



Altoona Intermediate School

Altoona, Wisconsin



March 2023 Newsletter

Hello AIS Families! I hope the month of March has been good to you, even with the tail end of Winter still hanging on as we try to transition to warmer weather! We are on the verge of a well-deserved Spring Break for our staff and students - they have worked hard during the tough months after holidays!



Please see the following message from our District Nurse, Brittany Engel:



As we are getting to the end of Winter sports and nearing our Spring sport seasons, we would like to stress the importance of keeping our administration and nursing staff informed if there are any injuries during sports. This could include but not limited to concussions, breaking of bones, spraining of joints. If you have a doctor's note, please feel free to contact Nurse Britt Engel at 715-514-3444 or via email at bengel@altoona.k12.wi.us. Nurse Britt works very closely with our staff members, coaches and athletic trainer as well as administration to ensure that all students have the best of care. That being said though, we do need your help with that. If you were to get any physical therapy notes, updated concussion information from your physicians, have any surgeries or procedures, or even prescription medications from physicians we do need those in the office.

****Prescription medications:** Prescription medication forms can be signed by the parents and physicians **only if prescriptions are to be given at school**. No student is allowed to take any prescription medications at school unless there is a signed prescription document from the physician. That form is linked here: <https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/support-services/files/Documents/PrescriptionMedicationForm%202022-2023.docx.pdf>

****Non-prescription medications** including Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Gas-X, etc does NOT need a prescription medication form, but acknowledgement from the parents, with this signed documentation for administration is needed if a student wants to take medications at school that are over the counter. No student is allowed to carry non-prescription medications with them. That form is linked here: [https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/support-services/files/Documents/ Non%20PrescriptionMedicationForm%202022-2023.pdf](https://www.altoona.k12.wi.us/parents/support-services/files/Documents/Non%20PrescriptionMedicationForm%202022-2023.pdf)

As we near the springtime of the year, we are looking forward to field trips and fun activities throughout the district. That being said, we want to ensure we send a few reminders to families regarding these things. We want to ensure the safety of all students, so all treats that are provided for classroom activities—if they are being brought for the entire class—must be store bought items. Due to allergies, sensitivities, and other health related diagnosis of our students, labels with ingredients and pre-packed items are the only allowed snacks within Altoona School District. If a snack is for your child only, in their lunchbox or their snack time, this can be homemade.

AIS students will be engaging in the Forward Test for their grade-level the week of April 17th. This state exam is designed to gauge how well students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Students in 4th-grade will have an exam for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Students in 5th-grade will have an exam for only ELA and Math. While it is important to maintain healthy routines at all times of the year, now is a good time to review those routines with your child. Thank you for providing your child the structure and facilitating their routines of adequate sleep, healthy meals throughout the day, and plenty of opportunities to get outside and play!



The past few weeks, Mr. Zuiker and Mr. Rundquist have been personally affirming students for positive behavior and solid attendance throughout the school year. The thresholds we set for affirmation in these areas were one or less behavior write ups for the school year, and an attendance percentage of 90% or greater. It has been WONDERFUL to validate students for doing the right things.



While they may seem simple to a lot of our students, it's important that we never lose the skills of those fundamental 'studentship' qualities like positive behavior and attendance at school. **We are proud to report that, when we pulled this data in late February, 239 (86%) students met that threshold for attendance, 231 (83%) students met that threshold for positive behavior, and 270 (97%) students met at least one of those two important thresholds.** Thank you for the work you do as your child's primary role model to help support these 'fundamentals of studentship'!

Lastly, for the last four Mondays, Mr. Zuiker has been sharing brief Looms with teachers to show students in the classroom. Each Loom is relevant to a topic that is open for reflection and discussion within classrooms and we appreciate you being a great resource for discussion with your child as well. The topics that we've covered have been:

- **Tattling vs. Telling** (what the difference is)
- **Setting Times to Meet and Communicate Concerns** (instead of just on the spot, emotionally-driven)
- **Telling the Truth** (the difference between perception and what really happened in reality)
- **Average of the '5'** (you are the average of the 5 people you spend the most time with)

These brief Looms on Monday have been beneficial for our students to discuss and hear from their peers and teachers how they view each topic. It's great to connect real world experience for students with different perspectives of their teachers, classmates, and family. Thank you for being a constant source of discussion and reflection for your child!

