



# The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy  
Monthly Newsletter  
September 2021



## Principal's Message :

September is here and soon enough it will be the beginning of Fall!! I encourage everyone to read over this newsletter as it contains important information about what's happening in September at OGA!



## Important September Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24

College Spirit Days - 9/1, 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

Labor Day Holiday - 9/6

Open House - 9/22 (Elem.) & 9/29 (Middle)

Start with Hello Week - 9/20 thru 9/24

Parent Workshops - 9/21, 9/30





# SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Mrs. Cybulski, & Mrs. Newry

Makerspace: in the first quarter, grades 2-5 students will be learning about logical reasoning and sequential thinking behind coding through color sequences through using our Ozobots Evo.

2nd grade: please see classdojo class story for weekly updates regarding our weekly STEM and learning goals.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Fosky, & Ms. Sunderman

During the month of September, our third-grade scholars will be building their knowledge on many topics through project-based learning and classroom discussions in all subjects. In math, students will be working on place value, rounding, and adding and subtracting with regrouping. In science, students will be engaging in the scientific method, properties of matter, and STEM projects. In reading, students will be completing 'Night of the Living Worms' and will begin reading 'Terrible Two'. Students will also be reading a variety of non-fiction texts to find main ideas and identify causes and effects.

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Mrs. Bell, Ms. Hurley, Mrs. Zema

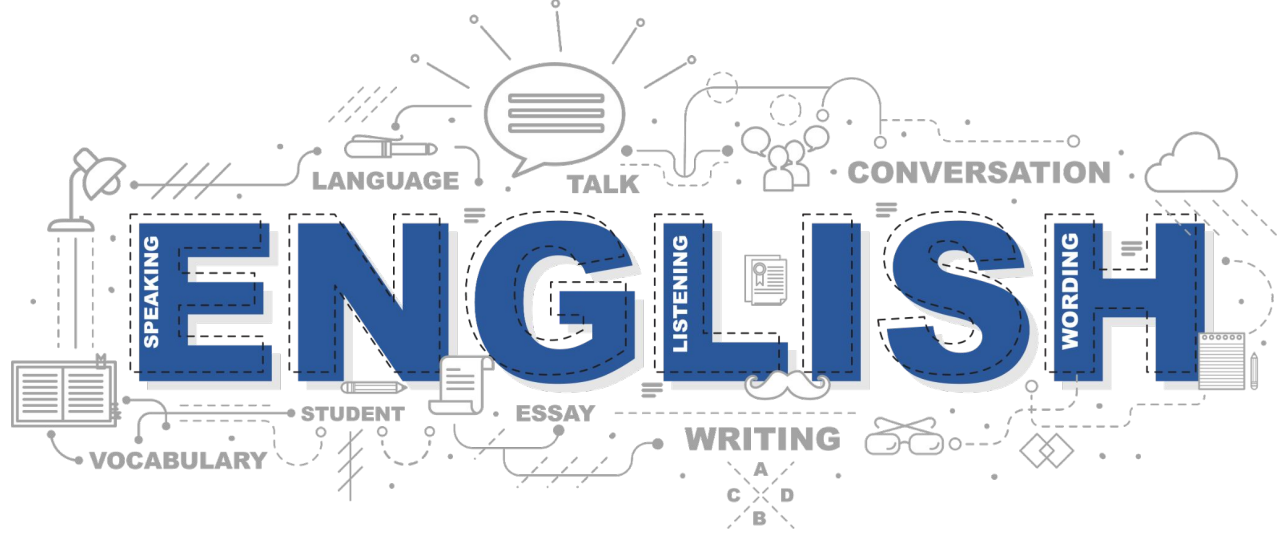
In September our fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be demonstrating their math skills through being assessed on place value, then moving on to multiplication and division. In reading, students will be completing their novel study of *The Tale of Desperaux*. To complete the unit, students will view the film version of the novel in order to compare and contrast the story elements of the two. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade scientists will investigate changes of matter through various labs that explore physical and chemical changes, and in social studies we will continue our study of the history of Florida by learning about some of the notable European explorers who ventured across Florida.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Kuerzi, Ms. Switters

Fifth Grade is excited to announce that we will be performing several exploratory labs for matter and its properties, including a comparative analysis of the presence of vitamin C in citrus and a chemical reaction to detect glucose in carbohydrates.

Mathematicians will develop solution strategies to evaluate multi-step, complex word problems using all operations. Readers will analyze character development, theme, and plot in fiction, drama, and poetry.



## 6th Grade

This month, 6th grade ELA will be working on our Mysteries unit.

