

# Hawk Headlines

## Estrella Vista STEM Academy

### Home



**Message from the principal:** We are off to a great start at EV! Students have completed their initial assessments for the year in both reading and math. Teachers will use this information to guide their instruction. Our teachers attended their first district wide professional development day on August 21<sup>st</sup> to collaborate with other teachers across the district and learn new, effective teaching strategies for the classroom. Thank you for your continued support of our early release Wednesdays to provide this valuable time for our teachers. We want to be the best that we can be for your child! We had an amazing turn out for our after school club night thanks to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Ms. Smith. I can't wait to see all of the super fun, highly engaging activities our teachers have planned for their clubs! Our sports season starts this week. Come on out and support our Hawks with boys' basketball and girls' soccer. GO HAWKS!!! Thank you to all the parents who attended our grade level curriculum nights, we appreciate your support. Our goal at EV is to partner with parents and build a collaborative relationship to support our children. I encourage you to attend our monthly PTSA meetings and have your voice heard as a valuable member of our school. See our calendar and website for more information on dates and times. We would love to see you there!

**STEM Update:** 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. Teachers will begin planning their project-based learning lessons and students will engage in an on-going project using the design-thinking process. Be on the lookout for more information from your child's teacher. Home and Family, Education and Career, Community and Service, and Hobbies and Recreation. We will have two events in September; Grandparent's Day and Multicultural Day. Flyers will be sent home; we hope to see you there!

**Safety:** Safety is our number one priority. We appreciate your patience and support as we transitioned to a closed campus this year. We will continue to work on procedures for parent drop off and pick up. To help with this process, we ask all parents to utilize the parent drop off line in the morning and parent pick up line in the afternoon. The parking lot is not a drop off or pick up area. One of the main reasons why our drop off and pick up lines take so long is the constant stopping for the crosswalk from the parking lot. If all parents used the drop off/pick up lanes, the flow of traffic will be more smooth and systematic. We strongly encourage you to use the lanes and help us with this process to make sure all students are 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](http://www.littletonaz.org). Thank you for your support!



## Kindergarten News

Hooray Hooray for Labor day closing August and an early salute into September!

Kindergarten as a whole is well on its way to building great relationships with their students and families! Although it has been a short time with students so far, the beginning growth seen by treasure hunters are a confirmation that it is going to be a great school year.

Pre-assessments to see what students already know have been conducted and we now have our starting points for learning this year.

English Language Arts: letter names and sounds, focus sound M, counting syllables orally

Mathematics: counting within five and ways to make the number 5, practice writing numbers correctly

Science: 5 senses

Social Studies: routines, procedures, and social interactions including problem solving and following expectations

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

Kinder 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 as a whole is well on its way to building great relationships with their students and families! Although it has been a short time with students so far, the shared voices heard by treasure hunters confirm that it is going to be a great school year. Pre-assessments for ELA, Math, Writing, and reading fluency have been completed.

English Language Arts: letter names and sounds, short vowel a and i, key details in a text, text features photograph and bold words, blending nonsense words

Mathematics: counting within ten and ways to make the numbers 5-10, word problems, number sentences, adding and subtracting, and practice writing numbers correctly

Science: living and nonliving and natural resources

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

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 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



## **Second Grade News**

Second graders are off to an amazing start of the new school year! All students are working hard to practice their reading skills, number concepts in math, and new concepts in science and social studies.

In reading, we are beginning our year with some new stories and getting to know the characters, settings, and events that occur. We'll also be putting a heavy focus on foundational phonics skills as we continue building our reading fluency.

In math, we're spending our time understanding number concepts through place value and number patterns. Through this, we're excited to continue learning about bigger numbers as we prepare for higher level math.

This year, we are incredibly excited to put a larger focus on Science and Social Studies. So far, we've gone over the states of matter in Science, and worked together as a community to build a strong bond with one another in Social Studies.

Keep an eye out for information on our upcoming field trips and events!



## **Third Grade News**

What an exciting beginning of the year it has been! We are growing! Our goal for first quarter in math is to review 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.

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 at our next Parent Night. Thank you for your continued support!



