Dear Foster Families,

As the darkness and cold set in, we are toasty and bright here at Foster! We have wonderful learning happening each day and with each class I observe I find many things to celebrate. It is hard to believe that just four years ago the Jeffco Board of Education voted for Foster to become Foster Dual Language PK-8, establishing our school as the only Dual Language school in the district and adding a middle school. We have come a long way in those four years, even with construction and an international pandemic. Our students are more bilingual and biliterate than ever before. I am so proud of what we have accomplished together!

Coming up this month we begin choice enrollment for students. We will be having tours for families new to Foster from 9:30-10:30 on November 15th, December 1st, December 14th, and January 11th. We will also have an Open House for Middle School students and families on December 7th from 5:30-6:30p and would love any student moving to Middle School next year to attend to see our amazing teachers and environment. We will have shadow days for future Middle School students on December 11th and 12th (two different days - students will shadow only one day) All current Foster 5th graders will have a shadow day.

It is extremely important that parents choice-enroll any future Foster students who are not currently enrolled at Foster during the 1st round of choice enrollment. We will have very limited spots for students and if you miss the 1st round, you are very likely to not have a spot next year. If your student is currently enrolled in Foster as a 4 year old-7th grade, they will roll up to the next grade at Foster. Current 8th grade parents will want to visit the many high school opportunities in Jeffco. If you do not pick a High School through choice enrollment, your child will roll to Arvada High School. First round of choice enrollment for K-8 will be December 5th - January 12th!
Our planning day on November 13th was incredibly successful. Teachers had time to work on our new Math curriculum Illustrative Math. Our Math learning specialist Marci Hellman spent part of the morning going through professional development and answering questions. We also spent time leaning into the aspects of a positive learning community and doing some reading together. The teachers used the afternoon for planning, grading, and collaborating. Time well spent!

Our 5th grade band and orchestra concert and Arvada Vocal concert were well attended and the students did a great job. Way to go Ms. Katie, Ms. Brells, and Mr. Reading! Hope to see you all at our amazing Winter Festival December 14th! This is a wonderful event and a great time to come together as a community. The event will run from 5:30-7:00 in the Foster Gym and cafeteria.

In Peace, Leigh

Foster School Accountability Committee
Please join us for our next School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting of the school year. The SAC meets several times a year to discuss our school Unified Improvement Plan, school performance framework, budget, staffing, and student achievement. Our next meeting will be on February 15th at 2:30 in the Conference room. Please join us!
Hello,

As we move into the last few weeks of the first semester, I continue to learn about students by name, strength, and need and work with families to build on our positive school culture through building school-home relationships and restorative practices.

A part of restorative practices is working with grade levels to problem-solve and build community. This month we worked with both 4th and 5th grade classrooms to develop community and inclusion through restorative circles. Students had the opportunity to be decision-makers and make commitments to an inclusive and positive grade-level culture.

The Proactive Behavior Safety Team continues to revise our school-wide behavior expectations from the Staff Handbook to create more succinct expectations to support our school goal of safety and belonging. The team meets once per month before school and includes our mental health staff and teachers of different grade levels.

State assessments will begin with ACCESS for English Language Learners from January 8th – February 9th. Here is a flyer to further explain the state assessment!

Have a wonderful December!
Dear Preschool Families,

It's hard to believe that we will soon finish 2023. Our study topic - about the past, present and future has been very nice because it allowed our students to share about when they were babies and all the skills they have now. They have also shared out loud what they want to be in the future. It has been a pleasure to listen to our student’s presentations and see their photographs. Thank you very much for all your support while we learned about our learning topic. The presentations allowed students to practice speaking in front of the class. They did a fantastic job and each of our little ones learned a lot.

Reading

Read alouds have focused on retelling and understanding the sequence of events in a story. Plus, we’ve talked about our favorite part of the story and our favorite characters.

Math

In math, our students have been working on measurement; Students have been using different units of measurement such as pens, blocks, thread, unifix cubes, pencils, etc. This has been a great experience for students to learn about mathematics in their everyday lives.

We want to end this newsletter by thanking each and every one of you for all the support you have given us throughout this year.

