



The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy Monthly Newsletter September 2023



Principal's Message :

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 19. See you then!



Important September Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29

College Spirit Days - 9/1, 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27

PTA Skate Night - 9/3 - Semoran Skateway

Labor Day Holiday - 9/4

BEST Algebra I/Geometry Testing - 9/18

Open House - 9/19

NJHS Hygiene Products Drive - 9/18 - 9/22

Progress Reports Go Home - 9/21

Start With Hello Week - 9/18 - 9/23

Hispanic Heritage Month - 9/15 - 10/15

3rd & 4th Grade Field Trip - Orlando Rep - 9/26





SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Ms. Cortes , Ms. Lollis, & Ms. Valentin

Our second graders will learn about text features and create their own nonfiction book report on a topic of their choice. They will continue their novel study on *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey. They loved reading this book and exploring story elements. In Math, students will practice adding and subtracting numbers within 100. We will be using Kagan structures to boost collaboration and engagement. In Science, students will be exploring the properties of matter through hands on activities.

Second grade will begin enrichment activities with Computer Science and CODE.org. Fundamentals of computer science will prepare students to work respectfully and responsibly with others online, modeling the way programs store and manipulate data by using numbers or other symbols to represent information, decompose (break down) the steps needed to solve a problem into a precise sequence of instructions.

3rd GRADE

In Math, 3rd grade student will explore place value and numbers to 10,000. They will be able to determine and explain whether a whole number from 1 to 1,000 is even or odd. Also, students will be able to plot, order and compare whole numbers up to 10,000 as well as round whole numbers from 0 to 1,000 to the nearest 10 or 100. In Science, students will explore the properties of matter. They will compare materials and objects according to properties such as temperature, mass, volume, and state of matter.

ELA will be diving into the first few 3rd grade benchmarks of the year. Students will be analyzing character development and identifying the theme of a text and how the theme changes throughout the text. We have also started our first book club book, *Lemonade War*. AR goals have been set and students are working hard to achieve those goals in order to attend the first AR party of the school year!!

4th GRADE

Ms. Breutsch, Ms. Danese, Mrs. Hubbard, & Ms. Yount

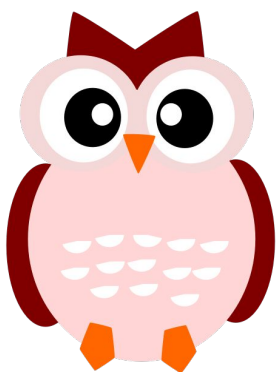
We're off to a great start in 4th grade!

In ELA students will be working on the following benchmarks throughout the month: Text features & text structures, central idea and relevant details, and summarizing. Later in the month we will introduce theme, poetry, and figurative language. We will also begin our first novel study of the book "Esperanza Rising." Students may bring in their own copy or share in class. We will also work on completing our first Narrative Essay assignment.

In Social Studies, students will begin their first unit on Florida's Geography. We will be using the Alive Social Studies curriculum and online platform (TCI) to facilitate our learning.

In math, students will continue working on place value to 1,000,000 and multiplication facts. Students will apply their mathematical knowledge in a class wide money game! Students will have base salaries, bonuses, and even bills throughout the course of the school year. They will track their income and expenses in a digital portfolio and use their income for fun incentives!

In science, students will learn the nature of science, and focus on scientific method. Ms. Yount's class will continue working on designing the best outdoor enclosure possible for their class pet Taco, and both classes will work on a few other hands-on enrichment projects!



