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Events

- * 4/3 First Day of School After Spring Break
- *4/4 Summative Tests -Window Begins (SuperKids/Everyday Math) Grades k-2
- *4/11 MCA Reading Begins Grades 3-8
- *4/20 MCA Reading Ends Grades 3-8
- *4/25 MCA Math Begins Grades 3-8
- *4/28 MCA Math Ends Grades 3-8
- Summative Tests -Window Ends (SuperKids/Everyday Math) Grades k-2

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Kindergarten

Dear Kindergarteners and Families,

We hope that you had a great spring break! The theme for this month is "Dinosaurs!"

For math, we will continue to work on word problems using POWER math, and simple addition and subtraction problems from 0-20 using pictures and objects. We will also introduce and practice simple fact families. We will continue to practice identifying numbers from 0-31 (or more!) as well as counting. Students will be introduced to measuring using tools such as rulers and other classroom objects. We will introduce money, focusing on pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and the one dollar bill. We will also continue to practice counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s.

For reading, we will continue to work on decoding, sight, and rhyming words. We will continue to introduce new letters with the Superkids. We will focus on reading and understanding sentences. Students will continue to use sentence starters with pictures to write a simple sentence with a capital letter and ending punctuation (period and exclamation mark). We will introduce the question mark and contractions (ex. can't, won't, don't). We will work on adding details and information to our writing.

In science, we will learn about dinosaurs and their environment. We will review the past and present to talk about how things were different in the time of the dinosaurs.

In social studies, we will introduce physical characteristics of places, such as landforms, bodies of water, vegetation, and weather.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

1st Grade

Hello Families,

Well spring is right around the corner, it is such a wonderful sight to see the sun and grass again! Just a reminder that we will be spending time outdoors running, playing, and observe the natural changes of spring, so please make sure your child has the proper clothing attire. We will be going on our field trip on April 14 to Sea Life in the Mall of America, more information will be sent home as we approach the date.

In math, we will review fractions, time to the half hour, and 3D shapes. We will review using the number grid to find 10 more and 10 less of a number and finding the place value pattern. You can help at home by pointing out the 3 D shapes you notice in your home, for example Kleenex boxes, cereal boxes, eggs, etc.

In reading we will continue to use our super six strategies to comprehend details of a story. We will focus on word patterns and review homophones. We will continue to practice our spelling words at school. Please help your child practice these words at

1st Grade continue...

home, it will help them become better readers. Contact your child's teacher if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
The first grade teachers

2nd Grade

Dear Second Grade Families,

It was great seeing so many of you at conferences! The school year is almost over and your dedication to your child's learning is essential!

We have finished our units on simple machines and matter in science. Next, we will dive back in to social studies. We will be focusing on maps with details on directions, reading map keys, and the small to big places there are in the world.

Your child should be reading at an AR level of 2.7 or above. It is expected that they read 30 minutes a day and take AR quizzes on the books they read. April is poetry month and we will incorporate poems into read aloud.

In math, we will be practicing using measurement with estimation and which tool is appropriate for a given object. We also work daily on our addition and subtraction skills using Xtramath.

MCA testing will be happening for grades three to eight. We will also be learning testing strategies for our end of the year summative.

The first week back is when we go on our field trip to the Minnesota History Center.

Have a springy April!

The Second Grade Team

3rd Grade

Dear 3rd Grade Parents,

Happy Spring! We hope you had a wonderful spring break. This month we are in the process of taking the MCA math and reading tests. We are so excited to see all of our students' progress. They have all worked extremely hard. During ELA we will be finishing up our traditional literature unit. Ask your child about the fairy tale story they wrote to go along with this unit. Next we will be working on a unit about non-fiction texts. Throughout this unit, students will apply what they have been learning about non-fiction texts to write a report about an animal.

We have finished our math units for the year, and will spend the rest of the year reviewing and re-teaching concepts that students need additional practice with. In science, we are in the middle of our unit of study on plants and animals. Students are learning all about characteristics of different plants and animals, their life cycles, and how they adapt to survive in our world.

