



# The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy  
Monthly Newsletter  
September 2022



I want to thank all of you for a great beginning to the school year. The positivity around our campus has been infectious from parents, students, and staff. The first round of the state's FAST testing has come to a close for grades 3-8, and teachers are planning some great activities in the days and weeks to come. Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Open House events on September 15 for elementary students and September 22 for middle school. See you then!



## Important September Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30

College Spirit Days - 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28

Labor Day Holiday - 9/5

Open House - 9/15 (Elem.) & 9/22 (Middle)

Hispanic Heritage Month - 9/15 - 10/15

Start with Hello Week - 9/19 thru 9/23





# SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Ms. Cortes & Ms. Gutierrez

Second graders will be working on exploring story elements, creating their own narrative writing story, and doing a novel study. We will be going on our first field trip of the year when we attend the Dog Man Musical on September 8th.

In Math, we will be working on using repeated addition to find a total, using arrays and equations to represent quantities, addition, subtraction, and rounding. Students who show mastery will be working on projects to apply those concepts. In Science, we will be working on recognizing, identifying, and observing the properties of matter. We will also be investigating how some materials can be altered to change some of their properties.



3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

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

3rd grade ELA students will be kicking off the 9 weeks with learning about how characters develop throughout a text and learning how to explain a theme in a text and how it develops. Students will be setting their AR goals and begin reading and testing towards reaching those goals. Book Club #1 has started and the students are loving 'The Lemonade War' by Jacqueline Davies.

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Ms. Hurley, Mr. Osman, Ms. Danese, & Ms. Breutsch

Our 4th grade students are off to a great start! In ELA, students are working on the following ELA benchmarks throughout the month: Narrator's point of view versus character perspective, how figurative language adds meaning, text structures, implied or explicit relevant details, and summarizing. We will also begin our first novel study of the book *Esperanza Rising*. A digital copy will be available for students to use via Canvas for homework; however, each class has a limited number of hard copies that students will share in class. We will continue working on our cursive writing, as well as completing our first Narrative Essay assignment. In Social Studies, we will continue our study of the history of Florida by learning about Florida symbols, map reading, as well as the Native Americans of Florida. Ms. Breutsch's classes have begun their first project already. Ms. Hurley's classes will begin their first project in mid-September.

In Math, we are finishing up the unit on multiplication facts and prime/composite numbers. We will be moving on to determining the validity of equations and using patterns to solve problems. In Science, students have been busy learning about the scientific method. We will be investigating properties of matter through the use of labs and inquiries.

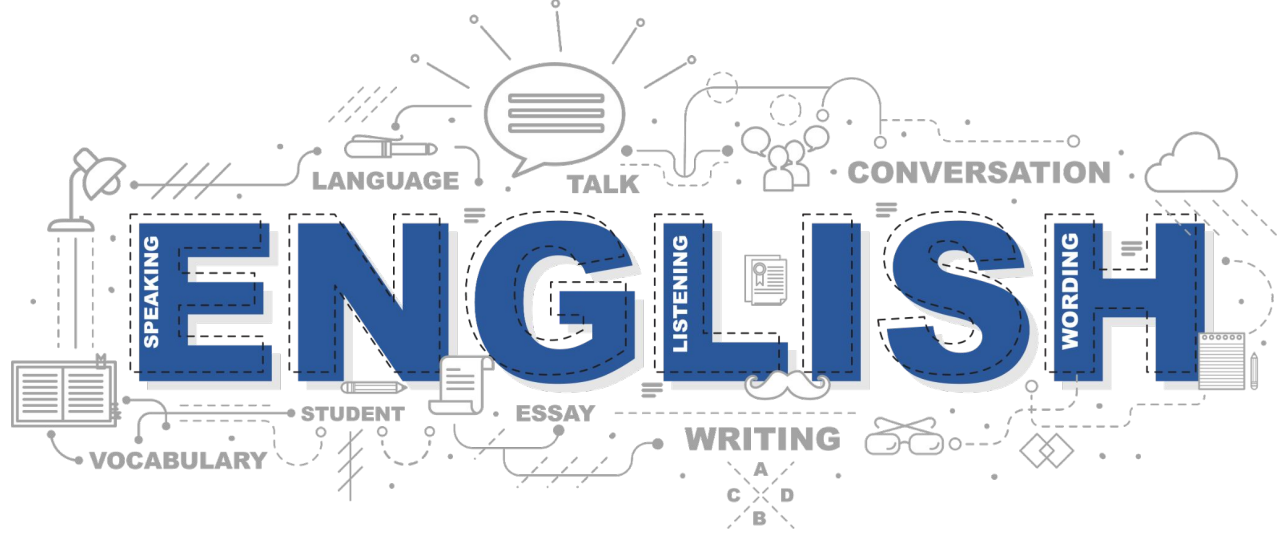
# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mrs. Kuerzi, Ms. Hanson, Mrs. Valentin, & Mrs. Stoute

