



The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy
Monthly Newsletter
December 2021



Principal's Message :

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our OGA families a joyous and healthy holiday season and a happy new year! Please take time to enjoy this special time with your loved ones and we look forward to seeing everyone back in January.



Important December Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 12/5, 12/12

College Spirit Days - 12/3, 12/10

NJHS Toys for Tots Drive - 12/6 through 12/10

SAC Meeting - 12/9

Family Art Night - 12/9

Winter Performance/Showcase - 12/15

OGA Holiday Spirit Week - 12/13 through 12/17

End of Second Quarter - 12/17

Winter Break - 12/20 through 1/4/2022





SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Mrs. Cybulski, & Mrs. Newry

Ms. Cybulski's math and science class have begun our science PBL of energy Island. For more information regarding 2nd graders' week STEM and other math and science news, please continue to check daily updates on classdojo.

For the month of December Ms. Cybulski's 2nd graders will work with their caring community buddies Ms. Hurley's 4th graders on their daily acts of kindness.

3rd GRADE

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

In Reading, 3rd-grade students will be comparing and contrasting literary texts by exploring themes, settings, and plots written by the same author or stories that have similar characters. Students will also be starting a new book for our book club titled "Tuesdays at the Castle". In Math, students will be beginning a PBL. They will be acting as architects to create their own theme park blueprints! They will apply what they learn about area and perimeter, and the formulas used to determine these measurements, to develop their parks. In Science, the students will be learning about the different forms of energy. They will also continue applying their understanding of the scientific method to hands-on STEM projects.

4th GRADE

Mrs. Bell, Ms. Hurley, Mrs. Zema

Mrs. Bell, Ms. Hurley and Mrs. Zema can provide more information about what's happening in 4th grade in December. Please contact them directly for more details.





5th Grade

Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Kuerzi, Ms. Switters

During December 5th Graders will journey through Colonial Times and the American Revolution with the Newberry-Award winning novel "Johnny Tremain", focusing on theme, character development, and integrating fiction and nonfiction text. We will continue writing informational and opinion essays to share evidence and elaboration skills.

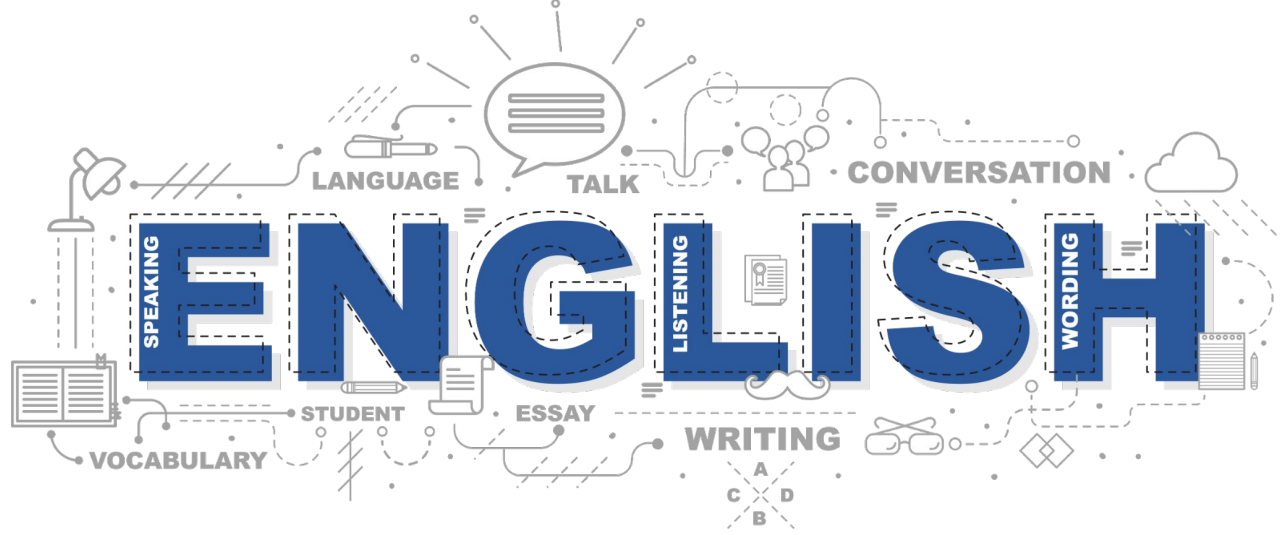
In History, Fifth Grade Students will keep working on their (DBQ) exploration of Jamestown, using primary and secondary sources to analyze and synthesize why the colonists struggled to survive in Jamestown Colony. This will lead them to the American Revolution and Valley Forge.

