

# Raven Review for the Week of February 13

Dear Renaissance families,

Last week students worked hard to prepare for student-led conferences. “Though they are a bit outside of the norm of what most of us think of when we consider parent-teacher conferences, the benefits of student-led conferences are well worth exploring. It can be a little strange for parents and students to get used to at first, but in the end, it’s really about empowering your kids and giving voice to how much they appreciate their teachers – which is never not going to be a good thing! When you’re looking at the effect on the student leading a student-led conference, for example, it’s important to remember that your student is learning so much more than just content. They’re also learning the finer points of collaboration and working with others, public speaking, and how to prepare for a presentation. By taking on this role, they learn: To be an. . .

- effective team member through active listening and self-awareness of their own opinions and how they can work to balance them with others’ viewpoints.
- To be an effective presenter through observation of the audience and environment, planned organization of their thoughts into well-defined points, outreach to others for support or collaboration, and appropriate use of tools like visuals (pictures/charts) or stimulus (questions).
- That ideas are not set in stone; it is okay for their idea to evolve and grow when they hear what others have to say.
- How to take a leadership role, which can further help them develop compassion for others’ opinions and ideas because they understand the effort that goes into creating an argument. [Why Student-Led Conferences are the Future | Student-Centered World \(studentcenteredworld.com\)](http://studentcenteredworld.com)

This week, the Renaissance staff is looking forward to seeing all of our families in conferences. It is important to recognize that this experience can be empowering or intimidating for students and it is our hope, as the staff, that this is an engaging and rewarding experience for everyone. Also know there will be a short end of conference activity for you and your student to complete. This maybe completed before you leave the conference or when you get home and then send it back with your student. Hope this week is a positive one for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Martha Daman, Lead Teacher

## Teacher Corner: What we did last week.

### Week of February 6 – February 10 (Week 2 of Quarter 3)

Classes	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> grade math:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> grade math worked on integers and absolute value.	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade math:</b> <b>Last week:</b> : Students finished the unit about ratio and graphing proportional functions.  <b>This week:</b> Chapter 1 test. Also, we will be starting percents. We will learn to find the percent number and the estimation.	<b>8<sup>th</sup> grade Math:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> grade math worked on exponent operations.
<b>Science</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> graders</b> continued learning about thermal energy through a series of online simulations and in-class demonstrations.	<b>7<sup>th</sup> graders</b> continued learning about electromagnetism, observing magnet behavior through online simulations and using actual magnets and iron fillings.	<b>8<sup>th</sup> graders</b> continued learning about Newton’s Laws, using marbles and homemade ramps to observe the 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 3 <sup>rd</sup> laws at work this week.
<b>English Language Arts</b> <b>Social Studies</b>	<b>This week:</b> Students learned about Mesopotamia beginning with the Sumerians, learning about Babylon, the Code of Hammurabi, Phoenicians.  <b>Next week:</b> continue to work in Mesopotamia.	<b>This week:</b> Students finished the “Untold Stories” of the American Revolution and presented their project to the class or to the teacher. Also, we have started to learn what happened after the Revolution.  Next week: Discuss the Confederation to introduce the American Constitution.  <b>ELA:</b> Students started working in Amplify with Mysteries and Investigations. Students are learning about “Brain Science” with texts that show “True Stories” about the brain...	<b>Last week:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> graders have been focusing on completing their student-led conference materials. They have also been preparing for their Independent Book Project presentations which are happening <b>This Week:</b> Students will be presenting their independent book projects to the class. After mid-winter break we will be starting a new unit in English ad in Social Studies.
<b>Visual Arts</b>	This week in art students have started working on visual journals. It is a way to use their drawing skills to reinforce what they are learning in their other classes. I love what I’ve seen so far and I think this will be a very effective ongoing assignment!		

	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade: 8 <sup>th</sup> graders continue to work on their Unexpected Beauty project.	6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> grade finished up and presented their GIFs.
<b>Performing Arts</b>	Last week we spent some time during warm-ups playing different improv games which the students thoroughly enjoyed. The students also worked on their monologues for auditions and on their Practice Tech Projects if they are planning on being in tech for the play. Next week we will be doing our first cold read of the play as whole classes. A cold read is the first time the cast and crew read through the entire script together. We will do a couple of read throughs and then the following week actors will be learning their parts while Mrs. Daman works with the tech students.	
<b>Guild</b>	Last week we completed lesson 19 in Character Strong which focused on Values and Conflict. We did an activity called conflict confusion which had us as a class and individuals to think about conflicts and how those are connected to our values. The new character dare we got last week is, "Look for a conflict in a story you are reading or a show you are watching. Guess what values might be driving the way the people in the story handle conflict." We will be discussing this character dare on Tuesday, February 21 in class. Tuesday, February 21's lesson will be #20 focusing on Conflict Resolution. Students will also be completing a weekly skyward check assignment on Friday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> .	

