



DR. RONALD E. McNAIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



GRADE 4 NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER

Learning • Growing • Reaching Higher | Honoring Dr. Ronald E. McNair & the Challenger Crew

ELA

In **Unit 2: Knights and Castles—Europe's Middle Ages**, students will explore life and important events during the Middle Ages in Europe using the anchor text *Medieval Knights and Castle Life: Europe's Middle Ages*. Throughout this 18-day unit, students will learn about medieval society, including **knights, castles, rulers, and the important role of the Christian Church in Western Europe**. Students will strengthen their reading comprehension by learning key vocabulary, identifying important details, taking notes, paraphrasing information, and using **text evidence to support their ideas**. In writing, students will use information from the text to develop informative and comparative paragraphs. Students will also continue developing their grammar skills by working with **nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositional phrases, subjects and predicates, sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and progressive verb tenses**. Vocabulary and word-study instruction will include the prefixes **un-**, **non-**, and **en-**, the roots **arch** and **graph**, and the suffix **-y**. At the end of the unit, students will demonstrate their understanding of the unit's reading, writing, vocabulary, and language skills through a **Unit Assessment**.

MATH

In **Unit 4.2: Fraction Equivalence and Comparison**, students will build on their understanding of fractions by exploring fraction size, equivalent fractions, and comparing fractions. In **Lessons 1–4**, students will make sense of fractions as numbers by using physical models, diagrams, and number lines to understand the size and location of fractions. In **Lessons 5–10**, students will generate and identify equivalent fractions and explain why fractions are equivalent using visual models and numerical strategies. In **Lessons 11–15**, students will compare and order fractions with different numerators and denominators using visual representations, benchmark fractions, and numerical reasoning. Throughout the unit, students will strengthen their ability to explain and justify their mathematical thinking while addressing standards

SCIENCE

We will continue Unit 1, which focuses on energy and how energy can be transferred and transformed. Students investigate motion, light, sound, heat, and electrical energy and explore how energy moves from one place or object to another. Through hands-on investigations, observations, models, and discussions, students examine how the speed of an object relates to its energy and how collisions can transfer energy and change motion.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We will continue Unit 1, which focuses on geography and how geography influences people, communities, and the development of Maryland and the United States. Students strengthen their understanding of maps, regions, physical and human characteristics, natural resources, and human-environment interaction while examining how people adapt to and modify their surroundings.

★ **OCTOBER FOCUS: Building strong routines, strong relationships, and strong learning habits.** ★



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Mrs. Shull

My favorite thing about Fall is the weather, the warm days and cool nights. I love sitting outside by the fire on cool nights enjoying time with my family. My favorite candy is snickers.

Mr. Newman

I love Fall because it represents change, family, football, gratitude, and new beginnings. Just like the leaves change, Fall reminds me that change can be beautiful and that every new season gives us another opportunity to grow. My favorite type of candy is Twizzlers.

Ms. Rossman

I like Reese's cups and the cool brisk weather

Mrs. Danielson

My two favorite things about Fall are Thanksgiving and football. The best thing about Thanksgiving is gathering with special family and friends to prepare the feast. I love the camaraderie of cooking together. It's also great to sit down and share what we are thankful for as we enjoy the food. I also love watching football on the weekends, with a fire in the fireplace and homemade bread (made by my husband) and chili. Go Pack Go!
My favorite candy is a Heath bar or a Mounds bar.

IMPORTANT DATES — OCTOBER

10/06 PTA GENERAL MEETING 6:30 - 7:30

10/7- SUB 2 UNIT MATH TEST

10/12 PTA SPIRIT NIGHT TORTACOS 5-9

10/14- NATIONAL WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

10/15- PICTURE DAY

10/16- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

10/20- UNIT 2 MATH ASSESSMENT

10/27- UNIT 2 AMPLIFY READING ASSESSMENT

10/30- HALLOWEEN CLASS PARTY & ALTERNATE PARTY



NOTES & REMINDERS

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S FOLDER AND ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOK

MATH	ELA	SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES
DAILY MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY	READ AT LEAST 20 MINUTES. SOMETIMES THERE MAY BE HOMEWORK RELATED TO THE UNIT WE ARE STUDYING.	MOST ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE COMPLETED DURING CLASS TIME. HOWEVER, STUDENTS MAY OCCASIONALLY BRING HOME AN ASSIGNMENT TO FINISH OR COMPLETE FOR ADDITIONAL PRACTICE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S FOLDER AND PLANNER REGULARLY FOR UPDATES.

Student success is strongest when **students, teachers, and families work together as a team.** Students are encouraged to come to school each day **ready to learn, prepared, responsible, and willing to do their best.** **We want our students to be risk takers.** Families can support learning by checking in about schoolwork, encouraging reading and practice at home, and maintaining regular communication with the teacher. Teachers will continue to provide instruction, encouragement, feedback, and support to help every student grow. **Together, we can celebrate progress, address challenges, and help every student have a successful school year!**