

# Holyoke Community Charter School

## January 2022 Newsletter

### Directors News

**Happy New Year Holyoke Community Charter School Family and Friends!**

We are entering our second term of the year going full speed. I hope you all had a great holiday vacation with loved ones.

#### **Reminders:**

School will resume on January 3rd, 2022. No school on January 6, 2022 due to Professional Development. STAR testing will begin January 3rd, 2022. End-of-Term Report Cards will be mailed out January 21, 2022.

English Learner students will have state ACCESS testing January 6th –February 10th.

**Lets continue to have a powerful school year!**

**Dr. Pope**

Dear HCCS Parents/Guardians,

As we end the first term of our academic year, I would like to thank you for the support that you have provided to your child/ren in our return to in-person learning. I know it has been an unprecedented school year, and I appreciate your flexibility and willingness to adapt to new policies and procedures intended to keep our community safe and for students to succeed.

School administrators have noticed an increase in unexcused student absences throughout Term 1. Our goal for Term 2 is to minimize unexcused absences. Please note, that absences due to COVID-19 quarantine, illness, and doctor appointments are considered excused. If your child must miss school due to illness or other excusable reason, please call the school at (413)533-0111 so that the absence can be excused.

Beginning in January, the school will be tracking unexcused absences. Parents can expect notices sent home on a regular basis updating them as to how many unexcused absences their child/ren has/have.

#### **HCCS Mission Statement**

“The mission of HCCS is to promote the joy of learning and to prepare children for success as students, workers, and citizens by providing them with high-quality public education.”



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## Upcoming Events

- **Friday, January 6, 2022– No School/ Professional Development**
- **Tuesday, January 11, 2022– Parent Connection Meeting (5:30pm)**
- **Monday, January 17, 2022– School Closed/ Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **Friday, January 21, 2022– Report Cards Mailed**

### Grade K

**English:** Students will be starting theme D family words and sight words. They will be working on medial sounds and continue to listen to traditional and contemporary folktales, well as discussing characteristic of genres. They will begin to work on reading intervention material to support their devolvement of reading/ comprehension skills. Also studying the life of cycle of a butterfly.

**Math:** Students will learn how to make groups by same, different, and belong, They will demonstrate 1 to 1 correspondence. Students will begin to learn practical addition by adding 1 and then adding 2. Also, learning the symbols and how to read a math sentence with addition problems. They will be assessed for addition with mental math assessments weekly.

**Science:** Students will be discussing and observing the properties of objects and looking at objects, positions, and movements.

**Social Studies:** Students will continue on with chapter 3: Our Country. They will discuss who our leaders are. Also, we will discuss why national symbols are important. They will discuss how we celebrate and learn about America and how we show pride.

**Spanish:** Students will be working on a unit about children. Also, working on shapes, the alphabet and the unit of “la familia”.

### Grade 1

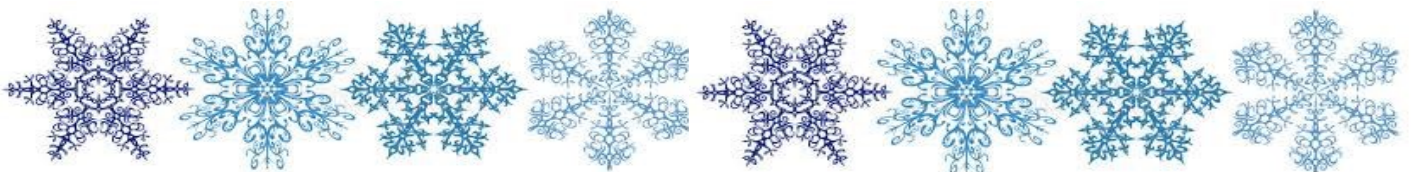
**English:** In writing, students will start to learn how to write letters. In reading, students will learn about two different genres. First will be fantasy: they will talk about how this relates to fiction and how it can be different from fiction. In phonics, students will continue learning diagraphs. Lastly, in grammar students will focus on verb tense and subject verb agreement.

