



Newsletter Date: March 21, 2022

The Gecko



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Dear Concept Families,

Thank you for your continued support as we are still navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic. I will be so happy to never need to type the word COVID again, but until that time arrives, we will do our best to keep our community safe. Our students are taking their obligations to keep each other safe very seriously and with maturity. I am proud to work with our students and staff.

Our National History Day presentations were amazing. Thank you to all of the families that were able to attend, and I hope you learned something that morning. Our students worked hard for many months to prepare for the big day, and they should feel proud of their accomplishments. Thanks to Mr. Loux, and all of our teachers, for their work to assist students.

We are already planning for the 2022-2023 school year. We mailed out enrollment contracts for next year and I urge you to sign and return it as soon as possible. This will allow us to program for the correct number of students. We do have strong interest from prospective families for next year and I am confident it will be a good year.

We are having some work done outside the building over spring break (April 11-15). We will be having our basketball court repaved, along with our walking path. The path will also be widened to eight feet. I hope our students will enjoy these upgrades.

Finally, our Spring Arts Festival is scheduled for April 28th in the early evening. More details will follow, but we hope to showcase our students' talents in the visual and performing arts. Mark the date on your calendar!

Sincerely,
Bill



March 25 – End of 3rd Marking Period
March 30 – Tabletop Game Club
April 11 – 15 – Spring Break
April 28 – Spring Arts Festival

***2022 SECOND MARKING PERIOD
HONOR ROLL***

OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP

LESABIEB BROWN

MARK MACK

ALEXANDER VAR-KHUON

ALL A'S

ADDIE ALTHOUSE

HENRY DEPUTY

ROMEO GONZALEZ

JOHN KRAJICEK

SAM MANDELL

NICK MOSCUFO

JACK RYAN

RYAN STULAK

ALEXANDER VAR-KHUON

ALL A'S & B'S

NATE AGUILAR

LUKE ALANSKY

LESABIEB BROWN

JAMES HANSEN

JAVON HILL

MARK MACK

FAITH MCAFEE

SARAH MILLHOUS

JUSTIN MOY

TOR MUNSON

SEAN O'HARA

JESS SIMON

ELENA WITMAN

ASHE WINCHESTER



CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

The Criteria for this new, weekly recognition are as follows:

Student always complies with all school rules and expectations. They consistently show respect to staff and fellow students and immediately comply with any redirection. The student may also take on a leadership role for other students and can always be depended upon to be positive representatives of TCS. The student's presence has a consistently positive impact on the school community.

We are happy to announce our first recipients of this award:

LeSabien Brown
Faith McAfee
Alexander Var-Khuon

John Krajicek
Mark Mack
Nick Moscufo

Henry Deputy
Sam Mandell
Ashe Winchester

Congratulations!

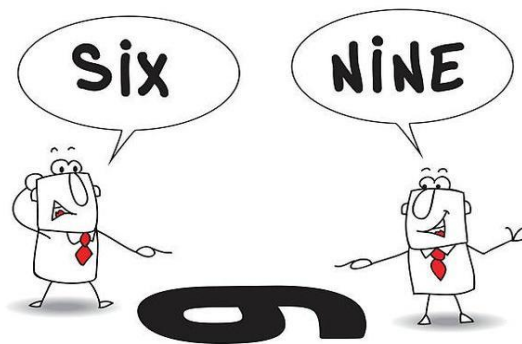


A Lesson on Perspective

I have done this perspective lesson with some of the TCS students and they did very well with it. We've had some great conversations about all the different ways our individual perspectives are formed and how perspectives influence our interactions with one another. We also discussed how different perspectives can affect our interpretation of all sorts of situations. Being able to understand someone else's perspective is an important skill that can help us learn, resolve conflicts, and keep us from taking things too personally.

