

7 Red Weekly Newsletter 1/20/23



A few important updates to look at:

- **Jackets / outdoor clothing:** Brrrrrrr; it has gotten cold out there! As temps continue to decline, students should dress for the weather as they will still be going outside for recess. We want students to get fresh air while staying safe & warm. We appreciate your help with this!
- **Phone Use:** We have noticed increased phones and headphones being misused at school lately. We as a team have reviewed the policy with students, and going forward, if a student is spoken with three times, their phone will be sent to the office for an adult to pick up. If you need to contact your student, please email us or notify the office, and we will help facilitate a phone call or message.
- **Homework reminder:** Students seem to struggle to complete their homework and balance activities outside of school. We are also getting many emails saying that students “ don’t know where the homework is,” that they are “ too busy,” or that they left materials at school. We are asking for your support in encouraging students to check their course homework folders or Mrs. Poulins daily updated homework log found here [☰ 7 Red Homework Log 22-23](#) .
- **Vacations:** If you and your family are going on a vacation and your student is expected to miss more than three days of school, please contact us at your earliest convenience. Additionally, there is a vacation letter that you will need to submit to the office for attendance purposes. This can be found on the Oak Website and Schoology homeroom pages, or we can send you a copy. Thank you in advance

Curriculum Updates

ELA: This week was prep for our debate on the topic: *Is Homework beneficial to Student Learning?* Students read various articles and practiced identifying the data to support either side of this debate. Each team broke up into committees to set up their debate presentation. There were organizers, speech writers, creators, secretaries and task managers ask your student about their role! We are so excited to these debates come to life on Monday and to hear about their findings!

Math: Earlier this week, students received back their unit assessment on circles. Just a friendly reminder that any student who did not receive a 3 or higher can take a retake but they need to come see either myself or Mrs. Poulin so that we can review their test with them. 😊

This week, our primary focus was solving problems involving proportional relationships. We began by using tables and then transitioned into setting up and solving proportions. Next week, we will begin looking at how we can use tape diagrams and equations to help us determine a percent increase and decrease.

Science: Students learned about Genetic Mutations this week. They learned how mutations happened through the telephone game, where their classmates and they incidentally created mutations. We also had the Jelly Gene activity, where the students performed instructions to create mutated sandwiches. Here's an example:



In the coming week, we will be learning about heredity and traits, how the very first geneticist did genetic engineering. We will culminate the lessons and end with an apple 'breeding' project.

Wishing all a Happy Lunar New Year to those who celebrate! May your family be healthy and prosperous!



Social Studies: This week our main focus was to learn the basics of the Human Development Index. Students learned that every country is assigned an HDI score each year - a number between 0 and 1 that measures the human and economic well-being of the country. We learned that to calculate a nation's score, researchers collect a variety of data (such as the nation's life expectancies, literacy rates, and per capita GDP). Students have now selected a developed and developing country to focus on during our unit and used Junior Scholastic's 2022-23 World Almanac to locate and graph data relevant to their countries' HDI scores. We then finished our week by brainstorming why our developed and developing countries' HDI scores are so high or low. Next week, we will be investigating the education system, health system, and economies of our two nations through CultureGrams to learn more about our countries and connect what we learn to the main idea of our unit.

We also wanted to share with you some ways that students can get involved in our Oak community through after school clubs & activities and athletics. In our 7 Red Group Page in Schoology, your student can find sign up information and flyers for clubs currently accepting new members. Please note that there is also a ***late bus*** for Oak & Sherwood Middle students available on *Mondays, Wednesdays* and *Thursdays*.

Routes and Sign Ups for the Late Bus can be found [HERE](#).

More info about all of the Clubs & Activities offered at Oak can be found on the OMS website [HERE](#).

More info about all of the Athletics offered at Oak can be found on the OMS website [HERE](#).

Important Dates:

January 20th - 22nd - No HW Weekend (Lunar New Year)

February 3rd - Early Release Day (dismissal @ 11:35)

February 20th - 24th - February Break

Link to Oak Middle School Weekly Notices:

<https://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/oak/communications>

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