

Hawk Headlines

Estrella Vista STEM Academy



Message from the principal: We have lots to celebrate this month at EV! Congratulations to our Employee of the Month, 6th grade science teacher, Ms. Chantelle Ottens. Ms. Ottens has been with our fabulous school for at least 2 years and I am sure many more to come. She started as a long-term sub and eventually decided that she wanted to be an EV Hawk. Ms. Ottens goes above and beyond her call of duty to get the job done and is always willing to assist in any way that she can. Students enjoy her class and you can often see her here late at night getting ready for her students. If I had to say three words or phrases to describe this person, it would be brave, eager to learn and most of all dedicated to become the best person she can be. If someone were to ask me about her, I would say she is competitive and hates to lose. What I admire the most is her strength, positivity and her passion. Congratulations Ms. Ottens, we appreciate you!

February is a time to show our appreciation for special people in our lives. I would like to thank our wonderful parent volunteers! We have many parents who volunteer their time at our school each and every day. Thank you for all that you do for our teachers, students and staff. We love you!

These next two months are very important as we head into our state and AZELLA testing next month. **Every day is critical** and we want to help your students to be as successful as possible. It is important for your child to be at school **every day, on time**, and we appreciate your support of high student achievement through great attendance.

School Choice Night: Thank you for choosing Estrella Vista STEM Academy! We had an amazing turnout for school choice night and I am so happy to share that 797 Hawks requested to return to the nest next year! We are honored to partner with you in your child's education. Working together, we can make EV an ever better place to learn and grow. Let's go Hawks!

Kids at Hope: Here at Estrella Vista, our students are Kids at Hope Engineers! This quarter, we will focus on Community and Service. We are gearing up for an exciting Career Day and we would love to have our working parents attend. Be on the look out for more information to follow and come share your expertise with us!

Make Your Day - Make Your Day (MYD) Promotes Intrinsic Motivation - How does this impact your child's academic success? The whole MYD philosophy is based on promoting intrinsic motivation for student behavior and academics. Why is this important? As a STEM school, we are fostering 21st Century thinkers. Supporting students to be successful in future endeavors is imperative. Therefore, kids need intrinsic motivation. In real life, we are not always rewarded, sometimes we feel accomplished doing things for the success. An intrinsically motivated student does things well and makes good choices to feel prideful. Children who perform to gain parent approval, grades, or rewards are considered extrinsically motivated. Research shows internally motivated children achieve greater success. Parents can help us in developing intrinsically motivated students by discussing how the true reward is to feel accomplished, not getting a tangible gift or reward. Developing mindsets centered on self-directed thinking and reflection supports intrinsic motivation. Matching our STEM philosophy with MYD's philosophy in every classroom across the school is our goal. We appreciate your support in this endeavor!

Safety: Safety is our number one priority. Thank you for following our parking lot procedures to help keep all of our students safe. Please drop off on the curb and be mindful of other drivers. Remember the parking lot is for parking only- it is not for student drop off. Our students are aware of this rule, please be a good role model for your child by following it at all times. If you choose to park, please make sure to walk your child across the parking lot. Our parking lot can get hectic with cars pulling in and out and we need to take care of our Hawks at all times. Please walk your child across the across lot to wait for the crosswalk or simply use the drop off lane, it allows for all children to be safe. Students are not to be on campus prior to 8:20 to ensure adult supervision is present.

STEM Update: Our school focus is engineering and our students engage in the design thinking process to find solutions to problems in our world. We are currently reviewing additional program offerings to support our engineering focus. Over the next couple of months, our staff will explore engineering programs and attend professional development to explore options to enhance our school focus. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Tax Credit: Remember to donate to our tax credit program. 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. Estrella Vista has a premier after school program. By making a donation, you help us maintain a competitive sports program along with clubs and organizations. Please donate in our office or go to our website for more information: www.littletonaz.org. Thank you for your support!



Kindergarten News

The weather may be cold out, however our warm hearts are keeping us happy and ready for 2020!

Continuing our 'climb' to reaching our goals, kindergarten is continuing to prepare for first grade. Kindergarten has many affirmations and great things going for them. We have discussed strategies that best fit the multiple needs of our learning and are practicing how to use these skills independently.

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 reading sight words. We are progress monitoring for how many first sounds and sounds in a word students can recognize. At this point in the year, students should be able to name above 30 first sounds and segment sounds.

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, knowing how to subtract.

Science: Living and Nonliving things.

Social Studies: US symbols and traditions.

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 and 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, wipes and white board markers are always appreciated.

The kindergarten team would also like to thank you for your support with completing homework and helping their students practice reading fluency every day.

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

Kindergarten Treasure Hunters J



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 long vowels vowel teams. Students are focusing on fluency and answering questions when reading the story/passage. We will continue to work on main idea and details. Parents please continue to work/practice on sequencing parts of the story at home.

