



Principal's Corner

Summer 2019 at MPBS was a memorable one for all as we continued to challenge ourselves academically while growing physically and emotionally.

This summer, our students focused on details as they responded to and analyzed fiction and nonfiction texts. Students further identified details such as setting when writing narratives from the Jurassic era and characteristics when describing animal adaptations. Interdisciplinary connections were established as students categorized attributes in different subject areas. During math studies of geometric figures, students described and identified shapes by their vertices, sides, and types of lines, and plotted points on coordinate planes. Students also used their knowledge of specific details to read and listen with purpose and understanding, share and discuss ideas, and categorize researched facts into graphic organizers. Indeed, our students were busy learning.

Our talented staff is extremely creative in their craft. If you asked our students what they did this summer they might tell you: they enjoyed refreshing snow cones at a beach party, learned about a country they 'adopted' and/or attended a culture fair where they tasted food from different countries. They may say they learned how to say, "hello" in seven different languages, 'adopted' a dinosaur and touched its skull, went on a Dino Walk, or were rock detectives. Our students would tell you they enjoyed delicious hamburgers grilled by local firemen and enjoyed a visit from the ice cream truck with shakes and ice cream!

As a result of the staff's ingenuity, planning, and preparation, this summer we created a program where children were able to have fun, all while experiencing enriching learning opportunities that provided access to grade-level standards.

On behalf of the MPB Team, thank you for sharing your child with us this summer. Like them, we had a wonderful time teaching and learning. Enjoy the remaining warm and sunny days ahead. I will see many of you back in September and I wish those who are not returning a wonderful 2019-2020 school year.

Fondly,

Griselda
Principal, MPB School

2019 Summer Edition

Elementary.....	2
Elementary Highlights.....	6
Secondary Highlights.....	7
Specials.....	8
Technology.....	8
Art.....	9
Secondary.....	10
Upcoming Events.....	12



ELEMENTARY

Pre-Kindergarten

Letters, Shapes, & Colors, Oh My!

It has been a summer of fun in prekindergarten. Our program enabled us to continue building upon the skills we learned throughout our 2018-2019 school year. Students were able to use a variety of materials to enhance their academic skills of identifying letters, numbers, colors, and shapes while learning about the country of Spain. Students participated in academic groups where they learned to identify the colors red and yellow, which represent the colors of Spain's flag. The students also learned to identify the letters S for 'Spain' and F for 'flag'. We identified shapes and learned that a flag has four sides; two short and two long, representing a rectangle. We also learned about a dinosaur called Europelta. Fun facts about this massive creature: they lived in Spain, only ate plants, which means they are a herbivore and roamed around 109 million years ago. Our students also learned how to identify a dinosaur by pointing and signing.



Kindergarten

Counting to 100!

Throughout the summer of 2019, the kindergarten class reviewed counting to 100 by tens and ones. Students practiced this in a variety of ways. They sang songs, used place value blocks, and number charts. It was impressive to witness how quickly students recalled information from the previous school year and connected it to their summer learning. The students made great progress with their ability to identify place value. Some of the students were able to recognize that the number 53 meant that the 5 was in the tens' place and the 3 was in the ones' place.

Students practiced representing numbers using base ten blocks. As we progressed through the summer, students displayed marked improvement in their capacity to count to 100 by 1's from any given number instead of always beginning at 1. Students loved singing the "We Can Count by 10's Up to 100" song. While singing, students used their classmates' fingers to skip count by 10's. The students all worked extremely hard throughout the summer program and the progress they displayed is a testament to all of their efforts.

Students of K-1

Literacy Experts

This summer, the readers of K-1 continued to build on their prior knowledge and strengthen their literacy skills. Students read both informational and literary texts and compared the purpose of each. Students learned that informational texts provide readers with information while a literary text tells a story. These professional readers took a deeper look into these pieces of text. Students discovered that they could use the information from their readings to compose different forms of writing. Students composed opinion writing of their favorite Italian dish (pizza or pasta) using illustrations to support their views. Students continued their learning during their dinosaur unit of study by identifying the main elements of a story. From their reading of the mini-book, "Terri the Pterodactyl," students illustrated the main character after a discussion of traits which included the dinosaur's appearance.

Students were engaged this summer which allowed them to connect prior knowledge to new understandings!



Great Geometrists

Students in K-1 were hard at work this summer practicing their geometry skills and building on their previous knowledge. Throughout the summer, students identified circles, squares, triangles, hexagons, and trapezoids. To do this, students worked on counting the number of sides of each shape, sorting by the number and length of sides, and describing the shapes to peers. These geometry geniuses demonstrated their knowledge by modeling shapes using straws, playdough, and paper as they were given clues about each figure.

Students also discovered that they could compose new shapes out of ones they already knew such as trapezoids and hexagons out of triangles. Students continued their learning of geometry by creating models of the Stegosaurus out of tangram shapes during their dinosaur studies. They worked on finding the appropriate shape to represent specific parts of the dinosaur and how to accurately fit sides together.



