

THE EXPEDITION

Magellan Charter School

IMPORTANT DATES

4th Grade Voyage, Old Salem
NOVEMBER 19

Early Release
NOVEMBER 23

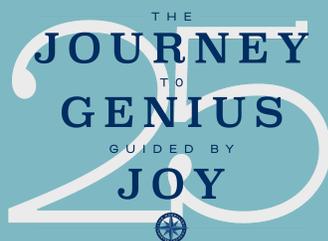
Thanksgiving Holiday
NOVEMBER 24-26

Report Cards
NOVEMBER 30

Picture Day Makeup
DECEMBER 8

Early Release
DECEMBER 17

Winter Break
DECEMBER 20-31



Magellan Buddies

The tradition of Magellan's Buddies Program is an all-time favorite among students! In 3rd grade, each student pairs with a 7th grader. The relationship continues throughout the following school year and becomes one of mentoring & friendship.

Students meet with their buddies for a variety of student-planned activities. Planned by the 8th grade Advisory Team, the first meeting this year for 4th grade and 8th grade buddies served as an opportunity for students to get reacquainted with fun ice-breaker questions, followed by a clue-driven scavenger hunt! Some 8th graders were overheard giving advice to their younger buddies on specific projects they remembered, and 4th graders asked what it was like "upstairs."

This unique relationship affords older students the opportunity to serve as mentors and gives our younger Mariners a role model within the school. Our Buddies Program bridges the elementary and middle schools and is yet another way we build our sense of community here at Magellan - and the students absolutely love it!



Dungeons & Dragons

A Game Based Approach to Collaborative Storytelling

In 8th grade, ELA classes are integrating a Dungeons & Dragons inspired approach to collaborative storytelling. As part of their spooky stories unit in October, students created classic teen horror movie characters based on character tropes. They used those characters to tell an interactive spooky story using the D&D inspired game method:

The narrator (in this case, Mr. Braga) sets the scene and uses rich visual descriptions and sound effects to keep the story moving as students take turns weaving their characters into the plot through actions, interactions, and reactions. Although students - in their character roles - are ultimately in control of where the narrative goes, they must work together and build on each other's ideas, which continuously generates new possibilities and promotes creative thinking.

Over the course of the school year, students will dive deeper into this D&D inspired method and the story will become more dependent on them - until they are eventually playing the part of the narrator themselves.

This interactive storytelling approach aligns with the 8th grade narrative writing curriculum as students learn how characters interact with the setting, and how both characters and setting can affect the plot. It allows students to think reflectively on how the narrative can change based on character development.

The benefits of this innovative game format of learning are many: collaboration, respect for others' ideas, creative thinking, effective communication, reflective thinking, and not to mention - it's incredibly engaging and fun! And bringing joy to learning is one way we create lifelong learners here at Magellan.

**Thank you
Magellan Families**
for exceeding
expectations during the
Note in the Pocket
Clothing Drive! MCS
Alum high school
students Sheridan E.
and Sarah M. filled 6
bins with clothing from
your donations, which
will help many local
families this winter.



Innovative Curriculum -Experiential Learning Arts & Cultural Innovation

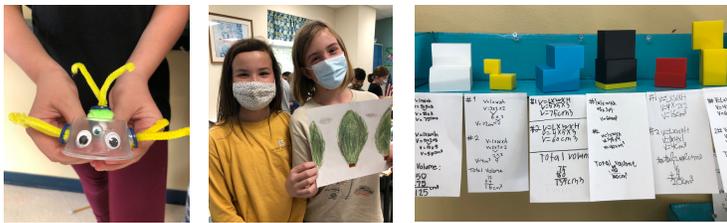
INSIDE THE MAGELLAN CLASSROOM



4th Grade students complete their research project on animal adaptation by creating 3-D sculptures of their chosen species using papier-mache. Sculptures were on display in a "zoo-seum" where students and family could view and even listen to a recorded student presentation by scanning a QR code for each sculpture.



3rd grade students continued their study of the skeletal system with a visit from Poe Health Center educators. In addition to examining bones and muscles, students learned about healthy lifestyle choices through nutrition and physical activity.



5th Grade made their own "pet" parasites as part of their study of parasites and the relationship they have with their hosts. Also in science, students learned how trees communicate through a mycorrhizal fungal network, and recreated original artwork, *Three Trees, Two Trees*. In Math, 5th grade students designed and 3-D printed their own complex prism and then calculated its volume.

6th Grade students worked with an Artist-in-Residence to create Ancient Egyptian art. Students then took their studies out of the classroom to the N.C. Museum of Art where they got a glimpse of Egyptian culture and history through original art, tombs, and artifacts.



7th Grade enjoyed a live presentation by local meteorologist Elizabeth Gardner, who explained to students how weather forecasts are developed.



8th Grade students are constructing buildings to reflect the properties of elements of the periodic table. The height of each building is based on atomic radius and the final product will be an entire Periodic City.

The Journey to Genius

Guided by JOY!

8TH GRADE DANCE



The Journey to Genius

Guided by **JOY!**

BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC





CELEBRATION

We are so excited that the Magellan tradition of Character Assemblies is back! To mark the end of a successful first trimester of the school year, 8th Grade Communications Committee members Kate S., Claire C., Katherine E., and Connor C. (left) planned a week-long celebration of RESPECT that was safe, meaningful, and incredibly fun!