Mathematics: students will start working on place value to the hundred place. We will continue to bring fact families back to continue practice and get better at our numbers.

Science/Social Studies: students are working on light, and animals. We will work on animal classification and how to categorize each animal under the correct class.

Writing: Students are working on using pictures to write sentences using the 5 W's (who, what, when, where and why)

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

The year is flying by! We are so excited to continue learning and developing our skills.

We are very excited to announce that we scored above the district averages on our ELA AND Math benchmarks for Quarter 2! You should be very proud of your students for all of their hard work.

Looking ahead, we are going to continue working hard toward success. In Reading, we are going to continue working hard to read at the speed we need to. By the end of the year, we want each student reading around 90 words per minute! Continue practicing with your student at home in order to help them reach their goals.

In math, we are going to be adding and subtracting three digit numbers, and working with money and time.

In Science and Social Studies, we are going to be learning about weather patterns, and finding different ways to survive in different weather conditions.

As always, practice reading with your student EVERY Night! We appreciate all that you do to help your kiddos. You should be very proud of them!



Third Grade News

We are officially in third quarter and we have so much to learn! In math for third quarter, students will be introduced to measurement. In the month of January, students learned a variety of strategies to solve for area and perimeter of polygons and irregular shapes. Students were solving for unknown sides and two-step word problems. Please continue to practice basic math skills at home every night, as they are crucial in measurement. They will be applying those concepts as we move onto fractions.

Students are strengthening their writing skills! They are using writing templates to help with typing a complete paragraph including a main idea and supporting details. Students are using text evidence to help them expand on their writing. Students are also expanding their vocabulary with prefixes and suffixes.

In reading students are digging deep into stories to be able to answer several types of questions. Students are using Wonders and Achieve3000 to improve their reading skills. Students are identifying the main idea and supporting details through their short reads. Students are making connections and making inferences using text clues and their prior knowledge. 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

Math: Students are discovering equivalent fractions and making connections between factors and multiples. They are still working hard at mastering their math facts in preparation for 5th grade. We have started intervention rotations, with the focus on word problems/multi-step problems, and are providing support for all students.

Science: Students have been exploring moon phases and the relationship between the calendar days/year. They worked hard exploring with Oreos and are making real life connections regarding space.

Social Studies: A huge focus for us this year is with geography and understanding locations within the Earth. Students are working on a cross-curricular activity that involves them researching 2 cities, providing a plethora of data, and stating comparisons and contrasting things about the 2 cities. They are enjoying learning more about Arizona and the world itself.

Language Arts: Some students are preparing for AZELLA by taking practice tests, working in pairs to increase their listening and speaking, and working hard on their grammar. In general, there is a big focus on writing; including textual evidence and structuring sentences within a paragraph.

The preparation for 5th grade is in full force and we are excited to continue seeing their growth socially and academically.



Fifth Grade News

5th grade has been doing great things! Students participated in the Pringles Challenge, creating a freestanding loop made only of Pringles. Though it was challenging, many groups were able to complete the challenge! On February 4th we will be going to ASU Earth and Space for a phenomenal field trip where students will learn more about our solar system and universe. We will continue our studies of fractions, theme, author's point of view, pronouns, and space throughout February.



Sixth Grade News

All of the students have been working very hard this quarter! The students have begun departmentalizing between four classes and they are doing great with these transitions. The students are building great relationships with all four teachers and enjoying getting a deeper learning in Social Studies and Science. We can't wait to see how they end the year with these transitions! Go 6th grade! Keep rockin' it!!!



Seventh Grade News

In science we are about to embark on our trip to the edge of the universe (if there is an edge!). We are starting our Space Science (Astronomy) unit. This is always the favorite time of the year for students. Hopefully, we have some future Astronauts in class.

In math class we have been focusing on solving inequalities. Students just took their chapter assessment so we will be jumping into Ratios and Proportions. After grading the assessments we will see if there are students who require some more teaching about inequalities. We are then going to use everything that we have learned and apply it to finding different ways that we can solve our new problems.

In ELA, we are putting a heavy focus on writing. The students just completed an argumentative essay last week and they are currently beginning research for an informational essay this week. The essays pair with the readings and skills we are focusing on in class.

In Social Studies we are focusing on the causes of World War 1. During this exploration we will then turn our focus to the battle field to observe the different technologies that are being used. The goal for this unit is to see how the events of World War 1 led to the Great Depression and World War 2.



Eighth Grade News

It has been a very busy month of January for our 8th grade students as we begin their last semester of elementary school. Our 8th grade students have been hard at working learning about theme in English Language Arts. Students composed mix-tapes of songs centered on a particular unifying theme and presented their work to their peers. In math students are learning slope intercept form focusing on how to calculate the slope of a line and using their analysis to better understand real world problems. In social studies students are studying economics and learning about various types of economic systems. In science, students are studying Newton's Laws of Motion and explaining how they see/use Newton's Laws of motion in their everyday life.