Throughout the month of September, we will engage our students with many activities such as: a "book tasting" classroom transformation, Readers Theatre, in class poetry slams, writing prompts/ essays and, technology-based activities/projects. We are also beginning to dive into our novel studies with the books *City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau (Mrs. Stoute's class) and *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Ms. Hanson's class). We are looking forward to a great month in ELA!

Math and Science are also busy at work, focusing on big ideas and problem-solving concepts. In math, we will be practicing fluency with whole numbers in multiplication and division. We continue to use 99Math as our fluency program to practice accuracy. Then, we will start extending thinking to decimals and multiplying and dividing them as well. We incorporate many review options in our workstations, including a daily Math Spiral Review so students can practice concepts that reinforce and extend what is practiced every day in the classroom.

Science is very exciting this upcoming month with Earth Structures (Big Idea 6); Properties of Matter and Changes in Matter (Big Ideas 8-9), and Earth in Space and Time (Big Idea 5). In science class we use many resources to motivate and challenge our scholars to take part in hands-on inquiry, learn content vocabulary, and use interactive media and technology to make the subject come alive. Our students also keep science journals to remind them of the nature and practice of science on a regular basis.

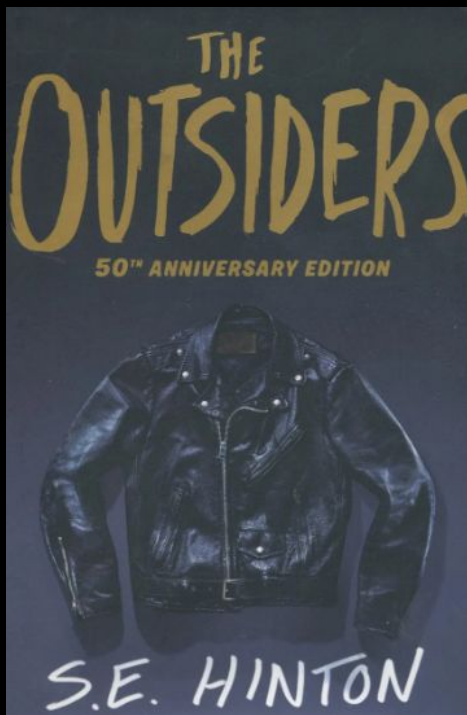


## 6th Grade

In September, 6th grade ELA students will complete their first Socratic Seminar. They will also learn about Narrative writing and write their own narrative piece.

## 7th Grade

In ELA, we will begin our first novel study, S.E Hinton's *The Outsiders*.



## 8th Grade

We are getting acquainted with our new standards and textbook as we explore reading and writing narratives. We also look forward to our first class novel in September.



## 6th Grade

We have laid the foundation with our exploration of maps, their elements and uses and now turn to the discipline of history and its who, what, where, why, and how.

## 7th Grade

Citizenship, law of blood, law of soil and naturalization have encapsulated beginnings of the year; now we turn back the dial to foundational documents and ideas for the forming of these United States.

## 8th Grade

In US History, we will be tackling the Age of Exploration and the early colonization of North America.





## 6th Grade

Life Science students will learn about organelles and cell structures, including a culminating task of creating an edible Eukaryotic cell model.