Be on the lookout for a notice about our final field trip of the year! We will be going to the Minnesota Wildlife Refuge and are looking forward to applying our knowledge of plants and animals to the activities we will do there.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. We are here to support you and your child!

Sincerely,
3rd Grade Team

4th Grade

Dear 4th Grade Families,

We hope you had a wonderful Spring Break! We will be starting the MCA reading test on Tuesday, April 11th. The reading and math MCA will continue through the month of April. These tests will measure all of the knowledge

4th Grade continued...

your child has gained over the year in reading and math. Please make sure your child is getting a good night sleep each night in order to perform their best.

In math, we are finishing up our unit 7 on multiplication, fractions, and measurement and beginning our last math unit of the year. This unit will focus on fraction operations and applications. In reading, we will be reviewing a variety of topics learned this year in fourth grade. In social studies, we will be learning all about U.S. Government.

As a reminder, please make sure your child is reading 30 minutes each night, writing 5 sentences about what they've read, and completing their math homework. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team – Carissa Jobe, Destinie Hsu, Ann Ferber, and Sarah Krall

5th Grade

Dear 5th grade families,

In reading, students focused on preparing for their MCA Reading Assessment that is coming up. In math, students worked on multiplying and dividing fractions, geometry (identifying and classifying 2D and 3D shapes), and creating and/or reading data charts.

This month, we have our MCA Assessments. These assessments including a Reading, Math, and Science test. This will be the first time they will see the Science test and take it. They will not be able to take it again until 8th grade.

In preparation, we are asking for the students to go to bed early, take a shower before school and brush their teeth, and eat a nutritious breakfast the day of testing.

Here are our testing dates:

- **MCA Reading: April 11th- April 13th, and possibly into the next week if more time is needed**
- **MCA Math: April 25th- 28th**
- **MCA Science: May 2nd- 4th**

After testing is completed, we will be working on our social curriculum which includes doing lip syncing skits with small groups. We will also be writing novels.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Please continue to encourage your child to read and complete IXL skills at home!!

Sincerely,

5th Grade Teachers

6th Grade

Dear 6th Grade Parents and Families,

Wow, this year is going so fast! We have already made it to April, which means we are done teaching most of our content and will begin MCA testing this month. Reading MCAs are first, followed by Math MCAs. Therefore, it is extremely important that your students are getting plenty of rest at night and a good breakfast. Please make sure they are sleeping at least 7 or 8 hours per night!

We are in the midst of planning a field trip for some time in late May. There will be more news and information on this after Spring Break. Please be on the lookout for that.

In reading, we are finishing up our informational text unit. Students have learned about the different ways informational texts are structured and the different text features that help us understand nonfiction more deeply.

6th Grade continued...

We have been encouraging students to read more nonfiction texts at school and home. Reading at least 30 minutes every night really helps them develop these skills we have been working on!

Math is moving from geometry into data and probability. We have one more unit to teach before students take the Math MCA. We will also be reviewing our past skills during this time. There are a lot of new math skills we have learned this year, and it will be exciting to see how much students have grown and remembered! Remember to continue to check planners every night to ensure that students are completing the required homework.

Each class is doing something slightly different in science, ranging from chemistry and matter, to energy, to waves and light. We have been incorporating more and more science into our daily work and the students are enjoying it! Science is a great way to integrate our reading and math learning to relate to the real world.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about 6th grade. We are here to help! Here's to better weather and running strong into the home stretch.

Sincerely,

Hannah Schrempp, hschrempp@nobleacademy.us

Stephanie Hendrickson, shendrickson@nobleacademy.us

Elizabeth Morton, emorton@nobleacademy.us

Middle School (7th and 8th Grade)

Dear Families,

Thank you to all of the families who joined us at conferences this past month. We really enjoyed sharing all of the great academic growth that we have seen throughout the year. Trimester three has begun and we are looking forward to ending the year strong.

During the month of April we will be taking the Reading and Math MCA tests. Eighth graders will also take the Science MCA at the beginning of May. As testing season approaches please remind your child to sleep well, take a shower, eat a good breakfast, and most importantly, have a positive attitude. We remind the students of these test taking strategies frequently.