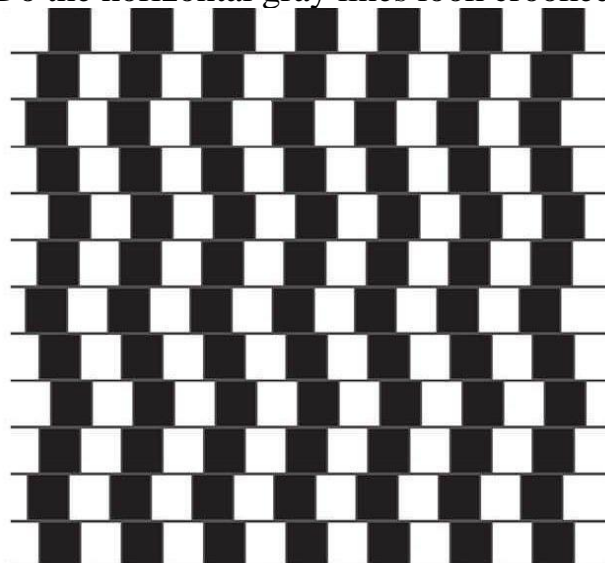
I hope you enjoy the following images that relate to perspective!

Why are these two characters arguing?



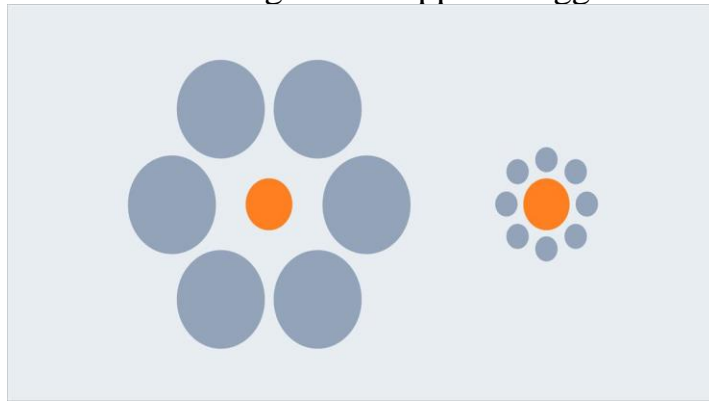
What could you tell them to resolve this argument?

Do the horizontal gray lines look crooked?



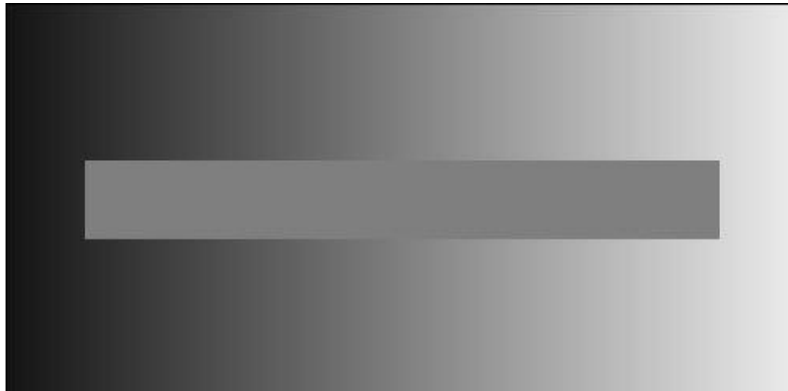
They're not! They're parallel.

Which orange circle appears bigger?



They are both the same size!

Does the rectangle in the center appear to get darker from left to right?



It's the same shade! Only the background changes.

What is the person on the right failing to recognize?



From where the other person is, the water **is** actually deep!

Next time you feel an argument brewing, try to see things from the other person's perspective. What does the situation look like to **them**? This usually requires listening to them and controlling your emotional response. This may prevent a fight and keep you from taking things personally. It may also help you change your mind. Imagine that!

The context of a situation and its surrounding elements can also influence our perception of an event. So, try to not make any swift judgements until you have more information. Often, as more time passes and new information is gathered, our strong emotions give way to some level of understanding, even if some disagreement remains.

I hope you enjoyed this lesson!

Take care,

Mr. S.



In Mrs. Phillip's Transition Class:

Alumni Returns

Katrina Cutrara came back to Concept to talk about her transition to Jefferson University in Philadelphia. We had a PowerPoint presentation and Katrina graciously answered all of the questions from our interested students.