Happy Holidays!
November has been a very busy and short month. We will continue with our Science unit but this time we are focusing on solar energy and how the sun helps plants. This portion of this unit will be done in English with Ms. Annika.

In literacy, we have finished our first two weeks of our new module “Happy, Healthy Me”. In this module, children learn the essentials of healthy living, like eating well, exercising, and practicing good hygiene. They also see that being “my healthiest me” is a blast: It is playing basketball, it is swinging on the monkey bars, it’s eating a rainbow of foods. And after fun, active days, it’s a good night’s sleep.

Reading will be in English with Ms. Annika and writing with Ms. Alma in Spanish. We have also been learning active listening strategies, such as taking turns in conversation, avoiding interruptions to the speaker and paying attention. Thank you for your support as we continue to learn about school and classroom behavior expectations.

In math, we are learning to count to 20 and organizational strategies to make sure each item is counted only once. We are also getting an introduction to addition and subtraction as we learned that a quantity can be changed by adding more to it or by taking some away from it. Math is in Spanish with Ms. Alma.
Hey 1st Grade Grownups!
Thank you again for all your support and thank you to all who went with us to the Zoo, it was amazing!
First graders are working really hard in all of the units.
We have finished Module 3 for literacy and started working on Module 4 before Thanksgiving break.
Students are writing in Spanish with Ms. Rosa and reading in English with Miss Brie. At the end of Module 4 we will send home Into Reading My Book 2 and math workbook in Spanish.
In math, we are still working on representing and solving problems involving addition and subtraction within 20.
In science, we will continue with our External Features Animal Unit until winter break.

Just a reminder that students need to wear jackets to be able to go outside, they will not be able to go outside if they forget their jackets at home. Also, please make sure your students bring their charged chromebooks every day. We encourage your students to read at home, explore their chromebooks, and practice counting to 120.

Enjoy Winter Break!
November was a great month with students! We are seeing wonderful growth, your support at home is evident in students’ reading skills. KEEP IT UP! Also, please keep working with students on telling time and counting by 2, 5 and 10 to 100. We will start the month with students working on reading and social studies in English and writing and math in Spanish.

**Literacy**

We will be finishing up our unit “Once upon a time” and beginning our unit, “Lead the Way”. In our current unit, students are analyzing ways that we can learn from characters in stories. Students are focusing on story structure, creating mental images when they read and identifying plot elements. In writing, students are working on creating an imaginative story in Spanish! This is a hard working group and they love to write! We are excited to see what they come up with!

**Math**

We are continuing in Unit 4 where students are using number lines to add and subtract within 100. When we begin unit 5, students will use place value (ones, tens and hundreds) to add and subtract within 1,000. Please continue to work with your students on addition and subtraction fluency within 20 and skip counting. Also, at home counting coins and money can be a fun way for students to practice adding and subtracting. Coin and money are a great way to practice life skills with your child!

**Social Studies**

In social studies we will be focusing on how/why communities change over time and how do we know? Students will understand that all communities change over time due to the influence of various people, events and developments. As young historians, students will gather evidence of change from primary and secondary sources.

**Fun to come:**

On Monday the 4th students will be visited by the Arvada Fire Department! Students will have the opportunity to tour a fire truck, see and touch firefighting gear and learn about safety! This students will love this visit!

With love
Hello Third Grade Dual families,

It is so hard to believe that the year 2023 is coming to an end! It has been so amazing working with you and your children this first half of the school year. We are looking forward to seeing more growth in our students academically and emotionally. We hope that during this winter break students continue to read daily and work on practicing their math skills through MAP Accelerator. Coming back from break, we will begin Access testing our native Spanish speaking students. More information on when testing will take place will be shared with you soon. Before break, students will take the middle of the year assessment for MAPS, Dibels and Lectura.

Here is what we are learning in class with Ms. Paola:

**Writing:** Over the next three weeks, our class will develop knowledge about plays, with a focus on genre dramatic. We will read texts and watch videos about the characteristics of plays, both classic and contemporary. Students will also write a story that can be represented as a play.

**Math:** Students learn about and use the relationship between multiplication and division, place value understanding, and the properties of operations to multiply and divide whole numbers within 100. They also represent and solve two-step word problems using the four operations.

