



The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy Monthly Newsletter March 2024



Principal's Message :

Spring Break will soon be here and with that also comes testing season! I'd like to encourage you to check your child's progress on Skyward and take advantage of the academic support activities we have on campus. We want all of our students to excel in this year's state testing and, with your support, I'm sure we can achieve our student growth goals.



Important March Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 3/1, 3/8, 3/29
College Spirit Days - 3/6, 3/13, 3/27
STARBASE - Ms. Gutierrez - 3/4 - 3/8
STARBASE - Ms. Ortiz - 3/11 - 3/14
Spring Book Fair - 3/4 - 3/8
Science Center Field Trip - 2nd - 3/12
PMA3 5 Science - 3/12
Teacher Workday - 3/15
Spring Break - 3/18 - 3/22
STARBASE - Mrs. Kuerzi - 3/25 - 3/29
Orlando Family Stage Field Trip - 3rd - 3/26
Chorus Spring Concert - 3/28
PTSA General Meeting - 3/28





SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Ms. Cortes, Ms. Lollis & Mrs. Valentine

Second grade students in ELA are doing their novel study of *Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom*. They will continue to learn about poetry and do a small in-class play. In math, 2nd grade is expanding their knowledge on fractions and data. In science we are exploring the functions of various organs and the skeletal system through hands-on activities. For enrichment this March 14th students will be celebrating Pi Day with fun and educational math, science and reading activities.



3rd GRADE

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

ELA students will dive into reviewing all benchmarks- chunking 2 weeks of fiction review and 2 weeks of non fiction review! They have completed and displayed their bullying research projects and all turned out awesome! Our next project-based activity will be based around fables and folktales 😊 Make sure you check in with your student to make sure they are reaching their AR goal for this nine weeks and also completing their movie poster book report... both are due 3/14!

Upcoming field trip to The Family Rep Theater is 3/26 and all fees and permission slips are due no later than 3/8.

In Math, 3rd-grade students will explore the concepts of measurement and time through models, hands-on exploration, and enrichment challenges. They will learn how to select appropriate tools for measurement, use and read both an analog and digital clocks, and solve real-world, one and two-step word problems involving time and measurement.

In Science, students will continue their research project on the Everglades to demonstrate their understanding of the diversity of living organisms.

4th GRADE

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

Excellent ELA

Students are reading across genres, finishing up their novel study on *The Tale of Despereaux* and working on their argumentative writing skills.

Marvelous Math

We will begin working on reviewing area and perimeter and solving word problems associated with them. Then we will move on to measurement (customary and metric conversions) which will continue after spring break. Students will deepen their understanding of decimals and the four operations through financial literacy activities.

Stellar Science

Students will be finishing up Big Idea 6 which covers Weathering/Erosion, Rocks and Mineral classification, and renewable/nonrenewable resources. Q3 STEM Challenge information and rubric has been sent home please reach out to your child's Math/Science teacher if you have any questions.

Stupendous Social Studies

Students will be completing a research project on a war veteran, this will culminate in the students getting to visit the cemetery in St. Augustine, complete a gravestone rubbing activity, and a chance to teach their classmates about their veteran.

5th Grade

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

Math: In Mathematics, we will start the month with solving multi-step real-world problems that involve converting measurement units to equivalent measurements within a single system of measurement. This will cover metric and customary conversions. We will cover this unit with a number of hands-on activities. We will then move on to creating and solving expressions and equations. This will introduce our students to the order of operations and algebraic skills that we will use for the rest of the school year.

Science: We are wrapping up Big Ideas 14 and 16: Organization and Development of Living Organisms, Heredity and Reproduction. We are also preparing for Science Progress Monitoring Assessment #3. This assessment is cumulative and will test students on all material taught this year. Ms. Ortiz's class will take the assessment on Thursday, March 7th, and all other 5th grade classes will take the assessment on Tuesday, March 12th. This test will be taken in one day. After the PMA, we will jump into Big Idea 17 - Interdependence where we will cover ecological organization and relationships. We will also start preparing students for the end of the year Statewide Science Assessment.

