

Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

January Newsletter 2019



A New Year, A New Start!

The Principal's Corner - Mr. Lynch

Welcome to 2019! So far we've had a confidence crushing visit from The Harlem Wizards, a new SRO (Welcome Deputy Cohen) join our district, and several brand new clubs (Horse Club, Colors to Calm Club, Creative Writing Club, Gay Straight Alliance Club, Technology Club, and Big/Little Sister Club) kick off our winter session. A big thank you to our volunteers (Ms. Raffaele, Mrs. Mathers, Ms. McClune, Mr. Corbett, Ms. Demetros and Mrs. Martin for giving our students these opportunities.



On February 8, we will be meeting with our entire student body for our mid year assemblies. In addition to recognizing positive behavior and academic growth/achievement, we will also be spending time on the following:

1. Legacy
2. Habits 1-4
3. PBIS
4. Safety
5. The Little Things

Please ask you kids about these topics!

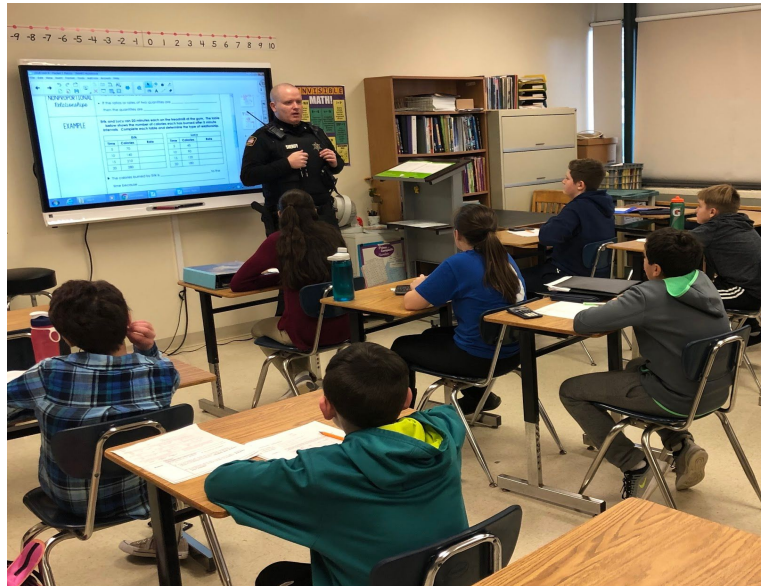
This months habit is Think Win-Win

Win-Win is the belief that everyone can win. It's not me or you—it's both of us ... It's a belief that there are enough good things for everyone. It's an abundant way of thinking. Think Win-Win is being happy for others when good things happen to them. As a parent, not everything is negotiable, but if you go into discussions with your child with a win-win mindset, you'll find a lot less resistance!

[THINK WIN-WIN EXAMPLE](#)

