



# The Wildcat Journal

Dear Parents / Guardians:

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It is so nice to see our students back in school after the summer recess. The first marking period flew by, and it is hard to believe it is almost Thanksgiving. Our faculty and professional support staff are always available to discuss your child's progress and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Please know that our teachers are always willing to provide extra help after school to strengthen understanding of the concepts that are being taught in their academic classes.

Parent involvement is also extremely important to us, and we ask that you make every effort to ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time every day. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic achievement starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families need to play a key role in making sure their child understands why attendance is so important for success in school and in life. We realize that some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances, but we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- *Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establishes a morning routine.*
- *Have your child layout clothes and pack backpacks the night before.*
- *Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick.*
- *Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.*
- *Talk to teachers and the school counselor for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.*
- *Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.*

As your child's principal, please feel free to contact me at any time if you ever have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. My door is always open, and I look forward to partnering with you in your child's education.

Lastly, on behalf of the administration, faculty, and staff, we want to wish all our families a Happy Thanksgiving and a healthy and happy 2020.

Warmest regards,  
Mrs. Regina Barrale  
Alfred S. Faust School Principal  
[Rbarrale@erboe.net](mailto:Rbarrale@erboe.net)

(201) 804-3100 Ext. 3003



## Envision the Possibilities

This year, our students in 6th-8th grade, are working with a brand new math series called EnVision 2.0. This new series has multiple components, both in print and online, that are allowing our students to be creative in their thinking and expand their mathematical skills. Our students are rising to the challenge and are eagerly exploring new concepts and ways of problem solving. Students are diving head-first into concepts such as rational numbers, equations, and proportional reasoning. We are proud of the work so far and look forward to continued success. The entire Math Department would also like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

## Music Department

On September 28th Faust School band members marched with the Becton H.S. Band at the Firefighters Parade. These same students performed at every Becton Football game, entertaining the fans during the half-time show. The marching band also performed at the Rutherford Tournament of Bands, the Bloomfield Marching Band Competition, the Weehawken Marching Band Festival, and the East Rutherford Fall Festival.



Mr. Schweikardt and Mrs. Schweikardt invite all of Faust's family and friends to our annual Winter Concert, featuring the band, choir, jazz band and acapella chorus. The concert will take place at Becton PAC, on December 17th 7:00pm. Approximately 200 Faust students in grades 5-8 have been diligently preparing for the performance.

## Cross-Curricular Studies in Grade 8 English and Social Studies

For the first marking period, Ms. Bayeux and Mr. Colavito teamed up with Mr. Barone to teach a cross-curricular unit in Grade 8 English and Social Studies classes focused on the Holocaust. Incoming eighth graders read Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl for their summer reading, and then also read Night by Elie Wiesel as their English classroom novel in October. During the novel study, Ms. Bayeux and Mr. Colavito's students conducted research, and analyzed symbols, motifs, and dialogue found in Elie Wiesel's memoir.

In Mr. Barone's eighth grade Social Studies class, students were assigned a victim from the Holocaust. They were given four writing prompts and they had to write journal entries from the victim's perspective. Students utilized sensory details to create a vivid experience for the reader. This cross-curricular Holocaust unit culminated in October with a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, and with students writing their own memoirs in November. The eighth graders truly grasped the atrocities of the Holocaust as they examined this genocide with empathy and humility.



## Spanish



The 8th-grade Spanish class has been working hard, while having fun this year!

We are getting ready to conclude our review of our first unit. We have read many stories in class to reinforce vocabulary and grammar. We have also worked together to set up the chronological order of stories, learning stations and using technology through Pear Deck to interactively answer comprehension questions.