Communication

Mrs. Camille Piccone discusses phone etiquette with a Transition class. The class has been talking about communication skills and Mrs. Piccone came in and reviewed the proper way to answer a phone. The class members had a chance to practice during class and they may just be taking a turn answering our phone here at school in the future. Thank you, Mrs. Piccone!



In Mrs. Fredericks classes:

STEAM

Mrs. Fredericks's STEAM class is learning how to re-engineer electronic items by taking them apart and repurposing them for something else. One way is by taking apart a flashing bracelet and creating a paper mache LED candle, another is to take an LED candle and make a rocketship with LED lights for the fire. This included learning how to solder. Both projects included small circuit boards.



Environmental Awareness

Mrs. Fredericks's Environmental Awareness class just finished studying plastics. The students learned how plastics affect us and which can be harmful to humans. The students learned how plastics affect our environment and animals, and they learned about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.



3D Printing

The students are learning the basics of 3D printing and how to create a 3D design. We printed one of our projects: creating a character in Tinkercad. The students learned that it wasn't easy to add items to the base object.



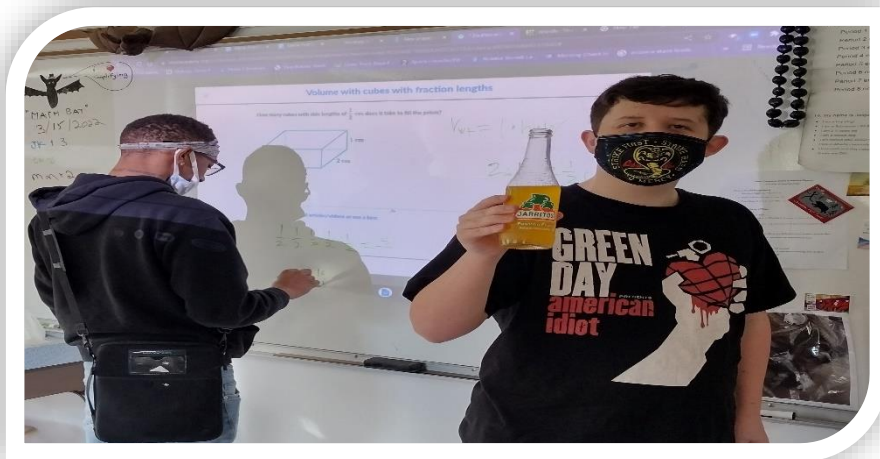
Photography



Mrs. Fredericks's Photography class is learning the basics of photography. We just reviewed "Aperture" and what different apertures to use and when and how it affects depth of field. We took dozens of pictures at different aperture settings. We've been photographing items that had words on them so we could see if the image was sharp or out of focus. They did a great job with this! They also learned how to upload images. We just started ISO and how it relates to aperture.

In Mr. Burtch's Math class:

After winning a passion fruit flavored Jarritos soda, Mark Mack explained, "my 'passion' for Geometry has increased geometrically".



In Mrs. Griffith's English classes:

Mrs. Griffith's English classes have been staying busy using their revising and editing skills to fine tune their NHD projects. As NHD comes to a close, they will resume their study of language art.

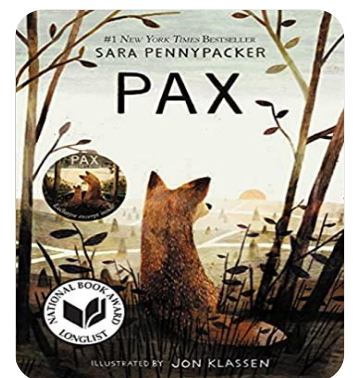
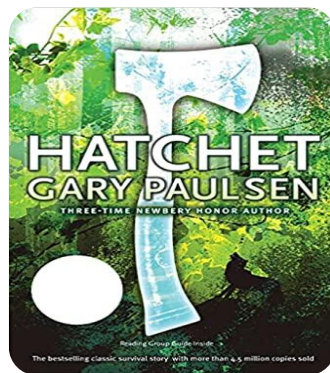
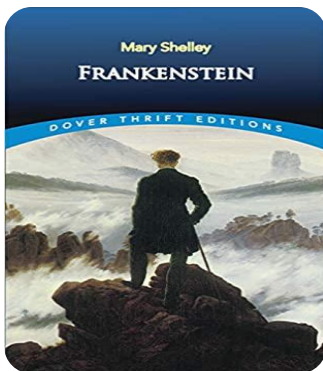
First Period began their study of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Second and Fourth Periods will find out if Brian survives as they finish Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet*.

