Rocky Run MS Curriculum Night Session 1

Thursday, January 30, 2020
Gym

Agenda

- English: Ms. Bartling
- History: Mr. Sawatzky
- Science: Mr. Williams
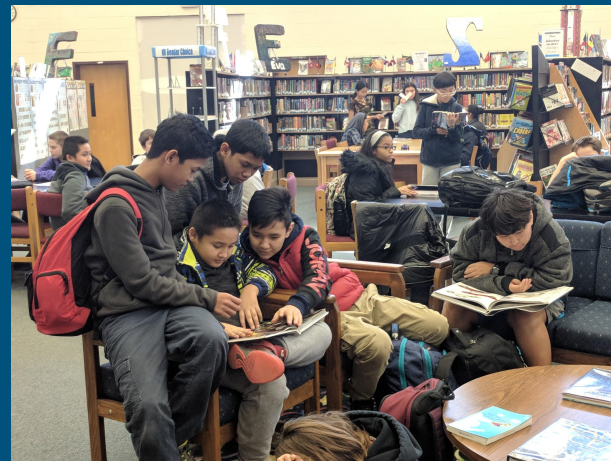
English

"Books are a uniquely portable magic."
— Stephen King

Rocky Run students and parents discuss the book "Little Princes" with the author, Conor Grennan during Rocky Run's Parent Teen Book Club

Curriculum Framework

Core English Curriculum:

- ❏ Focus on state and county standards with a literacy rich curriculum
- ❏ Emphasize big ideas represented through Concept-Based Units

Reading:
- ❏ Independent reading books
- ❏ Literature circles
- ❏ Class novels
- ❏ Short stories

Listening/Speaking:
- ❏ Large/small group discussions
- ❏ Multimodal presentations

Vocabulary and Grammar:
- ❏ Embedded throughout the year

Writing:
- ❏ Narrative
- ❏ Poetic
- ❏ Expository
- ❏ Persuasive
- ❏ Reflective
- ❏ Research-based

Unique Teaching Strategies

Curriculum of Connections—Makes learning more authentic and meaningful to the students
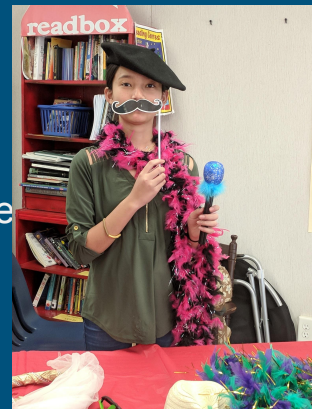- History—research; immigration literature circles, Eyewitness to History literature circles, Dust Bowl reading, research, and academic vocabulary root words
- Science—*Red Kayak* paired with learning of the Chesapeake Bay, EXPLORE project, cell invasion infographic, and academic vocabulary root words

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.
- Exploring units based character strengths in the Positivity Project. Students are give choice with literature/culminating activities.

Technology (FCPSOn)

Various digital tools that create engaging and productive blending learning environments:

➔ <u>Reading:</u>   Newsela, audio books, virtual literature circles, discussions
➔ <u>Speaking/Presentations:</u> Google documents, sites, presentations; Padlet, Flipgrid, Pear Deck
➔ <u>Research:</u> Noodle Tools, Online databases
➔ <u>Writing:</u> NoRedInk, Kahn Academy, EdPuzzle, shared Google documents
➔ <u>Vocabulary:</u> Vocabulary Workshop online, Free Rice, Quia, Kahoot, Quizlet
➔ <u>Teacher Instruction:</u> Google classroom

Special Events

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

- Poetry Slam and Poetry Fest
- Rocky Run Readers' Choice (3RC)
- Parent Teen Book Club
- Guest Authors—talks and writer's workshops
- Battle of the Books
- Spelling Bee
- Creative Writing elective
- Journalism (Yearbook) elective
- Legacy- literary magazine

