
September 24, 2021

Mustang Messenger

Alburghschool.org

Welcome to the 2021 - 2022 School Year! We look forward to another exciting year. Keep up to date on school events by following us on Facebook, the school webpage and Front Porch Forum.

Mustang News September 24, 2021

Hello ACEC Community!

This is our first Mustang News of the year. We will distribute Mustang News once a month. We will be posting the Mustang News on our website and will be sending it to each parent/guardian email address we have on file. If you wish to receive a hardcopy, please call Shannon English at school or email Shannon at senglish@gisu.org.

This year our Open House will be different. Teachers are preparing a Virtual Open House because of the COVID Pandemic. These videos will be available asynchronously on the alburghschool.org website and we will also send the link to the email address on file at school. These should be available starting October 7th.

After school childcare will not be available at the beginning of October as stated in previous correspondences. The Alburgh Family Clubhouse is continuing to look for a director of the program. I will keep families updated as I receive information.

The Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) team spent time this summer revamping our system at school. We will be posting a parent/guardian guide to our system to our website in mid-October. We are looking for parents/guardians to join this team. If you are interested, please contact me at school or send me an email at bhemingway@gisu.org. Students of the month for September will be celebrated on October 1st via Google Meets. The PTO will be sponsoring a Fire Safety Week for grades K-5 October 4th-8th. The PTO members are working with Chief Ron Kumetz in planning this event for our students.

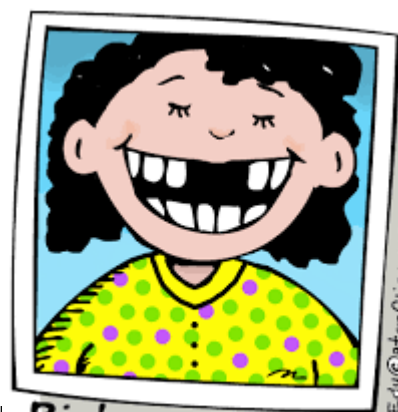


Upcoming Events

No school:
10/8 Inservice Day
10/11 Indigenous Peoples Day
10/25 – 10/29 Red Ribbon Week

Picture Day:

October 5th



Picture Day!

The school counselors, Mrs. Cramer and Ms. Mora are working on Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is the longest running drug prevention awareness program. We will be celebrating Red Ribbon week October 25th-29th. There is more information in the Mustang News.

We continue to advertise for a preschool teacher. Preschool is critical for our students ages 3 and 4 socially, emotionally, and academically. If you are a certified teacher or know of a certified teacher not under contract and interested in this position, please see job posting #3677808 at schoolspring.com.

We are working on our goal of Family Engagement and COVID is making this difficult. At this time only essential workers are allowed in our school. The family engagement activity for the month of October is having families make scarecrows at home. Make as many as you want. On Saturday, October 9th at 10:00 AM, families can bring the scarecrows they have made to the front lawn of our school to decorate for the fall season. We will have cider and donuts available. I hope to see you there!

In conclusion, I understand this is a frustrating time for many. I want to thank the parents/guardians for their support in keeping our school safe during the COVID Pandemic. If you have questions regarding guidelines, process, or procedures I encourage you to call me directly.

Enjoy the fall season!

Ms. Beth

PS Picture Day is October 5th!

Classroom News

Kindergarten Happenings....

HAPPY FALL FAMILIES, kindergarten is rockin and rollin these first few weeks of school. We have been very busy learning rules, expectations, procedures all while building a community within our room.

Students are doing a fantastic job eating breakfast, sitting for morning meetings, engaging in read-alouds and actively participating in learning centers.

Earlier this month we started our Apple Unit. Within this unit we discussed books, poems, songs and chants all about Apples. We learned the Life Cycle of an Apple, as well as what a life cycle is. One of our favorite activities this month was using American Sign Language to sign an entire poem about Apples. You can find this video uploaded to our class dojo in the class story tab!

In math, we practice counting forwards and backwards, writing and identifying numbers 1-10. Students have been having a lot of fun exploring our math manipulative buckets; creating patterns, counting bears and building with polydrons!

Kindergarten's Unified Arts Schedule

- Monday: PE and Art**
- Tuesday: Guidance and Art**
- Wednesday: PE and Library**
- Thursday: Guidance and Music**
- Friday: PE and Music**

*Please make sure to wear or pack sneakers on days those students have PE.

Greetings from the primary wing!

The primary team is so happy to be back teaching all our children in person. We are happy to all be together and one community.

The primary team has had a few exciting changes this fall. Mrs. Martin is now the grades 1 and 2 Math teacher. Mr. Flax is our Math Intervention teacher. Mrs. Trowbridge has become the grade 1 and 2 Writing and Science teacher. Mrs. Giroux continues to teach ELA grades 1 and 2. Mrs. Chadwick joins us as our Literacy Interventionist.

We continue to use Class Dojo as our primary means of parent communication. If you need help getting logged in, please contact us.