Music News

In Music, we are learning about two exciting musicians. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is incredibly popular and wrote more music than almost any other composer. Charles Strouse is a Broadway legend who created the musicals “Annie” and “Bye Bye Birdie.” Students have had the opportunity to learn about these famous musician’s lives and explore their music. Additionally, students have been learning about rhyming words and rhythm patterns using rhythm sticks.

In Middle School, students are exploring computer coding to learn about the connections between music and STEM.



Art News

Kinder began the New Year by drawing and then coloring with texture, and now the endangered Koala from Australia. We learned about their habitat,, what they eat, and how they care for their young. These are coming out very nice! They then move onto creating a torn paper owl after reading OWL MOON by Jane Yolen. They also learned all about their diet and how if you are quiet, you may see one at night! They will round off their visit to art with a tissue paper masterpiece yet to be determined!

1st and 2nd graders looked at the art of Edvard Munch, then did their own self-portrait, and then used straws to blow their hair back for that surprised look! They then went on to create a snowy scene of Cardinals among Birch trees. They will then move onto the story of Elmer to create our own using cut tissue paper for the Elephant.

3rd and 4th graders worked on a half self-portrait with their name in Block letters on the other half. We used a mixture of oils, markers, and crayons. Next, they will be creating a Truffula Tree forest from the Lorax with oils and watercolor. If we have time, we will work on some OP art magic.

5th and 6th graders began the new year with a self-portrait elongated, like the art of Amadeo Modigliani. They really got a kick out of elongating their necks and faces and most felt quite proud of their art! Next, they began looking at TUNICS of the Native Americans. We read the story ANCIENT THUNDER by Leo Yerxa. They are

now using brown butcher paper to design their own version of an authentic leather tunic. If there is time, we will be doing some cool OP art to round out the quarter.

7th and 8th graders began the new year with giant self-portrait like drawings of themselves, that has been abstracted, like the work of Sandra Silbersweig who took her inspiration from Picasso. The 7th graders are using oils, chalk pastel, metallic markers and metallic colored pencils for these masterpieces. The 8th graders are using watercolors for theirs. I cannot wait to find out which I adore more! Next, they will be creating cut paper molas, like those of the matriarchal society of the KUNA INDIANS of Panama and Colombia and the hundreds of tiny islands in the Central American region. With parent permission, some will do a style using Exacto knives, and the others will use scissors creating a different style of mola. Paper Quilling is also on the agenda for this paper heavy quarter. This is the art of winding paper around a tool, and pinching and bending the spiral to create shapes to fill in a chosen themed picture. I am excited to see these come to life!



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

K – 2nd are working on their underhand throwing skills through a variety of games and practices.

4th & 5th are having a class tournament to see who is the best at spatial awareness game name “Waiter Wars.” Students have made their own teams, named them, and have worked out strategies together to help them win.

6th has been practicing their pickleball skills for a skills assessment coming at the end of the week. Once they have finished, they will be learning the basic form for a golf swing.

7th and 8th just finished up their own pickleball unit where they took a practical exam in the end. They are now learning the history and basic rules for soccer. Soon, they will be forming teams and competing against each other in a small season.



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.

8th Graders: Students will build “Super Capacitor wind car”



Band News

In 5th grade band, we are working on ensemble skills, such as blend and balance. We are also learning new notes and slurs and ties.

In 6th-8th grade band, we are working on 8th notes and dotted rhythms.

Upcoming Events:

- 02/04: 5th Grade Field Trip to ASU in Tempe, 9:00 AM
02/04-02/05: AZELLA Reassessment, 6th thru 8th grades, various times.
02/06: McTeacher Night, McDonalds at Dysart & I10, 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
02/07: First Friday Assembly, West Field, 8:45 AM
02/07: 1st Grade Field Trip to the Phoenix Zoo in Phoenix, 9:00 AM
02/10: Writing Assessment, 6th thru 8th grades, various times.
02/10-02/11: AZELLA Reassessment, 3rd thru 5th grades, various times.
02/13: Writing Assessment, 3rd thru 5th grades, various times.
02/13: Kinder LOVE Performance, Cafeteria, 6:00 PM
02/17: President’s Day, No School
02/18-02/19: AZELLA Reassessment, 1st and 2nd grades, various times.
02/20-02/21: AZELLA Reassessment, Kinder, various times.
02/25: Kinder Field Trip, Children’s Museum in Phoenix. 9:00 AM
02/26: PTSA Dollar Dress Down Day
02/26: 3rd Grade Open House, all third grade classrooms, 5:00 PM
02/28: KAH College Shirt Day

