



Holyoke Community Charter School

March 2020 Newsletter

Directors News

I encourage everyone to visit the school on our International Day, to be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. This is always a lively and exciting event that highlights our students in a special way – so don't miss it.

The end of March brings the MCAS exams for our third through eighth grade students. Helpful information for parents can be found at the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education website (<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/parents/default.html>).

A detailed MCAS schedule will be sent home. Please make sure that your student is here on these days, on time and well rested. Making our MCAS goal is an important part of our academic goals.

Thank you,
Dr. Pope



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, March 6, 2020- Half-day– Dismissal @ 12pm
- ◆ Saturday, March 7, 2020– International Day/ Book fair (11am-2pm)
- ◆ Tuesday, March 10, 2020– Parent Connection Meeting (5:30pm)
- ◆ Friday– March 13, 2020– Upper School Dance Event for 6/8 (6pm-8:30pm)
- ◆ Talent Show Auditions (3/17-3/19)
- ◆ Saturday, March 21, 2020– Open House (11am-1pm)
- ◆ Friday, March 27, 2020– No School/ Professional Development

Grade K

English: Phonics– Students will be working on the words with “ng” ending, “ll” ending, “all” ending, “ing” ending and words with sh. Anthology– Students will be reading the story “ The Three Billy Goats Gruff.” Students will be retelling the story by saying what happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story. They will also be reading fun facts on goats and will be writing in their journals one fun fact about goats. Reading– Students will continue to use Fountas and Pinnell reading interventions in the classroom to develop independent reading skills.

Math: Students will be making sets of 14-15 and writing numbers from 0-15. They will also be composing and decomposing numbers from 11-15 into tens and ones. Students will review sets that are more/ less/ the same. Mental Math: students will continue to do mental math assessments with adding two numbers that total up to 10.

Science: Students will finish discussing how forces make things move. Students will begin to discuss living and nonliving things.

Social Studies: Students will be discussing the following topics: Why people save money, what a bank is, all about time, family history, meeting needs, and identifying ways of communication from long ago and today.

Spanish: Students will learn about the animals. They will learn the letters y, x, z and combinations with letters m, p, s, t, b.

Grade 1

English: Students will use context clues to comprehend the stories “Animals of a Farm”, “Once Upon a Farm”, “In the Country on a Farm”, and “The Little Red Hen”. They will use commas in a series and identify possessive nouns. Students will identify consonant blends and ending blends. They will use graphic organizers to write a made-up story.

Math: Read and write 2-digit numbers. Add tens to 2-digit numbers, add two 2-digit numbers without trading. Add 1-digit numbers to a 2-digit number without trading. Subtract tens from 2-digit numbers. Subtract two 2-digit numbers without trading. Subtract one digit number from a two digit number without trading. Solve word problems on addition and subtraction involving 2-digit numbers. Add three 2-digit numbers without trade. Solve word problems on addition of three 2-digit numbers without trading. Solve word problems on finding the price of one or two objects from a table. Recognize solid shapes, count faces and corners of solid shapes. Locate objects on a grid or map.

Science: Students will identify what animals need to live and grow and how animals use shelter. They will identify body parts animals use to move and describe how animals use their body parts to find food and stay safe. Students will also identify characteristics of mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

Social Studies: Family life past and present– compare your school to one from long ago. Explain difficulties of Settlers– compare life of Pilgrims to Native Americans. Compare transportations now to the past. What makes people good citizens? Explain why communities need laws, and why we need to follow them.

Spanish: Ricitos de Oro. Cuentos divertidos part 2. Students will also work on the letters R, H, X and combination letters rr, no, sr, lr, and cc.

Grade 2

English: Students will read a poem and drama about hummingbirds. They will be writing a made-up story and an opinion piece. Also, adjectives, adverbs, subject, and object pronouns will be taught.

Math: Students will work on subtracting 3-digit numbers, 3-digit word problems, and telling time in different ways.

Science: Forces and friction, simple machines, and habitats are some of the topics students will focus on.

Social Studies: Students will learn about Jamestown Plymouth and the Mayflower. They will also learn about the American colonies seeking Independence, the American Revolution, and heroes of the past.

Spanish: Unidad 8 Mas sobre el dormitorios de Andrés, Mas sobre el baño de Andrés. Gramática División de palabras en silabas/ Cuento El sapo y la princess.

Grade 3

English: Students will be reading the following stories; “Black Beauty”, “Blue Blazes”, “The Marrying of Him”, and “The Rise of the Skyscraper”. Grammar– focus on compound sentences and punctuation. Students will continue to work on their essays.

Math: Chapter 7– students will learn to find the perimeter of a shape, and the area. They will also relate perimeter and area. Chapter 8– students will learn to tally data using line plots, pictographs, and bar graphs.

Science: Chapter 1: Plants (Section 4) students will learn about ferns and mosses, parts of an ecosystem, interactions in ecosystems, land ecosystems, and water ecosystems.

Social Studies: Students will be reading chapter 4 of “The Massachusetts Story”.

Spanish: Antología unos animales interesantes. El elefante y la lluvia, El avestruz. Gramática Conjuguar verbos. Bella y la Bestia

Grade 4

English: Students will read the following stories: “Seesaw and the Slide”, “Alexander Who’s not Going to Move”, “Sara, Plain and Tall” (which is a chapter book), students will be reading this novel for the remainder of the month. Writing– students will be writing essays. Grammar– they will focus on adverbs and narrative sentences.

Math: Chapter 9– Students will learn: to measure and draw angles. The relative position of two lines. Lines of symmetry. Chapter 10– students will learn: distance and decimals, mass and capacity. Distance, fractions, weight, and time.