**Math:** Students will begin to learn about shapes. We will look at sides and corners of flat shapes. They will make new shapes by putting others together. We will talk about the names and what exactly each looks like. Also, working on numbers up to 60.

**Science:** Students will begin to learn about energy. They will understand that energy can come from fuel. They will learn that there are different types of energy like heat and sound. Students will participate in activities like make string phones to understand how sound travels through vibration. The more energy put into it, the louder it will be.

**Social Studies:** Students will learn how we celebrate the country. They will talk about the meaning of the 4th of July and what our country stands for. Students will learn about symbols of our country and their importance. Students will also learn what the constitution is.

**Spanish:** Students will be working on the consonants tl, tr, que, qui, ca, co, cu, ce, ci. They will review the unit about The Body Parts and the family. Also, reading “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”.



## Grade 2

**English:** Students will be learning about poetry and the features that are involved like stanza, rhyming and lines. Students will also continue to read literature and discuss setting, plot and characters. Students will learn about the beginning and final digraphs like sh, ch, th, and wh. Also, the final consonant clusters like ng, nk, lt, st, and lp, etc. Phonics is important to help your child become a successful reader and speller. In grammar students will learn about subject/verb agreement as well as present, past and future tense of the verbs.

**Math:** Students will be starting to measure items with rulers. They will learn how to use a ruler and measure in centimeters and inches. They will also discuss measuring in feet and how to measure a path as well as the perimeter of a shape. Also, students will be doing two- minute adding and subtracting quizzes. Practice basic math at home to help reinforce what is learned at school.

**Science:** Students will learn about the different states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. They will learn how to measure each state using mass, volume, and temperature.

**Social Studies:** Students will learn about goods and services, and economics. They will discover the difference between needs and wants, as well as producer and consumer.

**Spanish:** Unidad 3 Los sentimientos de Andres. Mas sobre el cuerpo de Andres. Capitulo 2 De las silabas a la palabras Leccion 1

## Grade 3

**English:** Anthology: Facto Williams (Mystery), Eletelephony (poem). Spelling: lists 7 & 8. Writing: Opinion paragraph. Grammar: prepositions and collective nouns.

**Math:** Chapter 3.5 - Multiplication and Division number sentences. The students will learn about multiplication/division fact families, and finding the unknown in a multiplication/ division number sentence. Chapter 3.6- Multi-Step word problems. The students will learn to solve word problems with more than one step and more than one operation. Chapter 3.7- Patterns in multiplication. The students will learn to identify /recognize odd and even numbers, and multiply by multiples of ten.

**Science:** Life Science book Chapter 2.1- Animals and Their Needs. The students will learn about characteristics of animals, the basic needs of animals, how body parts help animals meet their needs, and the difference between inherited and learned traits. Chapter 2.2- Mammals and Birds. The students will learn about the main properties of mammals, and the stages in their life cycle. Chapter 2.3- Reptiles, Fish and Amphibians. They will learn the main properties of reptiles, fish, and amphibians, and the stages in their life cycle.

**Social Studies:** Students will be learning about Pilgrims and Puritans.

**Spanish:** Unidad 3 Pandir el castor. Pedro y el lobo. Gramatica Los adjectivos. Bella y la bestia paginas 7-9.

## Grade 4

**English:** Anthology: This month we will be reading multiple informational texts about dangerous storms, such as tornados and hurricanes. Writing: opinion paragraph and developing an essay. Grammar: adverbs, prepositions and predicates.

**Math:** Chapter 6: students will learn about multiples and factors. They will also learn about divisibility rules. Chapter 6.3: The students will learn about prime and composite numbers, and number patterns. Chapter 7: They will learn about fractions, including how to find equivalent fractions.

**Science:** Chapter 3.1- Electricity and Magnetism. The students will learn about electric and static electricity. Chapter 3.2 Electricity- They will learn about electric circuits: parallel and series. They will also learn about conductors and insulators. Chapter 3.4- Magnetism- The students will learn about magnetism and magnets, including magnetics field and magnetic poles.

