



Sanderson Academy

Weekly Newsletter

September 24, 2020

From the Principal: Welcome back! I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families joining the Sanderson Academy community and welcome back all the returning families as well! As we begin a new year, I want to stress the importance of a partnership between school and home. This often begins with open communication. I am extending an open invitation to call or email me (eliebowitz@mtrsd.org) with questions, concerns and/or ideas. I look forward to partnering with all of you!

From the School Office: Please return your back to school paperwork. This can be done by mail, drop it off at school (there is a bucket out front for after hours drop off) or scan/email (dsessions@mtrsd.org) If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Local Goods Fundraiser:

Local Goods for Local Kids - Join us in Celebrating our 12th year! This fundraiser for Sanderson Academy is now open and accepting orders! Catalogues and order forms available at Neighbors and online in Sanderson Academy website under HELPFUL LINKS, and copies of the catalogue and order form at the school (outside front entrance in plastic bin).

We need you! Please share the catalog and order form with your friends, family, coworkers and neighbors.

Orders due Friday October 9, 2020

- PREFERRED—Mail-in orders: Sanderson Academy, C/O Local Goods, 808 Cape Street Ashfield, MA 01330
- Drop-off orders: Sanderson Academy, C/O Local Goods Sanderson Academy, 808 Cape Street, Ashfield, MA 01330

Pick-up orders at Sanderson Academy, Sat, Nov 14, 2020 from 9:30am - 1pm.

Pick up will be in front of Sanderson Academy, prepare to stay in car to maintain physical distance.

- COVID-19 precautions will be followed per the school & state protocol

Questions? Contact Cara at caraflys@gmail.com or Kylee at kyleetatro@gmail.com

Mohawk Trail Regional School District News: The district will be hosting a virtual town hall via Facebook LIVE next week (Sept. 29 6-7PM via the MTRS Facebook page). Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2001881929953357>

Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman: Thank you, preschool children and families, for welcoming me to your homes for visits. It was nice to drive through our beautiful community to deliver school supplies, meet new children, and visit with returning friends. I enjoyed outside tours, hearing about summer adventures, and learning about some of your interests. I look forward to a wonderful year together!

Preschool News from Ms. Melanie: A hearty welcome to our new and returning students and families! We are delighted to share this new school year with you! Our remote classes are going strong with wonderful attendance and enthusiasm. It is so good to see everyone! In our daily classroom meetings, we are learning how to “mute” and “unmute” independently and how to take turns sharing with each other. Each student has a colorful “talking star” that comes with them to class each day. Our students know that when they have something to say, they simply hold the talking star in view--just like raising a hand! In our virtual classroom, we are singing our familiar songs, checking the weather, reading stories, and more! It is, at once, new and familiar and we are happy to be back!

Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah: Thank you for all the family support for a great launch to online kindergarten! So far, we have been learning the routine for our remote class time (work our bodies, work our brains, take care of our bodies, work our brains...) and how to mute/unmute. We have been playing “getting to know you” games and reading books about our new school community. We drew pictures of what we are hoping to learn about or do at school and came up with some class rules to make sure that everyone’s hopes can come true (take care of ourselves, take care of each other, and take care of our school materials). It has been fun to see everyone’s growing confidence!

First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen: We are excited to start our school year. The first graders are very happy to see their friends and make new friends. Ms. Taylor, Mrs. Prew and myself are a team for first grade remote learning. We are starting with a variety of getting to know each other sharing topics. We are enjoying a variety of activities from morning meetings to virtual online learning tools to teach handwriting and math. We are learning healthy habits for online learning. The children especially enjoy being read to and movement breaks.

Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson: Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year to the second grade families and to the wider Sanderson community! As we start the new school year, our class has been learning about the expectations for on-line learning and how to navigate learning on their devices. We are also learning that we will experience tech issues, but with patience and understanding we will also solve them. The second graders have been wonderfully positive and supportive of each other during their first week of remote learning, so kudos are sent out to them!

As we start the new school year, we are also enjoying the seasonal change as summer fades away and autumn emerges and we are incorporating fall-themed activities into our learning each day. We have been reading books and poems about the changes fall brings and we have been spending time outdoors using our

senses to observe these changes. Another activity we started this week to help build our classroom community is called “Pack a Bag”. Each second grader was asked to pack a bag with things that would help us get to know him/her better. Our bags were filled with items such as art supplies, family photos, and stuffies. We had fun learning more about our classmates, about the things they like to do, and about some of their “favorites”.

