

Hawk Headlines

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Home



Message from the principal: Season's Greetings from the Estrella Vista STEM Academy staff and students! December is a busy month for us all, especially our students! We have begun our second quarter assessments and it is critical that your child is here every day on time. This valuable information is vital to the education that we will provide your student. Please make every effort to be at school, on time every day.

Congratulations to our November Employee of the Month, 2nd grade teacher Ms., Megan Crawford. Ms. Crawford leads several committees, serves as our PTSA secretary, coaches softball and provides a high quality education to her students every day! She is an asset in the EV family! Thank you for all that you do Ms. Crawford!

Thank you to everyone for making our annual PTSA Turkey trot a huge success. We had so many turkeys donated that I thought we would run out of freezer space! This event helps provide families in need a meal for the Thanksgiving holiday. Our EV Hawks showed their grateful hearts in a big way- thank you for all of your support!

Tax Credit Info: This is the season for sharing and support. Donate to our tax credit program to support our after school programs. We use tax credit funding to ensure our students have all the supplies they need. Your donations support a premiere after school program with 20 clubs. Married couples may donate up to \$400 and singles up to \$200. Any donation made serves as a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on filed state income taxes. By making a donation, you help us maintain a competitive sports program and innovative clubs. Please donate in our office or go to our website for more information: www.littletonaz.org. Thank you for your support!

STEM News: Our STEM Showcase is scheduled for December 18th from 9:00-12:00 PM. This is an opportunity for our students to showcase our design-thinking process through their project-based learning. Design-thinking is an engineering process comprised of 5 steps for problem solving. Projects will be displayed and students will present their ideations of their projects thus far. Feedback is a critical component to the process and we hope you can join us for this exciting learning event.

Kids at Hope: Here at Estrella Vista, our students are Kids at Hope Engineers! This month, the KAH committee decided to focus on the upcoming talent show. Just like the Kids at Hope pledge states, "I am talented smart and capable of success," this serves as an opportunity for students to showcase their talents and skills. Try-outs for the talent show will be on December 5th and 6th. We would like everyone to attend or participate in the show. The annual talent show is on December 12th at 6:00 PM in the cafeteria. See you there!

Make Your Day: After a weeklong break or more, we conduct a Make Your Day reset in every classroom. Teachers will review all academic and behavior expectations for the classroom, hallways, playground, cafeteria, and assemblies. This is a great time to reset with your child about school expectations. Re-read our handbook and commit again to our Make Your Day compact. By working together to set high expectations for learning and responsibility, we are preparing our student to be conscientious, productive members of society.

Safety: On a final note, our school front parking lot is designed to keep children safe. Please use the drop-off lane to let your students out of the automobile to attend school in the morning. We are noticing a high volume of parents using the parking lot for this purpose. If using the parking lot, the expectation is for parents to park and walk their students to the gate. Thank you in advance for adhering to our parking lot expectations.



Kindergarten News

All the leaves are turning orange and brown and the sky is gray... but not in kindergarten! We are soaring high to reach our goals as fall is winding down and winter is approaching...

Kindergarten is continuing to grow and is happy with all the great learning that is happening in preparation for math interims. Students and treasure hunters took a week off to prepare for turkey and thanksgiving activities, however are sure to start December strong and practice for mid-year benchmarks.

English Language Arts: letter names and sounds, key details in a text, text features labels and diagrams, characters, setting, and events, blending nonsense words as well as knowing all 20-sight words. Practicing your sight words reinforces sounds to correctly blend when reading. We are progress monitoring for how many first sounds and sounds in a word students can recognize.

Mathematics: counting and labeling objects, number sentences, practice writing numbers correctly, finding missing numbers, what makes 7, 8, 9, and 10, number sentences with related facts for addition

Science: pumpkin life cycle, food groups and what some people eat during thanksgiving, types of weather, seasons

Social Studies: Veterans Day; what it is, how to honor them; friendly letter to a veteran, Pilgrims and exploration, first thanksgiving, feast in the classroom, multi-diversity and holidays

Writing: formation of letters, practice print from left to right, finger spacing and proper punctuation, brainstorming, draft models, narratives, drafting before writing, complete sentence with appropriate punctuation

Classroom teachers are often sending home reminders of what to expect next within our classrooms. Be sure to check those folders daily. We would like to thank parents for their continuous help with classroom supplies. Sharpened pencils and white board markers are always appreciated.



First Grade News

First, we want to thank parents for sending back homework every week and working with your child on those so important sight words.

English Language Arts: In this month, students are working on blends and starting to go into long vowels with silent e. (make, cake, time) Students will continue to work on fluency and comprehension. Parents please remember to practice the 200-sight words to help your child with his/her fluency.

Mathematics: students are using different addition strategies and beginning to learn and apply different subtraction strategies using manipulatives and drawings to find the difference.

Science/Social Studies: Students are learning about motion and the different types of forces.

Writing: Students are using circle maps and tree maps to brainstorm and organize their ideas. First graders will also continue to work on writing stories using characters, setting and events using First, Next, Then and Finally.

Thank you parents again for everything you do at home to help your child succeed.

As always, thank you for all that you do and we appreciate your continual support.