5th Grade

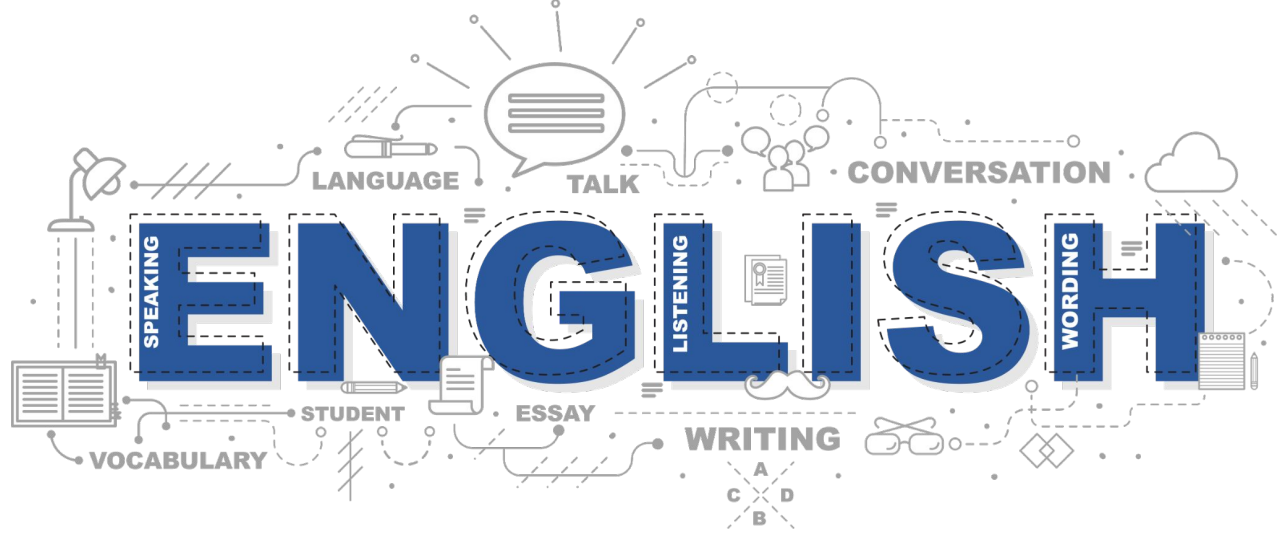
Ms. Gutierrez, Mrs. Kuerzi, Mrs. Moody, Ms. Ortiz

In the month of September, our 5th grade owls will be focused on “leveling up” by reading poetry and literature texts in ELA. Our classes will be diving deep into the world of figurative language and poetry/ prose rules. We will also be continuing our class novel study on the book, *Out Of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper. Our classes will also begin a writing project called, “Words Paint Pictures.” We are very excited for our OGA families to see what we have been doing in class at Open House on Tuesday, September 19th. Additionally, scholars will be learning about the events that took place on September 11th in honor of Patriot Day by completing a DBQ (document based question) in Social Studies.

Looking ahead: Students should continue to practice studying their spelling bee words for the spelling bee that will take place in our homeroom classes in November.

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 6th grade ELA, students will share, with their teacher, how they learn best, as well as learn more about their peers. They will establish classroom norms, expectations, and the bell-ringer procedure. Students will also be doing a mini-unit on theme and creating thematic statements.



7th Grade

In ELA7, students are focusing on the impact of plot and character development, multiple themes, and shifts in perspective through short stories.



8th Grade

Thank you to those who have already purchased from our class Amazon Wishlist or donated via DonorsChoose. This month 8th graders will develop their writing skills by exploring the concept of friendship through a series of articles and reading the novella, *Address Unknown*, by Katherine Kressman Taylor. Don't forget to check your email for the novel permission slip.



6th Grade

We have begun our dive into the foundational skills of historians and geographers, cardinal points, degrees of latitude and longitude and the deciphering of maps. We will then head to timelines to learn times, eras and epochs.



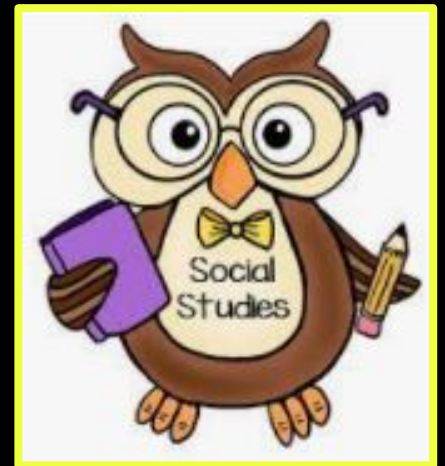
7th Grade

Our civic minded exploration has begun in earnest, exploring the reasons governments exist and the forms and systems of government in place in the U.S. and around the globe. We will then explore the historical events that birthed this nation.



