

# NEWS WITH NICHOLS

English Language Arts

May 2020

## *Suggested Online Learning Activities:*

\* may change due to weather or class progress\*

| Day                    | Monday<br>5/18     | Tuesday<br>5/19    | Wednesday<br>5/20  | Thursday<br>5/21   | Friday<br>5/22  |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|---|
| Daily Reading Activity | Read 20-30 minutes | Read 20-30 minutes | Check email, Teams, or my web page for this week's lesson on Organizational Patterns. Watch the video and practice on Quizizz.com using your class code. | Read 20-30 minutes<br>Office Hours for Mrs. Nichols 12-1:30pm; video chat on Teams | Read 20-30 minutes<br>Book Talk <i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i> posted on YouTube channel<br><i>NewsWithNichols</i> |

### ***Mrs. Nichols' Lesson:***

*Posted Every Wednesday Morning;  
Book Talk Posted on YouTube  
Every Friday Afternoon*

### ***Mrs. Nichols' Office Hours:***

*Thursdays, 12-2 pm  
Video Meeting on Teams-  
1st Pd: 12-12:20 pm  
2nd Pd: 12:20-12:40pm  
3rd Pd: 12:50-1:10  
5th Pd: 1:10-1:30*

### **Extension Activities:**

Taking time to READ each day is the most important way to build a love for reading while improving vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Take some time to write in a journal. Additionally, **OPTIONAL**, ungraded activities and access to Study Island, Readworks, and IXL will be made available for your student until the end of the school year. I have provided extra optional activities for this week's lesson on Author's Organizational Patterns. Please remember that it is optional. I do not want to stress out parents or students!

### *Week at a Glance:*

This week's lesson is geared towards Author's Organizational Patterns, or Text Structures. Remember, text structures refers to how a text is built, or structured. If we can figure out how the text is structured, then it actually is a lot easier to find the Main Idea of a text. Last week, we focused on the first few organizational patterns: chronological, sequential, and description. This week, we will focus on problem and solution, compare and contrast, cause and effect, and generalization. Students, you will either watch the video or navigate through the Power Point, then answer the questions on Quizizz. Your class Quizizz codes can be found on the Suggested Learning Activities Document and in the Posts on Teams. I also found a way to add the codes to the video, so they are posted there, too!

There are optional extra activities as well. There is a Readworks.org article that I have already made available to students in their Readworks class. Additionally, there is a pdf article on Alcatraz. Then, a Word document to check for understanding. I would LOVE it if students would at least read the article before they watch my book talk video on Friday. That will give students some background knowledge and hopefully, pique their interest!

Next Monday is Memorial Day. Please enjoy that time of togetherness with your family and take a moment to remember those men and women who have lost their lives while serving for our country.

### ***Internet Links:***

[Study Island](#) [Quizizz](#) [MMS Weblinks](#)  
[Free Rice](#) [Flipgrid](#) [Office 365- Email, Word, Etc.](#)

### *YouTube Channel:*

[NewsWithNichols](#)  
Book Talk Friday 5/22

# Upcoming Events

# May 2020

**\*Subject to change due to weather, government announcements, or class progress\***

| Sun                              | Mon   | Tue | Wed  | Thu                               | Fri   | Sat |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 3                                | 4<br>Interest Writing Club Meeting 3pm- Persuasion hook and Thesis                    | 5   | 6<br>Wednesday ELA Lesson emailed and Posted in Teams- Main Idea                   | 7<br>Nichols Office Hours 12-2pm  | 8<br>Book Talk: First Chapter Friday "Liberty"                                      | 9   |
| 10<br><b>Happy Mother's Day!</b> | 11<br>Interest Writing Club Meeting 3pm- Persuasion Supporting details and conclusion | 12  | 13<br>Wednesday ELA Lesson emailed and Posted in Teams- Organizational Patterns #1 | 14<br>Nichols Office Hours 12-2pm | 15  | 16  |
| 17                               | 18<br>Interest Writing Club Meeting 3pm- Conclusion                                   | 19  | 20<br>Wednesday ELA Lesson emailed and Posted in Teams- Organizational Patterns #2 | 21<br>Nichols Office Hours 12-2pm | 22<br>Book Talk: First Chapter Friday; Interest writing club persuasion paper "due" | 23  |
| 24                               | 25<br>Memorial Day- No school!  | 26  | 27<br>Wednesday ELA Lesson emailed and Posted in Teams- Summarization              | 28<br>Nichols Office Hours 12-2pm | 29<br>Book Talk: First Chapter Friday   | 30  |
| 31                               | 1<br>Interest Writing Club Meeting 3pm- Debates intro and topics picked!              | 2   | 3<br>Wednesday ELA Lesson emailed and Posted in Teams- Affixes                     | 4<br>Nichols Office Hours 12-2pm  | 5<br>Book Talk: First Chapter Friday  | 6   |