The First Grade Team



Second Grade News

We cannot believe that we are already nearing the end of the first half of the year. We are so excited to continue learning as we go through the rest of the school year to finish strong.

To start, we are so excited for our upcoming field trip to the Arizona Science Center. We cannot wait for this hands on experience in learning about the world around us!

As we continue through the school year, we continue to face new challenges as we identify and use new strategies across all subjects.

In English Language Arts, students will be reading independently more frequently, and using different comprehension strategies to deepen the meaning of different texts. We are going to be learning new reading patterns in words, and writing about what we learn. It is more important than ever to be reading and practicing at home!

In Math, we have been working on adding and subtracting two digit numbers. We've focused on regrouping tens and ones in order to find solutions. Looking forward, the strategies we learn now will be incredibly important as we get ready for triple digit addition and subtraction.

In Science and Social Studies, we will be learning about different plant and animal life cycles, as well as different holidays and cultures around the world.

As we finish the quarter, we wanted to extend our gratitude toward the families that have worked so hard to help their students grow, especially in reading. By the end of December, we want students to be reading more than 72 words per minute, in order to meet the end of the year goal of 87 words per minute. Keep reading with your kiddos every single night, and help them through words they don't know!

We hope you have a wonderful holiday break!



Third Grade News

What an exciting second quarter it has been! The third graders went on their first field trip of the school year. We went to the LEGOLAND Discovery Center. Our students had the opportunity to experience a hands-on learning experience. They did a wonderful job representing the Estrella Vista community.

In Math for second quarter, students are continuing to spiral review all of their learning while applying new concepts. For multiplication, students learned strategies to help them solve the equations. Those strategies include equal groups, arrays, and number lines. They learned how to apply repeated addition and skip counting strategies to help them find the products. Students also learned division. They are applying their knowledge on fact families to help them double-check their work.

Students are continuing to strengthen their writing skills. They are using writing templates to help with typing a complete paragraph including a main idea and supporting details.

In reading students are identifying the main idea and supporting details through their short reads on Achieve and the Wonders curriculum. Students are making connections and making inferences. Reading nightly with your child is critical. Please continue to support your child in reading by reading with them every night and by asking them the Five W comprehension questions (who, what, where, when, why and how).

Thank you for your continued support.



Fourth Grade News

Fourth grade has had a great year so far. We enjoyed writing letters to Veterans and collecting cans for St. Mary's Food Bank. Students have been learning about others and how to extend a helping hand. We are all looking forward to our annual Turkey Trot and the Thanksgiving lunch. So many things to be thankful for.

Academically, students are working hard solving multi-digit division problems with remainders. GoMath has been allowing us the support needed for all learners when it comes to division.

The STEM showcase is in full force in fourth grade. Our team has decided to have an essential question: How can we stay healthy? That concept is broken down into four categories, one per each class: Immune System, Mental Health, Physical Health, and Nutrition.

In language arts we are moving along in Wonders working on the poetic unit. Students are learning several creative ways to write, speak, and get their point across.

We are all looking forward to time off to fellowship with friends and family.



Fifth Grade News

It is an exciting time in 5th grade! In ELA we are starting off unit 3- learning about what other cultures can teach us. This connects to our social studies projects where students are researching and learning about the different states in America as well as the other countries around the world! Students are then creating a PowerPoint to showcase what they learned. In math we are continuing learning about decimals, learning strategies to help us multiply them. As the quarter is coming to an end we are excited to have our 6th annual cultural lunch. This lunch allows students to share a food of their culture. We are also have our first field trip to Great Skate at the beginning of December.



Sixth Grade News

In 6th grade we are currently studying Ancient Egypt and learning about the different types of mummies. The students are very excited and very engaged in this learning. When we return from Thanksgiving break the students will begin mummifying potatoes and hot dogs to mimic the process like the Ancient Egyptians did. Also in math the students are learning metric and customary measurement and activating their prior knowledge to help their new learning.



Seventh Grade News

This week, we are reading Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" and using our understanding of dystopias, utopias, and examples from The Hunger Games to analyze how "The Lottery" connects with our essential question: What are the principles of a just society? After Thanksgiving break, we will begin reading the novel, The Giver, by Lois Lowry.

When we return from Thanksgiving break we will begin our unit on ecology. This will include studying Environmental Biology. We will be doing a cross curricular project based on Supreme Court cases concerning the environment.

In math we are working on solving multiple step equations. We have taken everything that we have learned this year and applied it to be able to find unknown values represented by variables.

In Social Studies we have been focusing on innovations that occurred during the Industrial Revolution. We explored how farming and factories have changed over time. When we return from break the students will determine what innovations still need to be done in order to create a just society.



Eighth Grade News

As fall draws to a close our 8th grade Hawks are hard at work preparing for their futures in high school, college, and beyond. In science students recently completed the first component of our yearlong STEM Problem Based Learning Unit by understanding how their daily choices contribute to greenhouse gas pollution and explaining why increases to greenhouse gas production can create major problems for the human and nonhuman members of our planet. In social studies students are learning to distinguish civil liberties from civil rights. In ELA students are learning to analyze claims, counter claims, and evidence in texts. Additionally, students are working to incorporate all three of these elements of language into their own writing. In mathematics, students are learning to solve equations with variables on both sides of the equation.