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.
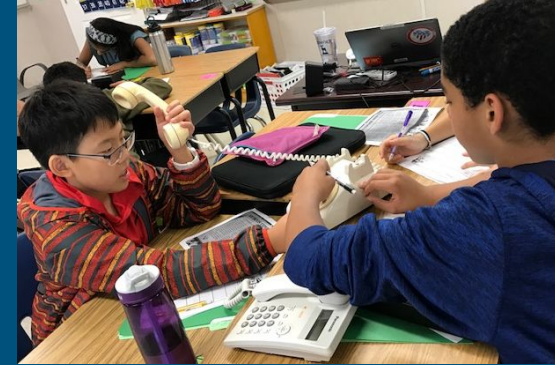
Unique Teaching Strategies

- 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
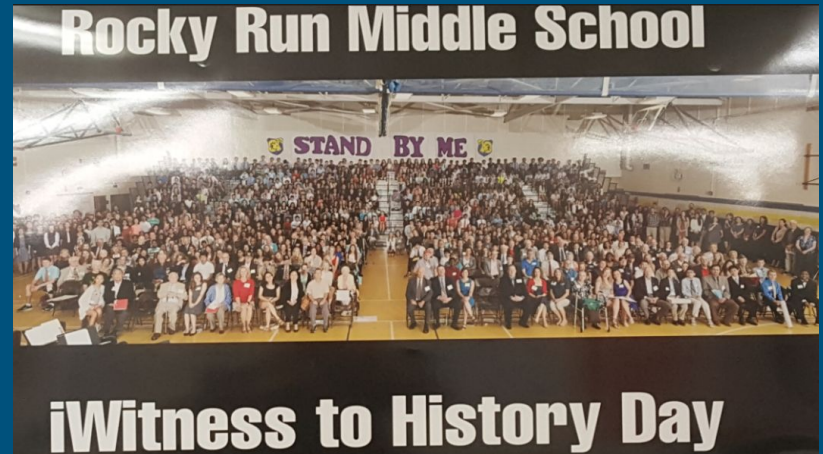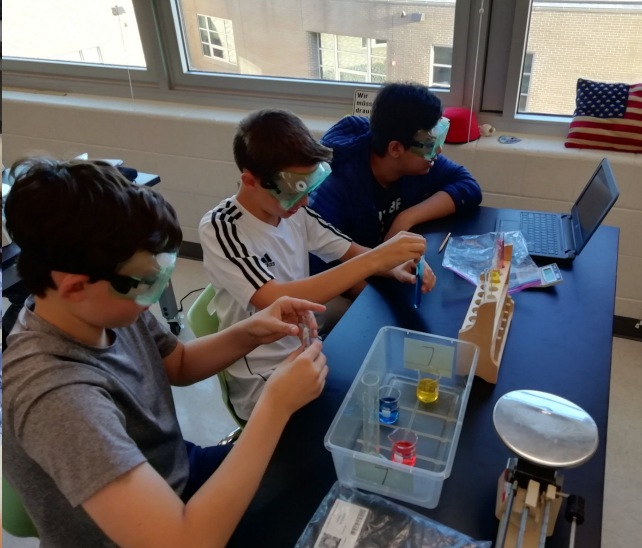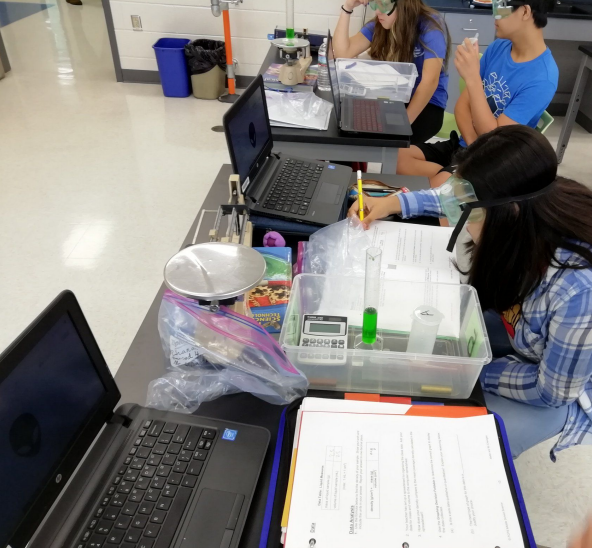
Technology (FCPSOn)

