

Middle School Newsletter
March 2nd, 2020

Dear Middle School Families,

We want to keep you informed about what's happening in our middle school classrooms. Please be in touch with any of us if you have any questions or appreciations!

Upcoming Events in March

- Trimester 3 begins: March 4th
- 8th Grade Final Product Presentation- Tuesday March 2, 12:45-2:00 in the Science Classroom
- 6th Grade Final Product: March 5th at 5:15 pm at City Hall
- Spring Break: March 16th-20
- Freshman Orientation: March 25th, 6:00-7:00pm

6th Grade

Expedition: The 6th Crew is putting the final touches on their final product presentation. We worked with the UI Legal Aid Clinic, City Councilwoman Maureen Laflin, as well as Tiffany Bently, a local real estate agent, and Brandon Allen, a local loan officer, to dig into the issue of affordable housing in Moscow. The class will be presenting a synthesis of their research to the Moscow Fair and Affordable Housing Commission on March 5th at 5:15 in the City Council Chamber at City Hall. This presentation will include a summary of the current housing situation in Moscow, the affordability gap between median income and median home values, housing demand, creative ideas to increase housing supply, and three student-created city ordinances that the kids believe will address the issue of affordable housing.

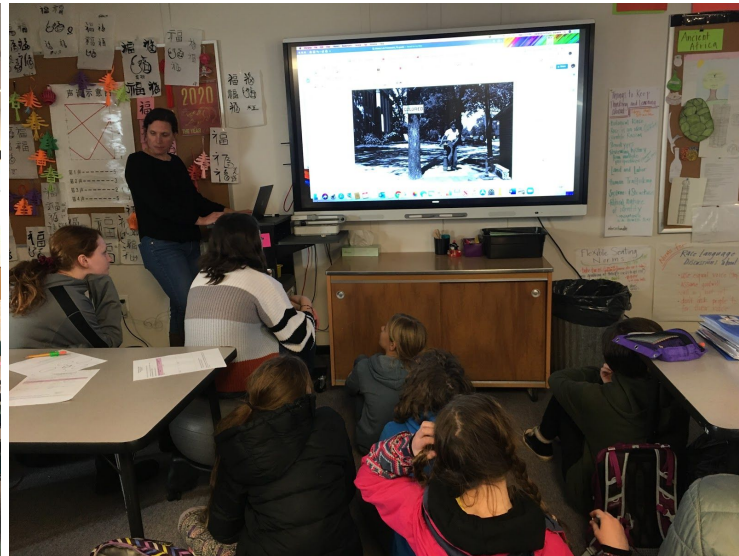
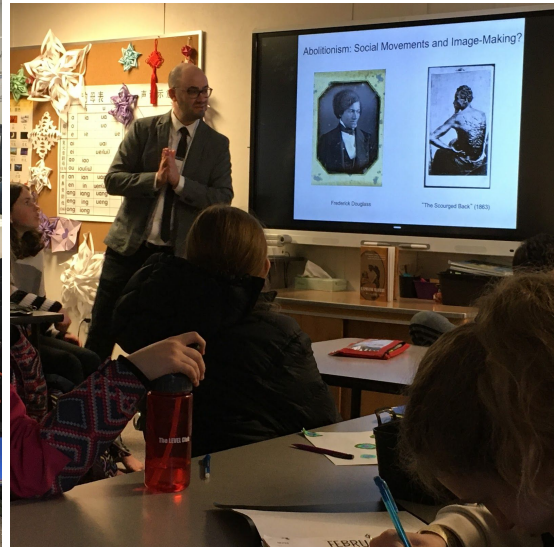
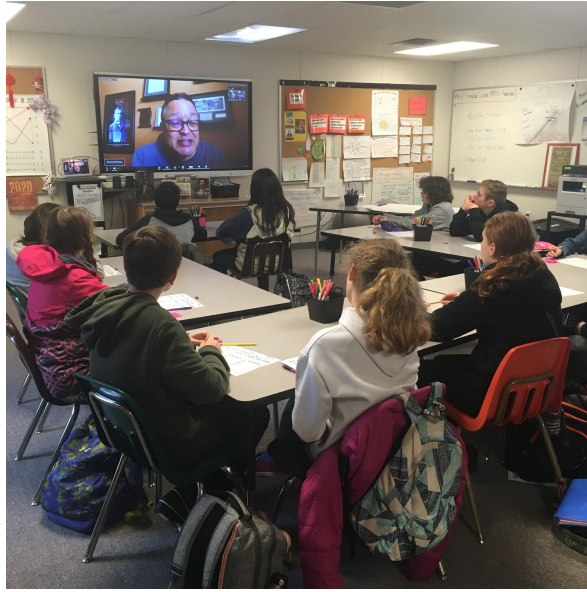
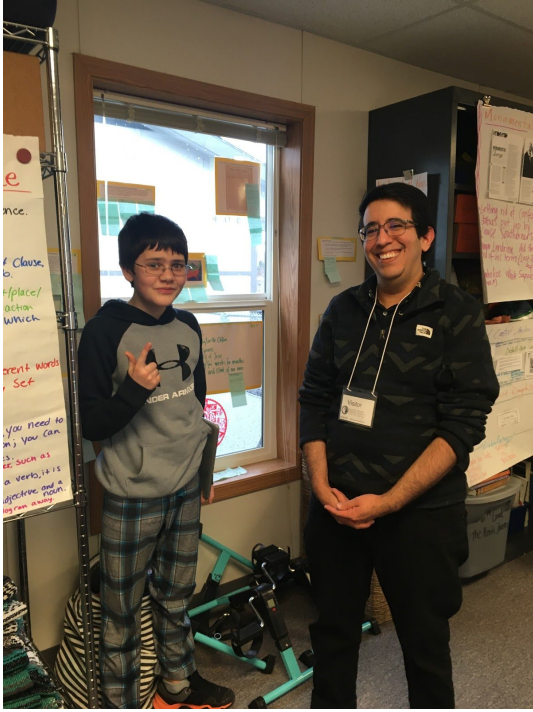
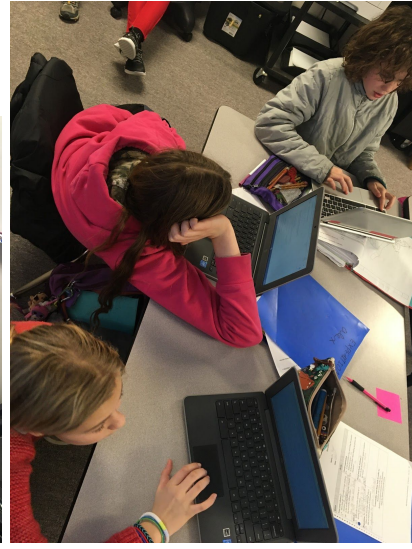
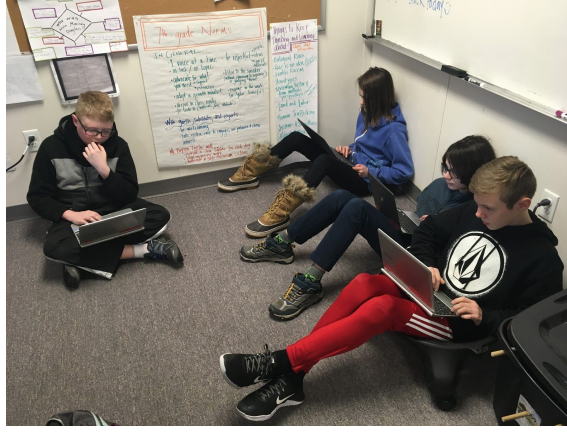
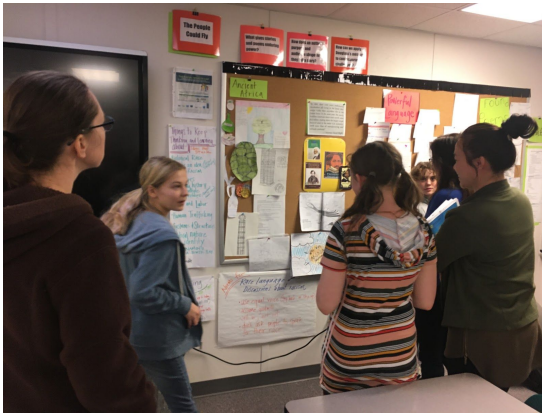
Math: We are wrapping up our statistical research projects and have created research posters using Google slides. Last week, statistician Julia Piaskowski (Suzka's mom) visited our crew and offered her expertise around visualizing data sets. Students applied their learning as they determined which graphs and visuals best support their research findings. Next week we'll transition and begin learning about problem-solving processes and variables.