The primary students are working to learn the new routines which are very different from the last two years. We are happy to have our gathering spaces back and classroom tables. We are practicing transitions and moving from classroom to classroom. Teachers have been working on getting beginning of the year assessments completed.

The kids have had a wonderful start of the year and are settling in nicely. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!



5th grade work on Ancient Civilizations

Writing/Science: Students completed a science observation of an apple. They predicted what the inside of an apple would look like if cut in half vertically, then drew it. Then we cut the apple, discussed misperceptions, and then “observed” the apple cut in half, and drew what we saw. Great attention to detail, and hard work. In writing, we have been focused on the editing process, and have just started working on expository writing.

Reading/Social Studies:

It is wonderful having the children in school 5 full days a week allowing a lot of time for solid 90-minute reading blocks. We are off to a great start in reading/social studies! The beginning of year mandatory assessments are complete and reading groups have begun. Reading groups are fluid, students will move from group to group this year based on their reading levels and interests. The books each group will be reading from will target specific goals set by the district based on the C3 national standards adopted by the state of Vermont. For example, 3rd grade students will begin the year reading texts on “*Geography Moves Us*”. 4th grade students will begin the year reading texts focusing on “*Vermont Geography: Whose Land Is This*”, and 5th grade students will begin the year reading texts based on “*Ancient Civilizations*”. The picture above is of a read aloud book and art project the 5th grade students worked on. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at edobson@gisu.org.

Math: Mrs. Barrett Grades 3,4,5

We have been busy practicing our math rotation schedule and learning how different pieces of our stations work. 3rd graders have been working on setting up arrays to better understand multiplication and division problems. 4th graders are working on place value by multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1000. 5th graders are using inquiry to understand the place value of whole numbers and decimals. All grades practice math fact fluency through hands-on activities and online learning. Fridays are busy with students working on missing assignments, practicing math strategies with partner games and completing Dreambox units. They will also be given time to cash in their earned acknowledgement stickers for something in our Intermediate Mustang Store. I will only be sending math homework home on Fridays if your child has not completed all of their work for the week. It will be due on that next Monday. Please get in touch with me throughout the year if you have any questions or concerns. sbarrett@gisu.org

Middle School Science

The 6th grade is working on a natural resource’s unit. Right now, we are focusing on Earth’s layers, continental drift and Pangaea. We have also been exploring renewable and nonrenewable resources and alternative sources of energy.

The 7th grade has been studying cells and diffusion. This week we will be trying to get different materials to pass through the shell of an egg to illustrate diffusion and osmosis.

The 8th grade has been learning about animal adaptations as part of an evolution and natural selection unit. We will also be examining items like fossil record, embryological evidence, and anatomical evidence that support Darwin’s theory of evolution.

Middle School ELA Update

6th graders got a quick overview of the elements of literature (the ingredients of a story: setting, characters, plot, conflict, theme), and are now learning the "Fiction Signposts", which are important types of moments to pay attention to in stories (just like you pay attention to road signs while driving). Students are also beginning a grammar program to improve their writing skills, starting with memorizing the 23 helping verbs. Ask them if they can sing the song :-)

7th graders spent a few days reviewing the Elements of Literature (the ingredients of a story, such as setting) and then learned how to tell the difference between similes and metaphors. Now, students are learning the "Fiction Signposts", which are important types of moments to pay attention to in stories (just like you pay attention to road signs while driving). Students are also beginning a grammar program to improve their writing skills, starting with memorizing the 23 helping verbs.

8th graders learned to identify different types of figurative language, and then applied that knowledge to different examples of popular music. Next students will apply their knowledge of figurative language to poetry, and ultimately will write their own poems. Additionally, students have memorized the 23 helping verbs (ask your child to recite them!) to better understand sentence structure.

Middle School Social Studies

In 6th Grade we have been learning about Early Explorers like Christopher Columbus and the Columbian Exchange. On Friday's we discuss current events. We have also been gradually learning the 50 states and will continue with map work throughout the year.

In 7th grade we started the year off learning about the constitution. The students will be creating their own "petition" and learn about positively making change. We have also been sprucing up our map knowledge and will be branching out from the US to other countries.

In 8th grade we have been gaining some background knowledge of World War 1. We have been having great class discussions about the comparisons of the world 100 years ago compared to now. We will continue to go more in depth into WW1 and the effects it had on America.