Second & Third Grade

“Geo”-Explorers

This summer we hit the ground running with a review of our informational reading and writing skills based on social studies concepts of our world’s continents and oceans. We quickly transitioned and focused our study of Greece on the continent of Europe. Students were reintroduced to their nonfiction questioning and answering techniques, their connections to historical timelines, as well as learning and determining the meanings of new vocabulary from modern-day and Ancient Greece. Our students celebrated their learning with a shared research project to teach their peers in other classes all they had learned about Greece. Our informational literacy skills were strengthened by researching the Velociraptor, especially when comparing it to other dinosaurs of the Cretaceous Period.



To round out our “geo” exploration we took a deep dive into geometry this summer. Students explored with two-dimensional shapes, specifically quadrilaterals, with a multi-sensory approach to build on prior knowledge. This lent itself wonderfully to creating our own Greek mosaics! Students were also exposed to new vocabulary such as angle, partition, and of course quadrilateral. By learning about shapes, we were able to touch upon the beginning skills of fractions and multiplication to get our mindsets ready for third-grade math!



Third & Fourth Grade

Writing Wizards

Students focused on writing this summer and being able to state their opinions using real-life examples, as well as, answering yes/no questions. Students used a graphic organizer to express facts that they have learned this summer with regard to their country of study. Students used an OREO graphic organizer to create an opinion paragraph about visiting Madagascar and explained their reasoning based on the facts they studied. The graphic organizer aided in student understanding that writing is a multifaceted process of brainstorming, pre-writing, writing, editing, and revising. Be sure to ask a 3rd or 4th grader what they learned on their adventure!





Fourth Grade

Geometry Geniuses

Throughout the summer of 2019, 4th-grade students reviewed geometry, continuing the learning they had been working on during the school year. Students began the summer by identifying geometric elements, such as a line, line segment, ray, and endpoints. Some students were able to use their bodies to represent and remember the different geometric elements! Students created their own geometry flashcard booklets; using as a reference when discussing and completing activities!

Then, students learned how those geometric elements can create angles, such as a right angle, an acute angle, or an obtuse angle. Students practiced using protractors to measure degrees in order to determine the type of angle. Some students were able to create their own angles using spaghetti. They measured the degree and named the angles they created based on their measurements!

Students continued their learning by studying lines of symmetry. Students were able to recognize and draw lines of symmetry in two-dimensional figures. Some students were able to sort shapes into two categories, symmetric and asymmetric. They continue to work on symmetry by creating their own symmetric patterns and finding real-life examples of symmetry.



Persuasion, Persuasion!

This summer, fifth grade built upon their persuasive writing skills by using strategies to convince their readers to visit the beautiful country of Japan. First, students read varying texts about Japan and identified multiple main ideas throughout the text. Then, students engaged in collaborative conversations to discuss interesting facts and features they learned about Japan and used Google Docs to organize the information. Finally, students chose a person to address their persuasive letters to and used strategies to appeal to their audience. For example, students asked questions throughout their writing to engage their reader, they suggested tasty foods to try while in Japan and researched pictures of fun traditions to celebrate. Students explained and wrote a variety of reasons to “hook” their readers in exploring the amazing wonders of Japan. When you pass a 5th grader in the hallway be sure to ask, “Why in the world should I visit Japan?”



Fifth Grade





Elementary Highlights





Secondary Highlights

Sixth Grade

Exploring Area



This summer, 6th-grade students reviewed skills in geometry and built on previous knowledge. Students worked on finding the area of composite figures. Students followed specific steps in order to complete their calculations. First, students broke the composite figure into individual shapes. Then, they found the area of each figure. Finally, they found the sum of all areas.

Throughout the process, students identified the individual shapes as triangles, squares, rectangles, and trapezoids. Some students used manipulative materials to help identify the shapes. Students used their interactive notebooks to reference the area formulas for each figure. They used checklists to help recall the steps required to solve. Students continue to work on applying these skills to real-life situations by solving word problems.

SPECIALS

Technology

Code Everything



Students in grades K through 6 have been building their computer literacy skills through the creation of stories, animations, and games. After receiving certificates for completing the “Hour of Code,” each class worked creatively, systematically, and collaboratively to develop programs that respond to timed events and user input. With over 100 computer science activities for all ages and experience levels, students were given the opportunity to explore different areas of code based on personal interests and strengths. As we continue to unfold the endless possibilities of computational creativity, students are gaining a deeper understanding of the technology that impacts our daily lives and the importance of being in control of that technology. We encourage you to visit the Coding Class Page on our district website to see student-created dance animations, programs to complete an image, and interactive stories that aligned with their thematic units of study. The students are and have every reason to be very proud of their hard work this summer!

