



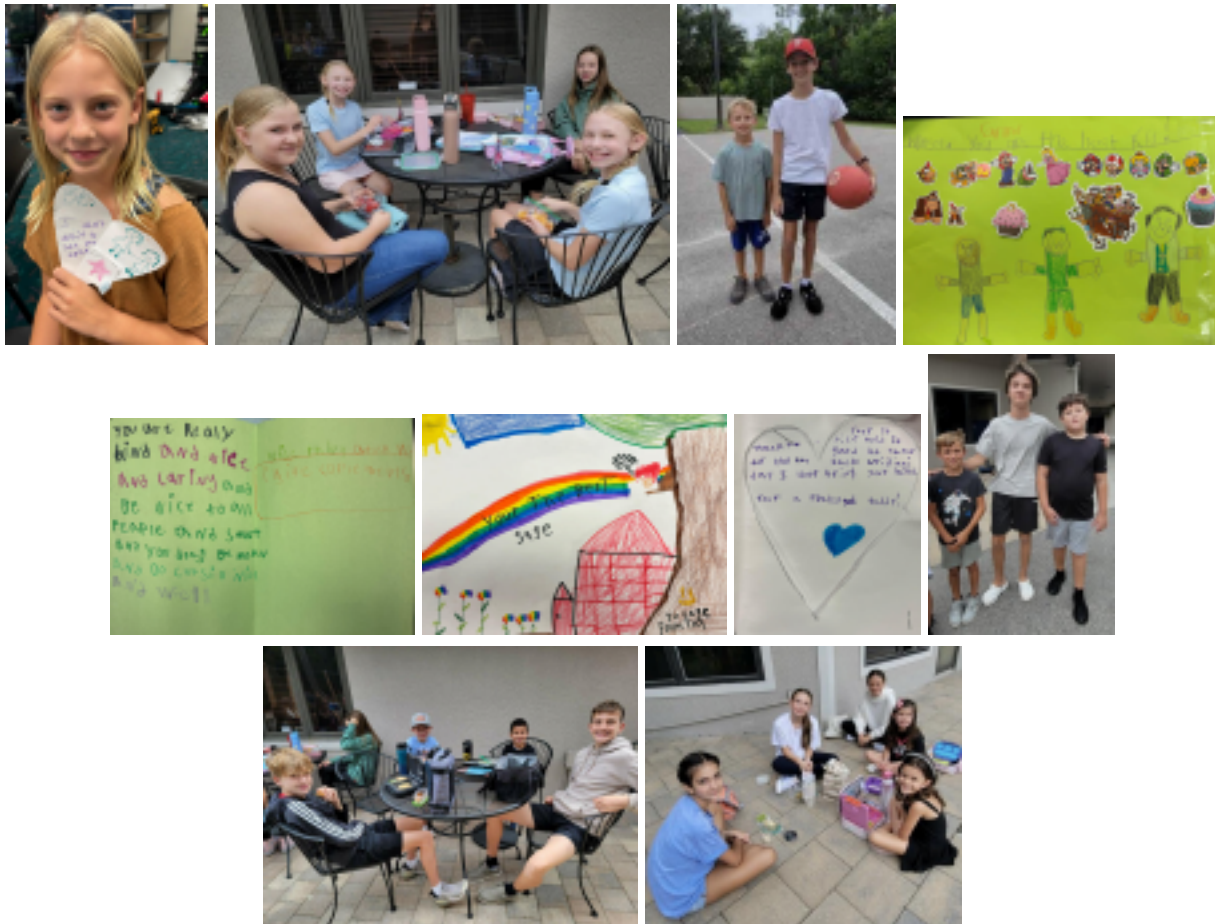
# SPARKNotes

Students Pursuing Advanced Reasoning & Knowledge

September 27, 2024

## From the Director

Our first Buddy Day was a get-to-know-you activity. Buddies got to learn each other's names, favorite subjects and hobbies, and their family background. At the end of the day, the Sparkles students gave their buddies homemade cards.



## Calendar

October

- 1 - Yearbook Committee Meeting 3-4pm
- 2 - Fishing Club 12-12:30pm; Online Game Club 3-4pm
- 3 - Student Council 12-12:40pm; Pilates Club 3-4pm

## Lesson Summaries

## Geometry

In geometry class, we worked on proofs using the Congruent Complements Theorem, as well as brain teasers using algebra and unknown angles. We also reviewed vocabulary and concepts from Module 1 as students will be taking their first unit test on Tuesday, 10/1!



Our new Geometry class is going really well! On Wednesday, we celebrated Ms. Sophia's summer birthday and many of the students honored her for being such a good teacher. They said she is so kind and smart and can explain difficult math concepts in a way they can understand.

## Algebra

We worked with advanced exponent and square root concepts this week. Most of these concepts will not be on their test, but the goal was to expose the students to problems that we will be covering more in depth when we get to graphing and equations. We will have our first unit test next Thursday, and then move into fractions, decimals, and percents (the algebra version).

## Math

This week was a very important introduction to exponents. For most students, this is their first time learning about exponents, so it took a few lessons before I felt confident in their understanding. The most common mistake for students is multiplying the base by the exponent:  $3^2 = 6$ . The correct answer is  $3^2 = 3 \times 3 = 9$ . Check your student's assignments to make sure they are doing this correctly. We will have our first unit test Thursday - the topics are posted on Classroom.

## Science

The students did much better on their second quiz in Science on DNA and Genetics. They know better what to expect and how to study for a quiz. This week we covered topics such as natural selection, Darwin's survival of the fittest, mutations, and genetic disorders. We had some very interesting discussions on the pros and cons of genetic engineering. They learned about prenatal genetic testing and experiments with transplanting a pig's kidney's and a pig's heart into a human. We found out you can now even clone your pet!

<https://www.viagenpets.com/dog-cloning/#>. I told them about the field of genetic ethics, which is the study of the moral and political implications of genetic discoveries and technology. Just because we *can* do something, does not necessarily mean we *should*. We need to consider the long-term effects on human health, society, and the environment.

## Language Arts Blue

We finished with the first half of the book *The Lightning Thief*. Students learned terms such as The Hero's Journey, archetype, quest, oracle, and fate. We learned 50 new vocabulary words which they will be tested on next week. In addition, we read about the Greek mythological characters that are interwoven throughout the story.

## **Social Studies**

To ensure a basic understanding of Mesopotamian history, we spent this week covering the major empires and civilizations that ruled in the region over the many centuries; Sumerians, Babylonians, Phoenicians, Israelites, Assyrians, Persians, and the latter Greek and Roman invaders. We then discussed some of the oldest law systems recorded in human history. Many students were shocked to find the extreme nature of Hammurabi's Code, as well as the very religious nature of the Mitzvot, or the Jewish laws written in the Hebrew Bible. We will be diving into some of the ancient narratives next week, observing the importance of having more than one perspective or one primary source when it comes to history, as there are always two sides to every conflict.