March madness is in full swing in 5th grade! Our classes are attending the STARBASE field trip this month where they will be immersed in hands-on STEM activities. The STARBASE class rotation schedule is:

- 2/26- 3/1- Mrs. Moody's homeroom class
- 3/4- 3/8- Ms. Gutierrez homeroom class
- 3/11- 3/14- Ms. Ortiz homeroom class
- 3/25- 3/29- Mrs. Kuerzi's homeroom class

5th Grade

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

In reading, we will be circling back to literature texts and standards. We will be reading a few fun plays and stories in our current unit, and at the end of the month, we will begin our Reading F.A.S.T. review. Students are encouraged to go on the <https://ffast.org/families.html> website to practice with the F.A.S.T. format, and sample questions for both reading and writing. Throughout our review, we will discuss all of the reading skills and concepts that we have learned and worked on throughout the year in preparation for the Reading F.A.S.T., which will take place in early May.

In writing, we are currently working on an informational essay about the red tide problem in Florida. Students are tasked with reading multiple sources on the red tide, and they will have to discover the problems that it causes for the state. We will also be reviewing this month on both expository and argumentative essays, as our writing F.A.S.T. is coming up very soon. Our writing F.A.S.T. is scheduled to take place the first week of April. Students can also utilize the <https://ffast.org/families.html> website to practice their writing at home. Students should continue to work on Typing Club each night for 20 minutes in preparation for the exam, as well as work on learning higher level vocabulary words, and memorizing their essay checklist.

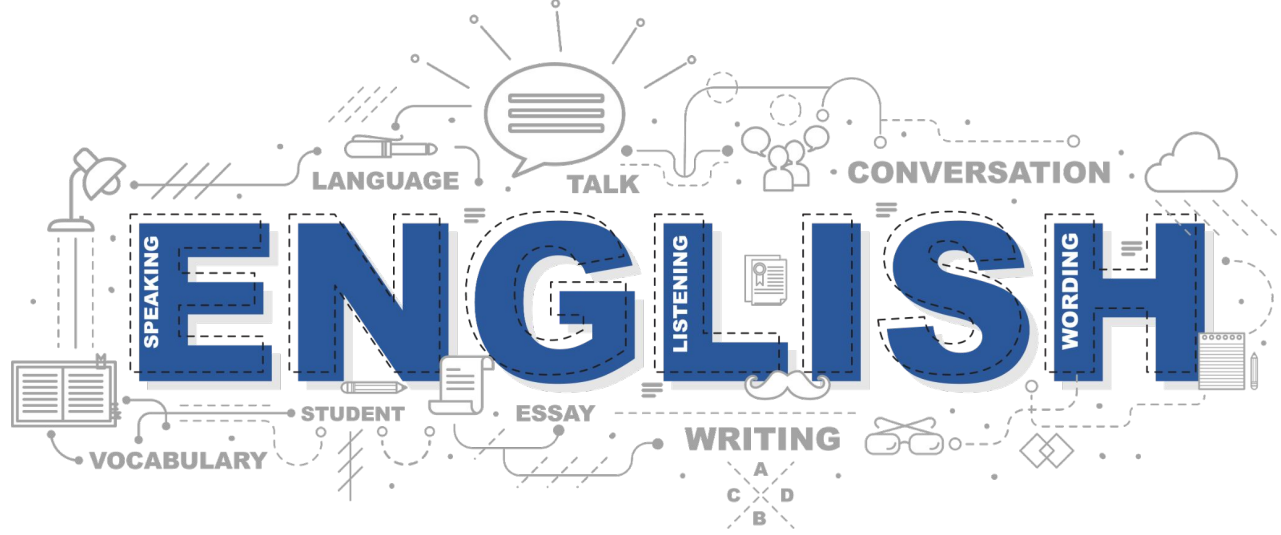
**SATURDAY
IMMUNIZATION
CLINIC**

**On March 2, 2024
AT MEADOWBROOK MIDDLE**

**READ
ACROSS
AMERICA
DAY**

MARCH 2





6th Grade

In 6th grade ELA, students will be finishing an informational text unit using Women's History Month texts. Students will also be completing a March Madness Poetry Bracket in which they will look at and analyze modern poetry.

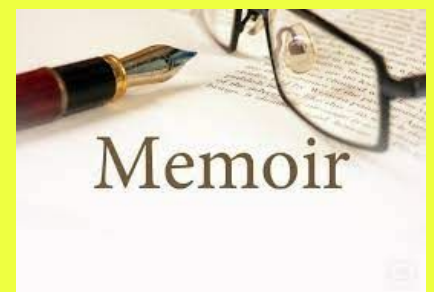


7th Grade

ELA students will evaluate the feedback from their Write Score essay #1 to #2. They will strengthen their writing skills by focusing on their weak points, broadening their word choice and sentence structure, and ensuring the proper organization in preparation for the end-of-year FAST Writing test.

