

**Blake Middle School**  
**Term 2 Update for Families**  
**Grade 6**  
**1/22-1/26**

*Dear Families,*

*During this week we take time as a community to provide you with an update with regard to areas of curricular focus and student work. You may have also received an email from your child's teacher if there are specific areas of concern with regard to progress towards meeting the standards under consideration this term. Please know that you may reach out to teachers or your child's school counselor at any time if you have questions or concerns about their progress. We hope that the information provided in this document will help foster conversations at home.*

Subject	Term 2 Update <i>Priority Standards, Learning Skills, Student Work</i>
Art	Sixth grade artists in Mr. Knaus' classes are finishing the "Architectural Structure" project and moving on to Clay, focused on slab building. All other artists in sixth grade are beginning to envision and plan their cereal boxes. They must consider their audience, nutritional value, product name, and create the package's design. It is 'Crunch Time' and no idea is too outrageous!
English	Students in grade six either worked on a narrative or persuasive writing unit during the first part of term two. Moving forward, they will continue to practice CEA/open response writing and will respond to a prompt about a nonfiction piece of text related to our book. Classes are reading <i>Fever 1793</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson. This text has a female protagonist and allows us to revisit life in 1793 - including Philadelphia as the seat of government at the time; the intersection of nonfiction and fiction within the book; and strong themes within the text. As always, we will continue to work with vocabulary study strategies as we read the book.

<b>French</b>	Students learned about francophone countries, their capitals, locations and culture. They did a project about a country that was assigned to them at the end of the unit. Students are also learning about animals, their habitats and how to describe them using a variety of adjectives in French. We are also doing some short stories animal related, writing about them and learning new vocabulary. Students are watching their first movie in French called "ICE AGE" related to our animal's unit.
<b>Mandarin</b>	In our Mandarin language class, we've been focusing on learning to ask about birthdays and time, as well as how to greet someone appropriately, depending on the time of day and the level of formality, using appropriate expressions and body language. For the culture highlights, we are going to dive into the Lunar New Year!
<b>Math</b>	In math class, your child has been working hard and learning about rational numbers and their real life applications of rising and falling temperatures, spending and earning money, and elevation. Additionally, your child has learned to expand their understanding of a coordinate plane to include and plot points in all four quadrants, graph polygons, and solve for Area and Perimeter. They will finish this week by demonstrating proficiency in these areas and taking their cumulative Unit 5 test.
<b>Science</b>	In science, students explored mixtures and endothermic and exothermic reactions. More recently we focused on the organization of the universe and are starting our unit about what causes the phases of the moon. During our unit on Astronomy students researched a "Wonder Question" about the universe - a question of their choice. They shared their findings through Flip as their final presentation. Once we finish with our Astronomy unit we will dive into Earth's history, which includes the supercontinent of Pangea and the process of seafloor spreading as the mechanism to explain how the continents drifted.
<b>Social Studies</b>	In our 6th-grade World History and Cultures class, we're currently exploring the captivating realm of Ancient Egypt, with a specific

	<p>focus on pyramids and pharaohs. Students are actively engaged in project-based learning, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of these historical topics. A recent highlight involved a visit from an Egyptologist, who brought a hands-on experience to our learning environment. During the session, students had the unique opportunity to wear examples of Egyptian jewelry and closely examine authentic artifacts, creating a tangible connection to the rich history they are studying. This interactive approach not only captured their interest but also enhanced their overall learning experience. If you have any questions or would like more details about our curriculum, feel free to reach out. Thank you for your continued support in making history come alive for our students.</p>
<b>Spanish</b>	<p>In Spanish, students have been learning the special way to describe when they feel cold, hot, hungry, thirsty or afraid. They are taking those new expressions, writing their own original stories about an animal and publishing them using Canva. Ask your student to see their story!</p>
<b>Wellness</b>	<p>Volleyball season is upon us at Blake! Grades 6-8 have started their Sport Education unit in Volleyball and we feel the excitement! The unit is comprised of 3 phases: pre-season, regular season and playoffs. Each student will be placed on a team where they will develop together and track their results as they move through their schedules.</p> <p>Additionally, each student will sign up for a team role/job to fulfill during the season. Job roles include: Captain/Coach, Statistician, Equipment Manager, Fitness Leader &amp; Camaraderie Captain. Throughout the pre-season and during warm-ups students will be developing skills in the forearm pass, the set and serve. This specific skill development will improve game play and hopefully increase enjoyment of the game.</p> <p>Towards the end of the unit, each class will run its own playoff tournament which will result in a class championship team. From there, they will move on to a grade-level playoff tournament. The final team will have the opportunity to face off against their grade level staff team in an assembly. This is a high spirited and exciting event for all that takes place the Friday before February break.</p>

