

# SPARKNotes

Students Pursuing Advanced Reasoning & Knowledge

March 20, 2026

## Calendar

April 7-9 Standardized Testing  
15 Vester Field Station field trip

## Lesson Summaries

### Geometry

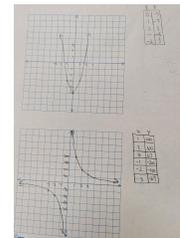
We continued with trigonometry: we finished sine and cosine ratios and went on to angles of elevation and depression which we completed. We started to work on Vectors. There has been so much progress in this chapter and the students have shown a lot of effort and understanding.

### Pre-algebra (Ms Phyllis)

We concluded on sequences and relating graphs to events, which we started before the break. We started functions, covered the rate of change, and reviewed slope and parallel and perpendicular lines. Now we are graphing linear functions; the students get to have more fun with it as homework.

### Pre-algebra (Mr. Nolan)

We spent the week reviewing all of Chapter 11 on functions, slope, and graphing. This is a very challenging unit, so I suggest your student study the lessons from the textbook in order to be prepared for the test Wednesday. On Thursday, we discussed non-linear equations such as quadratic equations.



### Math

We spent the week reviewing graphing and the coordinate plane. The students then derived equations from x/y tables. This was challenging for them but, by the end of the week, their confidence was boosted and they had greater success. We will have a test on this chapter on Wednesday, so please have your student study from the chapter review assignment as well as read through the previous lessons from Chapter 9.

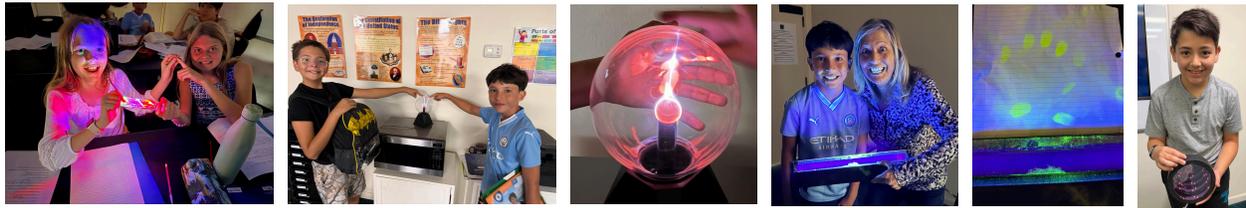
### Science Blue

We continued on the topic of energy and heat, as well as renewable and non renewable energy resources. The students will be tested on the content next Tuesday.

## Science Green

We revised the vocabulary on chemical changes and took a test on Thursday. We started reading the next lesson on carbon compounds, which the students will continue reading this weekend for homework.

Both science groups explored open and closed circuits using an energy stick and learned the science behind touch lamps and Tesla coils. We also learned that materials with phosphors will light up under a black light - white shirts which are often washed in detergent with phosphors and even teeth. Scientists use the science of black lighting to detect blood and saliva and fingerprints (which the students tested out below). We enjoyed viewing the students' expo projects such as Thomas' infinity mirror.



## Language Arts Blue

The students worked on their poems to submit to the Florida Writers Association Collections book. This year's theme is on Fragments. To be honest, some of their poems made me cry. We have such a talented group of writers this year! The students also started working on their Science Expo Final Report.

## Language Arts Green

Every year, I spend some time going over fundamental skills to make sure nothing is missed. This year, I discovered many students needed work on handwriting, phonics, alphabetization, parts of speech, and writing complete sentences. Nolan pointed out that this group of students were in kindergarten and first grade during COVID and may have missed out on practicing some of these important skills. I discovered that some students were even living in different countries. In one week, I saw great improvement so it was worth the time to do the review.

## Social Studies

We began our Early American History Unit by discussing various Native American tribes, their customs, and the history of the indigenous peoples of the United States. To make it more engaging, each student created a European explorer who will be journaling about a tribe from the U.S. state they studied. They will note the tribe's location, allies and enemies, customs, religion, and other aspects of their culture. In preparation for their state presentation next week, we spent a few class periods working on their Google Slides. They are coming along nicely, and I'm excited to share a few of the finished projects with you next week. I spent more time with the younger students on how to cite sources and format slides since this is the first time many of them are learning these skills.