Middle School Math Happenings

6th math grade started out rolling! The middle school math team decided it was important to review some key concepts in division, multiplication, decimals, and fractions before moving on to Unit 2 titled Fractions. One area specifically we are encouraging all 6th graders to work on is to know their multiplication facts. The more fluent they are with their facts; the easier lessons will become for them down the road. In Unit 2, we will specifically focus on

adding and subtracting, multiplying, dividing, mixed numbers, and reducing fractions. The 6th grade students have also enjoyed having several adults in the room so far this year. We are trying to make it our goal as a math team, to provide more support and more opportunities for students to get 1 on 1 help or small group support when they need it. In 7th grade, students started out reviewing important concepts as well before going deeper into ratios. We reviewed multiplying and dividing numbers with decimals, converting between fractions and decimals, multiplying, and dividing with fractions, and intro to ratio and rates. Over the next week or so, we will transition into a Unit on Ratios and Rates. Students will need to draw from last year's work with fractions in order to look for their similarities to ratios. Some key terms/concepts they need to keep in mind are proportional, equivalent, unit rate and rate. As mentioned above, this year in math, students will have several adults in the room to lower the adult to student ratio. I am confident that our math team will do our best to help transition students back. Lastly, in 8th grade math, we too started out with a unit of review. Because 8th grade math is heavy in Algebra, the math team felt it important to review how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide with integers. Within this, students needed to review the order of operations. From here, they will get their first taste of 8th grade algebra when they dive headfirst into "Linear Equations". One thing we are working on as a class is the importance of keeping great notes to review from later when working on math problems independently. In algebra, showing your work and keeping specific steps is vital to keeping up with everything going on.

Art:

It's been exciting to be back in the art room. We have been reviewing and relearning the expectations for the art room since it's been such a long time that we've created in there! Students are excited to have access to much more of a variety of materials and books. We are still not using art shirts/smocks due to Covid so please check your child's schedule so that they can be sure to not wear their fanciest clothes on art day. We do get messy sometimes. That's part of creating and exploring different materials! If a clothing item comes home messy, here are a few tips to get them clean that I use regularly.

1. Pre-treat stains with a stain remover or some detergent poured directly on the area. Dish soap can work well with oily substances. Let that soak in for at least 10 minutes.
2. It is sometimes helpful to use an old toothbrush to clean the spot while running the area under warm/hot water until most of the spot is gone.
3. Wash in a warm water cycle. Check the stain to see if it's gone before putting it in the dryer. If needed, repeat stain remover and washing.
4. TIP: My favorite stain remover is Oxiclean. I also use the powder and will let an item soak in a sink of HOT water until the water is cool then throw the item in with a load of laundry. This works extremely well with dirty socks too!!

If you are still worried about your child's clothing getting dirty, you are welcome to send an extra shirt for them to wear over their outfit for art class that day.

Physical Education

The start of the school year has been busy! Students in grades K-2 have been learning expectations, procedures, and practicing cooperation. We have done a lot of partner and small group activities to work on sharing and taking turns. Please remember to send sneakers with your child on their PE days.

K Ms. Ladd- Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1/2 Ms. Giroux- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
1/2 Ms. Martin- Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
1/2 Ms. Trowbridge- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Students in grades 3-8 have been working on cooperation and communication skills. We have completed problem solving and teamwork challenges to improve abilities in these areas. We are starting a Spikeball unit and will be putting these social skills into practice and working on striking. Please remember to send sneakers with your child on their PE days.

Ms. Dobson- Monday, Friday
Mr. Hertz- Tuesday, Thursday
Ms. Barrett- Tuesday, Thursday
Middle School- Individual Schedules

MUSTANG MUSIC NEWS:

It's been a busy and vibrant musical start to the year. While following protocols, we have begun band and choir instruction again! Seeing our middle schoolers learn through ensemble rehearsals is a joy. Middle schoolers have also started a variety of music classes, including "Music Production", and Guitar class. Primary and Intermediate students have been engaged in general music classes through song, movement and percussion activities. A particular favorite has been the "7 Jumps Dance". Feel free to try it at home. Keep up the good work students!

Warm wishes,
Mr. Bjella

Library News:

I'm so excited to have students back in the library! I've been unpacking beautiful new books and am looking forward to having students bring them home. With new shelving in, I'll finally be able to have primary students come upstairs for library class. As we transition into this "new to them" space, we'll be focusing on expectations and basic library procedures. I'm also thrilled to have regular MS classes where we've been focusing on finding "just right" books, reading for fun, and working on beginning coding concepts. We have some real tech geniuses at ACEC!

Lastly, I'm always available via email (mbellavance@gisu.org) for requests, and please make use of our [digital library](#) for ebooks and audiobooks. It's a game changer on long rides.

Thank you and be well!

Ms. Bellavance

Guidance News

In Middle School we are Learning about Growth Mindsets and How to Grow Your Brain. Students are learning that they can grow their intelligence and achieve more in school. Having a Growth Mindset helps students persevere when work is hard and seek out new approaches and strategies rather than just giving up. We are also learning about short term goals and how to reach long term goals.

IMPORTANT!

On October 1st ALL Middle School students will be taking the Youth Risk Behavior Survey **(YRBS). This is a national survey developed to monitor priority health risks behaviors in middle and high school students.** This survey has been administered in Vermont since 1993. The data collected is processed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and becomes available to the state and is later published for public access. The results are used to identify and target risk behaviors so schools and health agencies can improve responses and interventions to address these behaviors. **The survey is completely anonymous**

Please see the attached Parental Letter and Opt Out form