Chinese: Last week we learned to talk about extracurricular activities and asked someone where she/he would like to go. We watched a video about Chinese **Dragon Head Raising Day**. We are also focusing on time and weather, learning to ask about time (hour and minute), different types of weather, and plans for the day.

PE: With the weather turning comes good PE times. We've been spending most of our time at the outdoor basketball courts at UI. The walk itself is over a mile in each direction, so our kids are getting a lot of movement!

7th Grade

Expedition: Students celebrated the end of our expedition today by sharing out the story of the expedition, a poem they created about the variety of ways in which enslaved people resisted slavery, and unveiled digital timelines related to local Idaho history and underground railroad conductor Anna Murray Douglass. Over the past few weeks, students have worked with a variety of experts from the University of Idaho and the Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives.



Math: Your mathematician has been working VERY hard to understand the language and structure of the algebraic problem-solving process. This is a really new way of thinking about problem-solving for most students and usually takes time and intention and perseverance. This group is doing so well at encouraging each other and using their mistakes to guide their learning. Next week, we'll transition to working on algebraic inequalities.

Chinese: Last week we learned to talk about our schedules with one another and we watched a video to know about Chinese **Dragon Head Raising Day**. We learned to make handcrafted Chinese dragons. This week, we are going to learn to describe our room to others, and we are going to learn a new poem called **The Water and The Sky**.



8th Grade

Expedition: 8th Graders have wrapped up their trimester and finished their energy audit that they conducted for our new school building. We'll share our findings with school leaders on Tuesday! We learned a lot about heat pumps, how to read our electricity bill, and ways to maximize efficiency. We're looking forward to now planning for our backpacking trip in April and Passages in May. Stay tuned for important communications about logistics.

Math: Our crew has been busy! We took a break from our curriculum to learn about epidemiology so that we could track the coronavirus as it unfolded in China earlier in the year. We've continued to check in on how the situation is evolving and will return to the data set when we begin our bivariate statistical modeling unit. Here's a few photos of our bar graph- we had to stop when our numbers hit the ceiling. We've also been working on understanding linear systems of equations and inequalities, continuing to use our knowledge of algebraic structure to help us make insights on solution sets.



Chinese: Last week, we watched a video to learn about Chinese **Dragon Head Raising Day** and we learned to make handcrafted Chinese dragons. We also learned how to recommend a dish or a job to a friend. This week, we are going to continue this topic and practice some sentence patterns on this topic. The characters and sentences are getting more and more difficult, but all of our 8th-graders are doing a great job!