Art

Designing, Creating & Sharing

Elementary - Artists Around the World - Summer began with painting patterns or collaging faces on various seashells to kick off our "Oceans of Fun" unit. Some students also made prints with Japanese fish models. Next, elementary students in each grade created a project that represented the culture and country that they were studying in their classroom. We had a wonderful display of sunflower paintings from France, Italian mosaics, Chinese fans, and cherry blossom paintings, Greek vases, Madagascar Baobab trees, and pipe-cleaner lemurs, Irish potato prints, Japanese origami, and Mexican weavings. In our dinosaur unit, students created salt dough footprint fossils, plaster petroglyphs, and imaginative dinosaur sculptures based on the world-famous cow parade exhibits.



Secondary - Secondary students are working collaboratively on a project called "Kindness Rocks." Students are painting rocks in bright colors with inspirational quotes and images. These rocks are then photographed on a variety of backgrounds and posted to the MPBS Kindness Rocks Instagram handle. Students are involved in all facets of painting, decorating and posting to social media. We will be putting the rocks in places for others to find to brighten their day. More information to come as we prepare to share our rocks in September!!



SECONDARY

Social Studies

Making the Change



This summer in social studies, students on the secondary level had the opportunity to engage in a variety of topics related to current events, history, and government. Students have spent time researching subtopics related to the historical development of New York and the United States as a whole. More prominently, students have been participating in a government themed unit, which allowed them the opportunity to explore the intricacies of democracies, monarchies, republics, and dictatorships. We were able to find the similarities and differences of each by looking at

case studies which included: the establishment of the first democracy in Ancient Greece, the fall of the Roman republic, the Absolute Monarchs of the 1700s in Eastern Europe and the rise of dictatorships pre-WWII. Students were asked to access their knowledge of these governments and collaborate during in-class projects, following rules that mimicked how these governments function. Students enhanced their understanding of living under different forms of leadership through their experiences. Exploring these governments will prepare our students for taking charge in our future, and helping to make the changes based on their experiences.



Perfectly Poetic

English Language Arts

This summer, students in 7th through 12th grade immersed themselves in the world of poetry. We studied a variety of poetic devices such as metaphor, simile, alliteration, imagery, mood, and tone just to name a few! Not only can we define these terms, but we can also provide examples and identify them within a text. Throughout the six weeks, we also read poetry from multiple poets, such as Pablo Neruda, Robert Frost, Tupac, and Emily Dickinson. In addition to reading, our students all became poets. 7th and 8th graders wrote poems using our five senses on topics like McDonalds, snow, and hands, while students in 9th through 12th grade wrote odes to everyday items. Some items written about were soccer, computer processors and the sun. This summer, we also used Fridays to complete “free-write” activities. Students selected a topic and constructed their own responses. All of our students were hard at work this summer, while still having fun.



Science

Earth & Beyond



This summer, students explored the stars and our solar system with the “out of this world” unit. Through experimentation, students investigated the role of gravity in our solar system and the universe. They researched, gathered, and analyzed information about various constellations and made models to gain a deeper understanding of planetary motion. Next, students delved into the deepest part of Earth in our “Earth: Inside and Out” unit. The students created a geologic time scale of Earth’s History. They went on a “field trip” and placed event cards in the appropriate location of the timeline. Following this unit, students played the role of detectives. They explored the world of forensic science by solving a crime that took place in New York in 1842. They researched, collected data, and analyzed evidence using a computer simulation and real-world lab techniques. During this time, students analyzed impressions, testimonials, and physical evidence. In addition, the students conducted research, evaluated the source and type of information, made conclusions and justified these conclusions using their data. In the process, students learned about their civil rights, trials, and the way our court system works. As a culminating project, the students worked with their peers to design and conduct a mock trial.

It’s All About the Equations

Math

The students have been working on completing 100 increasingly difficult linear algebra equations that review the foundational skills needed to flourish at the next level. We have been identifying and reviewing areas of weakness along the way.

7

Students have been working with quadratic functions and identifying their differences from linear functions.

8

Students in 9th and 10th grades have been seeing how their knowledge of completing the square can be combined with the Pythagorean Theorem to express the equation of a circle.

9 & 10

Our eleventh and twelfth grade students have been working with the standard normal distributions to calculate the likelihood of given events.

11 & 12

UPCOMING EVENTS!



Tuesday September 3rd- Superintendent's Conference Day (Faculty Only)

Wednesday September 4th- First Day of School for Students



Wednesday September 11th— Wear **red**, **white** & **blue**

Monday September 30th- Rosh Hashanah School Closed

Tuesday October 1st - Rosh Hashanah School Closed

Wednesday October 9th— Yom Kippur- School Closed

Monday October 14th - Columbus Day- School Closed

Friday October 18th - Back to School— Open House

Thursday October 31st— 'Trunk or Treat'



Friday November 8th - First Quarter Ends

November 12th-15th- Parent/Teacher Phone Conferences