Rocky Run MS Curriculum Night Session 1
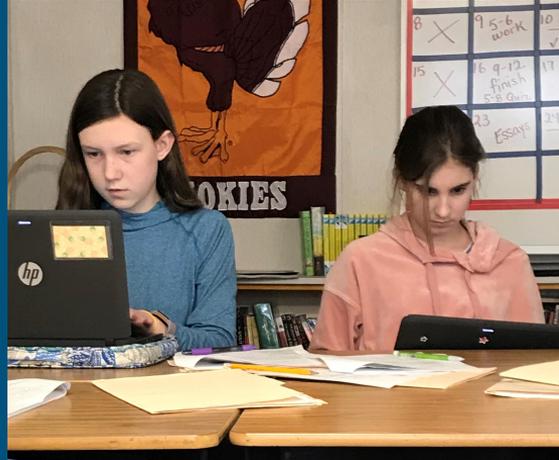

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Library

Agenda

- English: Ms. Kaplan
- History: Mr. Sawatzky
- Science: Ms. Pryde-Haskins
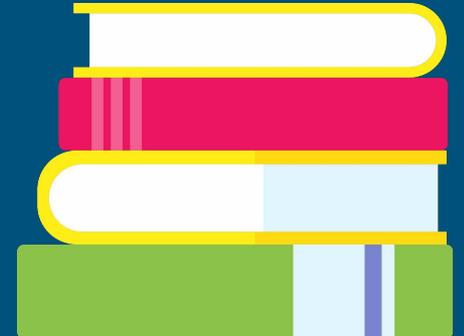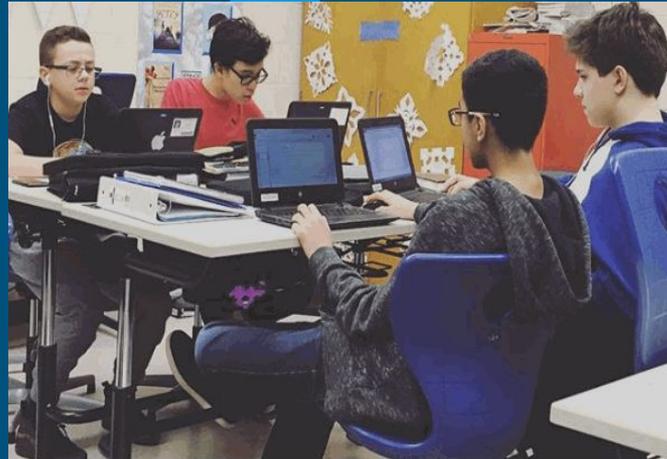- Preparing for MS: Counselors

English

Rocky Run students and parents discuss the book "Little Princes" with the author, Conor Grennan during Rocky Run's Parent Teen Book Club
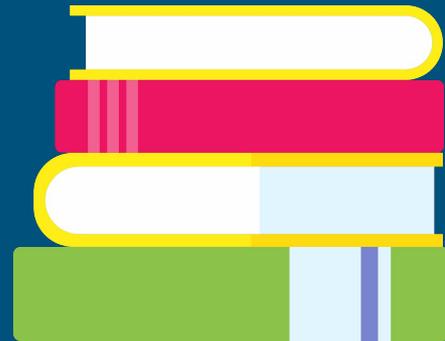
"What if I were the character in this story? What would I do? This is the great gift readers receive. They can be anybody and go anywhere. They can try on all these lives and see which ones fit."
-Richard Peck

Curriculum Overview/Big Idea

- <u>The Core English Curriculum:</u> Our literacy rich curriculum includes a focus on state and county standards while emphasizing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

- <u>Reading:</u> Students experience fiction, nonfiction, media literacy, persuasion, poetry, and drama. Students enhance and strengthen reading through class novels, independent reading, student choice reading, and small group and whole group discussions.

- <u>Writing:</u>   Students create narrative, poetic, expository, persuasive, reflective, and research-based writing.
Students also focus on vocabulary and grammar.

- <u>Listening/Speaking:</u> Students have opportunities in small/ Individual situations to present orally and communicate effectively in discussions and multimodal presentations.