### **Spirit Wear**

Thank you to Naomi Lundquist for organizing the Custom Ink order for spirit wear for our Renaissance community. You can find the links to order on our RSAR Community FaceBook group or below. The order will close at the end of February. Make sure to order some spirit wear so we can show our support for our school both at school and out in the community. Ordering will end on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

White Logo - shirts in a variety of colors with an all-white logo

*Use this link for families:* <https://tinyurl.com/rsar-whitelogo>

Color Logo - shirts are white, gray, and purple

*Use this link for families:* <https://tinyurl.com/rsar-colorlogo>

### **Communicating about Challenges, Concerns, or Questions**

We recognize that conflicts, challenges, concerns and questions will come up from time to time. It is important to remember first that we all come to this journey with the student's best interest at the core of the work. Every teacher at Renaissance is teaching at the middle school level, specifically at Renaissance because they are passionate about supporting students and families through this challenging time. With our intent clear, if questions arise about grades, student progress, something you are unsure about, please go directly to the teacher who teaches that subject. If the concern is more generalized, always feel free to go to your student's guild teacher. The guild teacher is the bridge between home and school so that we can develop a strong working team around supporting your student's success over the course of them being at Renaissance. The other thing to remember is that all of our teachers are working very hard to provide your student with the best possible education we can, so make sure your approach to expressing your concerns or questions take that into consideration. Equally we will always intend to assume positive intent on your behalf as the parents as well. Thank you very much for being thoughtful in all our communications with each other.

### **Writers in the Schools**

We are looking forward to having graphic novelist, David Lasky, at Renaissance starting on Tuesday, February 21. If you have not yet completed the permission form, please feel free to complete it using the link below. This provides permission for your student's work to be published in the annual anthology of student work that WITS produces.

**Here is the link to the permission forms**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLyMopW0b8mX3uJ\\_dfeQAr1IGWkcyHkuY\\_ASt9YPQjT2NPbw/v  
iewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLyMopW0b8mX3uJ_dfeQAr1IGWkcyHkuY_ASt9YPQjT2NPbw/viewform)

**Performing Arts Spring One-Act Play Auditions**

Play cast lists and tech crew lists including student directors and stage crews will be announced on Monday or Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Field Trips**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Rothwell will be taking the 6<sup>th</sup> graders on a field trip to Beaver Lake Park on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The field trip is hosted by Nature Vision, who will lead outdoor lessons in properties of water, water quality testing, the water filtration process, and organisms that inhabit natural bodies of water such as the lake. We hope this will be a fun and informative follow-up to the water unit the 6<sup>th</sup> graders covered earlier this year. Below are the nuts and bolts of the trip.

- **Schedule:** Students will arrive and depart from school at the normal times that day. We will depart school at 11:30 am via a school bus and arrive at Beaver Lake Park by 11:45 am. We will be at the park for just under two hours. We will depart the park at 1:30 pm and return to school by 1:45 pm. Students can be picked up at the normal time, 2:00 pm.
- **Things to Bring:** Students will need to **DRESS FOR COLD WEATHER** as they will be outside for just under two hours that day. Students also need to **BRING LUNCH** that day so they can eat before the trip. The cafeteria will not provide lunch for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders that day.
- **Adults Present:** Lessons will be led by Nature Vision instructors, and Ms. Rothwell and Mr. Standal will also be with students for the duration of the trip. Additionally, we will have at least three parent volunteers to chaperone the trip (likely more). Please let us know if you are willing to be a chaperone as soon as possible, as there are some steps to becoming an approved district volunteer.
- **Fees:** To cover the cost of the field trip, we are asking each family to pay a **\$10 field trip fee**. Please send cash (exact change) or check (payable to RSAR) with your student. Please have your student drop off the field trip fee in the morning.

Please reach out to Ms. Rothwell with any questions at [erothwell@lwsd.org](mailto:erothwell@lwsd.org).

**What is happening this week: February 13 – February 17 Quarter 3 Week 2**

**Monday, February 13 (Week 3)**

- Quiet lunch in Standal's room today.
- School gets out at 12:10 PM
- No clubs after school

**Tuesday, February 14**

- All-school assembly EHS drama students perform MacBeth 11:00 – 11:40.
- Quiet lunch in Mr. Standal's room

- No lunch meetings

Wednesday, February 15

- Regular Wednesday Schedule
- Quiet lunch in Mr. Standal's room
- No after school meetings

Thursday, February 16 No School Mid-Winter Break

Friday, February 17 No School Mid-Winter Break

Sunday, February 19 Mini Refresh of planters for all of you with a Green thumb @ RSAR from 10-12

Monday, February 20 No school Presidents' Day

**Important Dates in February**

**Student Led Conferences** – Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:10 PM to 5:10 PM and at 12:10 PM to 5:10 PM on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>; information will be coming for you to select your top three time slots for your conferences. If these times don't work, it will be possible to find another time that does either in-person or virtually.

**Mid-Winter Break and Presidents' Day vacation** – Thursday, February 16 – Monday, February 20

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Field Trip** – Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>

**Spirit Wear Order** – last day to order spirit wear is Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.