

## **ELA (Reading, Writing, and Word Work)**

As we enter November, we are making progress with our non-fiction-based **Reading** unit called "Tackling Text Complexity". Students will continue receiving introductory lessons at the start of each session, then meet in small groups, or reading partners, or continue informal conferences with their teacher. Students will also have the opportunity to conduct their own inquiry project based on a non-fiction interest of their choice.

As before, the enduring understandings of this unit include:

- Readers turn to complex nonfiction because these texts give them access to knowledge and opportunities.
- Readers need skills and strategies to tackle difficulties in complex nonfiction.
- Readers synthesize information across nonfiction texts to develop a deeper understanding of a topic or issue.

The essential questions students will continue to be able to answer include:

- How do nonfiction texts become increasingly complex?
- What skills and strategies help a reader understand a complex nonfiction text?
- How do readers transfer nonfiction reading skills to complete independent research?

Our **Word Work** block is a blend of vocabulary instruction as well as semantics, parts of speech, punctuation ... all the components of quality 5th grade writing pieces.

We are so proud of our writers! We completed our Personal Narrative unit at the end of October and celebrated our writers with our classmates, other classes, or virtually. Our second **Writing** unit is Journalism.

Enduring understandings include:

- Journalism is a form of writing that blends what writers know about other genres.
- Journalists write concise and focused news reports.
- Journalists cycle through the writing process quickly.
- Journalists write feature articles to explore an event or issue more in depth.

The essential questions students will be able to answer include:

- How do journalists write quickly to expose thoughtful observations about information or events in their community?
- How do journalists write concise and focused news reports that give details about an event following the conventions of journalism writing?
- How do journalists write a feature article that teaches about a topic and engages a reader?

## **Social Studies**

- Students will be investigating the perspectives of slavery between the North and South, and how the Underground Railroad led many to freedom. Students will research the major battles during the Civil War and take notes on what they learned.

## **Math**

- We are finishing up the Multiplication with Decimals unit and beginning our Division of Whole Numbers unit. Both topics continue to work with powers of 10 and estimation. Fact fluency is vital to success in these units. There are numerous online games that students can do to improve

their fact fluency, as well as using programs such as 99 Math and First in Math. Making even 10 minutes daily to practice will result in fact recall improvements.

- With the holidays approaching, now is a great time to practice some real-life math skills with your children. Students seeing math in the real world is a great way for them to understand the importance of learning these concepts.

## **Reminders**

- When students are absent, HCPS policy is that they receive one day per day out to complete make up work. Therefore, if a student misses 2 days, he receives 2 days to complete the owed classwork and homework. It is the child's responsibility to show the work to the teacher. There is always work posted on the calendar in Canvas (for Ms. Abbott, Mrs. Fatkin, and Mrs. Prestianni) or a "While You Were Out" form that is waiting for the student when they return, (from Mrs. Dlugokenski). All work is indicated on that form. Please be on the lookout for it when your child returns to school.
- As cooler weather approaches, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. We try to go outside whenever possible, but we need the children to wear sweatshirts, long pants, etc. as the weather is getting colder.
- Many students are coming to school with laptops that have not been charged. Please remind your child to charge their device EVERY night.
- Our student council is holding a canned food drive beginning November 1st. Please help with donations if you are able.