In Mathematics, students are planning and designing the Holiday Gift Project, using their creativity and problem-solving decimal skills to maximize their budget as they purchase imaginary gifts for their friends and family. They will share their projects with original displays.

In addition to Amusement Park Physics in Science, scholars will focus on energy, electricity, magnetism, and alternative energy. OUC is coming in for an in-house field trip on December 13th!

Our unit on Earth Systems and Patterns will explore weather and the water cycle; measuring weather, and biomes according to latitude and longitude.

Character Education continues incorporating compassion and kindness during the Holidays. The character trait lessons are focused on responsibility for ourselves, our actions, and the impact we have on the world.



6th Grade

Happy Holiday Season!

In December, students will work on comparing and contrasting the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem and listening or viewing audio, videos, or live renditions of similar stories. We will also look at various stories from around the world and discuss similar topics and themes that they have in common, all while appreciating the different impact various cultures have on similar stories. Students are welcome to share stories that have been passed down from their own ancestors and research the origin of these stories as well as when & where they first were told.

7th Grade

Ms. Panther can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact Chris-Ann.Panther@ocps.net for details.

8th Grade

Through an exploration of the Holocaust, we will be delving into 3rd cluster standards via our book study to explore how directors transform original stories into performances and how older stories are transformed into more modern tales.





6th Grade

We venture to the second most populous country on the globe and explore the rich history, belief systems and achievements of the Indian subcontinent and its diverse peoples.

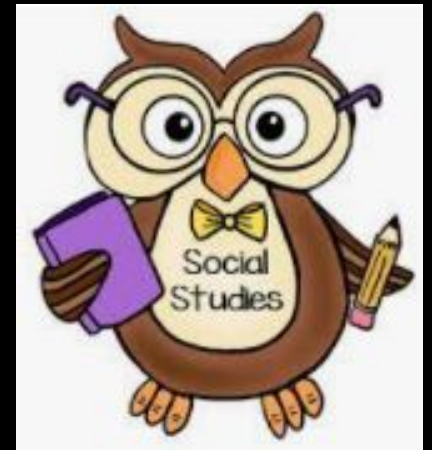


7th Grade

We move systematically through the 3 branches of the federal government, examining their various functions and procedures, from the lawmaking in Congress, to the decisions handed down by the Supreme Court, to the machinations of the chief executive.

8th Grade

Ms. Buyo can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact Louise.Buyo@ocps.net for details.



MATHEMATICS

6th Grade

This month we will be completing our work on expressions with variables. This unit has focused on: writing expressions, evaluating the value/equivalency of expressions, modeling expressions using algebra tiles, and applying properties to expressions.

Our next unit will be focusing on modeling/solving one-variable equations and inequalities. As part of this unit, we will represent/solve real-world and mathematical problems by writing & solving equations in the form $x + p = q$ and $px = q$.

7th Grade

Greetings! Can you believe that we are almost at the half-way point of school this year? I'm so excited about the progress that we have made thus far! The students are working very hard to master the standards that they face daily! We are moving right along and are exactly where we need to be! We just tested on the first part of Two Dimensional Geometry with over 80% accuracy of all combined 7th grade math classes. We have been doing independent practice in Khan Academy, BrainPop, MathXL, and assigned iReady lessons. Next up: Circles and Polygons & Three Dimensional Geometry!

Pre-Algebra

Students in Pre-Algebra will finish their studies on the number system and move onto integer exponents, radicals and roots. The study of these topics will prove useful in Honors Algebra I. Middle of the Year iReady testing will take place during this month.