Third Grade News from Mrs. Wyckoff: Hello Sanderson families! It’s been a great first week here in third grade! I’ve been given the wonderful opportunity to move up to third grade with this lovely bunch of children! It has been such a blast to get to know new-to-me third graders and learn new facts about my former second graders! Ms. Carole and I are co-teaching this year, so we get to see all third graders each and every day! Third graders have been busy learning classroom expectations for virtual learning, creating classroom rules to make sure everyone feels safe, cared for and respected. We have been engaged in a variety of “getting to know you” activities to help us all learn more about each other. To let teachers know when children are ready to share an idea, or respond to a question we are using a smiley face/star on a popsicle stick. For example when we begin our morning greeting children hold up the red star to let others know they have not yet been greeted, and once they have been greeted they turn to the smiley face side to let us know they have been greeted, and are of course feeling happy about that! We are finding there are a lot of common interests here in third grade, such as family pets, enjoying the fall season and looking forward to becoming stronger readers, writers and mathematicians. Third graders continue to show so much patience, and respect towards all participants as we learn to navigate new technology platforms and technology glitches. It’s important to remember to have patience with yourself and others in all aspects of your day!

Third Grade News from Ms. Carole: It is great to be underway with the new class, and I am pleased to see students so excited to join classmates and teachers on the screen. Everyone is being patient with our rural internet connectivity issues, and we are all learning how to interact authentically through the new digital setting. I am grateful for the parent involvement in sorting out technology, and I am hopeful that students will be able to set up their days and troubleshoot through internet problems independently in the near future. They are learning so quickly!

Last week students completed and mailed in a base-line writing sample of Jack and Jill. It has been super helpful to see those so we can know where each student is as a writer. It will be very important as students move through asynchronous activities this week for parents to not assist on the Lexia and Dreambox activities. Both of these programs adjust their leveling of students’ lessons based on how the child performed on the last lesson. It will be challenging yet essential for parents to let their children make mistakes so the programs (and teachers watching from afar) will be able to deliver lessons and activities at the students’ true learning level.

Here is a link from the creators of our Bridges math curriculum with information for third grade families about materials around the house that can help with upcoming math lessons: [Math materials](#)

Here is a link with information for families about *Dreambox*, which is a program your third grader will be using to help with math in the afternoons: [Parent Resources](#)

Fourth Grade News from Mrs. Lagoy: It was so exciting to meet a whole new group of learners last week. We have started the year off enthusiastically despite our circumstances. We are learning a lot about our technology tools and platforms for learning. Mostly, it has been wonderful to reconnect and come together as a group of learners. We are working on building a sense of community and belonging in fourth grade with lots of getting to know (reknow) you activities.

Students started working on their hopes and dreams. Not only do we have hopes and dreams for our school year, but we also have hopes and dreams about the future and for our world. These will help us as we start to think about our classroom norms. We are wondering: what rules should we follow in our learning environment that will help us achieve our goals?

This week, we started reading Shiloh. We learned that in the first quadrant of a story, good readers focus on the main story elements: characters, setting, important events, and problems to help them understand the story better. In this quadrant, we read slowly and gather information in our reader's notebook that we will use throughout our reading.

Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson: It has been wonderful to have the opportunity to interact with each other again. The fifth graders have been so helpful and supportive of each other and have been so happy to see their peers. We have been getting our routines set up and have been establishing norms. We have been reviewing reading strategies, started a free-verse writing unit, been playing with fractions and decimals in the context of clocks and money, and have been learning about digital citizenship. We have also been talking about current events by watching and discussing [CNN 10](#) (a ten minute daily news clip for middle schoolers). We are well underway in our learning adventures this year.

Sixth Grade News from Mrs. Schreiber: What an exciting beginning of our school year. We are learning, not only new technology and applications, but more about each other. Our year in sixth grade is starting off learning about our learning styles as well as our needs for learning the best we can. We are talking about expectations as well as how to share our thinking mathematically. I am amazed at how kind, considerate, and patient our sixth graders are with each other and with their teachers. I am so excited about our year together.

Math News from Mrs. Prew: Welcome back Sanderson students and families! It is so wonderful to reconnect with you all. I want to remind everyone about one of the incredible resources we have available here at Sanderson Academy: Title I. [Here is a link](#) to a letter with an overview of the Title I program of Mohawk Trail Regional School district. Please email me with any questions/comments/concerns at aprew@mtrsd.org. With your support, we can foster a love of mathematics for all students!