Science: Chapter 1: Plants (Section 1) Students will learn about plant structures and function, Plants respond to their environment, groups of plants, and plant life cycle.

Social Studies: Students will be reading chapter 8 & 9. These chapters will focus on States and Regions.

Spanish: Unit 4: Writing: la descriocion. The students will review and test on unit 4. Unit 5: lectura El Lobo y el Perro. Los verbs AR en tiempo presente.

Grade 5

English: Students will read “The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist” and “The Red Headed League”. Students will work on narrative essays, compound sentences, and complex sentences.

Math: Students will learn geometry and units of measurement. They will focus on MCAS prep as well.

Science: Students will continue to look at forces and motion, including gravity, friction, and magnetism. Mid-way through March ,5th grade will shift gears in Science from physical Science to life Science! Students will be evaluating ecosystems, biodiversity, food webs, and cycles within nature. In week 12, students will have an exam on energy and forces. Please be on the lookout for study guides to come home and to be posted on Class Dojo. As a reminder, there is a Science MCAS for 5th grade this year in May. Keep reviewing content with your student and encourage good study habits/ work ethics so they are prepared and confident as the exam approaches.

Social Studies: March is all about learning the foundations of the United Sates! We explore the Declaration of Independence, analyze the Articles of Confederation, and understand how the Constitution was written in week 12, students will have an exam over content related to the Revolutionary War. Please look out for study guides to come home and to be posted on Class Dojo!

Spanish: In reading we are going to start unit 2 and reading the stories “Los hijos y los padres”. En gramática estudiaremos el capitulo 4 los adjetivos y el capitulo 9 los verbos impersonales.

Grade 6

English: Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening. Icarus and Daedalus, The Myth of Perseus, Rip Van Winkle.

Math: Data: Measures of Variability and Central Tendency. Data: Tally Charts, Line Plots, Scatter Plots, Box Plots & Histograms. Geometry: Characteristics of Lines. Line Segments. Rays, Angels, Polygons, Quadrilaterals, Perimeter. Students will also learn about area of Quadrilateral Triangles.

Science: Describe how parts of cells contribute to the cellular functions of obtaining food, water, and other nutrients from its environment, disposing of wastes, and providing energy for cellular processes.

Social Studies: Central America, Caribbean Islands, and South America. The advanced civilizations in this area developed economies based on farming and trade. They built cities. The arrival of the Spanish had a dramatic impact, that can still be seen in the economies, politics, and cultures of the region today. Brazil is the giant of South America. Water is important in defining the country. The Amazon River flows through Brazil and carries 1/4 of the worlds freshwater. The world's largest remaining tropical rain forest is located in Brazil.

Spanish: En antología estudiaremos la historia Un día de libertad y en gramática los verbos irregular, mas el presente con gerundio.

Grade 7

Math: Finishing up circles; diameter, radius, circumference and area. Area, volume and surface area of various shapes, both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional. Students will also work on probability and statistics.

Science: Forces and Motion- Students will be starting a new book called Forces in Motion. In this book we will discuss basic physics, Isaac Newton and the laws of motion.

Social Studies: Chapter 13: Eastern Europe and Western Russia. The people of Eastern Europe and Western Russia share an agricultural background. Over the centuries, they have faced many challenges. The rise and fall of communism in Russia had a tremendous impact on these countries. The Ancient Greeks in ancient times: Greek language, culture, and mythology spread throughout the Mediterranean region. Eventually, Romans absorbed the Greek Civilization because the Romans imitated Greek culture. The achievements of the Greeks were passed on through the centuries. In this way, the ancient Greeks continue to influence Western civilization.

Spanish: Antología 3: Los fantasmas del bosque y su vocabulario. Gramática Básica 3: chapter 8- gerundios & chapter 7 part 4- verbos irregulares. Escritura 3: escribir un texto de 3 párrafos.

Grade 8

English: This month students will enter the world of Greek mythology in "The Odyssey" written by the Ancient Greek poet, Homer. In this unit, students will read abridged excerpts from the classical poem about Odysseus' 20 year journey home to Ithaca after fighting in the Trojan war. After angering the gods with his fatal pride, Odysseus encounters obstacle after obstacle keeping him away from his wife and son who are dealing with their own troubles without him back home. In writing students will learn how to write narrative essays. In grammar they will practice deconstructing sentences.

Math: Reflections and transformations of shapes. The Pythagorean Theorem.

Science: Earth and Space- Students will be learning concepts about the earth and the moon and the rest of the solar system. We will discuss how the planets and moons in our solar system interact.

Social Studies: Chapter 4 The Bill of Rights. Throughout history, Americans have rallied and marched to raise awareness for issues they care about. People have supported women's right to vote, civil rights, and ending unpopular wars. The First Amendment grants the right to speak out and to join together in peaceful rallies or marches, Citizens and the Law. If you have witnessed a police officer ticketing a diver, then you have seen law enforcement in action. The government creates laws & regulations for the safety of it's citizens.

Gym



Computers

Students K-2 will finish their storybook projects. KG will be working on a storybook titled "My Little Tiger". 1st grade will be working on a storybook titled "Lost in the Woods". 2nd grade will be working on a storybook titled "The Other Side of The Tracks". Students create these storybooks in Google Slides.

Students 3-6 will be finishing up websites based on interdisciplinary topics they researched using Google. Students in 3rd grade will research and create a website about the Taino Indians. Students in 4th grade will research and create a website about the Stone Age. Students in the 5th grade will research and create a website about climate change. Students in the 6th grade will research and create a website based on immigration of the past and present. Students will not only practice website creation skills but their research and writing skills as well, for this unit.