Thank you for your partnership with AIS! Our school thrives when we have strong support from our families and community. I will always finish my insert portion of the newsletter with the same statement I read to students as I close the morning announcements:

We are so proud of you at AIS. We are here to help guide you through struggle and celebrate your wins with you. Every single one of you plays an important role at AIS, YOU ALL MATTER to our school community. Just in case someone didn't tell you they love you today, you matter, you belong, and you are LOVED at AIS! Have a FANTASTIC day everyone!

Best,

Cale Zuiker
Altoona Intermediate School Principal
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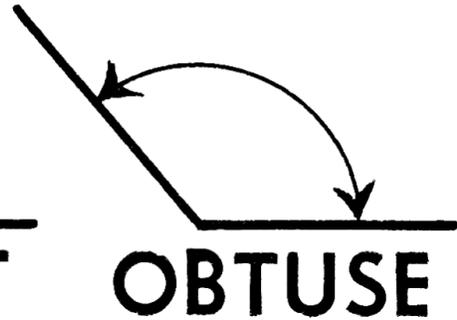
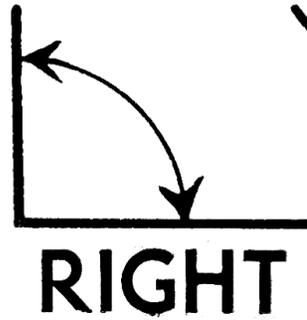
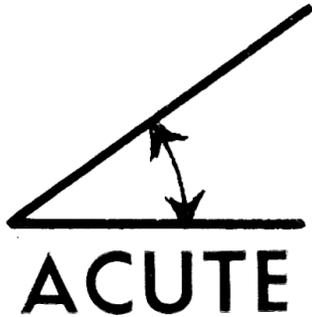
"It takes years to build a culture, and you will always be looking to improve it"



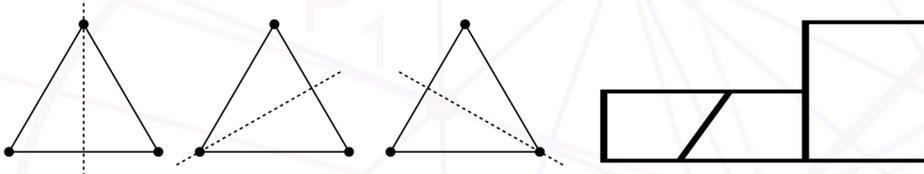
4th Grade Updates

Geometry and Measurement

By: Avery Kreiner



In math we have been learning about Geometry and Measurement. In module 1 we worked on measuring angles. We learned some benchmark angles like a 90 degree angle or a right angle, an acute angle that is an angle less than 90 degrees but more than 0 degrees and an obtuse angle is an angle that is more than 90 degrees but less than 180 degrees because 180 degrees is a straight angle. We listened to a book called "Sir Cumference and the Great Knight of Angleland". The book taught us about how to use a protractor to measure angles.

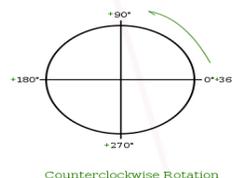
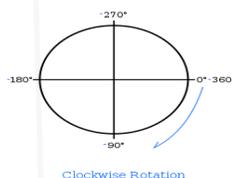


In module 2 it taught us about polygons and symmetry. We learned about parallel and perpendicular lines and how parallel lines never intersect and how perpendicular lines intersect at a right angle. We also learned about Lines of symmetry and line of symmetry is where if you were to fold the shape in half it would be the same on each side. We also learned some new games called polygon detectives, polygon riddles and polygon Bingo.

In module 3 we learned about area and perimeter. Area is where you multiply the length and the width to get your area and perimeter is where you add up all the sides. We also learned about the formulas for area and perimeter which length times width for area and length plus width plus length plus width. We also learned about hexagons you have to find the area in two different parts. The shape is two shapes combined to make a unique shape.

$$\text{PERIMETER} = L+W+L+W \quad \text{AREA} = L \times W$$

In module 4 we learned about making angles with our body so we would use our arms to make a straight angle, an obtuse angle, an acute angle, a zero angle and a right angle. We also learned about adding up angles we would start at the front of the room and turn that angle to see if you ended up looking at the front of the room or the back of the room or the front of the room



