



Gifted Services Newsletter - Ashlawn Elementary School
Grade 5
April 28, 2023

[APS - Parent Resources and Organizations Supporting Gifted Learners](#)

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During the 3rd Quarter, 5th Grade students had the opportunity to participate in daily differentiation to meet their learning needs. Please read below to see how 5th grade teachers adjusted the general education curriculum to provide these daily learning opportunities!

In **Language Arts** this quarter, students learned about the Renaissance and worked to develop their opinion writing skills. Some students participated in **student-led book studies** in a small group where they read the same book, prepare for the group with discussion starters and questions, and engage in discussion about the book using higher level thinking skills (often SEM-R questions). Students also had the opportunity to work with **Caesar's English**, which teaches students important vocabulary while giving them wide-ranging insight into the ancient world and its contributions to our lives, including the language of the ancient Romans: Latin, which is the foundation of modern academic English.

The **Math** units this quarter focused on decimal computation using multiplication and division, fraction computation, and geometry, with a focus on angles & triangles. Students participated in **Continental Math League**, which include problems that allow students to solve a variety of complex story problems via the application of various strategies they've learned throughout the year. Students also were provided the opportunity to learn through **3 Act Math**, a problem based approach designed to develop students' ability to question, engage in problem solving, develop a range of strategies, and mathematically model. Every child has an entry point into the activity and can work to their potential. During every unit, students are provided with a choice board that includes work from **Groundworks**, an advanced math resource.

Groundworks: Algebraic Thinking helps students develop their reasoning skills in algebra by providing innovative problems that connect arithmetic and algebra. Each set of problems has a strong emphasis on reasoning and contains ample teacher support. **Groundworks: Reasoning with Geometry** provides students with activities that investigate shapes, symmetry, congruence, angles, rotations, reflections, and other geometry investigations. Many students participated in small groups to learn about **Hands On Equations**, which provides students with a hands-on introduction to algebraic reasoning, with 26 lessons divided into three levels of complexity. Students use number cubes and pawns (which represent variables) to create concrete representations of story problems, which they then solve algebraically. During Quarter 3, we completed the first unit. In addition, students practiced **Math Dice** in preparation

for the Math Dice Tournament on May 6th. **Math Dice** is played by rolling two 12-sided target dice and multiplying them to get a target number. Next, roll the three scoring dice and combine these numbers using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, or even powers to build an equation that is closest, or equal to, the target. This mentally challenging and fun dice game helps players sharpen math skills by solving problems in a fun way.

Science units during Quarter 3 included Light and Electricity. Students were offered the opportunity to use STEMscopes and complete advanced activities including PHET models and building circuits. In addition, students participated in STEAM activities to include creating a marble race track using teacher-provided materials while considering angles.

Students learned about Ancient China and Ancient Greece during **Social Studies** in Quarter 3. Students wrote about the connection between the legacy of Ancient Greece to life today. In addition, students have access to extension work and choice boards they are able to choose from. Students completed a simulation of traveling the Silk Road where they exchanged goods.

Outside of the classroom, Ashlawn had **THREE Odyssey of the Mind** teams compete in the regional tournament this year. Students worked incredibly hard for months to solve a long-term problem and practice spontaneous problems. They learned how to use their imaginations, pay attention to details, work as a team, and communicate effectively with each other and their coaches. Two of our 5th graders had the opportunity to join the Kenmore team on their journey to the State Tournament, where they took 3rd place! Thank you, thank you, thank you to our coaches Nicole, Rachael, Marc, & Tom for all of their work this year!





