

Susan Snyder, M. Ed.
Principal

Deena Jensen M. Ed. C.A.G.S.
Student Services Director

Rebecca Carlson, Ed. D.
Asst. Principal/Curr. Coordinator

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment School Board Report May 2, 2024

Sixth Grade Invasive Species Unit

Our sixth grade students are in the midst of their experiential and cross-curricular unit on invasive species. This unit provides a global understanding of invasive plants and animals while developing students' understanding of the challenges at the state and local level. The unit includes a research paper in ELA/Humanities, a collaborative biometry project in science/math, and an art piece. The optional extensions allows opportunities for presentation and technology integration.

After developing an initial understanding of invasive species, students begin researching the one of their choice. They exercise their note-taking skills while exploring credible sources. These include websites, books, articles, and interviews. The summative assessment is a minimum five paragraph essay that cites three to five sources and includes a work cited page.

Employing our 30m by 30m sample site identified in our school forest, the students identify, measure, catalog, and inventory the many species that make up the area's biomass. This includes, for example, measuring the canopy regrowth and cataloging the graminoids. Students use spreadsheets to track the invasive biomass, which currently includes ornamental bittersweet.



Lunar Eclipse Animation Projects

We made the most of this year's special solar eclipse learning experience for our students! In preparation for our Solar Eclipse Watch Party, Technology Integrationist Carly Herlihy created our [NHS Solar Eclipse Website](#). Here she stored both learning resources and our students' eclipse animation projects.

The website's learning resources can be found on the homepage and include videos and safety information. For example, students examined resources from NASA such as the When and Where Map that compares the percentage of totality for different locations in the US and tracks the eclipse's path.

In Technology class, students in grades K-5 studied the history of animation and learned how to create their own animations. They applied their new learning to model the eclipse. Our K-3 students used

ABCYA Animate to create their animations and flip books. Our 4-5 students employed Google Slides for their projects.

This year’s Planning and Collaboration (PAC) Team model was key to the success of this cross-curricular unit. Carly Herlihy, School Counselor Liz Fiore, and the First Grade Team planned the following activities for First Grade, many of which then spread to benefit all of our students:

- Attended a field trip to the Music Hall for the *Magic School Bus Lost In the Solar System* play.
- Explored the NASA resources.
- Created Eclipse Photo Adventure animations of eclipse and flip books.
- Watched Mystery Science videos from 2017 and today about eclipses.
- Read Scholastic News article *Something BIG is Coming!*
- Participated in guidance lessons *Personal Space Camp* about body space & regulation.



May SAS

Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
5/6	5/7 6th Reading 5th Grade Science	5/8 6th Reading if needed 3rd Reading 4th Reading	5/9 7th Reading 8th Reading 3rd Reading if needed 4th Reading if needed	5/10 7th Reading if needed 8th Reading if needed
5/13	5/14	5/15 EARLY RELEASE 6th Math 5th Reading	5/16 8th Science 3rd Math 6th Math if needed 5th Reading if needed	5/17 3rd Math if needed
5/20 7th Math 8th Math	5/21 4th Math 7th Math If needed 8th Math If needed	5/22 5th Math 4th Math if needed	5/23 5th Math if needed	5/24 SAS Makeup Day and next week

