

Hawk Headlines

Estrella Vista STEM Academy

Home



Message from the principal: We appreciate your support of Estrella Vista STEM Academy! We would like to take time to thank you for the following:

- All who attended our first Kids at Hope event, Grandparents Day! We had a phenomenal turnout! It was so exciting to see all of our grandparents have lunch with their EV Hawk. Working together- we can all achieve more!
- Your plans to attend Parent/Teacher conferences the week of September 30th. This is an important event and we hope to see all of you there. Teachers will work with you to schedule conferences for multiple children.
- Working on homework and reading with your child in the evening. If you have any questions about how you can help your child in the evening, please contact his/her teacher.
- MYD expectations by sending your child to school in their proper uniform to include their ID and lanyard. . If you need help or have questions about the school dress code, please see your parent/teacher handbook or check with the front office.
- Congratulations to our first Employee of the Month, Mrs. Eva McCue. She was selected by her peers and celebrated at our First Friday assembly. She received a mug filled with candy and a restaurant gift card. Congratulations Mrs. McCue, we appreciate all that you do for our students and staff!

As the flu season arrives, please remind your child to frequently wash their hands, use tissues or sneeze into their arms, and to avoid rubbing their nose and eyes. If your child has a fever, please keep them home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medicine.

As the weather cools, enjoy this opportunity to spend time outside with your child. Go on a family walk, have a picnic at the park or simply watch your child play outside. Time goes by quickly and our children will be grown before we know it. Make every moment count!

Kids at Hope: Here at Estrella Vista, our students are Kids at Hope Engineers! We are currently looking at ways to increase our current implementation of STEM with a focus on Engineering across the school. Our Kids at Hope committee is comprised of staff and students. Working together, the committee has planned many fun events centered around the four pillars of our Kids at Hope commitments; Family and Home, Career and Education, Community and Service, and Hobbies and Recreation. Be on the lookout for more information about our Kids at Home events and how you can also be a Treasure Hunter!

Safety: Safety is our number one priority. As we are working to streamline our drop off and pick up procedures, please remember that the parking lot is NOT a drop off or pick up location. We ask that all parents

use the drop off lane to help speed up this process. Kindergarten students may be dropped off in the drop off lane after Fall Break. Every time we need to stop for the crosswalk, it slows down the drop off lane. When we all utilize the drop off lane, the process will become routine and it will flow at a much quicker pace. Thank you for your continued support to help keep our kids safe!

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

Wake me up when September ends... It already ended? Let's all cheer, Fall is here!

Kindergarten as a whole is well on its way to building great relationships with their students and families! It is amazing to see how much learning can take place in just eight weeks!

English Language Arts: letter names and sounds, focus sound A, P, S, T, and blending these sounds to make words, counting syllables orally, identifying key details in a story and asking and answering questions about fictional and informational text.

Mathematics: counting within a number and finding ways to make the number 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, practice writing numbers correctly, comparing numbers to find greater than and less than.

Science: 5 senses, exploration of apples using the 5 senses in honor of Johnny Appleseed

Social Studies: routines, procedures, and social interactions including problem solving and following expectations, grandparent's day, patriot day, talk like a pirate day.

Writing: formation of letters, practice print from left to right, finger spacing and writing own name with good formation, open responses to stories and prompts.

Kindergarten treasure hunters 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 help with classroom supplies and support with completing homework as well as practicing sight words, and helping their students practice their best every day.

Thank you for all that you do and we appreciate your continual support,

 Kindergarten TEAM



First Grade News

First grade is so excited and happy with all the great learning that is happening! Students are growing and the weather is cooling down. What a great year it is. ELA and Math benchmarks are coming the end of this month. Conferences are coming the first week of October.