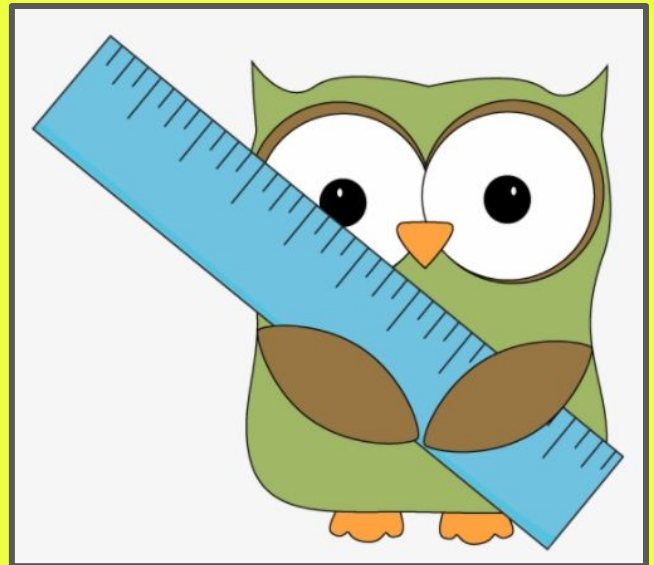
MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Greetings! We have been putting in some major work! We just finished a unit on Modeling with Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities. We have been doing group work and everyone has been on task and we have had 100% participation. You should be very proud of our students for coming to class daily and working really hard to learn the standards and working towards mastery. I am really impressed with the caliber of work they have been putting out! Next up: Rational Exponents and Radical Expressions & Solving and Modeling Quadratic Relationships.

Geometry

Students will finish their studies on triangle similarity and proceed to learn topics related to right triangles and trigonometry. Students will also be taking the winter PMA in December.



Family Art Night!

We hope you can join us for Elementary Family Art Night on December 9th from 5:30-6:30 in the cafeteria. Students will be using their artistic skills to create handmade birthday cards for foster children in Central Florida and other communities. If you would like to participate from home, please e-mail Mrs. Faubel at Jennine.Faubel@ocps.net for more information.

As we go into the halfway point of the school year it is important for students to get caught up on their library books that are overdue. Please have your student return them ASAP to the library. This is also a great time to check-out a book or two for winter break!!



Don't forget to return your library books!



NJHS
BOMB POP SALE
\$1.00
Wednesdays - Car Loop
Fridays - Car Line



Orlando Gifted Academy's
National Junior Honor Society
TOYS FOR TOTS
DONATION DRIVE
December 2nd - December 12th
NJHS is collecting new, unwrapped toys to benefit the USMC's Toys for Tots program.





Ms. Panther can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact Chris-Ann.Panther@ocps.net for details.

We continue to explore objective writing and rotating through different newspaper jobs, from Editor, Graphic Designer, Staff Assistant, and various Writers. Please check out our bi-weekly newspaper on the school site at https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net/school_information.



Advanced Academics

As we are finishing up the second quarter of the school year, most students are completing his/her first individual Advanced Academic project for the year. These projects are based on their passions. Students are having to complete extensive research to solve these real-world problems. Students are at different stages in their projects. Some students are researching and taking notes, some are currently working on his/her product and some have already presented his/her product to the class and are deciding on a new topic. It is so exciting to see what the students are creating! We are also still discussing the book, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey. These habits, if implemented into the students daily lives, can help them be successful.



Elementary-Students in 4th and 5th grade will continue to learn about describing themselves and others using traditional fairy tales in French. They will also learn Winter holiday vocabulary and how to talk about their preferences for these "fêtes"!

The 2nd and 3rd graders will also learn Winter holiday vocabulary while reading cultural stories and singing holiday songs!

Middle-French 1 students will use the future tense to talk about things they will be doing over holiday break, as well as look at the holiday traditions in Francophone countries around the world.

Beginning French students will talk about preferences for the holiday season and contrast holidays in Francophone countries to those in America.

All students are working hard to stay in the target language during French class and learn their poems!

