



# Stewartstown

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### From Principal Humphrey:

Happy Fall! The 2023 school year has started off strong. Students have been working hard to get back into the rhythm of school and expectations. Teachers have been working hard to help students with their learning, adjust back to a schedule, and to have fun.

As you have heard, SAU 7 is working on changing to competency-based education. What does that mean? For the 2023/2024 school year, you will begin to hear words like, I can statements, competencies, formative and summative assessments. It means teachers and students will be looking at learning from a competency point of view. Competencies are "essential skill, knowledge or behavior required for the effective performance of a real-world task or activity". All assignments will be tied to a competency. There will be more information going home to families over the course of the year. Keep an eye out for important informational nights for families. This will be a great resource to get information and questions answered. For this year, grades 3-8 will still have traditional grades on the report card. Please check your student's progress weekly in Alma. If you have trouble logging into your account, please call the office, and we can help you.

Mark your calendars for November 8, 2023, which will be the day that you can schedule a parent-teacher conference with your child's classroom teacher. But please, if you have any questions before that, reach out either by phone or email.

For the month of October, Fun Friday is October 13, which is dress up as your favorite animal day, National Fire Prevention week, as well as National School Lunch Week. There is no school for students on Friday, October 6, or Monday, October 12, 2023.

Sincerely, Principal Humphrey

## Upcoming Events



- 10/2 School Board Meeting
- 10/4 8th grade to PHS all-day
- 10/6 Admin day
- 10/9- No School
- 10/10 Staff Meeting
- 10/10 Fire Prevention presentation
- 10/13 Fun Friday- fav animal
- 10/16 Burke Mountain payment due
- 10/17 Burke Mountain rental fitting
- 10/20 Off site evacuation drill

# Pre K & K

## Mrs. Hemon

September has been a busy month in the PreK/K classroom. We've been learning procedures and routines and getting to know each other, gradually weaning away from free play time to play-based learning. In Math, Kindergarten worked on positional words and is currently working on counting, reading, and writing numbers 1 to 5. In Language Arts, Kindergarten is working on learning how to read and write the letters of the alphabet in alphabetical order. So far they've practiced Aa, Bb, Cc, and Dd. Our high frequency word is the. Both groups are working on building up the muscles in their hands to prepare for writing. These fine-motor skills include playing with playdough, tearing paper, and learning proper scissor grasp. They are making great gains and I can't wait to see what October brings!

# 1st & 2nd

## Mrs. Ricker

First and Second graders have been off to a wonderful start to the new school year! We spent the first few weeks of school getting back into a routine, catching up with each other, and practicing all the other skills that we will need to make the classroom run safely and smoothly. We have been practicing giving and receiving compliments. Practicing this at home would be beneficial for carrying over this skill.

We were excited to dive into our language arts program and are starting to get into a routine. We have been learning about being good citizens-both at home, school, and in our community. Second graders have now started a language arts unit about Matter and the world around us. We are also diving more into this during science class.

In math, we have been reviewing both addition and subtraction strategies in both grades. First graders have been practicing adding and subtracting to ten, while Second graders have been practicing to 20

## Ms. Scott

# 3rd

Happy Fall! We have had a busy start to the school year. In math, students reviewed concepts and worked on rounding. Now, they are learning about addition properties and mental math. In ELA, we have read many stories while looking at literary elements. Students are working to improve their writing skills. To do this, they have started a daily writing journal. We will begin cursive writing soon! In science, students became paleontologists and began a "fossil dig". They studied whale fossils in the desert, brainstorming ideas of why that might be. This month, students have worked hard to memorize the months of the year. They have also been working hard using kind words and actions. As well as acting appropriately in a variety of environments. Keep up all of the hard work!

# 4th & 5th

A new school year has begun. This is often a period of mixed emotions. There are those that are excited for something new and those that are nervous about what to expect. The transition process takes time, but after about a month students are beginning to learn their new routines and expectations. Fourth and fifth graders have worked on quite a bit already. They are completing a place value project finding whole numbers and decimals in the real world and writing these numbers in standard, word, and expanded form. They have read several selections in their texts working on many comprehension skills along with identifying the author's purpose, inferencing, central idea, point of view, among others. Students have learned that Science is a process and that all scientists follow the Scientific Method. Finally, fourth and fifth graders have worked extensively on the 5 Themes of Geography and have just completed a project showcasing their understanding of these themes through the research of cities around the world. What will we EXPLORE next??

Ms. Wonkka

# Junior High

Welcome back to a new school year!

## ELA & Social Studies

Students in the Junior High School have spent lots of time this month testing their previously learned skills. We will use these testing results to create RTI groups with a focus on skills each group needs to work on or review. We have been using our reading texts to work on new units, practicing analogies, doing daily warmup activities, and writing short narratives.

Social Studies classes for the beginning of the year have been learning and practicing research and bibliography skills. They have recently started researching for a mindset project. Students studied people in U.S. History with a positive mindset and will create a project to follow up.

I am looking forward to a great school year with your wonderful kids!  
Happy Fall!  
Mrs.Lapoint

## Math and Science

**Science 6** Students are learning about the different systems on our Earth. Do you know the 4 systems? If you guessed Hydrosphere, Atmosphere, Geosphere and Biosphere, you belong in Grade 6 Science class. Students are creating a presentation to show off their knowledge.

**Science 7** Students are learning about the difference between physical and chemical properties and changes. They recently did a lab showing how CO<sub>2</sub> can be made and cause a flame to go out. Grade 7 is also learning about mixtures, elements, compounds, and atoms.