**SLD:** Students will focus on their Spanish fluency and phonemic awareness. They will also review and practice the vocabulary from Arriba la lectura. The students are also focusing on the right pronunciation of Spanish words and phrases.

Here is what we are learning in class with Ms. Mari:

**Reading:** In Module 4 of Into Reading, Stories on Stage, students will understand that some stories are better told as plays. In this module, students will read various plays and dramas. Students will be able to summarize the main idea of the story, identify and discuss the elements of drama, identify and discuss the theme, and analyze the plot. Students will continue to develop their vocabulary using the module’s weekly selected vocabulary words. We will continue to build their foundational skills by identifying digraphs, diphthongs and vowel teams in words.

**Science:** What regulates weather and climate? How do natural hazards affect individuals and societies? These are our focus questions for unit 2 in science. In this unit, students will understand that weather is the minute-by-minute to day-by-day variation of the atmosphere’s condition on a local scale. Scientists record the patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. Climate describes the ranges of an area’s typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years to centuries. Students will also understand that a variety of hazards result from natural processes (e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, severe weather, floods, coastal erosion). Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts.

**ELD:** In English Language Development (ELD), we are building our listening, speaking and comprehension skills in English. We are using this time to reteach and deepen their knowledge of the module’s vocabulary, generative vocabulary (prefixes and suffixes), grammar, and foundational skills.

**Reminders:**

- Library checkouts are on Fridays, so please return books by Thursday.
- Please bring a healthy snack for your child or donate a healthy snack for 48 students.
- Students MUST come to school with their chromebooks fully charged each day. We have had several students come to school with Chromebooks not charged.

Ms. Paola and Ms. Mari
Welcome to December,

We had a blast watching Harry Potter and Sorcerer’s Stone in the theaters and we appreciate all your help bundling up the kids for the snowy walk. A special thanks goes to our volunteers who braved walking across Wadsworth to get to the movies.

In Reading, we are reading a variety of texts that present them with examples of what makes someone a hero in English.

In Writing we are writing about a person who has made a difference in our life in Spanish, as well as working on those transition words.

In Math we finished up our unit on equivalent fractions. We learned how to find a common denominator, how to add/subtract fractions, and use a line plot in English. In Spanish, we started our next unit on reading, writing and comparing numbers in decimal notation. They also extend place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers and add and subtract within 1,000,000.

In Science, we finished our unit on Earth Systems. We are currently learning about renewable and non-renewable energy, circuits and electricity. We hope you all enjoyed your Xcel Energy box.

Spelling Bee: The English Spelling Bee for our 4th grade classroom will be on December 1st. The top 4 students will be going to our school spelling bee for 4th-8th grade students. The school Spelling Bee will be in January.

Don’t forget to check to see if your students have headphones as some of them have lost them or they broke. MAP testing is coming up so please let us know if your students will be out so we can be sure to help them do Makeup testing.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR DECEMBER

- December 1st: English Spelling Bee in the classroom.
- December 5th: Math MAP test at 12:10
- December 7th: MAP English Reading test at 12:10 and Middle School Open House from 5:30-6:30
- December 8th: FLEX Assessment Day (only certain kids need to come in...check your class dojo to see if you are one of them)
- December 12th: In class Field Trip with the Molly Brown Museum
- December 13th: Spanish Reading MAP test at 12:10
- December 14th: Winter Festival
- December 20th- January 5th Winter Break
**Reading Wild West**
Students will learn about what it takes to explore the West through fiction and nonfiction stories. We will wrap up this unit by visiting Four Mile Historic Park—Denver’s oldest standing house built in the 1800s. We will see if we have what it takes out on the farm, making our own butter and tending to the animals for a day.

**Writing Informational Letter Writing**
Students will write a letter in Spanish to a museum or historical society in order to acquire new information about the Wild West and what it was like to travel west back then.

**Math Multiplication and Division of Multi-Digit Whole Numbers**
Students will multiply multi-digit whole numbers using different strategies. Students will also divide whole numbers up to four-digits by two digit divisors.

**Social Studies**
Students will learn about trading and bartering, and goods and services during Colonial America and learn ways in which trade influenced early America. At the end of the unit, students will participate in a Colonial Market project. Leading up to the market day, students will create a good or service to trade or barter during a market simulation.