8th Grade

Our student historians will begin examining European colonial settlement in North America.





6th Grade

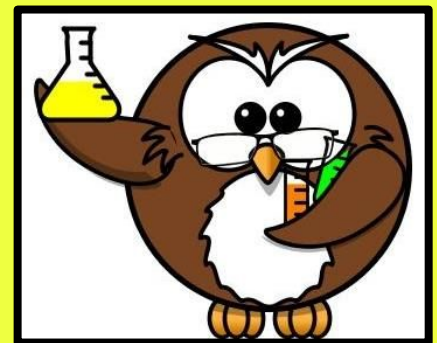
Students will be able to describe and investigate various limiting factors in the local ecosystem and their impact on native populations, including food, shelter, water, space, disease, parasitism, predation, and nesting sites. The students will be evaluated by created a group puppet show explaining their limiting factor for a specific ecosystem..

7th Grade

Dr. Roz can provide more information about what's happening in this course in September. Please contact Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net for details.

8th Grade

Mr. Menna can provide more information about what's happening in this course in September. Please contact Kamose.Menna@ocps.net for details.



SCIENCE

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.



Pre-Algebra

Mr. Michaud can provide more information about what's happening in this course in September. Please contact John.Michaud@ocps.net

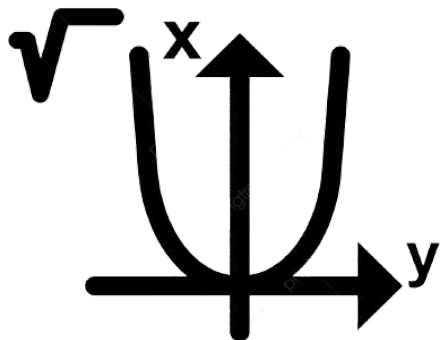




MATHEMATICS

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.

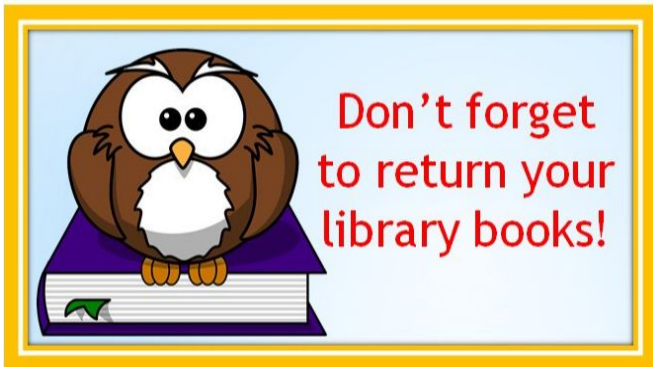


māo tóu yīng 猫头鹰

Owl



In Mandarin, students grade 3 and up are reviewing previously learned Mandarin phrases and getting ready to begin dialogues. Students in 2nd grade are beginning their Mandarin learning journey by starting with intonations and pinyin.



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BOOK FAIRS
October 9 - 13
March 4-8

READ-A-THON
January 22-26

All support purchasing more books for the Media Center



As September gets started, we should finally be receiving our official competition rules and guidelines. We can then get started focusing our engineering component of the class on the build events, to prepare for the competition later in the year. We will also get guidance on how to prepare for the specific topics for each of the study events.



In Creative Writing class, we have been focusing on the elements of Narrative writing. We challenged our skills to write freely about open topics using strategies like Team Scramble, picture prompts, and maps.

This month we'll begin taking what we've learned about journalistic writing & using it into our first newspaper of the year. The newspaper can be found on the OGA website. Be sure to pre-purchase the yearbook by 9/30 for 10% off at tinyurl.com/OGAyearbook24.



Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn & Ms. Handley

It is great having all the students back on campus for the new school year! So far in Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn and Ms. Handley, we have been building our classroom communities through STEM team building activities and reviewing the Gifted Frameworks. To jump start the process of how to create a real-world, well-crafted independent study project, we will be modeling group Project Based Learning units through Defined Learning and/or through A Gifted PBL. 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 creating a product for an authentic audience. We look forward to coaching the students through the process. We will also be beginning the book study on 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens in September.



In French 2, students will start the year out strong with activities that help them discuss their identity and compare commonalities with their peers. They will also be working on a mini-unit that focuses on language proficiency, goal setting, and the best ways to learn a world language.



Theater students will continue to invent a character (super hero or a super villain) with distinct behavior(s) based on observations of people in the real world. They will videotape progression with developing specific characters. They will be evaluated by creating a two minute video of their character in action.

SEPTEMBER IS
**ATTENDANCE
AWARENESS
MONTH**



September is
**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
MONTH** in Florida

Thank you to those who have already purchased from our class Amazon Wishlist or Donated via DonorsChoose. We are currently working on building teamwork and honing our spontaneous thinking skills. We will be choosing our problems for the year soon so that we can start building! We are aiming for another chance to compete at World Finals in Ames, Iowa.

Information/Communication Technology Video Production Digital/Information Technology



DIT

Students will be learning about computer networks. They will learn how to use networks, internet, and online databases. Students will also learn the use of electronic mail to help enhance their communication skills.

ICT 1

Students will be learning how to communicate digitally. Students will learn how to use the Internet to locate information. They will also learn the appropriate way to use email.

ICT 2

My ICT 2 students will be covering spreadsheet essentials. They will develop and apply fundamental spreadsheet skills.

Video Production

Along with filming the Daily Newscast, my Video Production class will be analyzing careers in Visual Arts and Broadcasting industries.



Spanish 1 - Students will continue learning the basics of the Spanish language but will also start learning about school life and the classroom.

Spanish 2 - Students will learn about food culture in Spanish-speaking countries.

Our 3 robotics teams are hard at work on this year's competition. We're currently looking for experts in the Arts and Marketing fields. Please email any contacts to Mr. Dennis at kyle.dennis@ocps.net



Students in Speech and Debate class have been getting to know each other in order to build a safe place in preparation to debate a variety of topics that they may not all be on the same page. We plan to support each other through constructive criticism and ideas as we develop and strengthen our speech and debate skills. Up next is learning about Fallacies and Congressional Debate.



Honor Society members are already hard at work on their service projects. In September, NJHS will sponsor a Hygiene Products Drive in support of Orlando's Coalition for the Homeless.

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.



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THE ATHENIAN SOCIETY

An after-school mentoring club for middle school girls

Wednesdays from 2:00pm-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 everyone 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 instrumental 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 \$20 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.

Physical Education with Coach Fitz

In elementary grades, PE Classes are learning about personal space and different locomotor movements.

Middle School students are playing getting to know you games and working on their Personal Fitness Logs. Beginning tomorrow, students will be starting a "tournament" where students be competing against each other in different activities.





Second through fifth graders are off to a great start in Art class! Second graders will be learning about the importance of individuality and creativity in the Art room. After listening to the story, *The Big Orange Splot*, students will use a variety of media to create artwork that depicts their dream home. Third graders will be learning about artist Jasper Johns and using paint, stencils, oil pastels, sharpies, and collage supplies to create artwork inspired by Jasper Johns iconic pieces. Fourth graders will be creating colorful paintings after learning about artist Yayoi Kusama and her polka dotted masterpieces. Fifth graders will learn about contemporary artist Jaime Dominguez and his colorful abstract paintings. Then they will create their own abstract compositions.

Art 1 and Art 2 students will be learning about International Day of Peace and brainstorming ways that they can promote peace in school, at home, and in their community. Next, they will be creating watercolor paintings inspired by the theme 'The Road to Peace'.

Creative Photography students will continue taking pictures on campus related to a variety of different themes. 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.