We will investigate what makes a mystery and read our mentor text "The Westing Game". After understanding the components of a mystery novel, we will use our sleuth skills to research real-life mysteries and write an investigative report about cases around the globe. Be on the look out for Skunk Ape sightings as we enter September!

## 7th Grade

In 7th grade ELA, we are continuing our coming of age unit and students are studying *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton along with learning about various coming of age traditions and rites of passage from around the world. In 6th grade ELA, we are putting on our deerstalker caps to solve the mystery of Ellen Raskin's *The Westing Game*.

## 8th Grade

In September we will continue learning about the power we have in speaking up and delve into our book study for the novel, *Unwind*. We will also take time to celebrate International Day of Peace by sharing our peaceful messages with others.





## 6th Grade

This month we'll be tackling units on Early Humans and Mesopotamia. We'll be exploring how early civilizations were built, in particular, looking at writing systems and law-making. We'll have a mock trial to explore the Code of Hammurabi in greater detail.

## 7th Grade

Having studied the "ins" and "outs" of U.S. Citizenship in August, we turn to a unit on the influential Enlightenment figures how influenced the crafters of the U.S.'s key government documents through mid-September. We finish out the month with a deep dive into the buildup to the Declaration of Independence, the conflicts and triumphs of as a new nation emerged and took shape.

## 8th Grade

For the month of September, we'll be looking at colonial history leading up to the American Revolution. In addition, we'll be incorporating Native perspectives of this time period and looking at lesser known historical figures.





## 6th Grade

September in Life Science will focus on evolution. We'll explore the mechanisms by which it occurs and analyze studies and simulations that illustrate its implications.



## 7th Grade

In Earth/Space Science the students will be learning about the oceans and atmosphere.



## 8th Grade

In Physical Science the students will be learning about the laws of motion.



# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Grade

This month we will be working towards fully implementing our classroom economy. In terms of content, we will be finalizing our unit on numbers and operations and begin working on coordinates. We will work on the four operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with both whole numbers and decimals. Among other things, we will also move into positive and negative integers, then proceeding to work on coordinate planes.

## 7th Grade

We have had an amazing 3 weeks in class! Your 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade scholars have been working extremely hard to learn about adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers. We have been doing independent practice in Khan Academy, Gizmos and assigned iReady lessons. We have been moving at a slow pace so that I can make sure that I am covering the skills for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and reviewing for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. We will have our first test on September 3, 2021. Next up: Ratios and Proportional Relationships.

3:2

ratio

$\frac{3}{2}$

fraction

## Pre-Algebra

Students will be graphing proportional relationships, evaluating unit rates and interpreting the slope of graphs. They will also be constructing and interpreting functions.



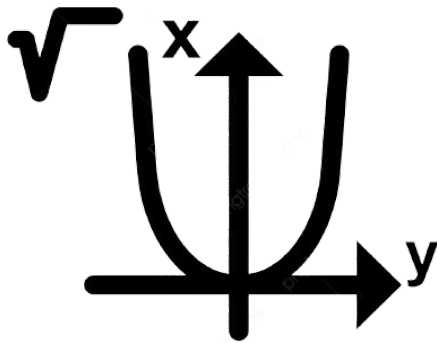
# MATH



## Algebra I

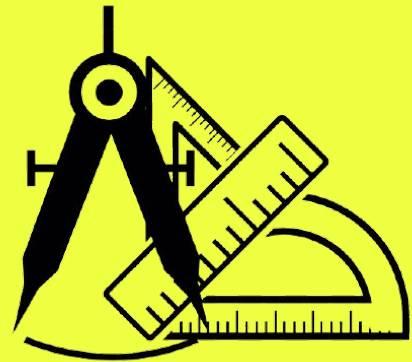
Hello! We have put in some major work during the first 3 weeks of class! We just finished a unit on adding, subtracting and multiplying polynomials. I want to give a big shout out to all the parents that participated in the Class Dojo problem and questions. Everyone came back to school excited because they were able to show off their math skills with parents and/or guardians.

With your efforts, we managed to score a whopping average of 98%! Next up: Equations and Inequalities in One Variable!



## Geometry

Students in Honors Geometry will be working with properties of parallel lines as well as geometric transformations. Later in the month, they will be designing small cities following the principles of urban development. Furthermore, they'll be hosting an Art Show to display their transformation art.







Students in Creative Writing are channeling their inner Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as they write a mystery short story for their first writing project.

The Journalism 1 & 2 students have really taken control and are incorporating some original ideas to transform the previous newsletter into a newspaper. If there are stories we need to cover, let us know by emailing Mrs. Olowu @ Falisha.olowu@ocps.net. We are getting into the swing of things and will be sending out our first newspaper very soon. Please look out for it.