Sixth Period is continuing studying *Hamilton*, examining staging, characterization, history, narrative, and the origin of hip hop and rap.

Eighth Period concluded its study of futuristic (or not?) short stories from Bradbury and Co. and are beginning Sara Pennypacker's novel *Pax*.

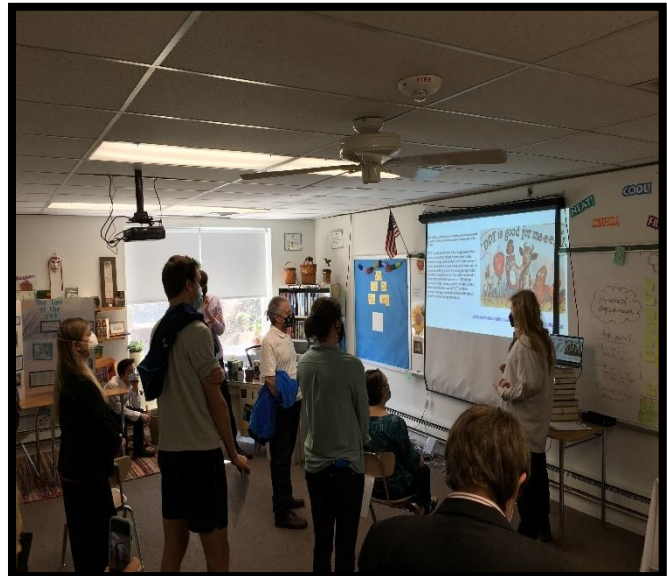
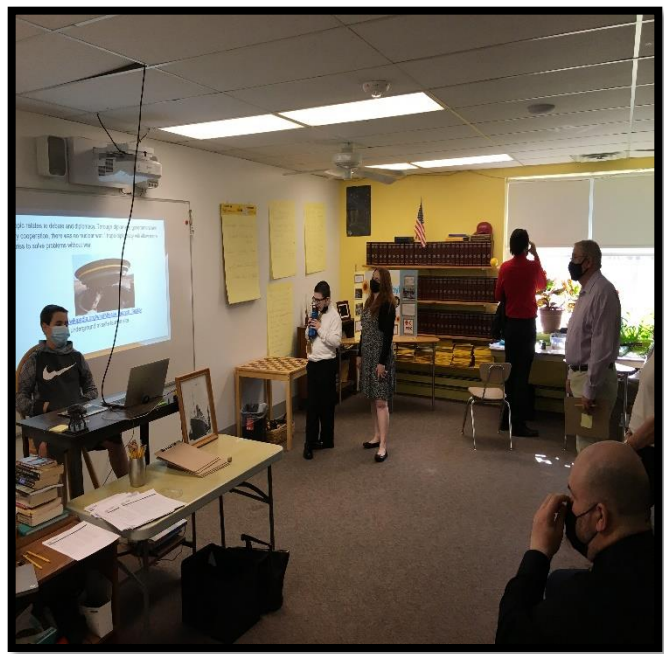
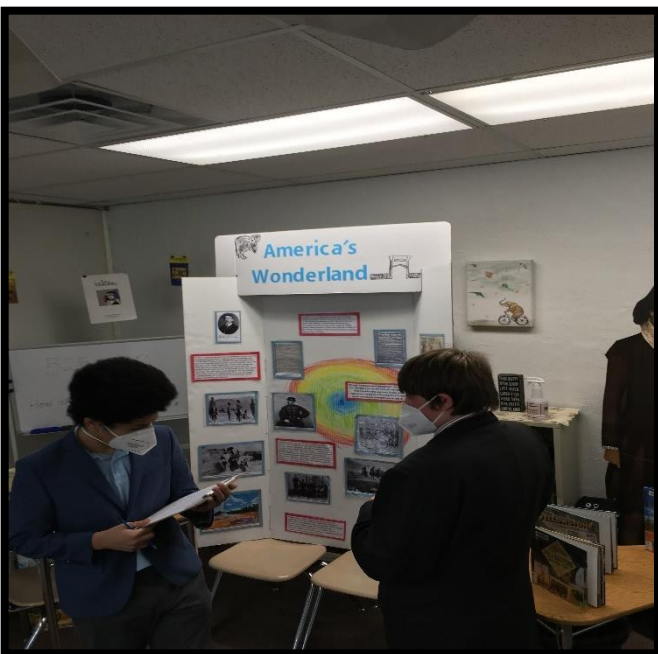
Mrs. Griffith was thrilled by the students' enthusiasm and super behavior on the field trip for the Walnut Street Theater's take on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's mystery short story "The Speckled Band". Thank you to Mr. Burch, and the fabulous Fredricks for chaperoning!

