

QHIA Weekly Update: December 9, 2016

[QHIA Website](#)

Classroom Phone # (831) 336-5168

Hello families,

This past week was Computer Science Education Week. Our morning focus was on the "Hour of Code" event. "The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science." Students were asked to persevere for at least one hour early in the week. This was very frustrating for some, yet once they completed the hour, they were very inspired, and continued to work with coding throughout the week. I have to say, the program is very cool and designed so well. Many students wanted to quit prior to the hour, yet once they pushed through, they got super excited! Abena even created Apps yesterday, which she put on her phone, and showed other students how she did it! I didn't assign the usual amount of math and science for the week, allowing for about an hour each day of the two hour block for Hour of Code activities.

Homework Assignments

Physical Science: Chemical Reactions 3.12 and 3.16

Students need to complete this before Monday. They complete the review questions either typed into a googledoc that they share with me, or write in their science notebooks. They also take the online practice for each unit.

CK12 Math

Please check your student's account. If they have past due assignments, these need to be completed prior to Monday morning.

QHIA presentation and performance at our School Board Meeting...a great success!

As I mentioned in an earlier email, I am so proud of our students for representing us so well. I shared the email Rhonda sent to our program with the students yesterday, they were so pleased :) Go to our class FB page to see a video that one of our parents filmed.

Holiday Family Potluck and Secret Santa!

We will have our family potluck between 12:30-2:30 on Wednesday, Dec. 21. Please join us! Students have drawn names for a Secret Santa gift giving. Please stay within the \$10-\$15 agreed upon price range.

December 13: Parent Education Night: "Using Projects and Problem-solving to Engage Every Learner!" 5:30pm.

December 16: Skate Day at SC Roller Palladium from 1-3

December 16 at 3pm: Deadline to turn in **Charter Science Fair Application** to Katie

- Our Charter Science Fair is on Friday, Feb. 3. Students may work in groups of two, perhaps three with permission, and they will have 2 hours each week to work on their project during class time. This will also require some work, particularly the experimentation process if that is what they choose to do, at home. I have applications in the classroom, as well as info for the county science fair.

December 22: Month 5 Attendance Sheets Due

UPDATE:

Math and Physical Science:

See intro paragraph regarding our “Week of Code” activities. Here is a link to the Hour of Code site, which students can continue to access at any time.

<https://hourofcode.com/us/learn>

Students also learned about Chemical Equations and Reactions in their CK12 program, and are working through their individual math programs. Please check with your students who are working in the Key To...packet series for due dates marked with post it notes. Students working with CK12 have due dates embedded in the program. Take a look!

We also finished viewing and discussing Elliot's current event, which involved a film discussing how we are running out of oil and other resources, and what we can do about it.

History and English

Hamilton Practice and Presentation.

English: Creative Writing. The students wrote some amazing poetry this week! I shared a poem written by Billy Collins, a teacher who used metaphor to convey how his students reacted to poetry units in his class. The students brainstormed similar metaphors, having time to independently write. I spend a lot of time with them free writing. So many students judge their writing harshly, or think it's “not good.” These creative writing exercises free up their willingness to just throw ideas down on paper...the results are beautiful! It also enhances their nonfictional writing. They composed their own original lines to compose poems inspired by the original. I have included a link to the document below. Each individual stanza was written by a different student, and compiled by me into 5 different poems. The students shared their writing aloud and tried to guess the author's of each stanza. Please read their work, I think you will be impressed (ask your student which one they wrote :)

[Student Writing: Introduction to Poetry](#)

Art

Many of our students were busy each day during their break time decorating our classroom. I told them it's going to look like Whoville by the time we leave for break :) It looks great so far!



Creative Writing-Poetry, “Alexander Hamilton” practice, Line Dance-Tush Push & Swing Dance

Thank you for sharing your students with me! Have a wonderful weekend.

~Amber

All important info, including All Student Assignments and our calendar of events, will be accessible at any time here. Just click on this link: [QHIA Website](#)