## Tentative ELA Review Lesson Schedule:

- Week 3 (April 14) Context Clues
- Week 4 (April 20) Figurative Language
- Week 5 (April 27) Narrative elements
- Week 6 (May 4) Main Idea
- Week 7 (May 11) Organizational Patterns #1
- Week 8 (May 18) Organizational Patterns #2
- Week 9 (May 25) Summarization
- Week 10 (June 1) Affixes
- Week 11 (June 8) Goodbye to our 6th Grade Year

### **Extra Practice Activities- Organizational Patterns:**

Looking for more optional learning at your own pace? Login to Readworks, read the article "What a Dump!" and answer the questions. Still want more more? Read the article on Alcatraz and answer the questions on the Word document. Feel free to send your work to Mrs. Nichols for feedback!



**The optional and interest -based only** writing group continued to answer the prompt, "Should students be able to grade their teachers?" Students were able to expand their thesis statement with supporting details. We reviewed how to make an awesome concluding paragraph, bringing in the excitement that we felt while writing the hook at the very beginning of our essay. Remember, the conclusion should have the same fire and gusto as your hook to really persuade your reader. The supporting paragraph essay is due this Friday if students want feedback by May 27, with the whole essay due June 1. Debates start June 1!!!

## Message from Marsteller's Librarians:

Dear Bulldogs,

Dear Bulldogs,

Are any of you as excited as I am to read *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*? It's the prequel to *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and it will be available to read on Tuesday, May 19!

Please check out the MMS library website to watch some new 2020 book trailers. Also, stop back on Friday for a book talk featuring another Virginia Readers' Choice book.

I hope you enjoyed the "Trivia from Around the World Part 1" questions that I posted last Monday and Friday's book talk featuring *Breakout* by Kate Messner.

Take care and read, read, read!

Sincerely,

Ms. Gillespie

## Pick Me Up Pages

**Ban this Book by Alan Gratz-** An inspiring tale of a fourth-grader who fights back when her favorite book is banned from the school library--by starting her own illegal locker library!

**Death by Toilet Paper - Donna Gephart-** Fans of *How to Survive Middle School* will welcome the adventures of a contest-crazed seventh grader who uses his wits and way with words in hopes of winning a big cash prize to help his family avoid eviction.

**Fuzzy by Tom Angleberger-** When Max—Maxine Zealster—befriends her new robot classmate Fuzzy, part of Vanguard One Middle School's new Robot Integration Program, she helps him learn everything he needs to know about surviving middle school —the good, the bad, and the really, really, ugly.

**Ghost by Jason Reynolds (series) -** Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and meld with the track team, or will his past finally catch up to him?

**Middle School, the Worst Years of My Life by James Patterson-** It's Rafe Khatchadorian's first day at Hills Village Middle School, and it's shaping up to be the worst year ever. With his best friend Leonardo the Silent awarding him points, Rafe tries to break every rule in his school's oppressive Code of Conduct. Chewing gum in class--5,000 points! Running in the hallway--Pre-K0,000 points! Pulling the fire alarm--50,000 points!

**Midsummer's Mayhem by Rajani LaRocca** - Can Mimi undo the mayhem caused by her baking in this contemporary-fantasy retelling of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

**My Life as a Potato by Arianne Costner**- For anyone who has ever felt like a potato in middle school, this hilarious story about a boy forced to become the dorkiest school mascot ever will have readers cheering!

**My Seventh Grade Life in Tights by Brooks Benjamin**- All Dillon wants is to be a real dancer. And if he wins a summer scholarship at Dance-Splasion, he's on his way. The problem? His dad wants him to play football.

**New Kid by Jerry Craft**- Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

**Pie in the Sky by Remy Lai** - Told in prose and graphic novel elements, this middle-grade novel is about a boy's immigration experience, his annoying little brother, and their cake-baking hijinks!

**Restart by Gordon Korman** - From the #1 bestselling author of *Swindle and Slacker*, *Restart* is the spectacular story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start.

**Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson**- Astrid has always done everything with her best friend Nicole. So when Astrid signs up for roller derby camp, she assumes Nicole will too. But Nicole signs up for dance camp instead, and so begins the toughest summer of Astrid's life. But then she learns how to be a tough roller girl.

**Slider by Pete Hautman** - Competitive eating vies with family expectations in a funny, heartfelt novel for middle-grade readers by National Book Award winner Pete Hautman.

**Space Case by Stuart Gibbs (series)**- It's a murder mystery on the moon in this humorous and suspenseful space adventure from the author of *Belly Up* and *Spy School* .

**The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl- Stacy McAnulty** -Lucy Callahan was struck by lightning. She doesn't remember it, but it changed her life forever. The zap gave her genius-level math skills, and ever since, Lucy has been homeschooled. Now, at 12 years old, she's technically ready for college. She just has to pass 1 more test — middle school!