

## HCE School Report to PTO November 17, 2020

### Early Childhood:

**K4:** This has been a bit of a challenging year, but we are so proud of our students who have been doing a great job keeping masks on and hand sanitizing frequently. We recently finished up our unit on community and started a new unit: "Fabulous Foods". We are learning all about foods, restaurants, and grocery stores. There is a diner set up in our classrooms and the children can pretend to be waiters/waitresses, customers, and chefs. We will be sorting, patterning, and weighing food. We have been writing menus and shopping lists. Our little chefs made sandwiches and will be making mini pizzas. In our Bridges Math curriculum we are focusing on shapes this month. We finished up PALS testing and reported to parents during virtual conferences. Thank you for the masks, teacher spending money, conference snacks and all the wonderful things you do!!!

**K5:** It has been a unique start to Kindergarten this year. The kids are adjusting to school and new routines. We are learning our Super Powers for Reading (pointing power, picture power, snap word power, sound power and persistence power! We are also in the middle of our Show and Tell Unit for Writing. The children are learning to label and stretch out words. In math, we are learning different ways to count, make patterns, work on more and less concepts and graphing. Our science unit, Force and Motion, has been filled with lots of fun experiments! Thank you PTO for all of the wonderful things that you do for HCE!

### First graders

It has been a great start in first grade for such a crazy year. We are already moving into our third units in both reading, writing, and math. Thanks to all the parents for sending in supplies as we need them. Our virtual conferences went off without a hitch and it was wonderful to see everyone.

### Second grade

It has been an interesting and very different beginning to our school year, but the second graders are doing an amazing job adapting to our new procedures and rules. November continues to be a very busy time for second graders. We have finished up our second units in reading, writing and math. Now we are working on reading and writing nonfiction. The kids are excited to begin learning nonfiction strategies. For reading, please continue to fill out the reading checklist and hand it in on the first of the next month. Don't forget your children should be reading at home using Raz-Kids, Epic!, real books, and any other way you can find to keep them reading. We are finishing our Earth Systems science unit. The students are really enjoying thinking and acting like scientists. Thank you to the PTO for providing treats during conferences! It was great to talk with many of you during our virtual conferences.

### Third Graders

Third graders are off to a great start! They have quickly adjusted to the new procedures this year has brought. In reading, students are learning to be detectives during our mystery reading unit. They are paying attention to clues, and thinking about how all mysteries go to make predictions about the solution. In math, the students have worked hard to learn and use different strategies to solve multiplication. In writing, the students are working on writing persuasive speeches. They are working on generating ideas and reasons to support their ideas in hopes of convincing their audience to agree

with them. Don't be surprised if they bring these speeches home to try to persuade you to change your mind about something! In science, we collected data about the weather to look for patterns and make predictions. They also researched Hazardous Weather. Thank you to the PTO for the treats provided during conferences.

#### **Fourth graders**

Our fourth graders are learning so many new things this school year! Students are doing a great job navigating curriculum in Canvas with their new Chromebooks. In reading, we are "Following Characters into Meaning" by identifying their internal and external traits, focusing on visualizing their actions, and empathizing with them as they experience events. Our students just finished writing fictional stories, working on showing the reader how the characters act, look, and feel through descriptive words, dialogue, and actions. Our new writing unit that we have just began is focused on persuasive essay writing in which we are learning how to make a claim, provide various evidence to support that claim, and follow an essay structure. In math, we are focusing on identifying factors, prime, and composite numbers, using ratio tables, and multiplying multi-digit numbers. Our fourth grade scientists studied earth science, with a focus on how weathering, erosion and deposition shapes the earth. In Social Studies, students are exploring maps and utilizing their map skills! Our fourth graders are really demonstrating a strong understanding of ways to be safe, respectful, and responsible at HCE!

#### **Fifth graders**

Fifth grade is continuing to move ahead in our learning, both online and in the classroom. In reading we have completed our Complex Characters unit and will be wrapping up our Nonfiction reading unit shortly after Thanksgiving break. In writing, we just completed our Digital Journalism unit and are starting our new Nonfiction writing unit this week. We are looking forward to all the new learning in our ELA time.

In math, the 5th graders are beginning to work in Unit 3, which focuses on place value and decimals. We have just finished our social studies unit on the branches of government, in which the students researched either the judicial or legislative branch. After researching their chosen branch, the students made a video presentation using Adobe Spark. Finally, in science, the boys and girls are beginning a unit on Earth Systems.

