

# 6th Grade News- November 2020

Mrs. Rice & Mrs. Rinker

## **ELA**

6th graders are wrapping up their first Module and novel study: *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*. They spent recent weeks connecting the novel to several classic myths by analyzing themes throughout both the book and the myths. After Thanksgiving, we will begin our next Module. Students begin by analyzing a Steve Job's speech and begin their next novel *Bud, Not Buddy*.

## **Math**

6th graders recently completed their unit on operations with fractions. Students spent much time interpreting the meaning of mixed numbers when dividing fractions, carefully reading word problems to determine if a mixed number would be rounded up or down to appropriately answer a question. They have now begun a topic that will be new to most students: ratios! Students will spend the next several weeks learning multiple methods for finding equivalent ratios, solving ratio problems, finding unit rates and using them to do "comparison shopping," completing ratio tables and graphing those tables on the coordinate plane. Students will later extend their knowledge of ratios to solve problems involving percents.

## **Social Studies**

We have studied both the Tigris and Euphrates River Valley and the Nile River Valley in Social Studies. We are now moving north, and studying the Indus River Valley and Huang He River Valley. This will finish out our River Valley Civilizations unit, and we will then move to Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. Students have also been working on an Inquiry, using primary and secondary sources to make historical inferences and observations.

## **Science**

Students have been very busy in Earth Science! We learned how to use triple beam balances to find the mass of a mineral, how to find volume using graduated cylinders, and how to determine the density of a mineral using mass and volume. We have completed our unit on Minerals, focusing on mineral identification, culminating in a lab. We have also studied Rock Classification and Rock Types, culminating in a lab. We are now studying Plate Tectonics, delving into the theories of continental drift, sea floor spreading, and studying plate boundaries.

## **Religion**

6th graders recently completed Unit 1 by reading several important stories in the Old Testament that show us how sin entered the world and spread. The students have now begun Unit 2: God Forms a Family of Faith. In this Unit, they will come to understand how God's plan of salvation unfolded in the lives of the patriarchs, beginning with Abraham. They will also spend the coming weeks learning about Advent and "growing" our 6th grade (virtual) Jesse Tree.