these to write persuasive research essays which will prepare them for college work, as well as the next text we will read, Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*. We will also be learning the elements of rhetoric to use in analysis of persuasive texts and also in their own writing.

## AP Literature & Composition

We have all written our college essays, going through multiple drafts with feedback, stimulated by a wonderful writing style guide by John Trimble, *Writing With Style*. As we focus on college academic skills, we have begun to read and analyze a series of essays on current topics, such as disability, homelessness, and racial profiling. We will write our own essays on these topics and participate in Fishbowl Socratic Seminar discussions.



## Filmmaking



Students have learned about the first two elements of “mise en scene” (shot size and color theory). They have been engaging in filmmaking challenges to support their learning in these areas. As we move into November, we will be looking at more elements of mise en scene—lighting, depth of space, and dominants.

## Journalism

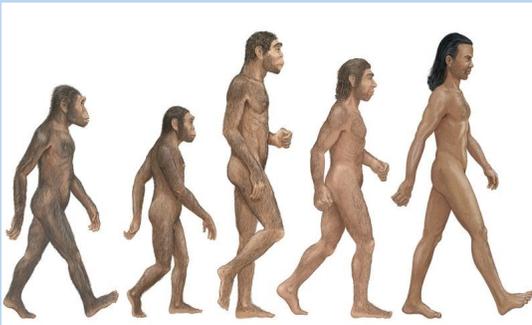
We have spent the first marking period learning the core concepts that underpin journalism from the first amendment’s right of free press to the ethics that guide journalists in their work. In the second marking period, we will focus on producing articles for the school newspaper.



# High School Social Studies Family Newsletter

## Global Studies - Grade 9

We began the year by introducing the Paleolithic Age and how humans evolved from early hominids. Then, we learned about the discovery of farming in the Neolithic Revolution. Students can now explain how advances in agriculture led to the development of civilization, which includes government, laws, permanent settlement, and job specialization. Next, we will study River Valley civilizations.



## Economics—Grade 12

This past marking period, we studied an introduction to macro and micro economics, wants, needs, supply and demand, and opportunity costs. We also studied various economic systems and wrote our first paper comparing capitalist and socialist/communist systems. In the next marking period we will study loans, interest rates, careers, salaries, college costs, financial aid, banking, currency, and financial institutions. We will use readings, videos, projects, discussions, essays, quizzes, and other techniques to learn about Economics.



## Global Studies—Grade 10

We are studying about Political Revolutions, Classwork and homework are focusing on the causes and different stages of the French Revolution and its effects on 19th century Europe and Latin America. Students will write an argumentative piece about Napoleon, and create a political cartoon about the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

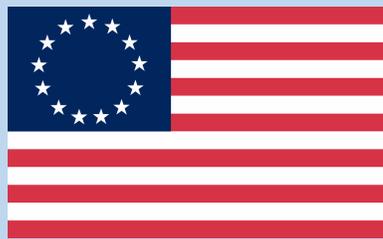


As an assessment, students will take a multiple-choice test and write an in-class essay aligned with the Global Regents, which they will be taking in June 2023.

## US History (Grade 11)

Students are wrapping the first marking period with our study of the American Revolution and the early forms of national government: The Articles of Confederation and the transition to the U.S. Constitution. We completed a document-based short essay (DBQ) on the causes of tension between America and Britain in the 1760s and they took their first multiple-choice test. Next, we will explore the tension between state and federal powers, culminating in a longer DBQ.

## AP US History



We are studying the American Revolution, after completing our unit on the British American colonies. Students completed in-class short answer questions on 18th century transatlantic trade networks and the effects of the French and Indian War, and a DBQ essay on the ways Puritan values shaped colonial New England. Our first

multiple-choice test covered material up to 1763 (the end of the French and Indian War), and upcoming class discussion will delve deeper into the extent historians agree about the “revolutionary” nature of the American Revolution.

## Criminal Law

Students have learned a variety of concepts dealing with law. Most fundamental was the “rule of law,” and its various elements. We did a deep dive into public corruption, the importance of transparency, and the separation of powers. We analyzed the difference between a law and an executive order, by studying the recent student loan forgiveness plan. Next, we will study human rights.