**Important Reminders**
- Band and Orchestra
  - Monday 1:50 Woodwinds, Violins, Violas
  - Wednesday 1:50 Brass, Percussion, Cellos, Basses
  - Thursday 10:20 Everyone
- Students brought home a practice log. Students are to be practicing at home. This also means that they should return their instrument on band and orchestra days.
The middle school students did an amazing job on their narrative stories! I was very impressed with their creativity and writing skills! If you haven’t read your child’s story, ask to read it, you’ll be impressed!

We are working on our third unit of the year, Elements and Ideas in Nonfiction. In this unit, students will practice citing strong, persuasive, and specific textual evidence to determine the central idea of a text and analyze its development. Students will determine specific claims in a text and evaluate the reasoning and evidence. In 7th grade, this is expanded to determining two or more central ideas. In 8th grade, students will go even further by analyzing the development of the central ideas through the use of patterns, ideas, and outliers.

Students will be taking their middle of the year MAP Assessment in English Reading on Friday, December 1st and Monday, December 4th. Each student met with me to discuss their scores in the fall and to set a goal for this assessment. I will be sharing their progress with you before winter break.
6th Grade: Unit 3, Self-Awareness & Self-Care, students will learn about the development and maturing process of young people from childhood to adolescence to adulthood from different cultures and regions in order to better understand their own changing dynamics and needs.

7th Grade: In unit 3, Our Surroundings/Community students will focus on how people participate in various types of communities as individual citizens and as members of a group. Through an examination of newspapers and magazines, students will identify the critical attributes of a feature article and explore how facts and opinions may appear in different sections of periodicals. In text study, students will examine main ideas and supporting details, as well as how authors communicate their purpose and point of view in feature articles and other sections of periodicals.

8th Grade: In unit 2, Latino Leaders and Leadership, students will learn about leadership and how Latin(x) leaders affect their communities. Students will examine the goals, purposes, methods and messages of a wide variety of leaders to see how they addressed the needs of their communities around the world. Through an examination of articles, biographies and autobiographies, students will explore the challenges these leaders faced, their point of view, and how they accomplished their goals. Throughout this text study, students will simultaneously identify how the writers of biographies identified themes and patterns to help them select which events to highlight in the story of a leader’s life.
6th Grade:
We have been working on ecosystems with their intraspecific and interspecific relationships. Students will recognize the interactions in ecosystems and the importance of caring for the environment for the stability of all living beings.

7th grade:
We are learning about the human body systems and the care we must take to maintain adequate health and avoid diseases. We are recognizing some common diseases that are caused by a lack of adequate nutrition.

8th grade:
We will be learning about the properties of light and sound, demonstrating Newton’s theories on light and how sound can manifest with different intensity.
6th Grade: Human Environment Interactions and Geographic Connections continued...
We will be learning how the world is interconnected through our environment and the way we engage with it. We will look at climate change and how it affects different people around the world, as well as the different perspectives held around the world. We will also look at solutions and how different countries work together to try and mitigate some of these issues. Our final project will be creating a hypothetical environmental club for our school to address one of these issues.

7th Grade: Governments and Economic Systems
We will be learning about the different forms of government and how they function. We will also be going over the four main economic systems that exist and how they each work to make decisions for the production of goods and services. We will end the unit by creating our own Business.

8th Grade: The Early Republic
We are now looking at the years following the Constitution and the various changes that followed. We will look at the expansion of the nation through the Louisiana Purchase and Mexican American War, as well as the causes and effects of Manifest Destiny.
Esteemed families,

I want to let you know that we will begin our second cycle of MAP testing in the second week of December for all three grade levels. Also, please find below the latest updates in math class in all three grade levels:

**6th: Dividing Fractions**
In this unit, students compute quotients of fractions. They solve problems involving lengths and areas of figures with fractional side lengths and extend the formula for the volume of a right rectangular prism to prisms with fractional edge lengths and use it to solve problems. They use tape diagrams, equations, and expressions to represent situations involving partitive or quotitive interpretations of division with fractions. Given a multiplication or division equation or expression with fractions, they describe a situation that it could represent. They use tape diagrams and equations in reasoning about situations that involve multiplication and division of fractions.