Special Events

Rocky Run students take part in quotation round of the of the Books competition

- Poetry Slam and Poetry Fest
- Virginia Reader's Choice
- Parent Teen Book Club
- Guest Authors—talks and writer's workshops
- Battle of the Books teams
- Spelling Bee
- Authors Club
- Creative Writing elective
- Journalism (Yearbook) elective
- Legacy- literary magazine—publishing opportunity

Unique Teaching Strategies

Curriculum of Connections—Lessons geared to infuse other disciplines into the English class.
- History—biography research; immigration literature circles, Eyewitness to History lit circles, Dust Bowl reading and research.
- Science—*Red Kayak* paired with learning of the Chesapeake Bay/EXPLORE project.

Curriculum of Practice —Lessons geared to allow students to experience real-life as practitioners.
- Some of these strategies include: writing news articles and creating a magazine page layout; creating advertisements; writing reviews; use of databases for research; and writing and performing their own poetry.

Curriculum of Identity—Students explore their own talents and individualism.
- Poetry Slam; individual and group multimodal presentations; student choice reading of fiction and nonfiction materials; biography and history research projects- Biography Battle and National History Day; exploring units based on year-long themes of courage, change, and consequence.
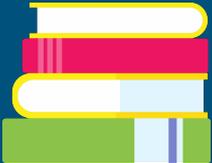
Technology (FCPSOn)

The English curriculum is enhanced and supported by the use of FCPSOn in the classrooms by allowing students the access to various digital tools that create engaging and productive blending learning environments :

- Reading: Newsela, audio books, virtual literature circles, discussions
- Speaking/Presentations: Google documents, sites, presentations; Padlet
- Research: Noodle Tools, Online databases
- Writing: RedInk, Kahn Academy, EdPuzzle, shared Google documents
- Vocabulary: Vocabulary Workshop online, Free Rice, Quia, Kahoot
- Teacher Instruction: Google classroom; Blackboard

HISTORY

Curriculum Overview/Big Idea
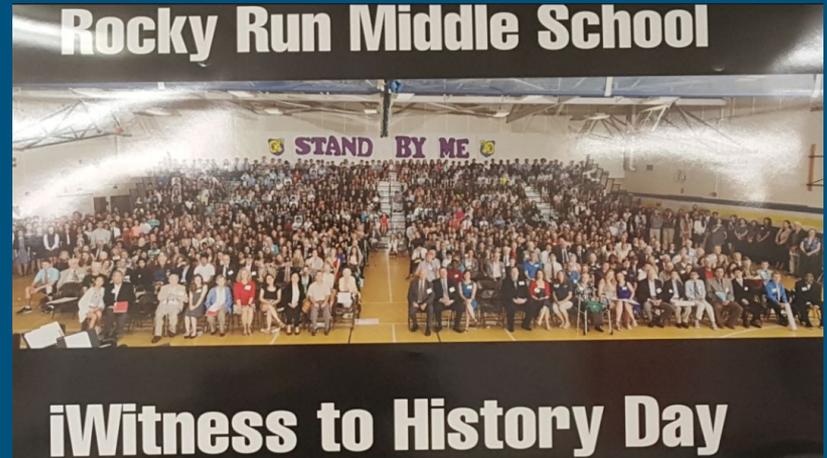
- U.S. History 1865-Present
  - Reconstruction
  - Westward Expansion
  - Gilded Age
  - Global Expansion
  - Roaring 20s and Great Depression
  - World Wars 1 and 2
  - Cold War
  - Civil Rights Movement
  - Modern America (1990-Present)
  - Current Events

Rocky Run's History Teachers with the "live" Statue of Liberty after admitting more than 600 immigrants during their annual "Ellis Island" simulation.

Special Events

- Eyewitness to History Day
- Memorials Field Trip
- Simulations
  - Ellis Island
  - Speakeasy
  - Trenches
  - Sweatshop/Assembly Line
- Geography Bee
- National History Day
- Westward Expansion "Switcharoos"
- Model United Nations
- History Club

Rocky Run Middle School

STAND BY ME

iWitness to History Day

Unique Teaching Strategies

- Interactive teaching
- Thematic
- Investigating how historical events have changed the world around us
- Primary Source Analysis
- We strive to make history fun!