# High School Spanish Family Newsletter

## Spanish I

Our first unit in *Level 1 Avancemos* focuses on real-life communication and authentic culture, practicing reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will employ critical thinking skills as they compare the Spanish language and culture with that of their own community. They are learning to say where they are from, what day of the week it is, describe the weather, and respond to classroom instructions. Please encourage your child to review vocabulary every day and to use Spanish wherever possible. Try listening to some Spanish TV and music!

## Spanish III (LOTE)

Students are preparing to take their LOTE exam in June. They will become familiar with all parts of the exam (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). Since we've started, we've concentrated on Hispanic Heritage Month, done a *Todo Sobre Mi* project, and started an extensive review of last year's work. We will now cover topics such as: daily routines, family life, and chores. We will learn new vocabulary, as well as stem-changing verbs, reflexive verbs, the impersonal use of *se*, and the preterit tense. Students will have to write two 120-word essays and prepare and present dialogues related to the topics learned.



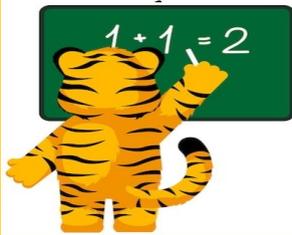
## Spanish II

We opened the school year with a focus on Hispanic Heritage Month. We are in the first unit of the *Avancemos level 2* program, focusing on Florida's Hispanic population and its cultural celebrations. We are reviewing last year's learning, and working on identifying and describing people, and talking about likes and dislikes. Next, we will focus on learning how to say where and when our friends go, how they think and feel and what they do. We will focus on articles, subject pronouns, adjectives, present-tense verbs, and irregular verbs. Please encourage your child to review vocabulary every day and to use Spanish wherever possible. Try listening to some Spanish TV and music!



## AP Spanish Language and Culture

Students are preparing to take the AP Exam in May. They will become familiar with all parts of the exam. Throughout the course of the year, we will focus on all parts (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) After students become familiar with the setup of the AP Exam we will begin work on our first theme: Families and Communities. The first two contexts we focused on were educational communities and values and customs. We will continue our work with the contexts of family structures, global citizenship, human geography, and social networking. Students will write two 250-word essays and do two 5-minute oral presentations. They are encouraged to read articles related to the topics in order to increase their vocabulary comprehension or written text in the target language.



# High School Math Family Newsletter

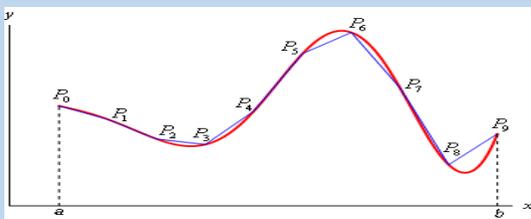
## Personal Finance

Students are working on a unit on credit cards. They will develop skills to compare and evaluate terms and conditions for various cards. They will shop for their first card and become aware of the cost of credit and other features of the card.



## Algebra II

We have completed our first unit, "Sequences and Functions." Students now know that sequences are functions and that geometric and arithmetic sequences are examples of the exponential and linear functions they learned about in previous courses, defined on a subset of the integers. Now we are studying Polynomials and Rational Functions. Students are learning how to graph functions of higher degree, and how to analyze key features of the functions. They are being introduced to situations polynomials can model in the real world, and how to divide polynomials, building on factoring skills learned in Algebra 1. The unit will conclude with a study of polynomial identities and deriving the formula for the sum of the first terms in a geometric sequences.



## AP Calculus AB

We have completed our first two units covering limits, rates of change, and half of the derivative formulas. Students recently submitted a project where they analyzed the rates of change on a real-life scenario of their choosing. Now we are covering more complex derivative formulas and students will learn how to apply derivatives to various situations. We are working on problems from the AP College Board website to prepare for the exam. Please check Google Classroom for updates.

## Geometry

We are busy covering Rigid Transformations. Students have learned various constructions using a compass and a straight edge and have been applying their skills in order to analyze reflections, translations, and rotations. They continue to work together through Illustrative Math activities in order to discover properties of various shapes through rigid transformations. Early on, we created our own designs using only a compass and a straightedge. Next, we will learn how to prove that two figures are congruent to each other. Keep checking Google Classroom.



## Algebra 1

Students have been navigating a curriculum both virtually and on paper. Students first investigate a topic through real world situations, and then discover how they can represent these situations mathematically. Once a topic has been introduced, students proceed to desmos tested understanding by showing work and providing evidence on paper. The combination of on paper work and Desmos allows the content to be accessible for all types of learners. Student are now beginning the topic of inequalities.