8th Grade

We are finishing up our poetry unit and moving onto listening to people's personal stories through different lenses through autobiographies, memoirs, and biographical plays.





6th Grade

We wrap up our time in one of the longest continuous cultures in human existence, China with the accomplishments of some of the latest dynasties, before turning our attention to the Mediterranean and the emergence of Greek culture(s).



7th Grade

After reaching a verdict in our mock trial, we will turn to U.S. foreign policies before reviewing comprehensively ahead of the Civics End of Course Exam.



8th Grade

Our historians will focus on westward expansion of the United States in the 1800s. Learning about Manifest Destiny, the Mexican-American War, and other seminal events including the California Gold Rush.





6th Grade

Students in Life Science will identify and investigate the general functions of the major systems of the human body (digestive, respiratory, circulatory, reproductive, excretory, immune, nervous, and musculoskeletal) and describe ways these systems interact with each other to maintain homeostasis.

Students will work in small groups via Kagan style grouping to create a movable project that represents three human body systems working together to create homeostasis. Focus on gifted goals 1-7 (knowledge, questioning, research, creative & critical thinking leadership, goal setting and product/presentation).

7th Grade

Dr. Roz can provide more information about what's happening in this course in March.

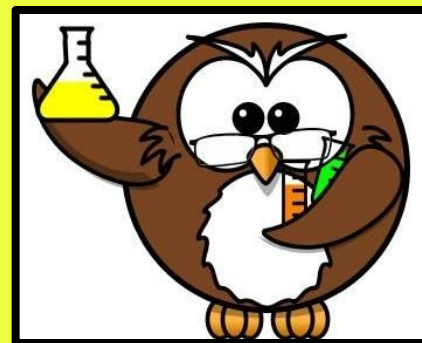
Please contact Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net for details.



8th Grade

Mr. Menna can provide more information about what's happening in this course. Please contact

Kamose.Menna@ocps.net for details.

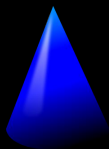




MATHEMATICS

6th Grade

For the month of March, we will continue our geometry unit with 3 dimensional surface area and volume. This will specifically cover using math real-world context to find the surface area of right rectangular prisms and right rectangular pyramids using the figure's net. We will also be starting our statistics units where we will cover mean, median, mode and range of data sets as well as interpreting the data sets to create histograms and box plots in a real world setting.



7th Grade

We have had a busy 9 weeks in class! Some of your scholars have been working extremely hard and some have not! As we approach the last marking period, we are hoping to bring in more energy and effort as I am constantly trying to get them prepared for their next level of math next year! My expectations are still extremely high for them and it requires work in and outside of the classroom. This math is not easy! Please have your scholars work in Khan Academy, IXL or practice problems from in class at least 10-15 minutes per day. This is very necessary to be successful in math. I work them extremely hard while in class; but some need additional practice. Out of 60 plus 7th graders, ONLY 4 of them show up for tutoring to get extra help. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation and in their math book. Next up: Angle Relationships and Transformations!

Pre-Algebra

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



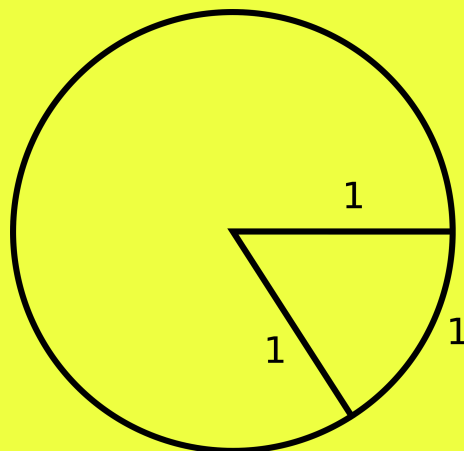
MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

We have put in some major work during this nine weeks in class! We are finishing up the Quadratics. This was an extremely hard unit! Extra time doing math strongly encouraged as 47 minutes in class is just not enough time to fully grasp my expectations. We have picked up the pace! We have been doing problems daily and working in IXL to get more practice. Please have your scholars do practice problems in IXL about 10-15 minutes daily. This will help them perform better on test and help them past the Algebra EOC. The students that put forth the effort to practice math at home usually grasp the concept much quicker and they also perform better on test. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation. Next up: Absolute Value Functions and Exponential Functions!

