



GREENSPIRE FALL CONFERENCE GUIDE

Student-Led & Student-Focused

Thank you for attending The Greenspire School's fall conferences. Today's event is both student-led and student-focused. Using the information below, please ask your son or daughter to escort you around school to review the materials described in the related sections below.

We also encourage you to meet briefly with each of your child's teachers. Doing so will provide you with a good overview of your child's academic progress this school year.

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Literature: During the 1st quarter we studied social issues that affect communities. Students read realistic novels about young people and their struggles with some of these issues. After the novels were finished, students put together social media pages highlighting a community support group that the main character of the book would want to be part of, showing how to answer the question, "How can individuals help their community?"

Questions to ask about Literature:

- What social issues were dealt with in the novel you read?
- What would the main character do to help his/her community?
- Do we have reading material at home that you are interested in reading?

Components to view:

- Social Media Page
- Social Issue Acrostic
- Novels
- Reading Checks

Science: During the 1st quarter, students explored various aspects of modern communication technologies. Students began by investigating the behavior of light before studying how certain forms of light are used to send digital and analog signals. Students then had opportunities to explore some basic computer science principles of Internet security and how messages and images are coded.

Questions to ask about Science:

- What behaviors of light can you demonstrate or explain?
- How do we use light to send information?
- What made the digital signal more reliable than an analog signal in the slinky simulation?
- How does encryption keep your digital information secure?

Components to view:

- Notebooks
- Cost of Free Infographics (Google Drive or on display)
- Demonstrations on display
- Code.org Widgets: Ciphers, text compression, image coding

Social Studies: During 1st quarter, students studied the balance between security and freedom. We analyzed how effectively governments protect citizens and their rights. We started this process by learning about the types of governments. Students then researched and evaluated an assigned country's government. We ended the quarter by looking at the U.S. government's policies on Internet privacy and security.

Questions to ask about Social Studies:

- Which country did you study for the Cost of Free Project?
- How free was your country?
- What rights do citizens in the country you studied have?

Components to view:

- Forms of Government Foldable
- Country Research
- Infographics

English Language Arts: During 1st quarter, students spent a significant amount of time working within their Planner Section groups. Their work was collated by pod, and then the Greenspire Planner was put together by a team of student editors. Additionally, students worked on story ideas through brainstorming and journal writing in their notebooks. Last, students worked on building out their knowledge of comma usage.

Questions to ask about ELA:

- How do I stay organized?
- Where do good ideas come from?
- What story do I want to tell?

Components to view:

- Greenspire Planner (both their first drafts on Google Drive and the actual book)
- Narrative Stories (Google Drive)
- Notebooks (classwork)

Math: Students have been studying probability and creating board games to demonstrate their knowledge. They have also learned/reviewed adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions, as well as converting between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Questions to ask about Math:

- 6th Grade: How do you change a decimal into a percentage? How do you change a fraction into a decimal?
- 7th Grade: What is the probability of a simple event (e.g. coin toss, dice roll, spinner)? What is the probability of a compound event and how do you know when to add probabilities and when to multiply them?
- 8th Grade: What is the difference between permutation and combination? When would you use one vs. another?

Components to view:

- Please view your student's board game. The goal is for you to be able to play the game without any additional information needed from your student. There should be a "How to Play", "Rules" and game pieces with their game.

World Language: We started our year learning Spanish introductions and getting to know each other. As students enter the classroom they begin speaking in Spanish with greetings from Buenos Días or Buenas Tardes to extended conversations on their likes and dislikes: Me Gusta la pizza, no me gusta sushi. We celebrated Día de los Muertos with an in class celebration and this week we went to see the film “Book of Life” in Spanish with English subtitles. Their studies this quarter have culminated in a “Mi Vida” PowerPoint presentation where they have summed up family vocabulary, likes and dislikes and their interests to be presented to you today in Spanish!

Questions to ask about World Language:

- Students will get a computer and present their life story in Spanish through a Google slide show that they created.
- Document is called “Mi Vida” (My Life)
- Location: Maple Central

Health / Physical Education: In PE during the warmer fall months, students rotated through various throwing, catching, tossing, kicking, aiming, shooting, bouncing and fielding activities with various sports equipment through field station rotations. Students also engaged in a hike at least once a week. After students ran/walked 3 laps at the beginning of class, they stretched and did some lunges, squats and push ups. In Health, we focused on the Michigan Model Unit titled “Choosing Who I Am— Choosing Who I am Becoming”. Students discussed the core democratic values, 6 character traits of success, and essential/helpful communication skills.

Questions to ask about Health / PE:

- Identify six character traits of success that were studied in Health.
- Discuss some of your favorite activities in PE.
Are you prepared for the winter season outdoors?

Components to view:

- The posters/cards/visuals with slogans and quotes on the SW wall in Maple North.

Project-Based Learning 101: Interested in learning about the process of PBL and how students learned about it throughout the first project? Step into the pool and follow the self-guided PBL 101 Trail.