

GRADE 6 ELA UPDATE

"Today a reader; tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

March 2017

MARCH'S CLASSROOM FOCUS

Our 6th grade students will be finishing their compare/contrast writing projects this month. We want students to understand that writing is a process that requires much editing and revision in order to improve. We are providing students with graphic organizers and rubrics to assist them as they reflect on their own writing.

During the week of March 13, our students will participate in the

Reading Inventory assessment that measures the quantitative reading abilities of each student. This assessment is computer based and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The data from this assessment will help schools determine which students may need further support in reading comprehension next year and will be a factor when scheduling student classes for the 2017-18 school year.

Teachers will also take some time this month to introduce students to the new format of the MCAS which requires all students to write text-based narratives and essays. Since challenging vocabulary can impede a student's comprehension skills, teachers will also be highlighting vocabulary strategies for students to utilize when reading complex texts.

Reading Recommendations

<i>The Lions of Little Rock</i> by Kristin Levine	Gr 6
<i>Summer of My German Soldier</i> by Bette Greene	Gr 7
<i>Throne of Glass</i> by Sarah J. Maas	Gr 8

*March: MA ELA State Standards

- W.6.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- L.6.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
- L.6.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meaning.

*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of March as well.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

ELA and Math MCAS testing will take place during April and May. These assessments are aligned to the skills and concepts Westfield Public Schools has been teaching all year. If you would like more information regarding the standards that are taught in English Language Arts, please visit: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html>.

Here you will also be able to access curriculum for a variety of other disciplines.

If you are interested in learning more about the new ELA and Math MCAS assessments that students in grades 3-8 will be taking this year, you can find more information and practice tests

at <http://mcas.pearson-support.com/>

MCAS is only one measurement of a student's academic ability, but it is a source of information that allows us to better support student learning and continuously improve upon our curriculum.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

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