English Language Arts: letter names and sounds, l-blends, short o, s-blends, and r-blends, key details in a text, text features labels and diagrams, blending nonsense words

Mathematics: counting within ten and ways to make the numbers 5-10, word problems, number sentences, practice writing numbers correctly, true and false statements, what makes 7, 8, 9, and 10

Science: Natural Resources cause and effect

Social Studies: patriot day, rules and laws of local communities

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

First grade treasure hunters 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 help with classroom supplies and support with completing homework as well as practicing sight words, and helping their students practice reading fluency every day.

Thank you for all that you do and we appreciate your continual support,

First Grade TEAM



Second Grade News

We are continuing to grow!! Second grade has had an absolutely wonderful Quarter 1, and we are excitedly looking forward to learning more throughout the year.

This year, we have been lucky enough to get to use laptops in the classroom EVERY SINGLE DAY! This is an amazing thing, and will allow the students to deepen their learning through different games, apps, and challenges. Reach out to your student's teacher if you would like to know more about how to integrate technology into your student's learning.

This quarter, we have been lucky to focus on many different concepts across all subjects.

In English Language Arts, students have been developing their reading skills with different sounds and letter patterns. We have been practicing different reading strategies, and understanding texts at different levels of complexity.

In Math, we have been focusing on practicing our single digit addition and subtraction math facts. These skills are going to be very important in the future as we add and subtract numbers up to 1,000.

In Social Studies, we have been learning about Civics, and the importance of being a member of a community by following laws, doing jobs, and helping others.

In Science, we have understood the three states of matter - solids, liquids, and gases, and how they can change from one to the other.

Looking forward we are so excited to continue learning and growing! Mark your calendars for our Field Trip coming up on October 22! We are going to the Pumpkin Patch!

Thank you for all you do, and make sure to read with your student every single night!



Third Grade News

We are wrapping up our first quarter of the school year, what a busy time it has been! Our goal for first quarter in math is to wrap up place value, rounding, and addition and subtraction within a thousand. These are critical math skills as we start to develop math fact fluency and dig into multiplication and division. Third grade will be moving into multiplication and division soon! Please continue to practice basic math skills at home every night as we move forward into our new math standards.

In ELA students are identifying main ideas, supporting details, character traits, and sequencing events through their short reads whether it be through Wonders or Achieve3000. Our goal is to build our reading stamina. Our students are working hard on choosing good-fit books that will allow them to build their comprehension and fluency skills while expanding their vocabulary. 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).

We look forward to seeing you for Student-Led Conferences. Thank you for your continued support!



Fourth Grade News

The fourth graders this year are working so hard in and outside of the classroom!

For math this month we have just finished up our Place Value unit and will be beginning multiplication this week. GO MATH has so many resources for our students to use and utilize both in the classroom and at home! They are also working so hard to memorize their multiplication facts! Once the students master these skills, math will become so much easier for them to understand.

For ELA we are working on so many great strategies through Wonders and our interventions with Achieve 3000. Students are quickly learning how to become better skilled writers with their grammar and through their brainstorming. Achieve 3000 is also a great resource to use at home to read articles and build their skills that they are learning about in class!

Science and Social Studies are going well with some fun labs in the classroom using Design Thinking and also their knowledge of maps and geography. Our students are truly amazing!

All in all our 4th graders are working on their growth mindset, they know if they fail, it is just an opportunity to do better the next time.



Fifth Grade News

Wow how fast time flies in fifth grade, it is already almost the end of the quarter! This means benchmarks are right around corner. This first quarter we learned a variety of things. In math we are moving right along in solving division problems with multi-digit divisors. In ELA we are learning the many comprehension strategies that help students with their understanding of text. We are also right in the middle of our book study on the book “Wonder”; the story about a 5th grade boy with a facial deformity and his experience going to school for the first time. In social studies we are learning about the birth of our country. We are exploring how the 13 colonies became the amazing and free country we are today. In Science we are traveling back in time to find out how we came to be in our exciting genetics unit!