Art Room News from Mrs. Hawthorne: Hello Sanderson community. My name is Carolyn Hawthorne; students can call me Ms. Carolyn. I am the new art teacher. I am very excited to make art with your students this year. I live in Plainfield and I teach art at 3 elementary schools in 3 different districts! I will be at Sanderson on Mondays and Wednesdays. I have started to visit each classroom to get to know the smiling faces of the Sanderson students. This year in art, I will be posting art assignments, examples and directions

on an Art google classroom for each grade. (students should get an invite in their gmail). Students can work on art projects at their own pace. I will be scheduling a drop-in open google meet in the afternoons for students who want to work with me or have questions. For the younger grades, I will schedule times in the mornings for some live google meet lessons but will also put things on their google classroom page that they can work on independently. I know this remote learning is a challenging format for students. I want art to be a place they can **slow down and explore**. I will be using materials that students already have at home and I will be sending home some additional drawing supplies and a sketchbook for each student. I also realize the challenge of “turning in” art work. The best way to get art to me will be for families to photograph art and post it to the specific assignment on the student’s Art google classroom page. I have learned that families can download the google classroom app onto their phones or ipads, go to a specific student’s assignment, and directly take a photo from there to turn it in (this saves the extra step of uploading the photo from your computer). Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about this process or are not able to photograph your student’s artwork. I will gladly make other arrangements. I look forward to getting to know each and every student in this wonderful school community!

chawthorne@mtrsd.org

Health Office News from Nurse Loranna: Welcome back and welcome to our new students and families! Please continue to send in your student’s immunizations and physicals, you can mail, fax, email or drop them in the box at school. **Yearly physicals are required for all pre-school, kindergarten, and fourth graders as well as any newly enrolled student.** We will be hosting a flu clinic at Mohawk on Saturday Oct. 17 from 10-12 in the parking lot- it is a drive thru and we will be providing proof of immunization. This year the flu vaccine was added to the list of required immunizations for school, the deadline for this is December 31, 2020. **Let me know if you have any questions or concerns- I may be able to help!**

Stay safe and feel free to reach out with anything at all. Best wishes~ Nurse Loranna (lalmeida@mtrsd.org)

Mindful Movement with Ms. Sue: Hello Sanderson Community! We have surely had an unusual spring & summer...and as we start this new school year and this fall season, we are reminded of the beauty of the area we live in! The fall colors are starting to pop out everywhere. This week we focused on the theme of PEACE as we celebrate what it means to be peaceful. We used the hoberman sphere to take some deep breaths and read the story I am Peace, and of course I shared a newly found heart shaped rock from one of my many summer hikes, so that we could share what we are grateful for. It has been wonderful to see so many familiar faces (and how much you all have GROWN) and we welcome all of our new friends to our amazing school community!

Pause

Exhale

Acknowledge

Choose

Engage

Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma: Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a restful summer and were able to enjoy the wonderful weather. This summer I enjoyed bike riding, hiking, working in my garden and kayaking with friends.

Have you ever heard the saying, “the more things change and more they remain the same.” I don’t know who said it first or how old it is, but this statement is certainly true for our new school year. School is school it is how we will be accessing our school that will be new.

Our new school year is filled with many new things for everyone. Our teachers and staff have been busy learning how to present lessons by using new internet platforms. Your lessons may look a bit different, too. Sometimes we will find this new method tricky to manage, but we will be all learning the how to’s together.

The one thing that will remain the same is our learning. For instance, our learning to read and reading to learn methods have not changed. Learning new vocabulary also will be the same. Through lots of practice we all learn mastery, just like the world famous athletes and musicians. We also know that children learn best through play. The infamous Mr. Rogers said, “ Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning”.

To enhance the process of learning literacy and language skills, I will share a fun riddle or word puzzle with you monthly. I will challenge you and your family to answer the riddles. After you complete the challenge, I would love it if you can share with me your answer. Send your answer to my email address at paurigemma@mtrsd.org. I will post the answer in my next newsletter entry. I usually write a monthly newsletter. I look forward to seeing your responses.

For those families that are new to Sanderson Academy, my role as the Speech Language Pathologist is to provide support to teachers and students concerning speech and language skills in the classroom and offer one to one, or small group speech and language therapy as needed for students. If you have questions about your child’s speech and language development you can contact me by email at paurigemma@mtrsd.org or by phone at (413)628-9930.

September’s Brain Teaser: What did the computer do for lunch?

Real Kids Real Food:

This is not a school sponsored event, but you may find it helpful for your family.

What can you do to help children develop a healthy lifestyle from a young age? As a parent of children aged 3-18, sign them up for our FREE weekly one hour workshop Real Kids Real Food. The program runs Saturdays from September 26 through to November 21, from 11AM-12PM EST. The workshops are designed to help kids experience how to plant their own veggies, prepare delicious recipes, learn nutritional facts, engage in fun & enriching activities, make friends, and practice mindfulness. Information can be found at <https://realkidsrealfood.org/>