General Announcements

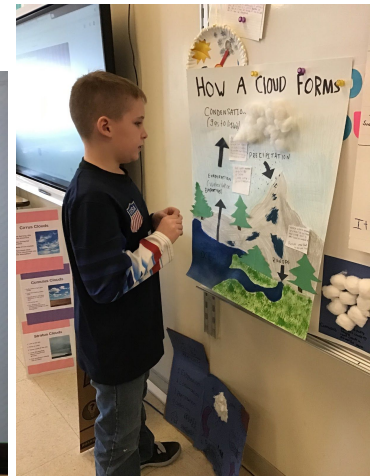
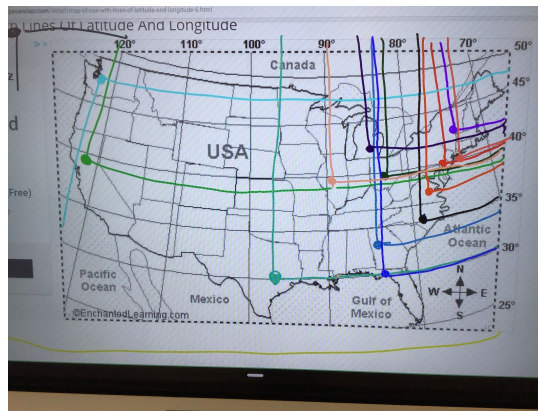
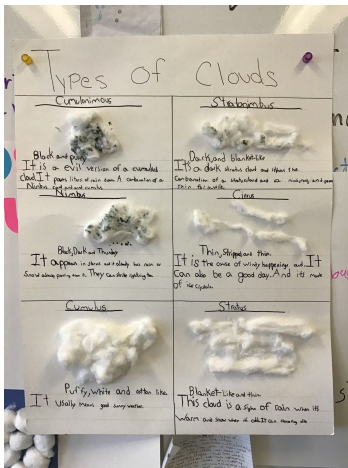
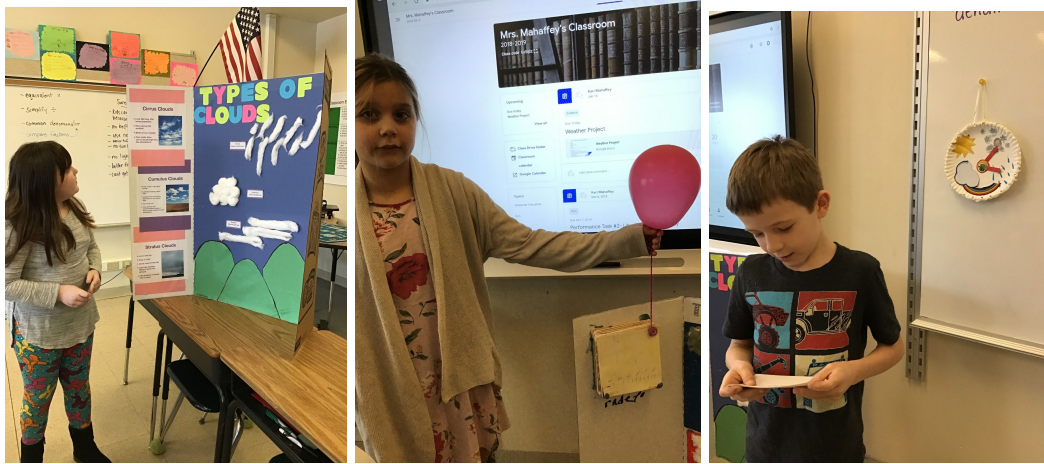
- Please remind your children to bring a winter jacket to lunch with them! We do have outside recess after lunch, and we go out if it is above 20 degrees and not raining or snowing.
- Please discuss the results of your student's i-Ready winter diagnostic tests in Math and ELA. Students in G4-G8 (with some exceptions) completed a winter diagnostic test in the weeks of 1/14 & 1/21. The results gauge the understanding they displayed in various domains of Math and ELA. It may be fruitful to discuss the test results, your student's feelings and thoughts regarding the results, and a plan for improvement or continued enrichment.



Grade Level Updates

4th Grade:

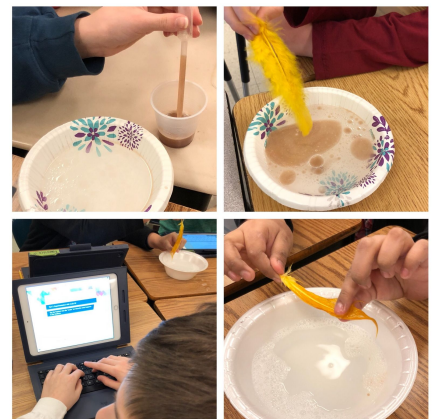
- We finished the weather unit in Science and had some amazing projects!



- We are continuing with map skills in Social Studies.
- We had mid-year i-Ready testing when we returned from winter break. Everyone worked really hard- please look for the results in your child's home folders!

5th Grade:

- In Ms. Simon's Science class students are learning about natural resources and how some are renewable and others are not renewable. We just completed a lab when



we simulated an oil spill in an ocean, we saw how it affected wild birds and we problem solved ways of cleaning up after the oil spill. In Social Studies, we are finishing up our unit on European Exploration and the slave trade.

- In Mr. Sullivan's Math Class the month of January is devoted to fractions! Students learn to make equivalent fractions with the end goal of mastering addition and subtraction with mixed numbers. We are also "over the moon" excited to review the results of the winter i-Ready Diagnostic Math test! Please ask your students about the i-Ready contest (that we won) and their plans for continued success!



- In Mr. Butland's English Language Arts Classes, our students are discovering the power of an author's craft in using such tools as foreshadowing, alliteration and elements of flashbacks within their writing to create / build suspense within a story. We just finished our first read through of our new anchor text, *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson. I commented to the students that I am very much appreciative that this shortened/abridged version that we read leaves out some of the more sorrowful parts of this heartwarming story. Several students have expressed interest and enthusiasm in reading the full novel to compare as well as contrast these two versions of the story.
- During Blend periods with Ms. Simon and Mrs. Murphy, we are working on writing about Mathematics. Students are asked to solve a problem and then explain how they reached their answer by naming the steps taken. We are continuing to work on iReady. Students overall showed great growth on their Diagnostic since the Fall in both Reading and Math!