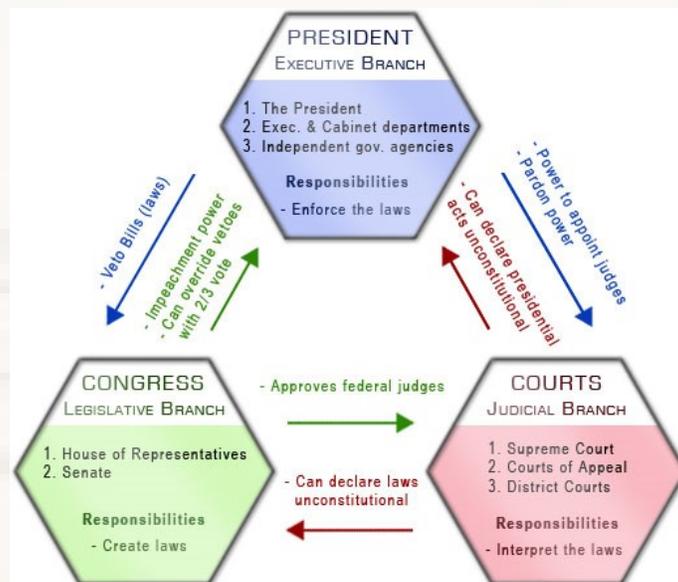
US Government

By Kenley Hanson and Piper Wolfe



During ELA we have been learning about the United States Government. First we learned how the Constitution was made. The Constitution is a law that gives us all of our rights. Second, the Bill of Rights. The bill of rights is a list of our rights, the right of speech, the religion, and the voting rights. Next, the 3 branches of government, Executive branch, Judicial

branch and Legislative branch. The Executive branch is the president, the Judicial branch is the judges, and the Legislative branch makes the laws. Then, we learned about voting rights and women rights, how black people couldn't vote and Women couldn't vote. Lastly, we used the RACE strategy to help us answer questions about the government. The R in RACE means to restate the question, the A in RACE means to answer all parts of the question, the C in RACE means to cite evidence from the text, and the E in RACE means to explain the evidence.



What have 5th Graders been up to?

5th Grade Field Trip: Valley Sports Academy by Reagan Z & Reagan L
Recently, on February 24, the 5th grade students of AIS went on a field trip to the Valley Sports Academy in Lake Hallie, otherwise known as VSA. There were lots of activities the students could engage in including soccer, football, dodgeball, and kickball. Students could also use the batting cages, and some of the students even did gymnastics! And it wasn't just the students who engaged in the activities, some of AIS's staff members enjoyed the fun too. 5th grade AIS students and staff also had lunch at VSA. Lots of fun and energy was spent at VSA, as students got to try different sports. VSA was an amazing experience that AIS will never forget.



ELA Update: by Lydia and Lorence

During ELA time 5th graders have been working on the topic of immigration. Immigration is where somebody travels to a different country to permanently live there. We have learned about how people had to travel to Ellis and Angel Island to legally pass through to America. The end goal for this unit is to be able to write a diary entry from an immigrant's point of view. Some interesting facts we've learned: If you were thought to be sick the doctors would mark you with a special chalk mark. An H meant heart disease and E meant eye disease. The doctors at Ellis Island used something called a button hook to check the patient's eye for trachoma. People from all over the world came to either Ellis Island or Angel Island to start a new life in America.



Science Update: by Hope and Ryder

In science 5th graders have been working on a unit called Chemical Magic. The mysteries have helped us find answers to questions such as, Are magic potions real? Could you transform something worthless into gold? What would happen if you drank a glass of acid? What do fireworks, silly putty, and rubber have in common? And why do some things explode? We have done experiments to see the reaction of what happens when dipping pennies in salt and vinegar. We mixed different substances (vinegar, milk, baking soda, baking powder, borax, glue, yogurt, pickle juice) to see if there was a chemical reaction and recorded our findings. We also found out that when you mix borax mixed with water, and mix it with glue, it makes a goo-like substance.

Valentines Party: by Emrey and Mason

For our Valentine's party we had a lot of fun and it was a good party. We did things like bingo, kahoot, word searches, and exchanged our Valentines. Lastly we had ice cream sundaes, we got to pick from the flavors of chocolate and vanilla. We also got to choose our toppings. Yummy!



Math Update: by Scottlynn, Adrianna, and Alex

We finished our 4th math unit which focused on multiplication and division. We learned many strategies for solving problems including partial products, ratio tables, doubling/halving and how to do the standard multiplication algorithm. We also played a lot of games such as Estimate and Check, the Product Game, and Multiplication Battle. We also did IXL lessons. We have only recently started unit 5. The thing we are working on in unit 5 is multiplying whole numbers by fractions. We also are just about finished with our February Number Corner. We did a collection called "Fill or Spill" and our calendar grid focused on identifying objects, measuring them, finding the