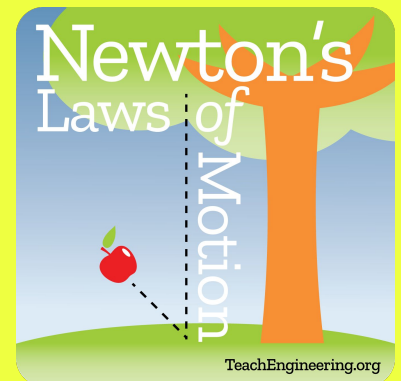


## 7th Grade

For information regarding Earth/Space Science, please contact Dr. Roz via email.

## 8th Grade

For information regarding Physical Science, please contact Dr. Roz via email.





# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Grade

For the month of September, we will be spending the first couple of weeks going over how to solve multi-step real-world problems with decimals and fractions. After we finish that up, we will move on to rewriting positive rational numbers in different but equivalent forms including fractions, decimals and percentages. Then it's on to plotting, ordering and comparing rational numbers. The final topics will include representing quantities that have opposite direction using rational numbers on a number line as well as interpreting the absolute value of a number as the distance from zero on a number line.

## 7th Grade

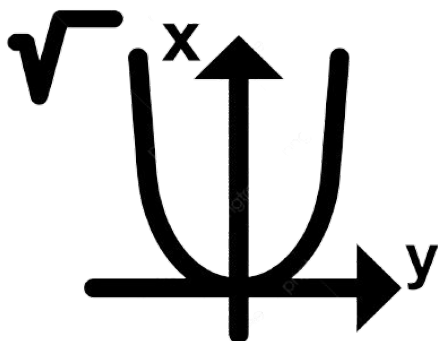
We have had an amazing 3 weeks in class! Your scholars have been working extremely hard to learn about solving two step equations with the distributive property. We have been doing independent practice in Khan Academy and working a lot of problems daily in class. We have been moving at a slow pace so that I can make sure that I am giving them enough practice to master each standard. We also had to spend some time reviewing 6th grade standards that most had forgotten. We will have our first test next week! Also, I will be tutoring on Mondays and Thursdays every week after school. Next up: Rational and Irrational Numbers.



# MATHEMATICS

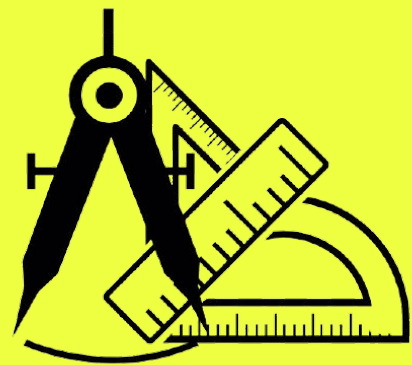
## Algebra I

We have put in some major work during the first 3 weeks of class! We are working towards finishing the unit on Intro to Functions and The Laws of Exponents. We are moving at a great pace! We have been doing problems daily and working in IXL to get more practice. All three classes combined have solved 7664 math problems! Also, I will be tutoring on Tuesday's and Friday's every week after school. Next up: Algebraic Expressions!



## Geometry

In September, students will be proving relationships and theorems about lines and angles. Additionally, they will solve mathematical and real-world problems involving postulates, relationships and theorems of lines and angles.







Creative writing

Our writers will create their first short stories inspired by the New York Times picture prompts.

We have been learning about the roles of newspaper staff, how to conduct an interview, and using the inverted pyramid style of journalistic writing. We will publish our first newspaper after Labor Day! If you have photos of campus events, field trips, or even classroom activities that you would like to possibly have included in the yearbook or newsletter, please contact Mrs. Olowu at Falisha.olowu@ocps.net.



# Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics students in Mrs. Bell's class will bring their playground research and blueprints to life in a diorama style model, presenting based on the gifted and PBL rubric combination including all 7 steps of the gifted learner framework.

