



# SPARKNotes

Students Pursuing Advanced Reasoning & Knowledge

May 8, 2026

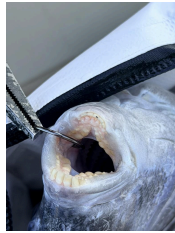
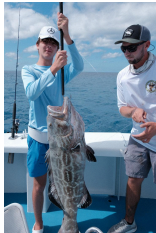
## From the Director

The Key Largo field trip was an educational and fun experience. I shared photos, videos, and information with our students that tied in perfectly with our Marine Biology Unit in Science.



Many of our students have snorkeled and seen marine animals during their travels. We also have avid saltwater fishermen. I have been giving students extra credit in science if they share photos and information with the class. Below, Tim has a 60-lb. Grouper. There is also a photo of a Sheepshead including humanlike teeth. Landon & William show what they caught off of the

Marco Island Beach.



## Calendar

May 27 - Presentations 1:00-2:30 p.m.

8th Grade Graduation 3:45 to 5:45 at Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar in Naples

May 28 - Academic Awards, yearbook, report card, Field Day Games in the afternoon

## Geometry

We studied rotations, symmetry, and dilations this week, which was a review so we moved through it quickly. We will continue with composition of reflection next week.

## Pre-algebra (Ms. Phyllis)

We studied factorization of quadratic expressions using the AC method, which is a technique to factor quadratic trinomials of the form  $ax^2 + bx + c$ . We progressed to finding the roots of quadratic equations.

## Pre-algebra (Mr. Nolan)

This week began a comprehensive study of quadratic equations. We took notes on what a quadratic equation is, the standard form, the shape of the graph, and how to factor these equations by hand and with a quadratic formula. Next week, we will put all of these skills together to find all of the zeros of a quadratic equation, and use the vertex formula to graph these equations without using a table.

## Math

Tying in with the students' Science Expo project, we discussed how to complete surveys of a sample in the best way possible and how to use that sample to predict data for a total population using proportions. A proper survey should be random and unbiased and should not attempt to influence the person being surveyed to answer in a specific way.

## Science



We studied four orders of marine mammals: Pinnipedia, Carnivora, Serenia, and Cetacea. We learned the difference between dolphins and porpoises and toothed and baleen whales and listened to recordings of whale echolocations. To demonstrate how fat can insulate mammals from cold, we recorded the temperature of their hand in a bowl of ice



water with and without a layer of lard. The hand in the lard was 30-degrees warmer!

## Language Arts

We continued with our grammar lessons on the parts of speech with a focus on prepositions, adverbs, and verb forms. I am seeing the need to continue these lessons next year.

## Social Studies

We wrapped up our study of Colonial American history. By focusing on the events leading up to the Revolutionary War, students learned how protests can turn into rebellions and then full scale wars. Wars can be boring to learn about when there is a lack of photos available, so I found a History Channel documentary breaking down the war into its major events so we watched various excerpts.