As the weather gets warmer, we will be taking our academic studies outside. We are excited to incorporate a garden into the Noble community. Along with providing food for our cafeteria, the garden will also be a learning tool in science, math, ELA, and social studies. If you are interested in volunteering to build or maintain our garden, please contact Mrs. Hagen at shagen@nobleacademy.us or call the main office at 763-592-7706.

Thanks,

The Middle School Team

Art

Hello Noble Families!

April is upon us already! The end of the year is coming soon for Art, and we are going strong. Each grade is moving into a new unit that will be focusing on how art makes us feel and how art relates to the people who make it. Fourth grade will be working on a study of color. Fifth grade has just finished making their own emojis to show mood in their artwork, and will soon begin a unit on positive and negative space. Sixth grade is starting a week in study of the human figure and the proportions of the body. They will also be working on a unit in tessellation that connects mathematics into visual arts. Seventh graders will be stepping into more cultural studies, looking at mandala artwork. Eighth grade will be looking into how color, line, shape, and subject can impact viewers, and how to send an emotional message through a work of visual art. Remind your middle school students to keep their notes from previous units and to review them for the end of the year. We will begin playing review games and preparing for our summative assessments in May.

Have a wonderful Spring!

Ms. Wiser

Hmong Art & Culture

Dear Families,

We've just begun our new unit: Clay and Sculpting. We learned what clay is and where it comes from. Students also learned techniques and tools used to sculpt clay. Everyone will be making a sculpture using the pinch pot method. First graders will be making a footed pot. In second grade, students will make a turtle and in third grade, students will make a fish sculpture. Kindergarteners will spend a few days discovering what happens to primary colors when they are mixed up and enjoy a book called, *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh. Then we will also learn about clay. We will practice making a pinch pot with playdough and use clay for our final project. We will need to wait for our sculptures to dry, be fired in the kiln, painted/glazed, fired again, and then we will finally get to take it home. This process will take up to two months and although everyone is very excited, we will also have to learn about and practice patience.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Chang

Hmong Literacy & Culture

Nyob Zoo!

Time goes fast, we already started trimester III. In Hmong Literacy/Culture, we are busy working on our double consonants, pronouns and classifiers, animals, and numbers. In K-3, we are working on numbers and animals. Also, in 3rd grade, we are reading in Hmong and translating the sentences. In 4-8, we still continue to work on ours double consonants and family. We also work on pronouns, classifiers, reading, and translating sentences from Hmong to English.

Parents are encouraged to ask your child what they learn in class and help them with their Hmong's fluency.

Please do not hesitate and feel free to call us if you have any question or concern.

Ua tsaug.

Hmong Literacy/Culture Specialists

Mr. Phia Xiong K-3 & Mr. Lue Thao 4-8

Physical Education

Hello Noble Academy Students and Families,

In late April and early May, our K – 3 students will be exploring tag games and invasion games. These games encompass all the skills that we have been working on all year and are great ideas for activities over the summer. We will also be reviewing the skills in preparation for the skills post-test. Students are always working on their spatial awareness by recognizing safety in the gym and personal fitness through our daily warm up and other various activities. Building on the skills that we have been learning, the students enjoy playing variations of the game "Capture The Flag".

In April, our 4 – 8 students will be a unit that is brand new to Noble Academy. Students will be taking a journey about learning and gaining insights about disc golf. Disc golf is a great outdoor activity that utilizes throwing a Frisbee from a certain distance away and trying to throw it into a cage in the least amount of throws possible. Disc golf will allow students to think about strategy and how to throw accurately to a disc golf target. At the beginning of the unit, we will focus on how to throw and how to throw far and by the end students will be exploring a miniature disc golf course. This unit showcases the many different ways and opportunities for students to lead active and healthy lifestyles. In grades 3 – 8, students also work on improving their personal fitness through their daily warm up.