**7th: Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities**
In this unit, students use tape diagrams together with equations to represent situations with one unknown quantity. They learn algebraic methods for solving equations. Students solve linear inequalities in one variable and represent their solutions on the number line. They understand and use the terms “less than or equal to” and “greater than or equal to,” and the corresponding symbols. They generate expressions that are equivalent to a given numerical or linear expression. Students formulate and solve linear equations and inequalities that represent real-world situations.

**8th: Linear Equations and Linear Systems**
In this unit, students write and solve linear equations in one variable. These include equations in which the variable occurs on both sides of the equal sign, and equations with no solutions, exactly one solution, and infinitely many solutions. They learn that any one such equation is false, true for one value of the variable, or true for all values of the variable. They interpret solutions in the contexts from which the equations arose. Students write and solve systems of linear equations in two variables and interpret the solutions in the contexts from which the equations arose. They learn what is meant by a solution for a system of equations, namely that a solution of the system is a solution for each equation in the system. Students use the understanding that each pair of values that make an equation true are coordinates of a point on the graph of the equation and conversely that the coordinates of each point on the graph of an equation make the equation true.
Computer Science with Ms. Carla

Our second quarter computer science elective will provide students opportunities to learn about and interact with various robots. Students will cover three areas during the course: features of robots, familiarization with robots and software, and robotics projects. We will use various digital platforms to explore coding of robots and apply that coding in projects and activities. Sphero RVR+ and Edison Robots will be incorporated into lessons and experiences. We are also partnering with Jefferson County Public Libraries to bring additional opportunities to students.
Empty Bowls!
3–8 grades have been working diligently on creating bowls for Empty Bowls. The bowls look amazing! Thanks to Ms. Natalie for working on the throwing wheel.

Kindergarten students continue to learn to look for art in their lives and then transfer that memory into a drawing.

1st grade has been working on creating visual stories.

2nd grade has been using non-traditional art materials to create new and original works of art.
Hello Foster families! We have some exciting activities planned for the month of December. Please read on for more information!

Students in kindergarten and first grade are celebrating the festivities in the month of December by learning, singing, and playing instruments to classic holiday songs. Second grade students are learning about The Nutcracker, a ballet by Tchaikovsky commonly performed in December.

Students in third grade are learning about instrument families with Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev. 4th grade students are playing “Jingle Bells” on their recorders and practicing manuscript writing. Students in 5th grade are combining their new ukulele playing skills with their new music technology skills by recording themselves playing and singing using the Digital Audio Workstation, SoundTrap.

Our middle school choir elective enjoyed an incredible day-long workshop followed by a concert at the Arvada Vocal Music Festival in November. We’re so proud of them! We still have two more performances coming up in December: Empty Bowls at Arvada High School on 11/30 and the middle school Choir, Orchestra, and Band concert on Tuesday, 12/5 at Arvada High School. I hope to see you at both events!
In physical education, we are working on problem solving and sportsmanship.

In *Kindergarten to second grade*, they are being introduced to a variety of equipment and learning how to use it all responsibly.

In *third grade to fifth grade*, they are being introduced to a wide variety of activities, always rooting themselves in establishing healthy social and physical routines.

In *middle school*, the recreation sports elective is learning how to play a slew of non-competitive games while refining throwing and catching skills.
Middle School Band:
Our concert is rapidly approaching on December 5th! We are very excited to showcase what our Middle School band students have been working on. Students are to report to Arvada High School at 5:15PM to the auditorium. Students are to wear a White Shirt, Black Pants, Black Shoes, and Black Socks. The concert will begin at 6pm and the students will perform 2 songs in each ensemble. Make sure that your student can attend as this concert is mandatory for all Middle School Band Students.

Be on the lookout for practice logs! As part of band, students are expected to practice 1 hour a week and fill out a practice log that will detail what they have tried to get better at! If your student has run out of practice material, please let Mr. Reading know so he can assign more difficult music.

5th Grade:
What a great performance before Thanksgiving Break! The students did a fantastic job in their first performance of the year! We will start tackling harder material, new notes, new rhythms, and learn how to get better on our instruments as we begin to prepare for our February concert that is combined with the Middle and High School Band students. Thank you for supporting 5th Grade Band!

