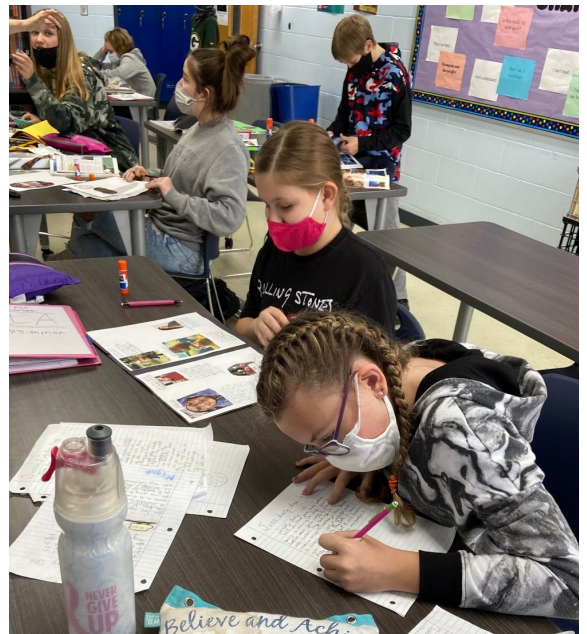


## October Highlights

### English Language Arts

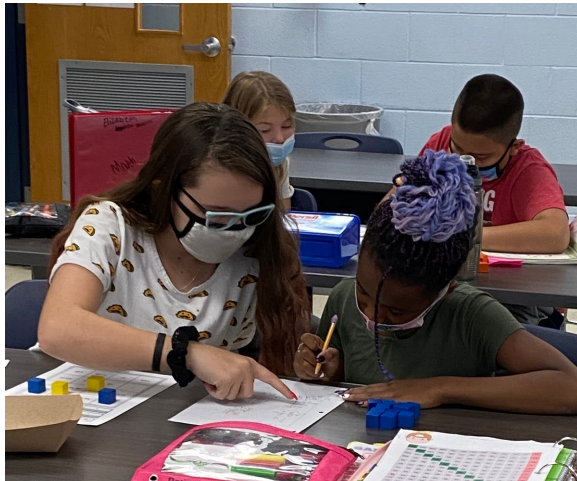
This month, 6th grade students read the novel Bridge to Terabithia. They focused on comprehension and story elements (characters, setting, plot development). As students answered comprehension questions, they focused on using question words in their answers, writing in complete sentences, and using proper conventions. Students grew invested in the novel and its characters. Taking on the perspective of a main character, students completed a project such as a scrapbook, diary, comic, or map. The theme of Bridge to Terabithia is loyalty of friends and family. Next month, students will independently read a similarly themed novel of their choice.





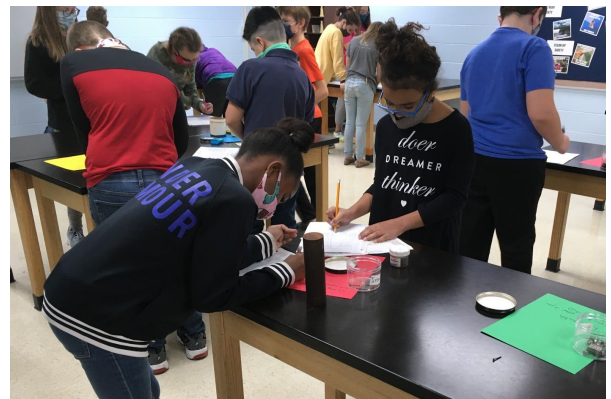
## Math

Continuing on in our geometry unit, students learned about all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. They practiced plotting reflections and finding the distance between points. Then they learned how to calculate the area of triangles and quadrilaterals. Up next is compound shapes.