#### **Music-K5: Ms. Nowak:**

K5 music students have been off to a good start. We have made several adjustments in activities and the tools we use to be as safe and as socially distanced as possible. This year, the students each have their own instrument bags with several different tools we use throughout our music classes. We have been working on a lot of beginning concepts in music such as fast and slow, loud and quiet, and high and low. The students have been doing a great job of responding to music and making connections so far. Thank you PTO for all you do!

#### **Music - grades 1-5: Ms. Hekenberger:**

Music has been off to a pretty good start. We've been using instruments with a one grade level at time and sanitizing between uses. We've also been using the Chromebooks quite a bit and utilizing a digital platform. We are still not singing like we normally would so the online platform has been a useful tool (and I think students are really enjoying it!)

**Physical Education-K5 & Grade 1: Mrs. Baumgart:**

K5 and 1st grade started out this school year learning much about rules and expectations that are a part of each P.E. class. Since September I have seen much growth in the practice of being respectful, responsible, and safe. Just recently we finished our soccer unit that included learning how to dribble, pass, and trapping the ball. We ended with a modified 3 vs 3 game where they put those skills to use and real important, they looked to have a lot of fun doing it. Currently we are in the Football unit where they learn how to grip the ball along with throwing and catching activities. The students have gotten into a nice routine of using hand sanitizer before and after class, plus my duty of ensuring all equipment has been cleaned properly. During these units Ms Brossart and I have been able to share some great skill related videos through Canvas to the Distance Learners. I think they have had some fun with the assignments as it has been our goal that they are doing what the in-person students are and to make it enjoyable. We will be continuing our football unit up until Thanksgiving break. And of course, thank you PTO!

**Physical Education- Grades 2-3-4-5: Ms. Brossart:**

We started the school year off by learning and reviewing the PBIS school/class rules and procedures. These rules and procedures apply throughout the entire school building, inside and outside. The students have done an incredible job of adjusting to the new expectations of wearing a mask, sanitizing their hands, and keeping a safe distance between one another. Ms. Baumgart and I put tape markings on the Big Gym floor that are 6 feet or more apart to help the students maintain a safe distance apart. We are also making sure to sanitize any equipment after it has been used in each of our classes. I have also tried to have as many PE classes outside as possible. In October, the students were learning and reviewing Soccer skills which included Dribbling, Passing/Trapping, and Goal Shooting. Currently, we are in a Football Unit which involves overhand throwing and catching- not tackling. Students have not only been working on proper throwing technique but also working on throwing with proper force and accuracy. Our Distance Learners are getting some great, engaging activities to keep them active on the new Canvas platform. All of our students (Face to Face and Distance Learners) are doing the same unit activities to keep everyone on the same track. Thank you for all you do and I hope you all have a nice Thanksgiving!

**Art - K5: Mrs. Tentoni:**

In Kindergarten art we are talking about shapes and colors and exploring how we can use those elements to interpret the world. Right now we are working on a layered portrait that utilizes a variety of art techniques and media, while also reinforcing proportion and developing fine motor control. We are learning about the styles of different artists including Frida Kahlo and Picasso. I can't believe how much they have grown in one quarter, and how fabulous their art is! Soon we will be working on painting, which is very exciting! Just a friendly reminder that some kids may need an extra glue stick or two, since the ones they started with are pretty depleted or lost altogether. Thanks for your ongoing support

**Art - grades 1-5: Mrs. Gelhar:**

In art we are definitely trying to make lemonade out of the lemons we were dealt with this year. We are definitely making art but just a little different than what the students have been used to. At the moment we are using materials that the students bring to art, so we have been doing a lot of drawing mixed in

with a little collage work. The older grades, 3rd, 4th and 5th, have been focusing on some techniques like blending, mixing, scumbling, and crosshatching while making their drawings. They have also learned about perspective drawing. The younger grades have focused on using shapes and lines to create their drawings. The technique used most with 1st and 2nd grade is mixing.

### **Principal's Report - Mrs. Komars**

I've heard a lot of people say "I can't wait until 2020 is over!" In fact, I may have been guilty of joining in that conversation too. I've been trying to stop focusing on all of the "bad" and turning that into the "good" that has occurred in this year. What can I be thankful for in trying times? I decided to share some of the "thank you's on my list.

### **Thank You!**

Thank you for listening to or reading with your child each night.

Thank you for checking your child's backpack, home folder, assignment notebook and SeeSaw posts.

Thank you for asking your child how HE/SHE would solve the math problem.

Thank you for reinforcing our behavior expectations of being safe, respectful and responsible.

Thank you for calling in or using the absence link when your child is sick or absent.

Thank you for reading The Connect and the Family Newsletters.

Thank you for bringing your concerns or questions to someone at HCE who can answer them.

Thank you for being our partners in education.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. They are the reason we became teachers!