6th Grade:

- Students have completed their i-Ready diagnostic tests and should be coming home soon with their results. Please make sure you are on the lookout for this.

- Interested in your child's diagnostic score going up? All students can work on their i-Ready lessons at home, which are assigned to them based on their diagnostic results.
- Congratulations to our 6th Grade students who were selected for Student of the Month. The students are, Landen Elliott, Thomas Beeman, Aaron Wendover, Betsaida Franco-Sub, and Ryleigh Sprague.



- We will be starting a contest for February in ELA and Math, basing it off of completed lessons on i-Ready. The top six students in each subject area will win a pizza party for lunch.

Math/Science-Mrs. Brennie:

- Our 6th Graders are moving right along with their Go Math book. We are currently in the second volume, and are working on Equations and Inequalities. Once we complete this chapter, we will move on to Relationships Between Variables.
- I am very pleased with our i-Ready diagnostic results. Most students met or exceeded their mid-year goal. This has a lot to do with their hard work in class, but also the amount of time they are putting into their i-Ready lessons.
- In Science, we will be trying a different approach to learning the material. Students will be given a phenomena, and asked to generate questions about what they see. These questions will then get narrowed down, and each student will end up with one or two questions they're interested in answering. That will then be their research topic, and during class time, they will research the answers to their questions. All students will create a Slide Presentation, and share it with their classmates.

ELA- Mrs. Conway:

- In our current unit of study, we are examining the character trait of bravery, from the perspective of fictional characters in fantasy texts, as well as from the perspective of real, historical people who explored and conquered the Arctic at the North Pole (Matthew Henson). Students will be asked to examine the people or characters in this unit who demonstrated forms of bravery, and to explain what the person's motivation was for showing this bravery. This will be the culminating writing piece for this Unit.
- I am quite proud of the progress 6th graders have made in their iReady Mid Year Diagnostic. Most students met or exceeded their goal, and just as Mrs. Brennie said above, it is due to their hard work in class, as well as the amount of time they are putting into their iReady Reading lessons weekly (including at home).
- In addition, we continue to work on our WoW or "Word of the Week" adding to our vocabulary every chance we get. Ask your child what the "Word of the Week" is for this week!
- Students are also working on grammar, which connects to their writing because it helps them to understand when their sentences are complete, and contain all of the necessary parts to make a sentence complete.

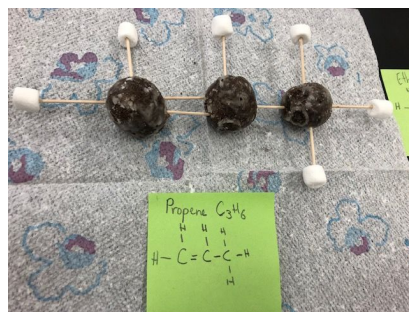
Social Studies- Mrs. Conway:

- Students will be exploring "Compelling Questions" within our Social Studies curriculum, and they will be doing research projects based upon these compelling questions and supporting questions. These research projects will take the form of slide presentations as well as posters. The goal is to make the Social Studies curriculum more interactive and hands on.
- Students will still be expected to take notes during some class period, and of course there will still be some quizzes and tests.
- We are still working on the Classical Civilizations (Greece, Rome, Qin and Han Dynasties), which are so rich in history, culture and inventions. We will soon be studying the Olympics which is always a fascinating topic for sixth graders. It is fun and engaging to connect the ancient Greek cultural contributions to our modern day world, where we often see references to ancient Greek gods, goddesses, literature and architecture.
- Following this unit of study, we will be exploring "Comparative World Religions", in which we will compare and contrast the five major world religions.

7th Grade:

- The Grade 7 students learned about America's government in Social Studies. We did a document based question on how the powers of America's government is limited.

- Science 7 students are learning about genetics and relating genetics to probability. Each student was able to determine if they carried the gene to taste PTC paper or not. Those that couldn't taste it were disappointed and wanted to experience the horrible bitter taste!
- Accelerated Science students made edible hydrocarbon models. They made molecules, such as methane and propane, and used their iPad to take pictures of the models with the correct names and formulas.