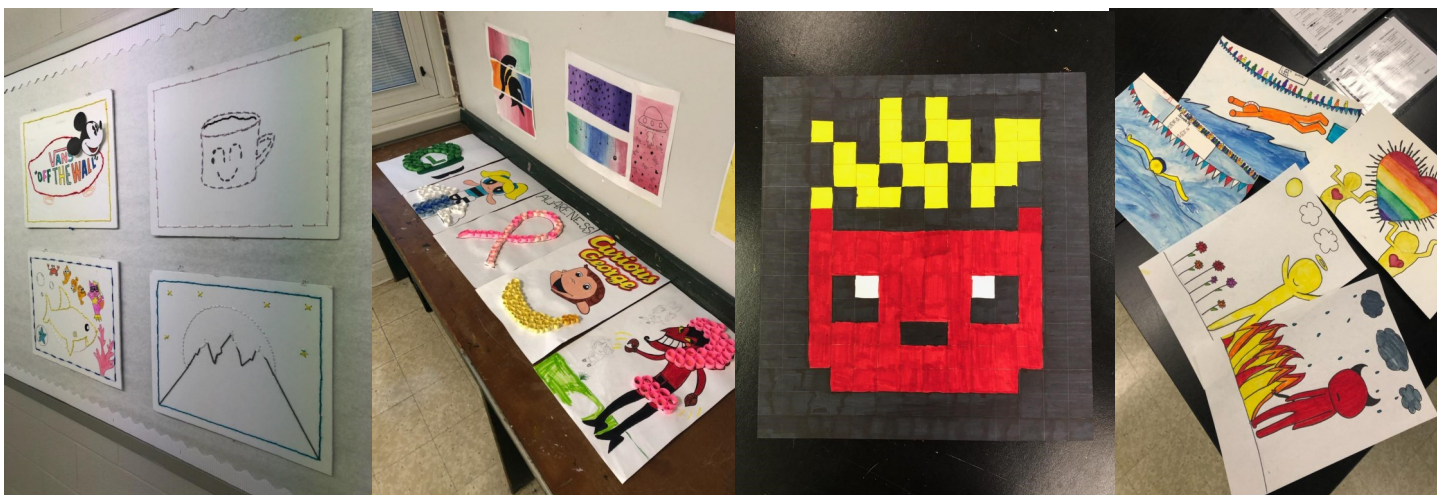
8th grade Spanish Honors focused on the influence of the Cuban American culture in Florida. Students connected to other academic subjects in school and completed fabulous art and social studies projects. We are getting ready to begin our next unit. In this area of study we will review telling time, describe school subjects, identify classroom objects, and talk about daily activities. The cultural section is related to the interesting Mexican culture!

## “Every Child Is An Artist.

## The Problem Is To Remain An Artist Once They Grow Up”

The new school year provides great inspiration for our Wildcat artists at Faust School. We have been hard at work on many different projects. It’s hard to believe the first marking period is already over, but let’s take a look at some of the amazing work that has been completed so far!

5th graders have been learning the fundamentals of how to apply a line to many different aspects of drawing. 6th graders have been creating 3D art in a variety of forms. They have designed origami sculptures, string wall art, as well as paper quilled compositions. 7th graders have been working with water color paints all marking period! They have applied various techniques they have learned to create some amazing art! 8th graders worked in multiple mediums to complete their projects. They used a variety of skills and techniques they learned while at Faust and applied them beautifully! Check out some of their art below!



# Notes From the English Department

Students in Language Arts classes have been exploring the fundamentals of English this marking period. Students in the sixth grade are working hard on their book talk presentations for their independent reading books, as well as analyzing literary elements including character development with a focus on how a character may transform as the plot progresses. In order to do so, students are actively collecting evidence from the text to support their claims in order to apply to a short-constructed response.

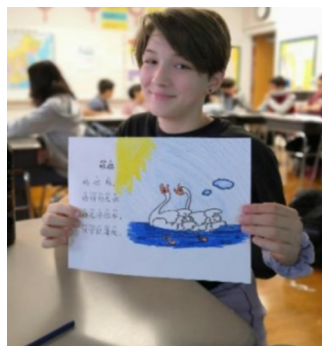
Meanwhile, in seventh grade, students are learning to analyze literature and apply academic literary terms to their writing through short stories. They are mastering the skills of evaluating and utilizing text evidence from their reading to support their ideas, thus giving their writing credibility. Students are also practicing extending their writing to give insight to their text analysis.

Finally, students in the 8th grade classes have just finished studying Holocaust literature with a focus on Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, and Night by Elie Wiesel. They also are working on drafting analytical essays, citing textual evidence, and elevating their writing by transcending the text. Overall, ELA students are working hard on polishing their literacy and writing skills.

## Mandarin

Ni Hao! Ms. SuLin Lu and her Mandarin students have completed their first marking period! Chinese is the most spoken language in the world with over 1.1 billion speakers! East Rutherford School District was fortunate enough to be awarded the Teachers of Critical Languages Program grant funded through the State Department in collaboration with American Councils and the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs this year, making us one out of only 28 schools across the United States to be afforded this opportunity!

The Mandarin students have learned greetings, numbers, colors, body parts, seasons, weather and even how to say, “I love you”! Through providing instruction in her Mandarin classes and completing community outreach to McKenzie School and the Pre-School Annex, Ms. Sulin Lu has been able to expose all 767 students to Mandarin language and Chinese culture! Xie’ Xie’!



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Visit us at  
[www.erboe.net](http://www.erboe.net)

Please visit the district website [www.erboe.net](http://www.erboe.net) for upcoming events and announcements!

Please follow @ErutherfordSD on Twitter to see what is occurring throughout the school day!

To Report an absence—please call Ms. Wolfe—201-804-3110