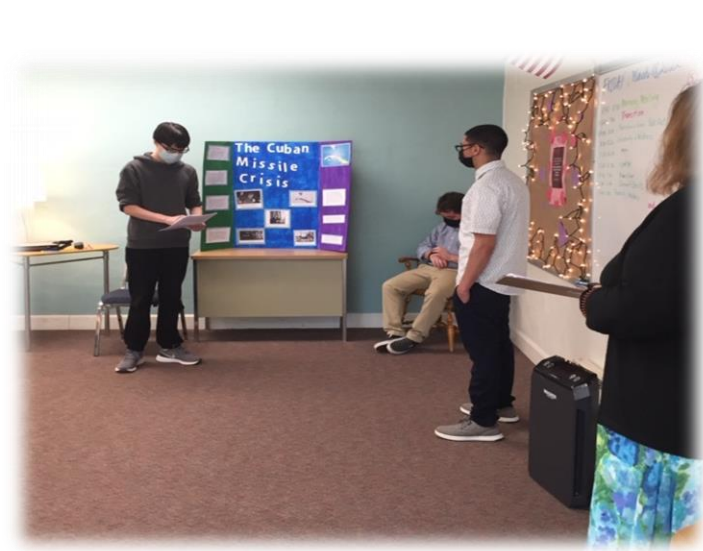
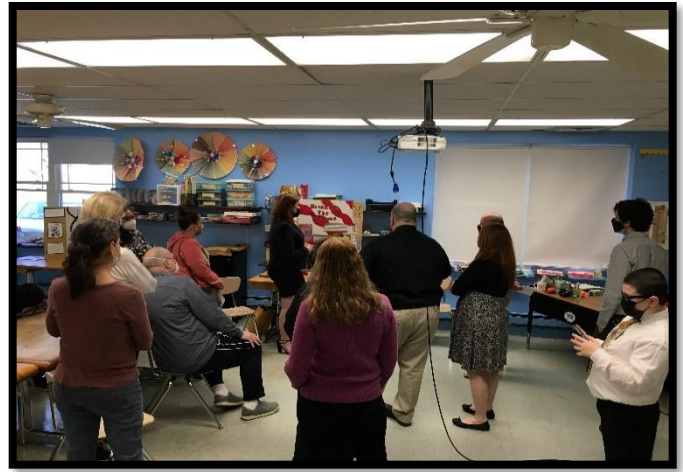


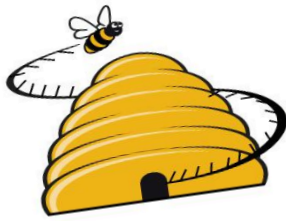
NATIONAL HISTORY DAY®

National History Day at TCS 2022 was a day in which students presented their hard work in front of parents, teachers, and classmates. Their projects this year related to the theme of *Debate & Diplomacy!*

The morning was filled with healthy historical dialogue and everyone learned about each other's interests and discussed well researched historical information.