## Fourth Grade News

Fourth grade is off to an awesome start! The first few weeks of school were so refreshing as we re-established procedures and routines. Now that we are in the swing of things, students are working hard to improve their math fluency facts, as well as identifying higher level thinking when it comes to place value. Through the use of Go Math and Illuminate reinforces, students are truly conceptualizing place value and the components that filter in to it. For language arts, the focus has been on conventions and grammar. We believe that establishing proper writing formations and functions will allow for deeper fluency and comprehension. Wonders has a great section on grammar and students have been showcasing their knowledge on Illuminate reinforces. As we enter the half-way mark for the quarter, students are beginning to dive into the Design-Thinking process to prepare for their yearlong STEM showcase. We are looking forward to higher levels of learning, collaboration, and student achievements this year.



## Fifth Grade News

Welcome back to the start of an amazing year in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We spent the first 3 days of school building community in our rooms and doing a Make Your Day review. We're starting off the year in math learning everything there is to know about place value and multiplication. From there, we move into division! In ELA, we're starting off in Wonders learning about characters, setting, plot and problem/solution. We have also been practicing our writing using the What, Why, How strategy. In Science, we started with inquiries and will be moving into our genetics unit. In Social Studies, we're learning about explorers and the American Revolution.



## Sixth Grade News

The 6th grade team is off to a great start! In Math and Science, students are learning order of operations, science experiments and labs to engage themselves in the scientific process. In ELA and Social Studies students are currently reading Hatchet by Gary Paulson and learning the Five Themes of Geography to have a better understanding of the world we live in. Also, 6th grade teachers and students are getting very excited for the Friendly Pines field trip in October! We cannot wait for this exciting adventure.



## Seventh Grade News

In Social Studies we have been focusing on the rising tensions that occurred prior to the American Revolution. As we look through the causes we have been analyzing if they were the correct actions by the government and what systems have been put in place to prevent similar problems with our current government.

In science we are finishing an extensive introduction of Scientific Inquiry and the Scientific Method. Students have worked hard to master these topics and hone their skills on real world applications. When we return from

the Labor Day holiday we will begin our Geology unit, which includes rocks and minerals, tectonic theory and natural disasters

In math we have been working with integers. We used the content that was learned in 6th grade to start with simple positive numbers. When we assured that we understood that part we started introducing negatives into our problems. The students have created strategies and identified patterns to create rules that would help us solve problems using the four basic operations when positives and negatives are involved

In ELA we are learning about the hero's journey. Almost every hero we know follows the steps of the hero's journey and this knowledge will help students analyze characters and plot. We are also focusing on making sure we are understanding various elements of grammar in order to improve our writing, conversation, and reading skills. After Labor Day, we will be starting a novel study.



## **Eighth Grade News**

In 8th grade students have had a fantastic first month of school as they take steps to prepare for high school, college, career, and beyond. In Language Arts students have learned to understand and identify the plot of a story. In mathematics students are discovering the power of scientific notation in rationalizing extremely large and small numbers. In social studies students have compared and contrasted differing forms of government to better understand our government and governments around the world. In science students have explored the characteristics of living things and started to investigate the structure and functions of cells and their organelles.



## **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.



## **Physical Education News**

K- 5 students 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 students 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.



## 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!



## STEM News

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



## Band News

In band, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have just begun their journey in performing music. Students have started to learn how to properly assemble and disassemble their instruments, along with how to produce their first sounds. In addition, they have been listening to musical examples of what their instruments should sound like when played properly.

In the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, students have been reviewing the fundamentals of playing their instrument along with reading new music.



## Upcoming Events

8/30-9/2: Labor Day Recess, no school

9/6: First Friday Assembly, West Field, 8:45 AM

9/6: PTSA Peter Piper Pizza Night, I-10 & McDowell, 5:30 PM

9/12: DC Trip, 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting, Rm. 507, 5:30 PM

9/13: KAH Grandparents Day Luncheon, various times, Cafeteria

9/20: KAH Harmony Day, school wide

9/23-9/27: ELA and Math interim testing, 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades

9/24: PTSA General Meeting, Library, 5:30 PM

9/25: PTSA Dollar Dress Down Day