## Pre Calculus

Students recently wrapped up a unit on a few Algebra II topics which have been investigated on a deeper level. We are now moving on to a unit where students will navigate the unit circle which will open the door into a world of trigonometry. Student will develop skills and observe relationships which are integral when they take calculus in either AP Calc, or at the college level.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(c) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{c - c}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{0}{h} \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$



# High School Science Family Newsletter

## Weather and Climate

You can't avoid it; everyone experiences the weather and climate in their daily lives! This course provides an introduction to weather and climate phenomena. It is designed to provide knowledge of the earth's atmosphere and its changing behavior as it relates to human activities and as it influences our daily lives. This course provides a first look at various aspects of atmospheric science including solar radiation, global circulation, environmental issues, winds, cloud formation, stability, precipitation processes, weather systems, and severe weather. The course will also cover climate processes such as El Niño, Earth's past climates and mechanisms of future climate change. It emphasizes basic physical principles and processes that are important for a better understanding of the physical world, and is designed for students of all majors interested in weather and global environmental change and other environmental disciplines.

## Physics

We just wrapped up our first unit of 1-D motion and our moving on to 2-D motion and projectiles. In this unit, we will learn to analyze the motion of a basketball player's free throw shot or a pumpkin flying through the air.

## AP Environmental Science

We are studying Biodiversity, which includes genetics, species, and habitat diversity, all of which are critically important to ecosystems. Students will discover and discuss the following key concepts: biodiversity in ecosystems, natural and human disruptions, ecological succession. Organisms within ecosystems must adapt to the changes created by these disruptions. Next, we will examine in greater detail how populations change over time.

## Earth Science

For almost 12,000 years, Earth has been an ideal place for humans and other life to evolve. But a once very livable, Earth is becoming less livable due to human-caused stresses to Earth's systems. After brainstorming possible solutions, students will investigate the possibility of finding another Earth-like home in our galaxy. Students will develop a model to explain what makes Earth an ideal place for us to live based on patterns observed at different scales in data from simulations related to the stability of stars, planet formation, and planetary motion. They will use their models and explanations to consider other solar systems and to argue from evidence about which exoplanet is most Earth-like.

## AP Biology

AP Biology is a college level course that allows high school students to receive college credit. In class, we recently completed our first unit on the chemistry of life. During this topic students reviewed basic chemistry, explored the properties of water, and learned about the basic building blocks of life. We are presently investigating the structure and function of cells.

## AP Psychology

We have been learning about memory.—how memories are formed and forgotten, and about the parts of the brain involved. We have discussed methods to make memorizing easier. We have learned about thinking and language in our unit on Cognition. Now we are finishing up Intelligence and Testing. Next up: the history of Psychology and research methods.

## Living Environment

We are studying Unit 1—The Marathon Runner. Students have been presented with the story of a woman who collapsed after successfully completing a marathon. To figure out what happened, they've planned and conducted investigations related to how body systems interact to effectively monitor and respond to both internal and external environmental changes. They've developed and used models to illustrate processes that occur in the human body in order to maintain homeostasis—including gas exchange, glucose regulation, thermoregulation, and water balance. They will use this model to write an explanation of what happened to the marathon runner.

## Engineering

This past marking period, students created devices to protect an egg when it is dropped. They also completed bridges and are in the process of testing them. Next, we will study catapults and machine learning. We will hit the target!

## Chemistry

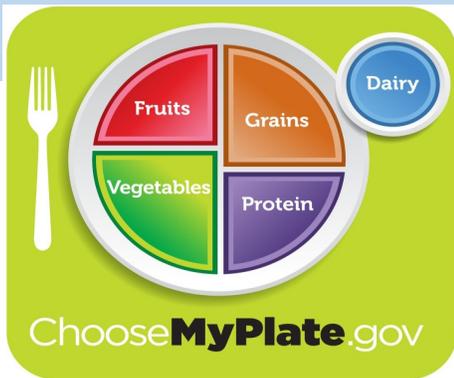
Chemistry is a Regents level course that is designed to make chemistry interesting while introducing fundamental principles and concepts. In class, we recently completed the first three chapters of the curriculum. During these topics' students learned how to define and measure matter, understand chemical formulas, and use the periodic table. We are presently exploring the atom.