- Miss G.'s 7th and 8th grade BLEND students are continuing to work on iReady. All families should have received an email with your child's progress. Please speak with your child about his/her progress and email me with any questions. Students took the mid-winter diagnostic in January. Ask your child about the class competition!
 - Math 7 students have begun working on algebra skills. Students are practicing the distributive property and combining like terms to simplify expressions. In addition, students are continuing to complete individualized lessons each week on the i-ready platform both at home and during Blend class. Students are excited to see how they've grown in math as they finish up their diagnostic check-point exam during this last week of January. I will share results with students and parents once all have completed the exam.
- Above left:* Rachel teaches 5th grader, Grace, to subtract fractions on the day her class presented their planned lesson to the 5th grade class. *Above right:* The Money duck soap...Is it worth \$13?



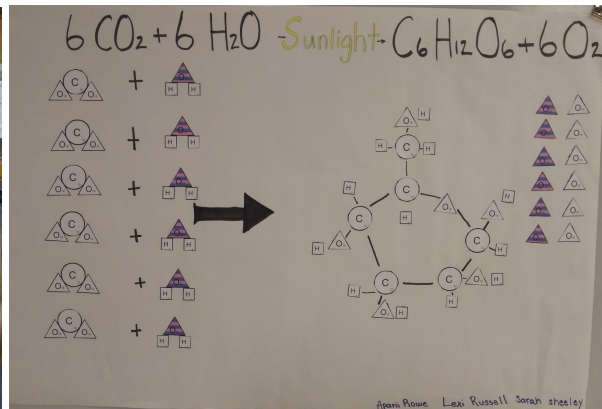
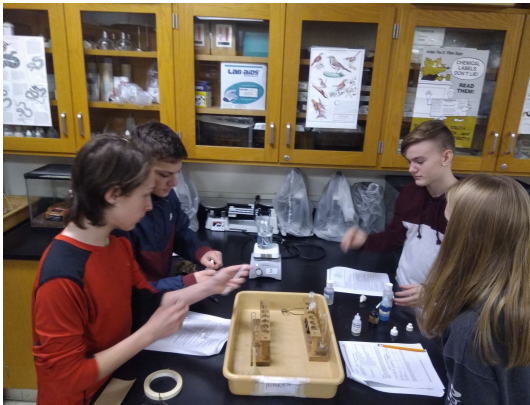
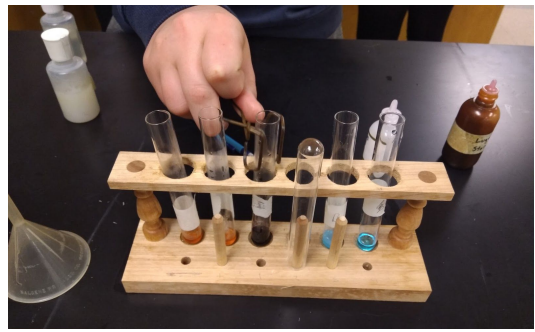
- Math 7 Blend students have been working on i-Ready skills and a probability unit. We are trying to apply probability to their daily lives wherever possible. For example, would you pay \$13 for a bar of soap that promises to award you with a dollar bill hidden inside (could be \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50)? What questions would you have before making your decision to buy the soap?
- Students are learning about working conditions in America during the 19th century as they work on reading *Lyddie*, a novel about a young girl who faces difficult challenges as she enters the workforce to support her family. We are developing our writing skills as we learn how to create "Quote Burgers" to present the best evidence in support of our claims. We will also be continuing to work on i-Ready skills throughout the coming semester!

8th Grade:

- Students are learning about organic chemistry using the molecular models. They also did a polymer snow lab during which they created synthetic snow. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using synthetic polymers, such as plastic.



- Students in 8th grade Accelerated Biology completed the State Mandated Diffusion Through a Membrane Lab, making a model cell to test which substances can easily diffuse through the cell membrane, as well as observing osmosis in onion cells. Students also learned how to use chemical indicators to test for the presence of materials that are not visible. In Biology, lecture students used paper molecules to trace the path of reactants in photosynthesis and calculate where the mass of a tree comes from. (Many of us were surprised by our results!) We then used our microscopes in lab to explore how plant stomata change to differing environmental conditions to maintain homeostasis.



- The Grade 8 students learned about WWI in Social Studies. We worked on a project that students picked an aspect of WWI and researched it and created a slideshow. We also began to learn about the "Roaring 20s".

- In 8th grade ELA students in Miss G.'s class are working on reading the second part of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Please remind your child to keep up with the nightly homework which is posted on my website.