**Science 8** Do you know what makes a living thing living? Students did a lab with a wind-up toy showing what does it mean to be living? Students are learning vocabulary words such as stimulus, response, homeostasis, and key factors that distinguish living and nonliving. To illustrate, the students did any activity involving heart beats before and after some exercise.

**Math 6** Students are learning about rounding and comparing decimals. Through a series of workbook, Kahoot, Quizizz, and coloring sheets, grade 6 is showing Mr. K that they are math wizards!

**Math 7** Do you know your laws of exponents? Do you know how to add, subtract, divide and multiply integers? This class has been reviewing these concepts to be ready for Pre-Algebra! What else is the class learning? Remember...Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally. Order of Operations!

# JH Math & Title 1

## Math- Joos

Math III group started in September by reviewing the number system. They worked with rational numbers: added/subtracted/multiplied/divided, as well as compared and ordered rational numbers. Students also worked with scientific notation. We've been using Versatiles, IXL, Quizizz, and CK-12 platforms to reinforce and support students' learning. My Math students also did AimsWeb and STAR testing in September, where they showed great results.

## STEM & Library

## Mrs. Falconer

In PreK/Kindergarten in STEM class, we have played with playdough and made matches, and played with popsicle sticks to make shapes. We have also played with whiteboards to draw and write. We have played together and separately. In the library, we read books, and I will ask some questions, and a few students will answer. The students get excited about reading and getting books.

In First/Second-grade keyboarding class, we are moving out at our own pace, learning the different keys and typing with our hands on the home row. The students are trying really hard to do this, and they get excited at their new achievements. Then we have a STEM class where we learn how to work separately as a team. We play but learn all together. The students love STEM and what I come up with next. We have Library class where we read about fables, fairy tales, and tall tales as well. We are learning the difference between them all.

In third grade keyboarding class, we were doing Edu Typing. They are doing well with review packets and their Edu Typing lessons. In STEM class, we have been team building. We have also been able to work alone on different things as well. Some work will go home; others must wait for the student showcase. In the library, we read books and do different activities to go along with our books—library class, where we also read about fables, fairy tales, and tall tales. We are learning the difference between them all.

In Fourth and Fifth grade, we did independent typing in edutyping. I have noticed with this class that keeping their fingers on the home row is hard, so we always practice this. In STEM class, we have been team building. We have also been able to work alone on different things as well. Some work will go home; for others, you must wait for the student showcase. In the library, we learn about story elements and put the lessons into practice.

In the Sixth/Seventh STEM class, we are learning how to make roller coaster design and then actually put it into practice. Then they have to make sure it works out if it does not, then they have to write what happened and how to fix it. Then try again! In Intro to Library class, we are learning how to do research papers and cite the resources properly. They have been taking notes and learning how to take notes.

In Eighth, we have been learning how to make a marble maze in STEM class. They must write how they will make it and map out the maze. Then, they will make what they have designed and try it out. If they do not work, they must write what happened and how to fix it. Then try again! In library class, we learned to paraphrase and not plagiarize our papers. They have been working hard on this. They will start a research paper on our Presidents and use what they have learned.

## Mr. Covill

Look at that! The month of September has flown by! In Pre-K, the students have made strides in learning through play and communicating their needs. In the third grade, students have been working on summarizing texts and writing basic paragraphs. Fifth graders have been working on sight words, as well as CCV words. In middle school, students have been working on interesting new analogies and understanding what is necessary in a bibliography. In math, we have worked on the order of operations, including positive and negative numbers. Let's make this a great school year!

## Special Education

# SCS

## Officer Stepanian

Hello SCS parents,

I am glad to be back at school, watching over your children to keep them safe while at SCS. The children have settled back into learning mode and doing good things while at school. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents, while transporting their children in their vehicles, to make sure that they are properly fastened in their seatbelts and or car seats. While you're at it please put yours on also. Set the example. While I am speaking about safety, did you know that NH has a law that requires anyone under the age of 16 to wear a safety helmet while riding a bicycle?

As we say goodbye to this crazy summer, please make sure that your children dress for the changing weather. I often see kids come to school wearing tee shirts, and the temperature is below fifty degrees.

Speaking of cold temperatures now is also a good time to talk with your children about a fire escape plan for your home. Do your children know what to do in an emergency? Please check your smoke detectors and make sure they are working properly.

Hunting season is upon us, and it is a good idea if your children are playing outside; please have them wear some hunter orange, especially if they are playing near a known hunting area.

Lastly, if your child has a mobile phone or uses the internet, please check their history often. Dangerous content and dangerous people are just a click away. Know what your children are up to all the time!

Sincerely  
Officer Scott Stepanian  
School Resource Officer

## Music

Our year in music started off great! The preschoolers and kindergarteners have made great strides in just the first weeks of school with participation and feeling confident singing and dancing as a class.

First and second grade started the year off with one of my favorite units- Saint Saens' Carnival of the Animals. They listened to pieces representing six different animals and finished their Carnival packet. Third grade is already well into singing and rhythms, and has been learning about World Instruments- so far from Japan and India. Brazil is coming up next!

Grades 4 and 5 are already singing too, as well as listening to music from various genres for their listening journals. We started the year off with the theme of Autumn Songs, and Spooky Songs listening begins this week!

The oldest students each chose a famous musician to create a pretend Instagram account for, celebrating events in that person's life- such as winning music awards, concerts, and other performances. They have each chosen an instrument to practice this semester- ukulele, guitar, bells, or percussion- and I'm hopeful you will get to hear many of them perform in a concert this winter or spring.

Mrs. Thilkey

## Mrs. Thilkey

## Competency Based Education



Discrete and measurable  
learning objectives by  
which to demonstrate  
proficiency.

It is a point of reference to  
measure by.

**Benchmarks**