Geometry

Students in Geometry will finish the quarter by looking at relationships that occur with segments and circles. Specifically, they will work to solve problems involving lengths of intersecting chords, lengths of secants, and tangent segments. Moreover, they will apply their algebraic skills to derive the equation of a circle in standard form. Once we return from Spring Break, students will work on justifying relationships in polygons with circles.





Creative writing

Creative writers will perform their plays as this month starts. Then, we will explore what it would be like if all the problems of the world were solved and fixed, or if our world just had different rules. We will dive into dystopian/utopian societies.

We are continuing to critique and improve upon our own work. The newspaper can be found on the OGA website.

JOURNALISM

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Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn

What wonderful times we had on our field trips to the Second Harvest Food Bank. All Advanced Academic classes attended last month, and together, we boxed over 1,100 family meal boxes! It was wonderful witnessing our students serving the people in need in the surrounding Orlando area. A special thank you goes out to all of our adult chaperones! It wouldn't have been possible without you!

The students continue developing their own self-directive PBL projects by developing topics, inquiry questions, SMART goals, and Action Plans, research thought-provoking questions, and analyze, and synthesize information to conclude in solving real-world problems. After the research portion and note-taking part of the project, the students develop some type of product to share with an authentic audience. It is exciting to see the students' hard work!



It is our favorite month of the year in French class! We will be delving into Manie Musicale, an annual bracket-style competition for students of French. Similar to March Madness basketball in the United States, participants try to predict which of 16 francophone songs will be the most popular.



Spanish 1 students will learn vocabulary related to vacations and holidays and will also begin learning how to describe their emotions in Spanish.

Spanish 2 - Spanish 2 students will have a cultural study unit focusing on Panama, specifically the Guna people of the San Blas Islands. They will read a novela and have a chance to create their own versions of the famed Guna molas.



**BOOK FAIR
MARCH 4-8**

**CASHLESS: STUDENTS MUST HAVE
CARD OR EWALLET**

MARCH IS
**NATIONAL
SOCIAL
WORK
MONTH**





The Brush Bandits will be going to the state competition down in Palm Beach at the beginning of the month so wish them luck! The other teams will be working on their Innovation Project and Robot Run competitions.



We have already sold quite a few yearbooks so be sure to pre-purchase yours at tinyurl.com/OGAyearbook24. Remember, all students get two free pages to customize with their own pics and messages. 8th grade parents may also purchase quarter- and half-page recognition ads for their high school-bound students.



Gradventure tickets can be purchased on SchoolPay.com from 1/29/24-3/29/24. Don't forget to complete both sides of the permission slip, including unisex shirt size and SchoolPay confirmation number.



We did it! Our MS teams placed both first and second in their problems and are moving on to the state tournament on March 30th. Please feel free to come cheer us on at the Orange County Convention Center. Don't forget to drop off any unwanted spray and acrylic paints, large appliance boxes, or large pieces of flat plywood (4x4 or larger).

CHARACTER TRAIT FOR MARCH IS SELF-DISCIPLINE

Learning self-discipline is essential for gifted students to achieve success. Self-discipline allows students to withstand peer pressure, become independent learners, and make better decisions. They are also better able to manage emotions, words, actions, impulses, and desires.

How can you help your child develop self-discipline?

- Help them to see roadblocks as lessons
- Help them create a daily/weekly schedule
- Teach them to use goal charts to track progress toward personal goals
- Build & communicate trust by providing opportunities for students to make good decisions



⁰³ A Comer! ⁰⁰ Students are learning to talk about foods in Spanish and while also learning about street food culture in various countries including Mexico and Argentina.

Advanced Academics with Mrs. Bell

Students will finish presenting their solutions to a real-world problem researched via the form of a survey. Then we will complete a quick PBL, presenting before spring break, working on the higher level of communication part of the gifted frameworks. Then when returning from spring break, the next PBL will be released that focuses on the use of research tools and methodologies ethically.

Students will research and participate in acting out some Mock Trials. They will understand the terminology and order of how a trial works. We will also explore the Lincoln-Douglas debate.



Honor Society members will be making lasting friendships with second graders by hosting a scavenger hunt on Wednesday, March 13th.



Don't forget to return your library books!



During the month of March, we will be prepping for the next competition. We will be competing at the FSEC Energy Whiz event. Some teams will be creating a solar oven to cook a dish for the judges and the other teams are building a solar car to race to the finish.