MAKERSPACE MATERIALS NEEDED

Please donate the following items:

Double A batteries

Triple A batteries

9v batteries

Lego

Printer paper

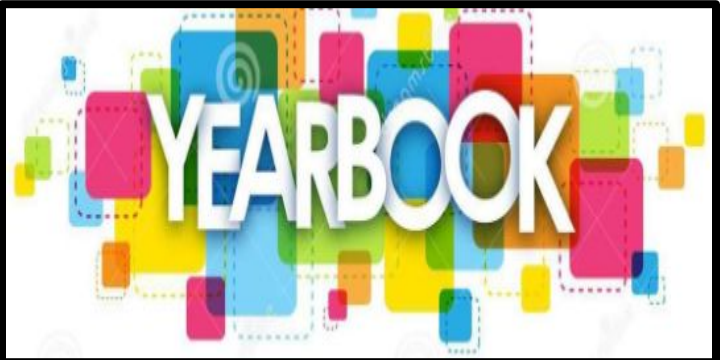
Black/Blue/Gree/Red Markers

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We are writing! That means that we are now in top secret mode and can't give out many details. Sorry



We are, however, proud to announce that OGA will be hosting the regional Spontaneous Workshop, bringing together students from all over Central Florida to visit OGA. If you have a student who needs volunteer hours and has an OGA shirt, please contact Mrs. Olowu at Falisha.olowu@ocps.net to see how they can help. You may also support our team through a direct donation on SchoolPay, buying Smencils and other novelties, or purchasing items on our Amazon wish list (tinyurl.com/AmazonOlowu21). We will also accept any donations of art supplies and tools, fabrics, etc...



We are beginning to put together our Yearbook spread. If you have any ideas or events you would like to see included, contact Mrs. Olowu at Falisha.Olowu@ocps.net.



This month we will continue to build our vocabulary by reading stories and working on our comprehension. Students will be completing AR quizzes on the texts we read together as a class. We will also work on applying what we have learned about verb conjugation and articles through writing. Before we go for winter break, we will be discussing holiday celebrations throughout Spanish-speaking / Hispanic countries.

Our three robotics teams are looking forward to presenting their robots, programs, innovative project, and participating in the robot game at the Pre-Qualifying competition on Saturday, December 19th. Students have been diligently preparing for the event and are looking forward to meeting with judges and getting much needed feedback.



For more information regarding debate class, please contact Ms. Buyo at Louise.Buyo@ocps.net



NJHS will be supporting the USMC's Toys-for-Tots program. Students can donate toys from 12/6 - 12/10. Also, NJHS members will be writing/sending holiday cards to our soldiers and veterans on 12/14.

ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
NEEDS YOU!

We are in need of large boxes
and insulation foam board,
crafting supplies, spray paints,
fabrics, packing materials, and
all of your other odds and ends.
Please drop off at 1121 N Fern
Creek Ave in care of Mrs. O.

You may also donate
through
tinyurl.com/OOTM2122



Martial Arts World
5 FITNESS

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THE ATHENIAN SOCIETY

An after-school mentoring club for middle school girls

Wednesdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm

WISDOM • COURAGE • STRENGTH

Want a weekly club to get together with trusted friends and
have fun discussing topics such as

- friendship
- peer pressure
- making the right decisions
- managing stress
- conflict resolution

Then this is the club for you!

Middle school can be a tough time socially. The Athenian
Society gives you a fun, relaxing group where you can feel safe
to laugh, share, create, and receive insights. Each week you will
also learn a vital life skill that will help you move through
middle school and beyond with more wisdom, courage, and
strength. Please join us!