**Social Studies:** Students will learn about the Midwest region of the U.S.

**Spanish:** Students will be working on Unit 3- reading and studying vocabulary key words of: numbers 1-100, shapes, and clock-time using "Andres" pg. 56-76. They will focus on Spanish grammar to write sentences using adjectives, articles, nouns, and personal pronouns using grammar book "Aprende las reglas" pg. 27-40. Gracias!!

## Grade 5

**English:** Students will be learning about opinion paragraph writing and for reading comprehension they will work on reading the book *We Are the Ship*.

**Math:** Students will be working on operations with fractions and mixed numbers.

**Science:** Students will be transitioning into the world of Physical Science. They will be covering Chapter 2, Section 1-4: Characteristics of Matter. Also, learning about things like boiling points, conductivity, mass, density, chemical changes, mixtures, vaporizations, and more!

**Social Studies:** Chapter 5: The American Revolution.

**Spanish:** Students will start working on Unit 3- reading and studying vocabulary key words of: Body parts, favorite colors and cloth to develop understanding of: Spanish grammar, personal pronouns, verbs, adjectives, nouns, articles and writing sentences in Spanish. They will use the book "Habla Ya 1" pg. 101-140. Gracias!!

## Grade 6

**English:** The entire 6th grade had a very productive fall term. They were struggling at the beginning of the term due to the pandemic, but they worked very hard and; as a whole, their comprehension skills, reading ability, and writing processes have greatly improved over the duration of the term. One great improvement is their desire to read BOOKS! Students really look forward to our trips to the library so they can check out new books. I encourage parents to celebrate their students achievements, and to build upon their growing love of reading by taking them to the library, bookstores, and using EBooks.

**Math:** Students will be working on percentages, ratios, equivalent ratios, and unit rates,

**Science:** Students will be transitioning into the world of Physical Science. Students will be covering Chapter 1, Section 1-4. They will learn about chemical and physical changes, mass, volume, weight, bonds, formula, amplitude, frequency, and so much more.

**Social Studies:** Chapter 10: The Rise of Christianity

**Spanish:** Comprender y usar los nombres de algunas partes del cuerpo humano. Comprender y usar palabras que nombran a los principales miembros de una familia. Comprender y usar palabras que sirven para decir como es o como esta una persona.

## Grade 7

**English:** Close Reading: “Regionalism: Forming an American Identity”. Close Reading: “The California Gold Rush: Building America, Chasing Dreams”. Close Reading: “The Cost and Conflict of the California Gold Rush”. Close Reading: “Paul Revere’s Ride: A Factual Account”.

**Math:** Students will be working on proportions, Percent, direct variation and mathematical patterns.

**Science:** Students will learn about the history of Earth’s surface. Also, chemical and mechanical weathering.

**Social Studies:** The students will learning about the physical geography of Oceania and how the United States has many interest in Oceania, including marine resources and important shipping routes across the Pacific. They will understand how islands and isolations contribute to unique cultures. The people of Oceania face economic challenges that affect the United States and other countries.

## Grade 8

**English:** Students will reading a short story, a speech, and two newspaper editorials from the Civil War era. Concepts they will cover are characterization, rhetoric, tone, point of view, and author’s argument. In writing students will begin to develop an essay. In grammar students will focus on abstract, collective , and plural nouns, and personal and indefinite pronouns.

**Science:** Students are learning about genetics, heredity and DNA.

**Social Studies:** Students will learn how the practice of holding town meetings to discuss local issues goes back to the American colonies. American colonists in the 1700s often met in local inns or taverns to discuss political matters. In some New England towns, people gathered in a central pasture of a commons in the town center, The tradition of governing through town meeting continues in many small American communities today. They will understand how American democracy began in towns. The town meetings held in the New England colonies allowed community members to take part in their government. Town meetings are still held today.

## Gym

- ◆ Elementary grades will be working on building up our fitness with things such as running and jumping rope. Also reinforcing concepts such as over hand and underhand throwing.
- ◆ Middle grades will try new games such as sideline soccer and steal the bacon ( a basketball mini game). Also, keep up their favorite game so far this year which has been by far volleyball.

## Computers

- K-2– Review basic computer concepts
- 3-4– The basics of PowerPoint
- 6th - Advance uses of PowerPoint