It is great having all the students back on campus for the new school year! So far in Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn, we have been building our classroom communities through STEM team building activities, completing the Myers-Briggs Personality Indicators, completing Study Skills Self Assessments, along with reviewing the Gifted Frameworks. To jump start the process of how to create a real-world, well-crafted independent study project, I will be modeling group Project Based Learning units through Defined Learning. During the next few weeks, the students will be creating the following: Inquiry Questions, Smart Goals; Action Plans, researching using credible and reliable websites and articles; and final creating a product for an authentic audience. I look forward to coaching the students through the process.



French students will be working on a unit about music in the Francophone world including studying the geography and history of certain regions, their musical influence, and notable Francophone musicians.

**Orlando Gifted Academy**  
invites you and your children to join us for Walk to School Day this year.

Walk to School Day is a great way to try a fun, aerobic approach to the daily school commute and learn about crosswalk safety and street smarts. Join us this year by walking to school with your children - either from your house or part of the way - and participating in our Walk to School Day festivities.

This year's Walk to School Day event will take place on: **Wednesday, October 5th, 2022**  
Event time: **7:45AM**  
Starting location: **Lake Highland Park. (Off Lake Highland Drive).**

**See you there!**

Logos: FDOT, SafeRoutes, WALK, UHealth, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, KIDZ NEUROSCIENCE CENTER.

The WalkSafe Program is brought to you by the University of Miami KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Walk Safe. Walk More.

Contact WalkSafe:  
305-243-8115 / info@walksafe.us  
http://www.walksafe.us  
http://kidzneurosciencecenter.com

Author of the Year  
**Jane Austen**

Complete a mini book report about Jane Austen to be eligible for prizes.

See Ms. Lineberry for more details.



māo tóu yīng

猫头鹰

Owl

We are starting off the new school year with Mandarin! We have already begun to learn about intonation difference and how to politely greet someone in Mandarin. We will continue to explore China through learning about its culture and its famous landmarks.



# ESPAÑOL

In Spanish we will begin learning about the Spanish speaking countries of the world as we prepare for and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15.

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



In Speech & Debate, students will be strengthening their arguments using deductive and inductive reasoning. They will also be participating in the second round of our first Hat Debate Tournament.



## Media Center



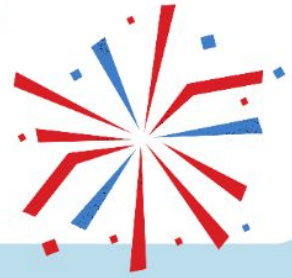
The Media Center would like to remind everyone that all past due books are now due. If you are missing something from another school and can locate it, Miss Lineberry can get it returned for you if you just bring it in!

Please mark your calendars for our first Book Fair of the year which will be October 3rd. More details to come soon.

SEPTEMBER IS

# AMERICAN FOUNDERS' MONTH

CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK  
9/26 - 9/30



## NJHS' HYGIENE PRODUCTS DRIVE

September 12-16th

### Collecting:

- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Wash
- Baby Powder
- Bar Soap
- Deodorant
- Laundry Detergent
- Garbage bags



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

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



## Odyssey of the Mind®

This year we have two teams who will be tackling problems 4 and 5. We are brainstorming ideas and will soon begin writing the script. Thanks to all who have donated art supplies, building materials, recyclable materials, and made financial contributions to the team. The Walsons will be building a crusher board for the Problem 4 team and the Layburns are organizing a garage sale fundraiser (details to come). Teamwork makes the dream work! If you are interested in coaching a team Primary (2nd grade only), Division 1 (grades 3-5), or Division 2 (grades 6-8), our school membership has room for more teams. Contact Mrs. Olowu at [Falisha.olowu@ocps.net](mailto:Falisha.olowu@ocps.net) for more details.



2-D Art: We will be continuing our exploration of drawing three-dimensional geometric forms with students combining forms to design a birdhouse.

Elementary Art - Second through fifth graders have been learning about International Day of Peace and ways that they can promote peace in their everyday life. Students are learning how to use tools and media to enhance communication in their artwork. Each student is in the process of creating a work of art that communicates the theme Peace & Action. Six pieces of student art will be selected to represent Orlando Gifted Academy at the Orange County Public Schools & Global Peace Film Festival Student Art Exhibit in downtown Orlando!

Elementary students will also be learning about Hispanic artists and creating artwork inspired by the cultures and traditions of selected artists.