# Physical Education Family Newsletter

## Middle School Health

We are working on Unit 1: Nutrition and Physical Activity. What are nutrients? What should I eat and how much? We are assessing our eating habits, learning how to read food labels, learning about healthy snacking and keeping food safe to eat. Students are working in groups and having discussions on the topics. The next four lessons will address: What influences my food choices? Resisting pressure to eat less healthy foods, Body Image basics, and the Positive Body Image Project.



## High School Health

High school students are also working on Nutrition and Physical Activity. In addition to this, our school SAPIS counselor, Ms. Johnson, will school our students about substance abuse and intervention.

## Physical Education



In high school, students are playing organized football, soccer, and whiffle ball games. They are working on skills in each of these sports. Please have them bring their RKA shirts to class—as well sneakers and a jacket or sweat-shirt as the weather gets cooler and we still go outside. Same goes for middle school, where students are working on a football unit, and learning to pass, run routes, and gameplay.



as



# It's the Arts!

## ... at RKA

### In the RKA Library....

In collaboration with the World Language Department, the RKA Library is holding a Gallery Walk the week of October 24th. It will highlight projects created by middle and high school students to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

Students interested in competing in the Ezra Jack Keats Bookmaking Competition please see Ms. Loving. It's a great way to celebrate writing—last year, we had a borough winner! <https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/ejk-bookmaking-competition/>

Ms. Loving's High School book club is reading August's Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*. Stop by the library to find out more!

The RKA library also hosts the Black Student Union & Allies Club on Thursdays from 3:00-4:00. All are welcome.

### Ms. Kaminski's Art

#### AP Art and Design

I'm excited to join you and your children as they begin the process of their own independent exploration of ideas and concepts that interest them. They will decide and focus on one particular issue that will culminate in a portfolio of work. That portfolio is the exam for the class. Ask them what direction they are planning and what materials they are thinking about. Feel free to reach out.

#### Introduction to Ceramics

As students continue to build a foundation of knowledge to understand the properties of clay and how to use them, they will start to complete early pieces through the multiple-step process of hand-building, firing, glazing, and firing again, to complete their first masterpieces. Think about making room on your shelves for the body of work they will be creating this year..

#### Painting Through History

We are covering the basics of color theory and how to use materials. Students have already begun to apply that knowledge to their first composition, a landscape. In addition to studying the basics of visual composition by taking a series of photographs outdoors, they have been invited to look at how famous artists through history have approached outdoor scenes. They will be encouraged to become aware of and develop their own style by continued exposure to the variety of approaches by the masters.

### Ms. Hill's Art

We have started with a unit on drawing, using **Frida Kahlo** as inspiration to explore contour shapes and symbolism. High school is studying the portrait art of Alice Neel. Fall is an exciting time in the art world with many new exhibitions opening in the city. Edward Hopper is at the Whitney starting October 16th—think about seeing it before our painting unit! Friday nights pay-what-you-wish from 7-10 PM.

### Ms. Zalantis' Music

We are singing and working on the fundamentals of reading music. Ask your child to demonstrate the sounds and rhythms we are working on. As we rehearse, we work on breathing, posture, following choral music and singing in parts. In our period 7 high school class, we are working on all these skills, plus doing a beautiful job learning to play the ukulele!

### Ms. Mena Morillo's Art

We are beginning the year with a unit on drawing. Our artists are currently working on observational shoe drawing, inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's shoe paintings. We are exploring the use of lines, shapes, and composition, and focusing on what they see in front of them while drawing an object. Our next unit will focus on painting. We will begin by exploring color theory and the color wheel as we create different projects throughout the unit. Our featured artists are Frida Kahlo, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Joan Miro.

### Ms. Castiner's Music

Our middle schoolers have made their instrument choices and now working on reading music and applying it to their instruments. They are doing a 45-minute weekly practice log—parents/caregivers, please sign this. Our HS Kids Rock guitar class are learning strum patterns and how to play a variety of songs. They will all be expected to play at least two songs at the Winter Arts Festival. If a student needs to borrow a guitar: [LCastiner@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:LCastiner@schools.nyc.gov). In our Morning Honors Band, we have worked on several songs in preparation for the Festival. If you enjoy your instrument and want to be more challenged, join us! Every Tuesday morning at 7:30.