Bee update...

Question: Where do bees go for the winter? Florida, Trinidad, or Brazil? Answer: They stay put in our climate for the entire winter.

Now that the cold weather is receding, we are taking stock of our bee community and their winter experience. How did they do? As a community of bees, they did well. Here's what happened during the cold weather months:

1. The colony's population declined as there was less work to do during the winter months (no pollen to gather), and their food supply was limited.
2. The bees became much less active. They moved very slowly if at all.
3. During the cold weather, they stayed well away from the portal to their egress pipe to the great outdoors.
4. During occasional mild days during the winter, they would get active and fly outside the hive, even if the outside temperature was only in the 30s!
5. While the lower part of the hive was cool to the touch, the upper parts of the hive were warm because the motion of a few thousand bees, even if minimal, produces heat!

As the spring draws near, we are seeing signs that just like us, they are getting ready for spring. We just recently started seeing some bees with pollen in their "pollen baskets" (areas of their legs that are specifically designed to carry pollen) ... which means that they are braving the cold and collecting the earliest sources of pollen.





One reason why Jasper enjoys school...



Tabletop Game Club

Tabletop Game Club Continues in March!

Our NEXT meeting is: March 30th

Students remain after school and must be picked up by a parent or carpool promptly at 5:00 PM. (Please note: Parents must contact their district transportation to inform them of changes to your student's bussing schedule.) Permission slips will be distributed at school.

Permission slip is at the end of this newsletter.