Mrs. Faubel's Art I students will be learning about a variety of Hispanic artists in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. They will gain an understanding of the impact that culture and symbolism play in the creation of art. Students will take inspiration from exemplary artworks and determine qualities that are transferable to their own work. Six pieces of student art will be selected for Hispanic Heritage Month Student Exhibits in downtown Orlando!

Creative Photography students will continue taking pictures of our beautiful campus and learning how to compose an excellent photograph. They will be learning about the Elements of Art and how they relate to photography. In addition, they will also learn about famous Hispanic photographers and their impact on the field of photography.



# 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



In September our second graders will be participating in Mission Fit. This is a program that educates students on the importance of eating healthily and staying active. Weather permitting, all OGA students that are enrolled in PE, will be focusing on team sports.

Want to donate/support our  
Mandarin/Makerspace?  
Please search for "makerspace" on  
schoolpay

## OPEN HOUSE

Elementary School - September 15th 4-5:30

Middle School - September 22nd 4-5:30



# CHARACTER TRAIT FOR SEPTEMBER IS CITIZENSHIP

Citizenship requires doing our share for our community and our country. Being a good citizen means caring about the good of society and participating actively to make things better. Research reveals that participating in community service programs and learning about the importance and value of serving others can be a powerful influence on positive character development.


How can parents model trustworthiness at home?

- Take your child with you when you vote. Talk to him about the candidates, the offices they aspire to hold and their positions on key issues.
- Participate in community-building activities, such as cleaning up parks and assisting with school activities.
- Discuss citizenship with your child and find examples of what good citizens have done for their communities.

"We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

U.S. Department of Education Office of Communications and Outreach: Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen Washington, D.C., 2005



## Open House

Thursday, September 15, 2022  
4:00p-5:30p  
Elementary (grades 2-5)

Thursday, September 22, 2022  
4:00p-5:30p  
Middle School (grades 6-8)

Parents of middle school students will follow their child's daily schedule, with 1st period starting at 4:00p.

In Engaged Citizenship through Service Learning, we have been learning about ourselves along with our classmates through team building STEM activities, Study-Skills Self-Assessments, as well as completing the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator. Through these activities, we have been learning about our strengths and areas where we need to improve in order to "Find our Greatness." Upcoming in the month of September, we will be diving into understanding the difference between volunteerism and service learning and what it means to be an "engaged citizen." We will be tapping into the interests of the students and look for both global and local problems. I am looking forward to seeing where the students and research leads us!

**Self-Care September 2022**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY							
1. Find time for self-care. It's not selfish, it's essential.	2. Notice the things you do well, however small.	3. Let go of self-criticism and speak to yourself kindly.	4. Plan a fun or relaxing activity and make time for it.	5. Focus on the positives: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time.	6. Give yourself permission to say 'no'.	7. Be willing to share how you feel and ask for help when needed.	8. Aim to be good enough, rather than perfect.	9. When you find things hard, remember it's ok not to be ok.	10. Make time to do something you really enjoy.				
11. Get active outside and give your mind and body a natural boost.	12. Be as kind to yourself as you would to a loved one.	13. If you're busy, allow yourself to pause and take a break.	14. Find a caring, calming phrase to use when you feel low.	15. Leave positive messages for yourself to see regularly.	16. No plans day. Make time to slow down and be kind to yourself.	17. Ask a trusted friend to tell you what strengths they see in you.	18. Notice what you are feeling, without any judgement.	19. Enjoy photos from a time with happy memories.	20. Don't compare how you feel inside to how others appear outside.	21. Take your time. Make space to just breathe and be still.	22. Let go of other people's expectations of you.	23. Accept yourself and remember that you are worthy of love.	24. Avoid saying 'I should' and make time to do nothing.
25. Find a new way to use one of your strengths or talents.	26. Free up time by cancelling any unnecessary plans.	27. Choose to see your mistakes as steps to help you learn.	28. Write down three things you appreciate about yourself.	29. Remind yourself that you are enough, just as you are.									

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**      **Happier · Kinder · Together**

# STUDENT ARTWORK