The final IR project was due on 1/22. No lates will be accepted. Students will practice public speaking skills by presenting these projects in small groups in class.

- (Photo above: protagonists Jem, Scout, and Dill). Students will watch the movie after we finish the book and write the essay! Hopefully this is a good motivation tool!

- Miss G.'s 7th and 8th grade BLEND students are continuing to work on iReady. All families should have received an email with your child's progress. Please speak with your child about his/her progress and email me with any questions. Students took the mid-winter diagnostic in January. Ask your child about the class competition!
- Math 8 students have been working to decide and then visually show how many solutions an equation has. Some equations have an infinite amount of solutions and some don't have



any! Most, however, only have one solution. In addition, students are continuing to complete individualized lessons each week on the i-ready platform both at home and during Blend class.

Students are excited to see how they've grown in Math as they finish up their diagnostic checkpoint exam during this last week of January.

SPECIALS:

Music:

- We kicked off 2019 by hosting DCMEA Elementary All-County audition day. Students in Band and Orchestra programs all over Dutchess County travelled to Webutuck to audition to be part of the 2019 Elementary All-County Music Festival. We love hosting this event! Not only do we get to show off our wonderful school but our students that audition don't have far to travel and feel at home in the space. Many thanks to WHS students Jillian, Justin, Deanna, Autumn, Holly, Disha and Kyle for volunteering and keeping things running smoothly! Congratulations to Ashley Johnson who was selected for clarinet. In addition, congratulations to Khyra McClennon and Grace Manning for being accepted to the All-County Chorus. We are immensely proud of all of our students that auditioned and look forward to a great festival in March.

- This past weekend was the JHS All-County Music Festival held at Beacon HS. EBIS Music Warriors Jack Forbes and Riley Thirlwall represented Webutuck in the Concert Band while Aidan Furey, Emma Manning and WHS Music Warrior Billy Tompkins were in



the Chorus. It was a great weekend of dedicated rehearsals ending in superb performances by all of the groups. Well done!



- Thanks to a grant that Mr. Wiener received from the Webutuck Quest for Excellence Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation we will have a digital piano housed in the Library MakerSpace. This is a great

opportunity for Webutuck students to access a piano independent of Music classes and the Music facilities. Used with headphones, the piano will fit right in with this multifaceted student space. Many thanks to Beth Murphy for collaborating with us on this project.

- Coming soon: Music Equipment Library - Once again in collaboration with the Webutuck Library, the Music Department will make some Music Equipment available for students to check out. We'll start small with items like a ukulele, or Roland Go:Mixer iPad audio interface and see how things develop. As with other library equipment, students will get a permission slip signed for the equipment they would like to borrow. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. This is another exciting way we're working to foster student independence.

Spanish:

8th-grade Spanish students recently completed the clothing unit. As the assessment, students used the Chatterkid App on their iPads to create videos describing an outfit. They were able to say how much the items cost, where they bought it and other descriptions. Ask your son or daughter to see their Chatterkid video. The entire class video can be found on our Google Classroom. We are now moving into our vacation and travel unit. ¿Adónde vas para las vacaciones?

7th grade Spanish students completed on verb unit and students can now describe their likes and dislikes in Spanish. We are on to adjectives in Spanish. We will be learning how adjectives work in Spanish and how to describe ourselves and others. ¿Cómo eres tú?

Mental Health:

- Suite 360 Theme for the month: *Good Habits & Goal Setting*
- 5 Tips to Improve Your Child's Mental Health & Emotional Well Being:
 1. Teach your kids to recognize what they are feeling & to express their feelings in words.
 2. Learn to put yourself in your child's shoes.
 3. Be aware of their overall actions and behaviors (increases ability to recognize changes).
 4. Encourage creativity.
 5. Show kids that having a mix of struggle and strength is normal for everyone.

Library Media Center:

The Library Media Center's MakerSpace is growing. While we were enjoying the holiday break, the library received a grant from DC BOCES and a generous donation to support our MakerSpace. The funds from the grant were used to purchase Edison Robots, MakeyMakey invention kits, Puzzlets, Easi-Scope Digital Microscopes, Electricity master lab kits, Robotics smart machine kits and STEM and STEAM resource books. This grant award totaled \$3750.00. Additionally, \$5000.00 was donated to purchase furniture to facilitate the new MakerSpace. The new tables will have dry erase tops for creative exploration as well as AC plugs and USB ports. The tables are also standing-height with built in seating. All purchases made for the MakerSpace have been made from Grants and donated funds.