Music News

In Music, we are learning about two exciting musicians. Edvard Grieg was from Norway and wrote the famous “In The Hall Of The Mountain King” that is heard often around Halloween. Randy Newman has written music for many movies including the Toy Story series. Students have had the opportunity to learn about these famous musician’s lives, listen to their music, and even play some of their songs on Boomwhackers! Additionally, students have been learning about music fundamentals like steady beat as well as identifying instruments by their sound.

In Middle School, students are learning about holiday music and celebrations.



Art News

Kindergarten kids are learning about kinds of lines and are creating primary colored, basic shaped, lined birds! Work with scissors, glue, pencil and marker are all being used. They will be gluing beads onto the letters of their names as well.

1st and 2nd grades are studying the work of Paul Cezanne and will be creating watercolor versions of Tulips in a vase. They will be exploring watercolor resist as they work on a Secret Sentence Modern piece, modeled after Stewart Davis.

3rd and 4th graders will begin by drawing HUGE sunflowers, or parts thereof, showing wind movement and overlapping(4th) . These will be in oil pastels. Look out, they're gonna be amazing!!

5th and 6th grade students will be working on creating collaborative Circle paintings at each table. There is much to learn here in terms of cooperation and collaboration and respect and creation. They will also be creating Totem Faces with cut paper. We will look at the Totems of the Northwest and decide which animal best represents them.

The 7th and 8th-grade students will begin their STEM group projects creating a totem face animal made from cardboard and various found objects! They must cooperate and make group decisions regarding their chosen animal. They will have the option to create an imaginary animal and they will write about their animal's characteristics. This should be a fun time.



Technology News

Students of all grade levels complete lessons involving the use of computers. These lessons include the proper etiquette of internet and safety use. The lower elementary grades learn how to use the basics, such as the “mouse”, dragging, keyboard use, etc. Upper elementary grades do the same to include the creating of Google sheets, slides and docs. Students in grades K-6 are on a 4 week rotation all year. Students in 7th and 8th grade are on a quarter rotation. The majority of the lessons are 10-15 minutes. Some quizzes or projects for the upper grades can take up to 45 minutes to complete. Students should be able to complete 2-3 lessons or one quiz/project per day, depending on their program. Students work at their own pace, however, if they fall behind, their grade does decrease. I would like to stress the need for them to have their own earbuds or headphones. They are needed for many of these programs and for health reasons, they really should bring and use only their own.



Physical Education News

Kinder is working on their eye hand coordination through various scoops and balls games.

1st – 5th is working on rolling the bowling ball properly. They’re also learning about how to keep score in bowling so as to help them with basic math skills.

6th – 8th are practicing their volleyball skills. Students are learning not only the skills needed to play but also the rules and setup as to be able to officiate their own games in volleyball and others should the need arise.



STEM News

K to 5th Graders:

- 1) Students will be learning Design thinking process.
- 2) Students are learning and exploring different careers including a description of job, job responsibilities and education required for those careers.

5 – 7th Grades: Students are learning Career of a Rocket designer. Students will be building “CD Rocket engine Car” and learn how rockets work.



Band News

In 5th grade band, students have learned the first 3 notes on their instruments and are beginning to play songs using those 3 notes. They are also working on fundamentals of playing their instruments.

6th-8th is working on fundamentals as well beginning repertoire.

Upcoming Events

- 12/04: Read Better Be Better Promotion, Rm. 405, 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM
- 12/05: 5th grade Field Trip, Great Skate in Glendale, 9:00 AM
- 12/05: Talent Show Try-Outs, Rm. 309, 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM
- 12/05: La Joya High School Parent Night, Library, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
- 12/05: Winter Band Concert, Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
- 12/06: First Friday Assembly, West Field, 8:45 AM
- 12/06: Talent Show Try-Outs, Rm. 309, 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM
- 12/09: Talent Show Rehearsal, Rm. 309, 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM
- 12/10: Talent Show Rehearsal, Cafeteria, 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM
- 12/12: 7th grade Field Trip, Phoenix Symphony Hall, 9:00 AM
- 12/12: EV Talent Show, Cafeteria, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- 12/13: PTSA sponsored Donuts with Dad, Cafeteria, 7:45 AM to 8:30 AM
- 12/13: 8th grade Field Trip, Orpheum Theatre, 9:00 AM
- 12/13: 2nd grade Field Trip, AZ Science Center, 9:15 AM
- 12/13: STUCO sponsored Winter Wonderland Dance, Cafeteria, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- 12/14: EV Pom Pom Squad participating in the Glow on Monroe Parade, Buckeye AZ, 6:00 PM
- 12/17: EV Spelling Bee, Library, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 12/18: EV STEM Showcase, various classrooms in the school, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- 12/18: PTSA Dollar Dress Down Day, all students
- 12/19: EV Sports Banquet, Cafeteria, 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM
- 12/20: Jingle Jog, West Field, 7:30 AM to 8:15 AM
- 12/23 to 1/3: Winter Break, No School