## Advanced Academics

It is great having all the students back on campus for the new school year! So far in Advanced Academics, we have been building our classroom communities through team building activities, explaining our class and school expectations, along with reviewing the Gifted Frameworks. To jump start the process of how to create a real-world, well-crafted independent study project, the Advanced Academic teachers are modeling a Project Based Learning unit on Gifted. During the next few weeks, the students will be working the following: how to create a driving research question; writing Smart Goals; researching using credible and reliable websites and articles; creating a product for an authentic audience. We are hoping to have this project not only help our students better understand themselves, but that it will be something they can share with the larger community at our school.



In French class, elementary students will continue to learn "All About Me" expressions. They will also practice formal and informal greetings. Middle school students are learning useful phrases to talk about their family and friends as well as ways to describe themselves and others.

Orlando Gifted Academy, we're going to...

# Paris: The City of Light

Summer 2022



Grades  
6-8

## Still Interested? It's not too late!

Register for the meeting below to learn more about the trip and how to get enrolled:



Wednesday, September 8, 10:00 AM via Zoom



Scan this code or visit:  
<https://bit.ly/3sQv0Wn>

This meeting is for students who have not signed up already but are still interested!

Registration for the meeting is **MANDATORY**



This month, we will be continuing to work on learning the phrases necessary in basic dialogue such as Greeting, Goodbyes, and Introductions. We will also be working on learning new words and phrases. Our class will be learning about adjectives and apply them when describing things such as activities. We will also be working on a Hispanic Heritage project where we will be completing biographies on different individuals.

Our 3 robotics teams are hard at work on this year's competition. We're currently looking for experts in the area of CARGO. Please email any contacts to Dr. Carr at [Alexander.Carr@ocps.net](mailto:Alexander.Carr@ocps.net)



Students will practice their public-speaking and active listening skills through targeted exercises. We'll continue doing individual mini-speeches and begin debating in groups. We'll debate in front of our first live audience, Ms. Panther's 6th-grade ELA!



## Media Center



The Media Center would like to remind everyone that all past due books are now due. If you are missing something from another school and can locate it, Miss Lineberry can get it returned for you if you just bring it in!

Please mark your calendars for our first Book Fair of the year which will be October 1st - 8th. More details to come soon.

SEPTEMBER IS

# AMERICAN FOUNDERS' MONTH

CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK  
9/27 - 9/30

## NJHS' HYGIENE PRODUCTS DRIVE

September 13-17th

### Collecting:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Socks
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Brushes



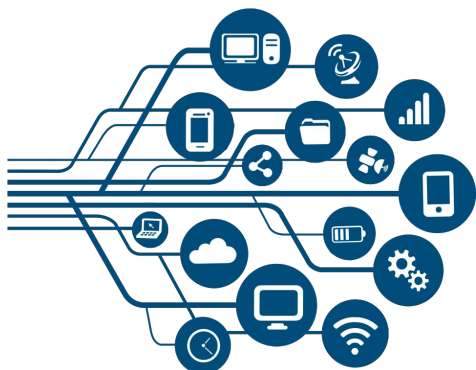
**Donations benefit:**  
**Central Florida's Coalition for  
the Homeless**

Homeroom class with the most  
items wins a donut party!!





We will be continuing our exploration of drawing. At the beginning of the month, we'll wrap up one of our portrait projects, inspired by late artist Chuck Close. For the coming month, we'll be creating a comic book and tackling still-life drawing.



### Video Production

Students are starting the first newscast for the school YouTube channel. The news will include important school information, also found on the school website, as well as get-to-know-you interviews with our wonderful teachers, student interest projects and SEL, or social emotional learning, skills.

### ICT

Students are continuing a Cybersecurity unit to prepare for their upcoming test. They will be creating a digital bill of rights and a PSA on bullying to present at Open House.



Mrs. Faubel - Elementary art students are creating 'Heal the World' themed art for International Day of Peace. Art 2 students will be participating in the American Love Project and creating work that promotes love, compassion, and positive social change.

# MAKERSPACE MATERIALS NEEDED

Please donate the following items:

Double A batteries

Triple A batteries

9v batteries

Lego

Printer paper

Black/Blue/Gree/Red Markers

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



# FLL Robotics Car Wash!

**DONATIONS ONLY!**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH  
9-11AM  
FRONT OF SCHOOL**

ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY

## OPEN HOUSE

Elementary School - September 22nd 4-5:30

Middle School - September 29th 4-6:00