Sixth Grade News

As 1st quarter is ending, 6th grade is finishing up sixth standards and is beginning to review for first quarter interims. Students are currently working on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions in Math and in ELA, students are finishing reading Hatchet by Gary Paulsen. In Social Studies, students are becoming geographers and better understanding the world we live in as we study the Five Themes of Geography. In Science students are beginning to learn about simple machines. Lastly, about 30 of our students from EV are going to be going to Friendly Pines camp in Prescott with other students from the district. As it is getting closer we are all getting excited to go!



Seventh Grade News

Science dives into the heart of our year. Our first unit is Geology. We will study rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, continental drift and Pangea. Students will have an opportunity to view earth’s formation and all that followed. Fossils and age determination will be an eye opener for all.

In ELA class, we are working on two things. We are reading The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins and learning ELA skills while reading the novel. Students are also finishing up a narrative writing project where they created their own character and developed their own story using elements of The Hero’s Journey.

In math class, we have been working with fractions and decimals. Students have been combining what they learned in sixth grade and the first few weeks of seventh grade. We are working with the four basic operations using rational numbers and rounding our answer to various place values.

In Social Studies we have recently finished our unit on the Pre-Revolution. Now that we have a better understanding of why the colonies wanted separation we will turn our focus to the war. During this unit we will focus on individuals who made the war effort successful and how the Patriots were able to beat the odds to win the war.



Eighth Grade News

Over the course of the past month our 8th grade students have been immersed in a variety of learning experiences. In the science classroom students have explored the structure and function of various cell types and participated in labs to help them gain experience in science and engineering practices that stretch across content areas. In the English Language Arts classroom students engaged in learning about how to elaborate in their oral and written expression after presenting a claim or new idea. In the social studies classroom students concluded their unit, the function of government, by drafting an essay arguing whether or not the voting age should be lowered to the age of 16. In mathematics, students applied their understanding of scientific notation to help them demonstrate very large and very small numbers.



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 the world of theater, especially the life and works of William Shakespeare.



STEM News

K to 8: Students are learning and exploring different careers including a description, job responsibilities and education required for those careers.



Technology News

Our students are either learning and/or refreshing on basic skills using the computer. Throughout the year, the older students will be learning and/or refreshing on skills such as, Google Docs, Sheets, Slides and using the internet for research.



Art News

Kindergarten kids are learning about kinds of lines and are creating primary colored, basic shaped, lined birds! Work with scissors and glue and pencil and marker are all being used. They'll 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!!

They will also explore Australian Aboriginal Art, creating a DOT painting. Keep your eye out for small sticks we can use to paint with.

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 graders are working on creating a Meaningful Mandala, using markers and SAND! These are coming out great. Each student has chosen a goal and images to represent how this goal can be achieved!



Physical Education News

K- 5 have just rotated so we will be working on following our classroom expectations. Once we are done with that, we will move on to locomotor skills to help us prepare for all the movement we will be doing in PE.

6th – 8th have been working on their basketball fundamentals. The skills will be put to the test at the end of the unit when they must demonstrate their basketball prowess during an end of unit exam.



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 basic fundamentals of playing their instruments.

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



Upcoming Events

- 10/01:** First Quarter Honor Roll Assemblies – Cafeteria
- 10/01-10/4:** Book Fair, Library
- 10/02-10/04:** Fall Parent/Teacher Conference – Early Release
- 10/04:** First Friday Staff Breakfast
- 10/04:** First Friday Assembly
- 10/07-10/11:** Fall Break – No School
- 10/15:** Fall Pictures – Stage in Cafeteria
- 10/19:** Love Our School Day – EV Campus
- 10/19:** EV Pom Pom Squad participate in Billy Moore Day parade
- 10/22:** 2nd Grade Field Trip to Rocker 7 Pumpkin Patch, Buckeye AZ
- 10/22:** PTSA Meeting, 5:30 PM, Library
- 10/25:** PTSA Fall Festival, 5:30 to 7:30, West Field and Basketball Courts
- 10/30:** PTSA Dollar Dress Down Day