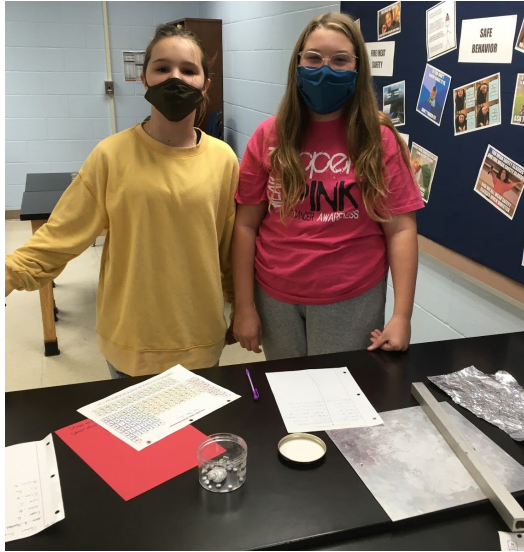


## Science

In Science class this month sixth graders have been learning about atoms and elements. They explored the periodic table, learning names and symbols for some of the elements, and learning how to use the numbers on the table to do atomic math and figure out the number of protons, neutrons and electrons in an atom of any element. They were drawing Bohr models and learning about how our model of the atom has changed over time. Element samples were on display for students to try to distinguish between metals and nonmetals.



Next up in science will be compounds and reactions.



As we discuss human migration, students will be encouraged to research their own family history and find out what brought our families to the Glenwood City area!



## Social Studies

The sixth grade spent the month of October studying maps and learning how to use them. Students did an excellent job and are now about to begin our "Prehistory" unit. We will be studying how nomadic humans hunted and gathered and how farming changed our lives.

## School Counseling

6th graders recently learned about a website called **Xello**. Students in grades 6-12 will be exposed to a variety of developmentally fitting academic and career planning activities throughout middle and high school. The overall goal of academic and career planning is to help students develop a connection as they grow up, to their future interests and careers someday. This is definitely a process that will change and get fine tuned as they learn more about themselves and their career interests over time. One of these activities is to spend some time on a website like Xello. 6th graders went through these four topic areas on that website: school subjects at work, interests, decision making, and time management. Ask them to show you the Xello website at home!



## **A Message from the Principal**

Now that your child has completed their first quarter of middle school, I hope that they have been able to get past a number of the challenges that go along with major life changes. While these changes have accompanied every sixth grader that has come before them, allowing our staff to be prepared to help your child deal with (and hopefully overcome) these challenges, your child has been part of a set of unique circumstances. In fact, I would like to say that your child has helped me overcome the challenges that have resulted from COVID-19; your child has helped to provide some sense of normal, and the energy and enthusiasm that go along with being a sixth grader continues to be apparent amidst all the chaos. Thank you for everything that you have done to help provide your daughter/son with reassurances through uncertain times; thank you for providing us an opportunity to work alongside your child and provide them an opportunity to grow and learn during uncertain times. Together, we can continue to build a strong foundation that will serve your child well as they navigate middle school and prepare for the challenges that will accompany high school.

Over the past month, our entire middle school has engaged in a respect challenge; while respect was the character trait that was highlighted in September, it continues to be focused on throughout the school year. Our challenge centered on having respect for our facilities and encouraged your

daughter/son to help us keep our restrooms neat and tidy - helping to minimize the time that our custodians need picking up after us. The challenge states that whichever gender had the cleanest restrooms for the past three weeks would win a pizza party. All the students have done an incredible job keeping the restrooms clean and the winner to this challenge will be announced in early November.

Did you know that you can submit an encouraging message for your sixth grader? Simply log onto the High/Middle School webpage and scroll down to find a section called the GCMS Kindness Wall; follow the directions found there and submit your statement. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Mr. Gretzlock.

## **Contact Information**

For ELA or Math, email Mrs. Minor ([emily.minor@gcsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:emily.minor@gcsd.k12.wi.us)).

For Science, email Mrs. Anderson ([ann.anderson@gcsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:ann.anderson@gcsd.k12.wi.us)).

For Social Studies, contact Mr. Score ([jake.score@gcsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:jake.score@gcsd.k12.wi.us)).

To connect with the middle school counselor, email Shelly Laffin ([shelly.laffin@gcsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:shelly.laffin@gcsd.k12.wi.us)).

To connect with the middle school principal, email Patrick Gretzlock ([patrick.gretzlock@gcsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:patrick.gretzlock@gcsd.k12.wi.us)).