

QHIA Weekly Update: September 9, 2016

Hello QHIA families,

That was a whirlwind week! Due to the Labor Day Holiday and the day at Mt. Hermon we only had 2 classroom days together. Please see the updates below, as we had a jam packed couple of days :)

I appreciate your feedback, and as I mentioned in a separate email, the students were very well spoken about their disappointment with the leadership and activities at Mt. Hermon. I have written an email to their coordinator and will update when I hear back from them.

*Reminder: Please send me photos from our Exploratorium field trip. I saw a few cameras taking the group photo. I'd love to start collecting these now.

*I haven't had any response yet regarding photos on our website, which indicates to me that you are all fine with your student's photos being on our classroom website. ***Please let me know if you do NOT want your student's photo on our QHIA webpage in our ongoing digital photo album.**

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](#)

Here are some important dates and info to be aware of:

Next Week (September 12-16):

- Monday-Thursday: Our first full week with no holidays or field trips! We are beginning our "Hamilton" unit using the musical soundtrack and video clips as a primary resource for our study of causes of the American Revolution and beginnings of our government.
- Afternoon Theater and Art Electives begin: Students will be splitting into 2 groups between 12-1:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Half will take Improv with our guest theater teacher from West Arts, Hunter Wallraff, while the other half have ceramics with me. A few students will alternate between Chess with Gjon Feinstein, our guest master chess teacher, and Improv.
- **Month 1 Attendance Due:** On Thursday, September 15, I will be collecting all student journals, assignments, and attendance sheets to evaluate and turn in to Holly at the charter office. ***Please make sure you check your student's file by the front door and sign their Month 1 attendance sheet.** It is also the time to add any work samples that they might be producing outside of class such as artwork, foreign language, creative

writing, photographs of them involved in different activities, etc. *Please indicate if you would like some of these returned.

Update:

Math and Physical Science

We spent a few hours each day navigating their online Math and Science program: CK12. Next week I will be giving each student an individualized checkpoint covering the topics they have completed in their math course. I will also be giving them their charter math benchmark in class. We learned about Motion, Distance, Direction, and Vectors reading from the online text, watching videos, answering chapter review questions, and participating in a team outside activity where they led their partner on a scavenger hunt, using vectors and cardinal directions to help their partner find their object placed on the campus.

***See Assignments at the bottom of this email.**

History and English

This week the students participated in a group exercise regarding the concept of War, shared answers within their small groups, then shared out in a whole group discussion including some written work.

- What factors might cause a country to go to war?
- What factors might help a country win a war?
- What factors might help a country lose a war?
- What positive effects could come from winning a war?
- What negative consequences could come from winning a war?
- When (if ever) do you think war is a necessary step?

Students also completed their Exploratorium Reflections and worked on their Writing Benchmarks. ***See Assignments at the bottom of this email.**

I introduced our Current Events portion of our class. Each week a student will be chosen to present a current event of their choice to the class the following week. The current event I shared was the Standing Rock protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline currently happening in North Dakota. Here is a link to the document they will use when presenting to class:

[QHIA Current Events](#)

Please refer to the website for information regarding the Whale Watching opportunity with parent/teacher Shauna Reisewitz.

Check out the attachments regarding the SC County Teen Peer Court Opportunity and the Young Writer's Contest Sponsored by Bookshop Santa Cruz.

Have a great weekend,

~Amber

Mark your calendars! Upcoming QHIA and Charter Events:

Monday, September 19: Shireen Doyle, charter parent/teacher is subbing for me

Wednesday, September 28, 11:30-1:30: QHIA and QH Homeschool Picnic and Potluck on the field

Friday, September 30, 10:30-2:30: All Charter Capture the Flag at Quail Hollow Ranch from 10:30-12:30, Potluck with all charter families from 12:30-2:30.

Tuesday, October 4: Middle School Movie Night with CRMS: 6:00-8:30pm in our QHIA room. We will watch "Holes".

Friday, October 21, 1:00-3:00pm: All Charter Skate Day at the SC Roller Palladium

Cool Happenings out and about!

[September 17: Great Local Community Service Opportunity](#)

[Coastal Clean Up Day](#)

[September 24: Fashion Art Santa Cruz](#)

<http://www.fashionartsantacruz.com/>

Wish List:

decaf tea (chai was a request :)

dishwashing soap

hand soap (in a bottle)

Water dispenser

Healthy Snacks

Tissues

Assignments:

Due Now

Online Account Info

I would like students to keep their online account info, for their CK12 program and their student email accounts, in one place, such as in a googledoc or on their phone. All students will learn how to create a googledoc, if they don't yet know how, next week. This is important because they will be getting more usernames and passwords for programs such as Animoto in the future, and we all know how confusing it can be to keep track of them all :)

CK12 Science: 4.1: Motion, 4.2: Distance, 4.3: Direction

Student had time to complete this in class yesterday, although we had some server difficulties, so some could not complete the "Practice" portion.

Their instructions are to read the lesson and handwrite the answers to the review questions at the bottom of the lesson page. (There are only 6 questions total.)

After that, they complete the online "Practice" of concepts learned.

Student Reflection from Exploratorium Trip!

Students are asked to reflect on 3 things from the field trip. The reflection can be just written or typed, or it can include photos, could be a google presentation, animoto, etc (some of the students know how to use these programs, others do not yet-but they will learn in class :)

1. Brief summary of Strandbeest Exhibit: Who is Theo Jansen? What is a Strandbeest? When did he begin creating them? Where did they originate? Why did he create them? How does he create them? What did you enjoy about the exhibit?
2. What was your favorite/s exhibit/s? Please include why.
3. Which exhibit/s demonstrated an intersection between science and the arts? Please include how they are both

Due Thursday, September 15

Writing Benchmark

I sent home paper copies of the writing benchmark. I have also shared it via googledocs to their student email accounts, and to the parents via a link on the most recent weekly update. This is a baseline essay, so I can determine how to enhance their writing, next steps for each individual, etc. Brainstorming ideas with others (parents, siblings, classmates, etc.) is encouraged, however let the students write this on their own. It can be handwritten or typed. Please let me know via email if your child needs to dictate first, or has other accommodations to help with their writing.

Ongoing

Solo History Project

We brainstormed many ideas for individual history projects that the students will present at the end of the first semester. Students should have settled on a topic, and they can begin a outlining, gathering sources, info, etc. at any time. This will be ongoing throughout the semester.

CK12 Math

Students can click on each of the sequential math assignments, for example, 1.5: Estimation of Whole Number Addition, 1.6: Estimation of Whole Number Multiplication and Division, 1.7: Whole Number Exponents, etc. Each assignment has an online textbook that teaches the concepts and videos embedded in each unit that teach the concepts as well.

*I am at the point where I will begin creating individual math "classes" on CK12 for each student so they can work and progress at their appropriate level.