TCS Picture Gallery

PJ Day

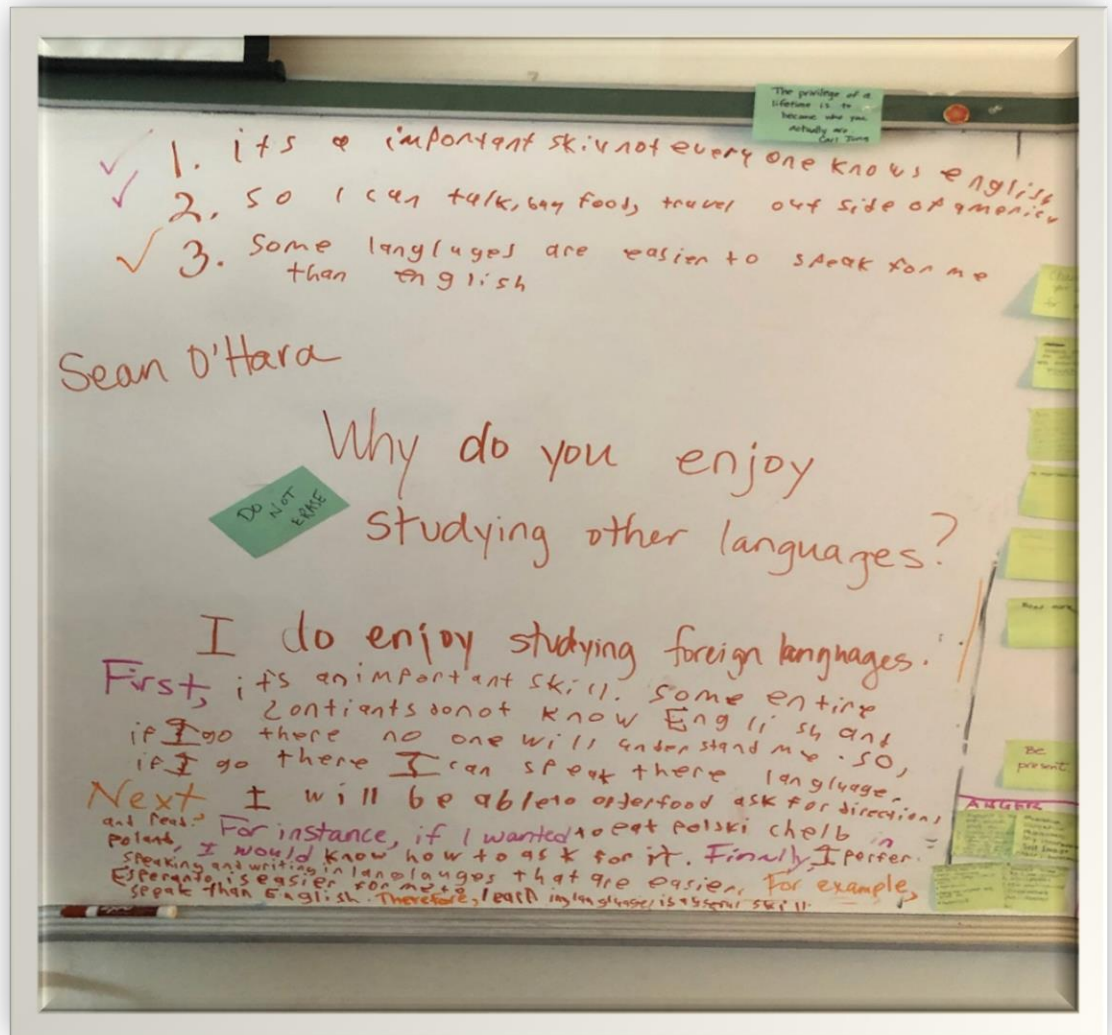


Some creative students in Mrs. Phillips Class – Faith and Arden



The joy of language

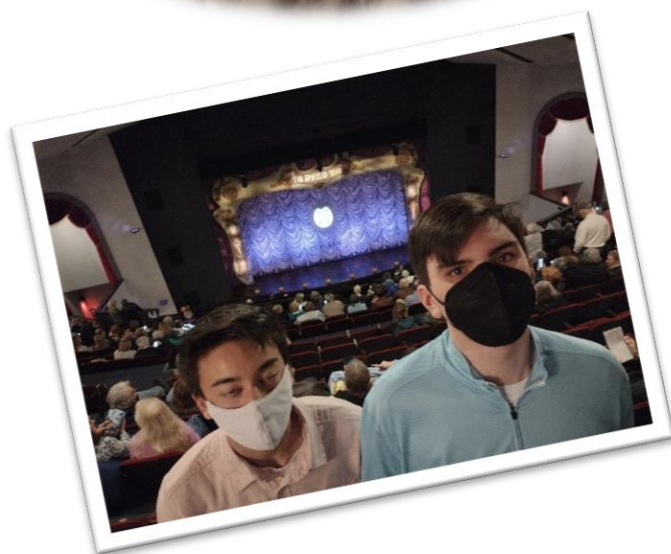
- Sean O'Hara



Sistine Chapel Exhibit field trip

Arden "counting toes"!

***Field trip to the
Walnut Street Theater***





Tabletop Game Club Permission Form

Dear Families of Concept School Students,

Tabletop Game Club Continues in March!

Our NEXT meeting is:

Wednesday March 30th, 2022, from 3:30-5:00PM

Students remain after school and must be picked up by a parent or carpool promptly at 5:00 PM. (Please note: Parents must contact their district transportation to inform them of changes to your student's bussing schedule.)

Students will have a chance to learn new board and card games as well as bring favorites to share. Snacks, new games, old favorites, and fun provided!

Hosted by Mr. Burtch, Mrs. Culler, and Ms. Tilmon.

Date of After school Club: **3/30/2022**

Students remain at TCS from: 3:30-5pm, pick up arranged by parents.

Cost of club: **Free**

Please sign the form below and return it by 3/25/2022

I give my permission for my son/daughter _____
(name)

I understand that I must arrange transportation for my student and arrange pick up promptly at 5 PM.

(signature)

to remain at TCS for Tabletop Game Club. I can be reached at this number in case of emergency:

(Phone number)

Signed: _____

(Parent or Guardian Signature)

(Date)