VPK
REGISTRATION

2024-25
SCHOOL YEAR

Open Enrollment Begins
March 11, 2024

5 Martial Arts World FITNESS
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
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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!

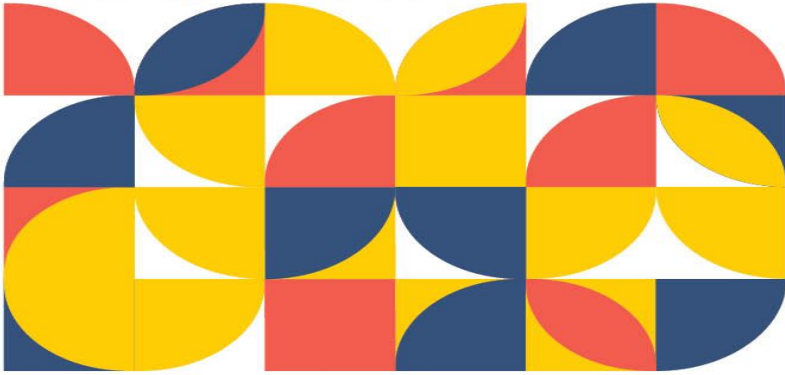
Kristen Tame
Educational Mentor & Consultant
Email: KristenTame@gmail.com
Web: www.KristenTame.com

Classes are for middle school girls and are only \$30 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.

MARCH IS
ARTS
IN OUR
SCHOOLS
MONTH

CELEBRATE

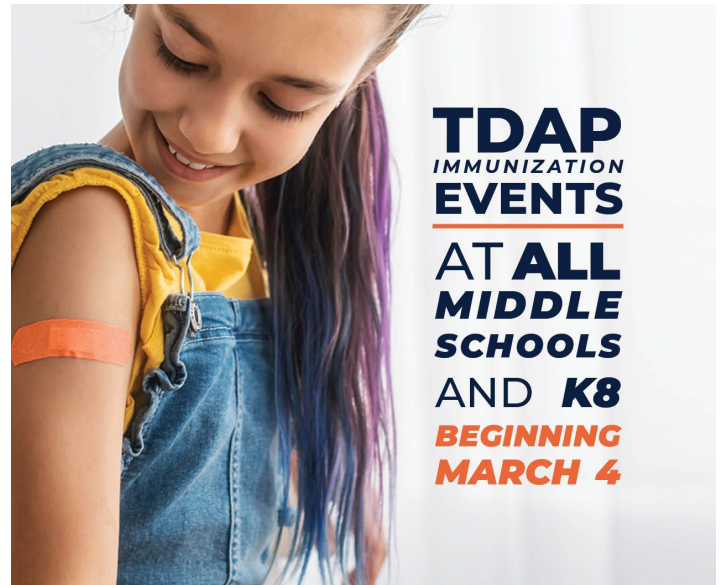
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Creative Photography students will continue working on manual settings and learning about the exposure triangle. Students will experiment with varying shutter speeds and learn about how their shutter speed impacts their final photo. A continued focus on interesting compositions will be a topic throughout the month as well.



In PE, students will continue to work on their locomotive skills by playing different relay games.



TDAP
IMMUNIZATION
EVENTS
AT ALL
MIDDLE
SCHOOLS
AND K8
BEGINNING
MARCH 4

Art News

Elementary Art

During the month of March, 2nd-5th graders will be making their mark on the chalkboard wall. Students will have the opportunity to add their own creative touch to the chalkboard wall and brighten up the hallway! In addition, students will be learning about the artist Georgia O'Keeffe and creating beautiful blooms inspired by her large-scale flower paintings.

Art 1 students will be fine tuning their hand sewing skills and creating one of a kind plushies based on animals, creatures, and monsters. They will also be instrumental in updating our chalkboard wall.

Art 2 students will be researching a variety of unique species of flowers. They will practice drawing large-scale realistic flowers in preparation for refreshing our chalkboard wall. Students will continue working on drawing prompts in the altered books they started earlier in the school year. They will bring their altered books home at the end of March.

ICT 1

Students will be learning how to enhance presentations by learning the features of PowerPoint. They will be preparing to take the Multimedia Essentials Certificate Exam

ICT 2

Students will be learning about Web Design.

DIT

Students in DIT will be learning the features of Microsoft Excel.

Video Production

Along with filming the Daily Newscast, my Video Production class will be learning about shots and angles. They will be creating various short films.