Reminder: All K – 8 students are expected to wear tennis shoes during gym class. Also our 4th – 8th grade students need to wear the Noble Academy Gym Uniform. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,

Your Physical Education Teachers

Music

Hello Parents and Guardians,

In music class, 4th grade has been progressing very well on the recorders. They learned a song on the recorders that requires them to move their feet while they play. This is a challenging task that helps their awareness of the beat in music.

In 5th grade, students used what they know about rhythms to find the musical rhythms in a poem. By the end of the week they wrote their own short poem and wrote out the musical rhythm to it, and even added notes to their poem that could be played on recorder. We discovered that the words of a song determine the rhythms that we play.

In middle school, we have been exploring the history of jazz and the various styles that evolved through history. Students practiced figuring out a style of a jazz song by listening for the unique traits of a specific style. The styles or eras of jazz that we covered were: Early Jazz, Swing, Bebop, Cool, Hard Bop, and Fusion. The students also started learning a 'cool' jazz style song on the piano that requires new piano techniques.

Band parents and guardians, please encourage your student to practice at home. Students who practice regularly (even for 10 minutes a day) are seeing great progress!

Best,

Mr. Ethan Wightkin

Music

Dear Noble Families,

The weather is still deciding if it's spring or winter but in music class we have been talking about spring. All the students have been working very hard and we are becoming better musicians every single day.

In Kindergarten and 1st, we have been singing a lot about bees. First we took the silly song "Bringing Home My Baby Bumblebee" and did the hand motions with it. The students got a kick out of the word in the song especially when it goes "I'm licking up my baby bumblebee." We also took the song "Bee Bee Bumblebee" and learned high and low pitch and even composed our own B section on the xylophones.

Second grade students are working on their compositions skills and now writing all their own lyrics. We sang the song "Pizza Hut" and then came up with a list of many different restaurants. The students then had to write their own song using three restaurants. Students also came up with their own choreography and one student played the ukulele while the other performed their song in front of the class.

Third grade is on their final song of the year for Recorder Karate. Their orange belt song is "Merrily We Roll Along" which sounds like "Mary Had a Little Lamb." I'm confident all the students will get their orange belt and be ready for 4th grade recorder next year!

Just a reminder to the parents that have kids in choir or band. Our spring performance will be on May 24th. A note will go home with the choir students at the beginning of April. Hope to see all of you there!

Sincerely,

Alex Michenfelder

Special Education

Greetings Noble Parents,

We hope everyone had a great spring break and time with family! We enjoyed meeting parents at the parent/teacher conferences! We are continuing to work on currently skills that were identified as needs through the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) practice test in math and reading. Students are able to work on these skills online. The students will be taking the MCA's this month. Make sure your children get a good night's rest and a good breakfast to help them perform their best.

Special Education continued...

In grades K-2, students are currently working on phonics and spelling sight words. In addition, they are learning digraphs (ch, sh, wh) and reading words with vowel combinations such as: au, ee, and ea. As for math, the students are practicing their math facts for addition and subtraction. They are also work on telling time and counting money.

In grades 3-5, the students are applying higher order reading comprehension strategies such as identifying the main idea, using context clues, and making inferences. The students are improving their fluency by separating parts of a word such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. In math, the students are working on math fluency with multiplication facts. In addition, they are learning how to solve word problems.

In grades 6-8 in reading, students are continuing to focus on writing summaries and paragraphs of passages or stories they have read. Students are using graphic organizers to assist them in writing summaries and paragraphs which include a topic sentence with supporting sentences and a concluding sentence. We are also working on comprehension questions and strategies. Students are continuing to learn ways to determine main idea and how to use text to answer questions about a passage. Students are also continuing to work on new vocabulary words found in their story each week. We are working on identifying main idea in our stories as well.

In math for grades 6-8, student will be focusing on math story problems and percent, decimals and fractions. Students are continuing to work on solving more complex math story problems, using graphic organizers to help them solve problems independently and accurately.

We enjoy working with your children and sharing in all their successes throughout the year! Please feel free to call us anytime!

Sincerely,
Jenny Yang and Sue Welle
Special Education Teachers