Rocky Run's 7th Grade History Students arriving as immigrants during their Ellis Island simulation present their passports for inspection

Technology (FCPSOn)

- Interactive maps
- Google Classroom
- Google sites project
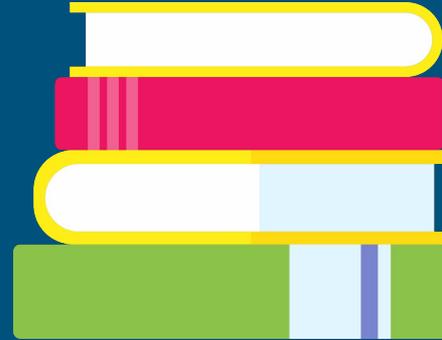- Hyperdocs
- Documentaries
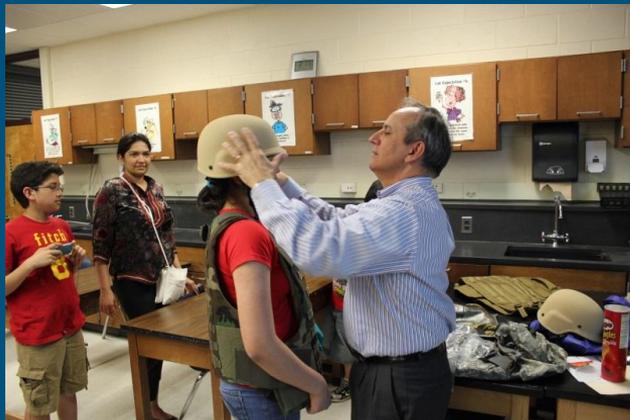- Changes in technology

SCIENCE

Curriculum Overview/Big Idea

- Units
  - Scientific Investigations
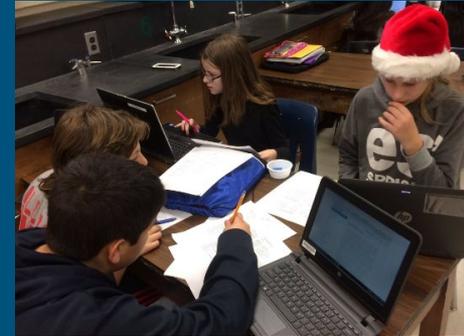 - Ecosystems
  - Life Systems
- Lab-based course

Special Events

- MWEE
- Science Night

Unique Teaching Strategies

- Project-Based Learning
- Aquaponics (Tower Gardens)
- Environmental Stewardship

Technology (FCPSOn)

- 1:1 Self-paced Interactive Lessons delivered through Google Classroom
- Student products created through:
    - Google Slideshows
    - Google Drawings
    - Flipgrid Videos
- Review and reinforcement through:
    - Boardworks interactives
    - Interactive games such as Kahoot, Quizlet
    - Kahn Academy
    - EdPuzzle
- Research conducted through:
    - Newsela
    - Online Databases
    - E-textbook

Getting Ready for Middle School
Rocky Run

Preparing for Middle School

Is your child…

- Organized
- A reader?
- Self-motivated?
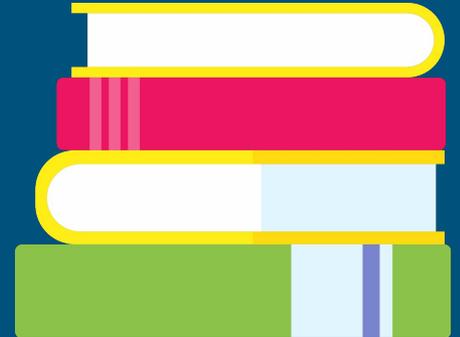- Ready for a challenge
- Not easily discouraged?

Are they ready to…

- Stay after school to get help from teachers?
- Put additional time and energy into studying (There will be more homework and projects!)
- Complete all assignments
- Understand that dropping a course can impact the order of classes

HONORS CLASSES

Honors classes are aligned with national standards for gifted and talented education and is open to all students who seek academic rigor.

Students can self select one or more honors classes in areas of strength and interest.

Advanced Academic Program - Level IV

All students who are enrolled in the Advanced Academic Program have been found eligilble for Level IV academic services.

Rocky Run is a Level IV Academic Services.

Students enrolled in the Level IV AA courses follow the Honors curriculum for English, History, and Science.

Questions & Answers