Athletics:

Winter Sports Pictures

Winter Team Sports Photos will be on February 6th. Athletes please remember to bring your home jersey uniform in that day.

REMINDER!!!

SIGN UP and SUBSCRIBE to game change notification by receiving notification via text or email on <http://ociaa.ouboces.org/webutuckschedulepage.html>

The Webutuck Cheerleaders hosted their first cheer clinic for students grades 2-6, under the leadership of Coach Ambrosino and Coach Simon (EBIS' newest teachers). The squad taught the participants a routine, that involved Warrior cheer, dance and stunts. What a great way to build community amongst the students in our district! Funds raised will be put towards Warrior cheerleading gear. A huge thank you to all that participated and we look forward to another clinic in the fall!



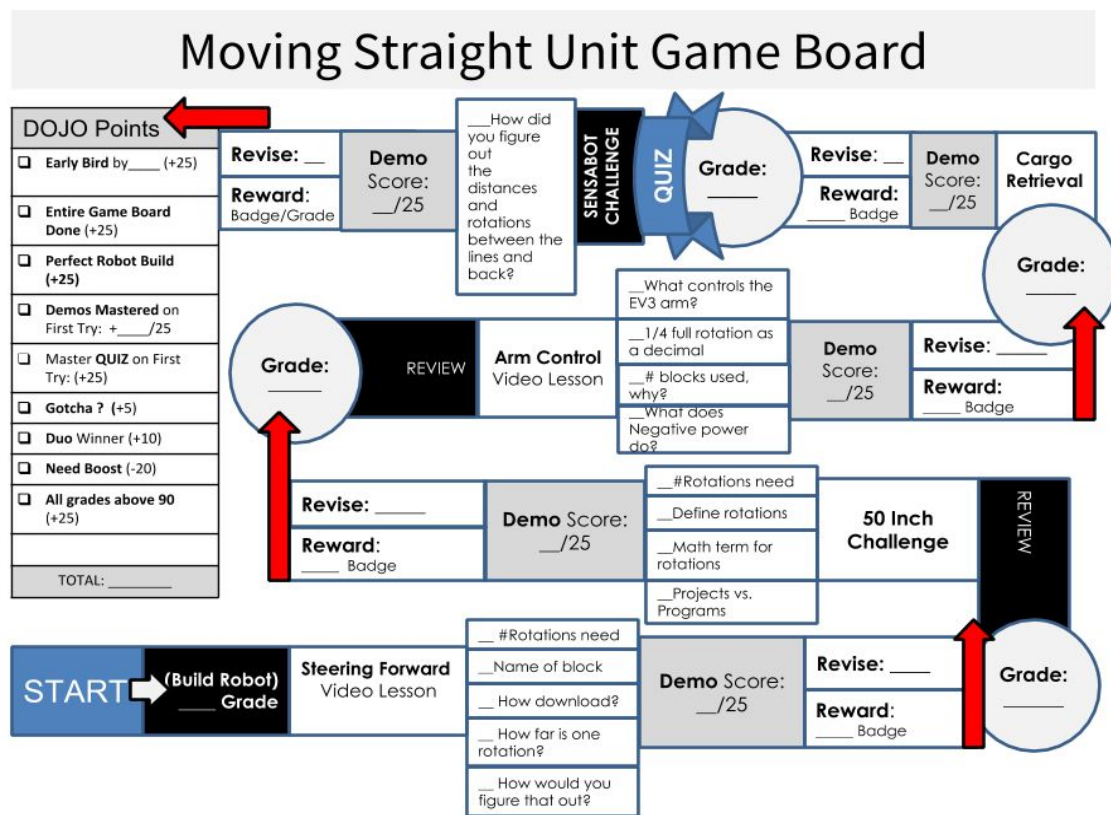
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6th Grade Robotics:

There are two units, each with five challenges, to complete during the 10-week Robotics Course. Students move through a "Game Board", earning "Dojo" points, as well as a grade for each robotic challenge.

Videos, demonstrations of each challenge, conferencing with the teacher and quizzes are included so students can work at their own pace and show their knowledge of programming and



robotics.

5th and 6th Grade Home and Careers:

The 6th grade Home and Careers class finished their kitchen measurement unit. To practice measuring dry ingredients students baked snickerdoodle cookies.



The 5th grade Home and Careers class proudly displays their completed felt animal sewing projects.

