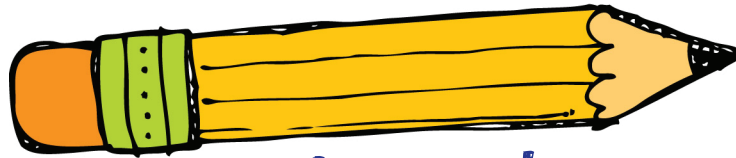


Da Vinci Distance Learning
August & September
Newsletter
South



Epic Adventure

Epic Adventure class will always start with a mini-lesson on a character trait. Throughout August and September, students will be discussing and practicing the character trait of diligence. After our character education mini-lesson, students will begin studying the middle ages. The first week of our class will give students a general knowledge of the feudal system. Students will quickly get a feel for how feudalism worked, when they have to give their own riches (M&M's) to the nobles and the kings! In our second week, students will compare feudalism to the economic system that we use today (capitalism). The remaining weeks in this semester will each focus on a different medieval "career". First we will find out about the astronomers and astrologers of the middle ages. Students will create their own astrolabes and use them to measure the altitude of objects outside. Then our class will learn about embroiderers and make our own tapestries. We will discuss medical careers next, including barbers, apothecaries, and even plague doctors. Students will get a feel for having a medical career in medieval times by making a batch of natural medicine (lemon juice, honey, salt, and water), trying out some of the "cures and preventions" that medieval people thought might help with the plague, and even dressing as a plague doctor did. The month of September will end with a lesson on Vikings. Students will use boxes and their creativity to construct their own Viking longships.

Science

Our Science classes will be covering the following topics during the months of August and September:

K-2

- ★erosion
- ★sorting
- ★classifying
- ★types of soil
- ★sources of water
- ★weathering
- ★living vs. non-living
- ★day and night
- ★the moon cycle
- ★constellations
- ★temperature
- ★movement of the sun



3-6

- ★water cycle
- ★sources of water
- ★temperature
- ★evaporation
- ★condensation
- ★cloud types
- ★weather forecast
- ★barometer
- ★rain guage
- ★anemometer
- ★rocks
- ★minerals

Math Games

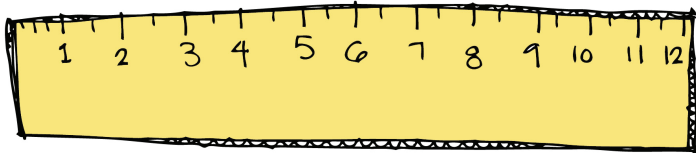
K-2

3-6

This class is structured as a workshop. Each class will start out with gathering time.

During gathering time during the first few weeks of our class we will discuss and practice: the calendar, bar graphs, addition facts, counting by 2's, and evens and odds. After gathering time, we will read the book of the day and do an activity that relates to the book or the math topic discussed in gathering time. The books we will be reading through September include: Two at the Zoo, Talley O'Malley, Seaweed Soup (equal groups), How Many Feet in Bed (counting by twos), Even Steve and Odd Todd (evens and odds), and Caps for Sale (matching).

The final part of our class will be math games. Students will split into groups and rotate through 2 or three stations. A math game or activity will be at each station.



Arts & Crafts

Arts and crafts lessons will be centered around our Epic theme of the middle ages.

The first six lessons we will be studying Alfred the Great, Leif Erikson, Marco Polo, Eric the Red, Muhammad, and Zanj. The arts and crafts that will accompany these studies are: stain glass windows, writing student's names using letters from the Viking alphabet in salt dough, Chinese puppets, catapults, watercolor sunsets, and African Adinkra (hand-printed cloth).

This class is structured as a workshop. Each class will start out with gathering time.

During gathering time during the first few weeks of our class we will discuss and practice: math in real life, polygons and circles, measuring circles, the concept of Pi, using protractors to measure angles, straight lines, curves, perimeter, and 3D shapes. After gathering time, we will read the book of the day and do an activity that relates to the book or the math topic discussed in gathering time. The books we will be reading through September include: Math Curse, Sir Cumference and the First Round Table, Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi, Sir Cumference and the Great Knight of Angleland, Sir Cumference and the Isle of Immeter, and Sir Cumference and the Sword in the Cone. The final part of our class will be math games.

Students will split into groups and rotate through 2 or three stations. A math game or activity will be at each station.

PE

We're starting the school year right in PE with fun activities the first 6 weeks including: tag team relay races, hula hoop games, ballroom dancing, Simon Says, and parachute games.



World Cultures

World Cultures class will introduce students to cultures and historical figures from around the world that coincide with Medieval Europe. The children will become familiar with the basics that make up a successful 'empire' such as location, trade, leadership, and innovation. Students will become familiar with the world map, as they mark their own maps each week. The topics covered in the first few weeks of class will be Alfred the Great, Eric the Red, Lief Erikson, Marco Polo and Muhammad.



Drama

In Drama class we will be exploring posture and breathing, basic concepts of voice for the stage, tongue twisters, and abdominal/diaphragm breathing. Students will be performing for each other each week. Performances include readers theaters, pantomimes, and monologues.

Music

In music class this month, students will learn about singing and the kind of voices they each have. Students will be introduced to all sorts of instruments, and even get to play a few (recorders, Xylophones, glockenspiel). Students will also be taught about famous composers. This month's composers include Prokofiev and Mozart.

Ooey Gooey Science

Ooey Gooey Science is a hands-on class. We will have a different science experiment or project each week. In August and September our class will be learning about: density, catalyst, light, space, and the Periodic Table of Elements. Some of the experiments and projects we will be doing to see these principles in action will be: making rainbow jars (density), elephant toothpaste (yeast with hydrogen peroxide), painting planets, and more.



Writing with Fairytails, Fables, and Folklore

For the first few weeks of our class, we will focus on fairytales. We will be reading the following fairytales: The Swan Princess, The Elves and the Shoemaker, Cinderella, and Jack and the Beanstalk. Using these fairy tales as a base, we will be discussing elements of a story, point of view, and parts of speech. We will work on phonemic awareness, fluency, and comparing and contrasting.

A note from your ES:

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic summer! As you can see in this newsletter, our teachers have been working hard this summer to make our Epic Day as epic as possible. I can't wait to see all of the wonderful learning that is bound to take place. Here are some upcoming dates to be aware of:

August 24th: Our first Epic Day will be next Monday the 24th. Remember to pack a sack lunch. All other classroom materials will be provided in our classes.

September 7th: No Epic Day

See you soon,
-Maddi