Middle School Orchestra:
Our concert is coming up next month on December 5th. The students have been working hard getting their music ready to perform. They have gotten to the point in their music where they know all the notes and rhythms and now we get to work on making it more musical. We have been working on dynamics (volume that you play) as well as balance (one instrument plays louder when they have the main part and everyone plays softer) in order to make the music more expressive.

The concert will be at 6pm at Arvada High School in the Auditorium. When you arrive please enter on the South side of the building which is on W 65th Avenue. The front doors will not be open. Students need to arrive by 5:15pm wearing a white shirt, black pants, black shoes, and black socks. Concerts are a required part of orchestra and it is a part of their grade. It is a time to show what the students have learned. If your student is unable to attend the concert email Mrs. Brells at least 48 hours before the concert.

Be on the lookout for practice logs coming home! Practicing is a key part of getting better at our instruments and the short amount of time we have in class just isn't enough time to get where we need to be! Students should be practicing at least 60 minutes a week with any more time becoming extra credit. Practice logs need to be signed to be counted as properly turned in! They will be due every week on Mondays.

5th grade:
The first concert of the year is in the books! The students worked very hard and sounded great at the concert! Looking ahead we will be working towards our next concert on February 29th. If you have not received the November orchestra newsletter reach out to Mrs. Brells at kristen.brells@jeffco.k12.co.us to make sure you get added for the next month. Students can submit any belt testing video that they are working on at home at tinyurl.com/orchestrabelts
**Battle of the Books!**

Battle of the Books is a voluntary reading incentive reading program for fifth through eighth grade students. Participants read selected books of different genres in teams and then participate in a school level battle, answering questions related to the texts read. Fifth graders will read ten books as a team (October to February); middle school teams read eight titles (November to April). The school battle determines which six students will qualify to participate in district battles. Engaging our voracious readers with quality texts is our goal.

“COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK IS AN ANNUAL CALL TO ACTION TO INSPIRE K-12 STUDENTS TO LEARN COMPUTER SCIENCE, ADVOCATE FOR EQUITY, AND CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARTNERS TO THE FIELD.” (from CSEdWeek)

At Foster, students will have the opportunity to explore computer science during the month of December. Jefferson County Public Library will support this effort by offering student sessions providing activities to code robotics. In addition, classroom teachers and school staff will extend additional learning options throughout the week and month focusing on computational and algorithmic thinking (sequencing, problem solving, troubleshooting, systematic and logical thinking, etc.). There are many resources available online for kids who want to code at home. [Here are many more to try!](#)

**Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) 2nd grade**

Second grade students completed the Cognitive Abilities Test as a part of district-wide assessment expectations in October. Results were sent to families November 17. If you have questions related to this assessment, please check with your child’s teacher or Ms. Carla in the library.

**Library Books**

Please continue to encourage students to return library books on time. If a book is lost or damaged, students can talk with Ms. Carla or Ms. Paola. We can help them look for books, repair books or work toward payment of lost titles.
Warm Greetings Foster Families!

**A few updates from the health room:**

- Your student must be up to date and in compliance with their immunizations to attend school!

- Immunization letters have been sent out for students that are not up to date on immunizations. Please check in with your student if they received a letter.  
  *Reach out with any questions!*

- Please read this [SHOTS FOR TOTS & TEENS](#) flyer. This resource will benefit families without insurance or families that currently have Medicaid.

**ILLNESSES:**

Families, please continue keeping your child home when they are sick. Remember, students who have a fever and/or are vomiting **MUST** be kept home. They may return when they are fever and vomit free for 24 hours **WITHOUT MEDICATION.**

With the holidays around the corner, we want to keep everyone as healthy and safe as possible!

Thank you all and have a wonderful winter break!
Hello Foster Community,

I hope that this update finds you all doing well. In September, I wrote about Dibels 8 and Lectura, which are the literacy assessments and progress monitoring tools. In October, I wrote about Illustrative Math, this is the new resource for math. In this newsletter, I am going to write about MAP Assessments.