WHAT GIRLS AND PARENTS ARE SAYING:

*Athenian Society with Ms. Tame has been a great
experience this past year. I'm allowed the freedom to be me
without judgement. I would recommend the program to
anyone at OGA in need of a space to talk and enjoy
yourself. —Natalie, age 12*

*The Athenian Society was a safe place to talk to
Ms. Tame and other girls about how I felt and to have
great conversations! It was very fun to meet up with every-
one and share about how our week was! —Katherine, age 12*

*My daughter loved the club and connecting with her peers
especially during the COVID months. Creating a safe
place for young girls to share ideas and experiences is
extremely important and Athenian Society was instrumen-
tal in my daughter's development this year. She is excited
to be a part of it again. —Rose, parent*

Hosted by
MS. KRISTEN TAME
Certified Life Coach
Florida Certified Educator
Former OGA Teacher



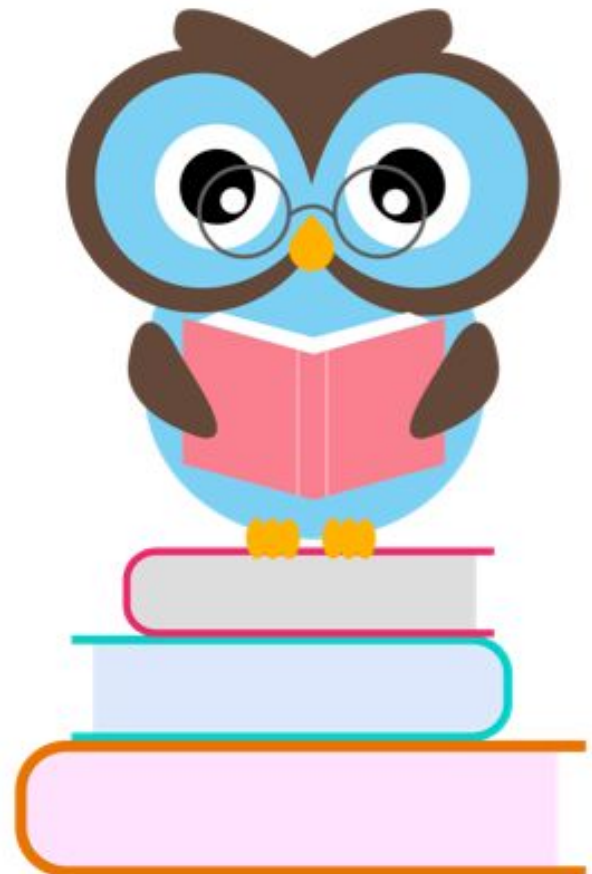
**Would you like more information or are
you ready to sign up? Contact me!**

 **Kristen Tame**
Educational Mentor & Consultant
Email: KristenTame@gmail.com
Web: www.KristenTame.com

Classes are for middle school girls and are only \$50 per week or \$35 per month!

Interested in joining? Please have your parents email me to reserve your spot!

KristenTame@gmail.com. Please sign up quickly as the class is limited to 12 girls.





Art - Second and third grade students will continue learning about artist Jasper Johns. They will use newspapers, magazine pages, cardboard, sharpies, oil pastels, and paint to create a beautiful mixed-media piece of art inspired by Jasper Johns. Fourth graders will be working from observation to create a mixed-media work of art inspired by nature. Fifth graders will continue learning about printmaking and mixed-media techniques to create a colorful masterpiece.

Art 2 - Art 2 students will be participating in the 2022 Rain Barrel Painting Project. They will be learning about the importance of water conservation and working collaboratively to paint an Orlando themed rain barrel supplied by OUC.



DIT - We will be working on a unit on Cybersecurity and creating security tips for the school, either on our school news or through school-wide fliers.

Video Production-

We have a tentative field trip to the ELC Video Studio downtown to practice our A/V tools and skills in a real-life setting.



Creative Photography students will be fine tuning their skills while incorporating the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. They will work on taking photos inspired by different themes each week.

Music Technology just finished up transcribing a pop song onto the musical software, Soundtrap. Transcribing is a musical skill in which the listener dictates the melody they hear onto paper or a notation software. Students used their knowledge of chord progressions, voice leading, base lines, and drum grooves to accurately recreate the pop song on Soundtrap. Music Technology is currently working in groups to remix Holiday Music. These remixes will be featured in the Holiday Show on December 15th at 5:00pm.

World Music Drumming is currently working on their performances for the Holiday Show on December 15th. World Music Drumming will be performing three pieces of music. All of which are in seven-part drums and/or barred instruments.