OF

The celebration consisted of a Spirit Week where students and staff had the opportunity to show their individuality, school spirit, and creativity as they dressed up for daily themes such as Mariner PRIDE, KIND of Tacky, SUPPORT your Sport, and POSITIVELY PJs. Check out some great photos on the next page!



RESPECT

The culmination of our week was an entirely student-led assembly, which took place via a live google meet. Reese S. and Carson M. (above) were chosen as speakers to share what Respect means to them, and Heidi L. and Beth H. (left) performed their beautiful musical talents. The assembly concluded with a fun friendly competition in the form of a classroom scavenger hunt, where classes raced to find specific items that represented Magellan's week of Respect! A big thank you to our 8th Grade Communications Committee for a memorable return of Character Assemblies!

Spirit Week!



After School Enrichment

[CLICK HERE](#) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES

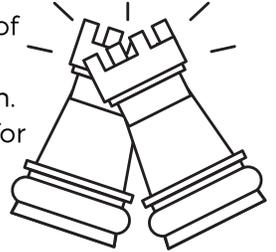


Art

On Tuesdays and Thursdays Magellan hosts immersive and engaging art classes with Paint Paper Paste. In each class, students create a complete project from start to finish. Students learn a multitude of techniques and experiment with all types of art media. These classes are great for any artistic abilities and grade levels.

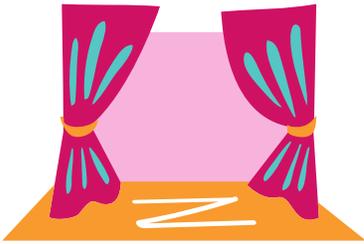
Chess Mates

Magellan's Chess Club consists of all levels from beginner to advanced and all grades 3rd-8th. The club is preparing students for participation in competitive chess at the local, county and state tournaments, should they choose to compete. They're having fun being coached on everything from basics, strategy, openings, and endgames.



Musical Theatre & Drama

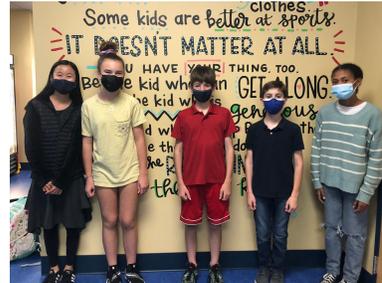
Students love our musical theatre and drama program! They are experiencing the magic of Broadway through song, movement, and scene work. Emphasis is on developing proper



vocal techniques and dance skills, exploring character development, increasing memorization skills, and building self confidence. Students also get a look behind the scenes to see what it takes to bring a production to life on stage. It's a great opportunity for anyone interested in taking part in our spring musical!

Odyssey of the Mind

OM is a team-based program that teaches students how to develop and use their natural creativity to become problem-solvers. Our participants use their unique interests to solve open-ended problems ranging from writing and acting out an original performance to designing a balsa wood structure that



can withstand weights placed on it. Our OM Team is open to all grades and emphasizes teamwork, budgeting, time management, public speaking, and more.

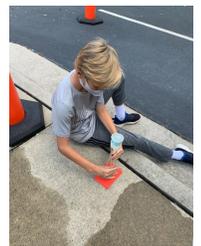
Robotics

Magellan hosts beginner and advanced robotic teams of 4th-8th graders that compete in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge, a team-based challenge that teaches robotic design, programming and scientific research. Currently the teams are busy building and programming self-guided Lego Mindstorm robots for upcoming competitions. Good luck Mariners!



STEAM

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math
Students in our STEAM course use the Engineering Design Process to solve hands-on problems while making real-world connections and using 21st-century skills. Here, students created prototypes focusing on Force and Motion. Upcoming labs will focus on blueprints and financial budgeting to build and test the prototypes.



Character Awards

Congratulations to these Mariners on being chosen as recipients of the Magellan Respect Award. These students serve as leaders and role models when it comes to showing respect, and treat others with kindness and thoughtfulness always. Thank you for being perfect embodiments of RESPECT!



Counselor

CONNECTION

An Attitude of Gratitude

Grateful People are Happy and Healthy - But Why? By A Alkozei, R Smith, and W Killgore

What are you grateful for today? Scientists have found that people who feel grateful more often are also happier, get better grades, and are more satisfied at school. They also sleep better, have less pain, and do not get sick as often. One explanation for this is that grateful people think about the world in a more positive way. Another explanation is that grateful people have better friendships, because they offer more help and receive more help in return. Thinking more positively about things that happen to you and having better friendships can both increase your happiness and improve your physical health.

*When we focus on our gratitude,
the tide of disappointment goes out
and the tide of love rushes in.*

- Kristin Armstrong

The good news is that practicing gratitude is a skill that you can get better at by simply writing down a few things that you are grateful for each day. [Click here](#) to read the full article.

Gratitude Practices

Gratitude practices aren't just for adults! Fostering gratitude with your youth will have long-lasting effects. There are many ways for families to engage in gratitude practices. One such activity is creating a family gratitude jar. [Click here](#) to learn how to implement a family gratitude jar. To get your creative juices flowing, check out this [video](#) of a child's perspective on gratitude.