So, what is MAP and why do we give MAP? Map stands for Measures of Academic Progress. We give students MAP tests to see the individual student’s growth and achievement. We can use the data to determine the instructional level for our students in the classroom. MAP assessments are given to our students three times per year. These tests are given in the fall, winter, and spring. Our winter window is from 12/1-12/19, so you should be hearing from your student’s teachers for a specific time and date the assessments will take place. If you do not, please feel free to reach out to ask. Your child will take the tests on a computer. The assessments are for English Reading, Spanish Reading and Math. Kinder only has to take MAP for math, but all of the other grades 1-8 will take all three assessments. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt based on your student’s responses to questions.

If you would like to read and watch videos (In English-Blue Slide/Spanish-Green Slide) for more specific information, please click on this link:

Or follow this QR Code:

We are excited to see the individual growth and achievement of your students.

All the best,
Hello wonderful Foster families! I hope November offers lots of rest and tranquility to your lives!

Below, you can find helpful resources and tips to utilize at your convenience! HAPPY NOVEMBER!

IDEAS TO HELP YOUR STUDENT’S HOME-LEARNING PROVIDED BY THE PARENT INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

K-2
1. Select a spot in your home to display your child’s best schoolwork. Change the display often.
2. A nutritious breakfast helps kids learn. Be sure your child starts the day with a healthy breakfast at home or at school.
3. Ask your child, “Who is the nicest person you know?”
4. Help your elementary schooler set a learning goal. Write down the steps your child will take to reach it. Post it in a visible spot.

3-5
• Review FOSTER SCHOOL RULES with your child. Say that you expect your child to follow them.
• Watch the news together. Help your child use a world map to locate one place that was mentioned.
• Write your student’s name vertically. Have your child use each letter to begin a line of a poem.

6-8
• Make an appointment to spend time with your child this month. Write it on your calendar!
• A planning calendar can help your child stay organized this school year. Get or make one together.
• Have each family member write a funny sentence. Put them together to make a story.

Did you enjoy these ideas? HERE ARE MORE!
Kindergarten is currently working on identifying the first sound that they hear in words. We are also looking for words that share that same beginning sound and grouping those words together. We are continuing to look for rhyming words by having the students come up with words that rhyme on their own, rather than looking for a target word in an existing group.

First grade is currently working on identifying the vowel sound that is heard in a given word. We are then deciding whether the vowel sound being made is short, or long. We are also learning about digraphs. We have already learned about the digraph /sh/, and will next be looking at the digraph /th/.

Second grade is currently working on multi-syllabic words. While we look at these words, we are identifying digraphs, trigraphs, and sound blends in these words. Identifying these features helps to build automaticity and sight recognition while reading.

Third grade is currently being introduced to the concept of the schwa sound. This is when vowels are flexed to make a different sound than the sound that they should make. We will learn how to identify when this sound is present in words, and how to properly flex it to make the correct pronunciation.
Connect your child or teen to virtual mental health support

With Hazel Health, your child can get the mental health support they need, at no cost to you.

Virtual sessions with licensed therapists

1. **Sign up**
   - Give permission for your child or teen to see a Hazel therapist

2. **Therapy referral**
   - Either you or a school staff member refers your child to therapy by contacting Hazel

3. **First therapy session**
   - Hazel matches your child with a therapist and schedules an appointment

4. **Weekly therapy sessions**
   - Over video, the therapist helps your child cope with what they’re feeling

5. **Therapy completion**
   - Your child has achieved their therapy goals and is discharged from the therapy program

6. **Care coordination**
   - If needed, Hazel helps connect your family with long-term mental health services in your community

During weekly therapy sessions, Hazel Health therapists help students understand and cope with what they’re feeling.

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Grief/loss
- Self-esteem
- Change
- Academic stress
- Bullying
- and more

Learn more and consent for services [hazel.co/get-hazel](hazel.co/get-hazel)

Request a therapy appointment for your child by calling Hazel Health at 1-800-76-HAZEL (42935)

Services differ by district and school. To see what services your district offers, visit hazel.co/get-hazel.
On Saturday November 11th, eight teams competed in the Project Prepare 2023 Foster VEX IQ Robotics Tournament. We are so proud of all our engineers. We look forward to the district competitions starting in December.

Go Foster!