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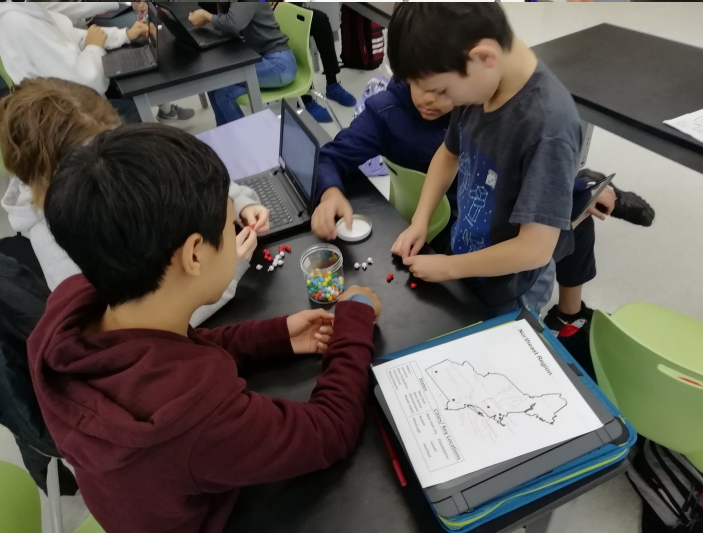- Changes in technology

Special Events

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

Rocky Run Middle School

STAND BY ME

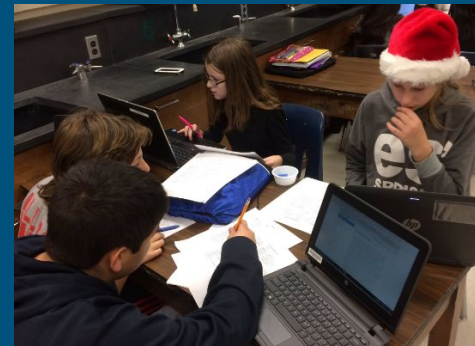iWitness to History Day

SCIENCE

Curriculum Overview/Big Ideas

- Lab-based course
- Units
  - The Nature of Science
  - Experimental Design
  - The Chesapeake Bay Watershed
  - Man's Impact on the Environment
  - Interactions in Ecosystems
  - Cells
  - Genetics
  - Natural Selection & Evolution
  - Classification of Living Things
- Scientific Literacy
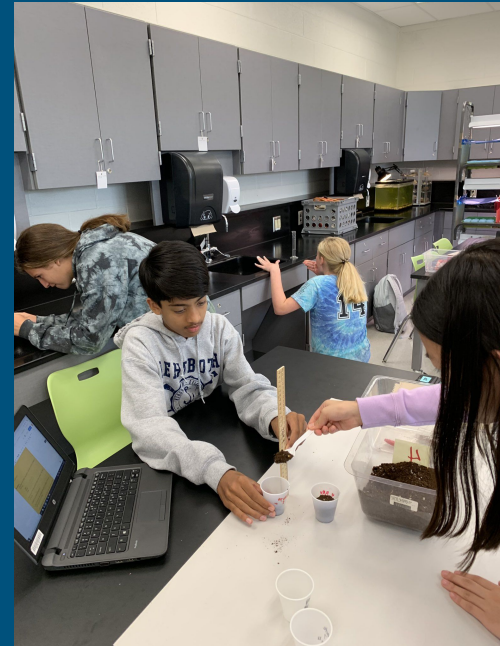- Portrait of a Graduate Skills

Unique Teaching Strategies

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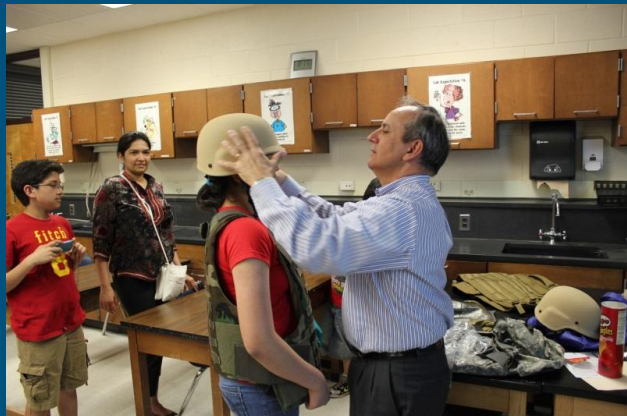- Environmental Stewardship

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

Special Events

- MWEE
- Science Day

Questions & Answers