

# JANUARY NEWSLETTER

2026

## What We're Learning

### Reading/Language Arts

Students will strengthen their understanding of informational texts (non-fiction) by analyzing text and graphic features, identifying central ideas, synthesizing information using text evidence, and explaining how authors organize information. Students will use details from the text to answer questions, summarize key ideas, and explain how text structure supports meaning.

### Math

Happy New Year! This month, we begin our work on decimals. Students will discover decimals as parts of a whole when the whole is divided into 10 or 100. We will learn how decimals and fractions can represent the same value, compare decimal numbers using place value concepts, and measure objects to the nearest tenth of a centimeter to solve linear measurement problems.

### Science

#### Unit 2: Energy Resources

Raging Waters/Dams: To summarize their learning, students return to harnessing the power of water and consider the damming of the Colorado River with the Hoover Dam. They research the benefits and drawbacks of the dam and propose solutions to address the environmental harm human use of energy causes.

### Social Studies

Students will compare how geography influenced culture and economic development by:

- analyzing how geography impacted the development of the American colonies.
- comparing human, capital, and natural resources of colonial regions.
- analyzing how ports, slavery, and natural resources created a tobacco-based economy in Maryland.
- examining the impact of the interdependence created by the triangle trade in different regions in North America, Europe, and Africa.
- explaining how colonization resulted in conflict, loss of life, disruption of tradition, loss of lands, and resistance by American Indians.

### Health

This month, students will identify things that can hurt our bodies, how to use critical thinking skills to keep our bodies safe, and being in tune with our emotions

## Important Dates

- 1/19: Martin Luther King Jr Day  
- No School
- 1/26: End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
- 1/26: Grading and Reporting Day - 3hr-Early Dismissal for Students

## Strategies

### Key Reading Strategies

#### Ask Questions:

- Encourage students to question the text before, during, and after reading to build curiosity and engagement.

#### Make Connections:

- Link the text to personal experiences (text-to-self), other books (text-to-text), or the world (text-to-world).