

# Lowell Elementary/Middle School Highlights

## 2018-2019 Semester One

Happy New Year!

As we embark upon a new year, we continue to provide an enriching and interactive education for our students. We look forward to establishing a strong parent and school partnership working together for the success of every child. To empower our students, we have implemented several new programs. These programs are designed with a focus on critical thinking, collaboration and communication. Media literacy skills are focused on how to use technology effectively and appropriately. Life skills focus on flexibility, leadership and initiative. 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills provide the framework for our students to compete in the “Information Age”.

### *S.T.E.A.M.:*

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math are integral components in teaching our students how to think critically and creatively. We have incorporated *STEAM* activities in grades three through eight. Students engage in *STEAM* activities every Friday afternoon and during specific *STEAM* periods throughout the school week. During *STEAM* activities, students work on hands on activities which utilize multiple modalities. Students are provided opportunities to think about current issues, solve problems creatively, work in teams, and communicate clearly. Students learn to be flexible, to take the initiative and lead when necessary, and to produce something new and useful. *STEAM* activities also provide teachers with assessments that allow for greater flexibility, personalization, and greater accuracy in determining what students understand and can accomplish through in-depth hands-on experiences.

### *Robotics:*

Students are learning the many complex areas of computers and robotics. Students in grades three through eight receive robotics instruction once a week and as an earned privilege on Fridays. Robotics provides Mr. Flores, our computer teacher, with an opportunity to teach science and math using a fun and engaging approach. Students are also taught exciting ways to understand complex technology. Students use Sphero Connect SPRK+ to the Sphero Edu app on their iPads to learn how to code, by drawing paths, using Scratch blocks, or writing their own JavaScript text programs.

### *3-D Printing:*

Working on 3-D projects helps to build confidence and inspires students to think big. It enables students to learn visually which improves their understanding of functionality by being able to see and touch their ideas. Using this prototyping technology, students are taught to produce realistic 3 dimensional mini-models based on their creative ideas. 3-D printing provides opportunities for students to experiment with their ideas and to persevere when their prototype requires adjustments.

### *Microbric:*

The Edison robot is a powerful, engaging tool for teaching kids *STEAM*, computational thinking and computer programming in a hands-on way. Edison robots are modular and easily expandable

using LEGO bricks or an EdCreate creator's kit. Students learn creative problem-solving skills through interactive engineering and programming projects. Students in grades 3-8 had the opportunity to use the Microbric robots during *STEAM* classes.

### *Reading Horizons*

Reading Horizons is an Orton-Gillingham based reading program. All students receive reading instruction three times a week in the classroom using a whole group, small group and individualized approach. Placement test administered at the beginning of the school year help determine a student's reading deficits to accurately determine their placement in the program. During Reading Horizons lessons, students learn decoding, comprehension and fluency skills, through an explicit, systematic and multi-sensory approach. The online Reading Horizons program also enables our students to practice their reading skills, online at home, and provides multiple opportunities for reading practice.

### *Holiday Show*

Thank you to all of the families and friends who attended our holiday show on a rainy day! Thank you to the staff and students who made the show a success! Thank you to all of the parent volunteers for devoting their time to assist with the Holiday boutique. It was a success because of you! Students in the lower grades decorated gingerbread houses after the holiday show. It was a fun and interactive activity designed to establish a positive home- school connection.

### *Special Musical Presentation*

A special thanks to Mrs. Nawrocki for providing an interactive and fun educational experience for our students. Mrs. Nawrocki provided each of the classes with a remarkable 45-minute harp presentation. She played a variety of musical and students also learned about the components of the harp. Following the musical presentation, students had the opportunity to engage in a question and answer period. The presentation was well received and greatly appreciated.

### *Annual Food Drive*

The Annual Food Drive was a huge success! The students and staff collected and donated non-perishable food items to The Food Bank for New York City. The Food Bank for New York City is a not-for-profit organization and the city's largest hunger-relief organization. The students learned about giving back to those less fortunate than themselves.

### *Annual Toy Drive*

The students and staff collected and donated \$800.00 worth of toys to The Ronald McDonald House. Mr. Murphy and members of the student Government traveled by school van to personally deliver the toys to the children at The Ronald McDonald House. It was an enlightening experience for all involved!

**2019**  
**The Lowell Elementary/Middle School**  
**Dates to Remember**

**JANUARY 2019**

1/02/19: School Session Resumes  
  
1/18/19: 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period Ends  
1/21/19: Martin Luther King Birthday: School Closed  
1/22/19: 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Begins  
\* School Choice Week Begins

**FEBRUARY 2019**

2/01/19: Diversity Day  
\*National Wear Red Day  
2/05/19: Lunar New Year: School Closed  
2/14/19: Friendship Dance  
2/18 – 2/22/19: School Closed: President's Week

**MARCH 2019**

3/01/19: Read Across America Day  
3/05/19: Staff development Day  
\* school closed for students  
3/12/19: Parent Teacher Conferences  
3/28/19: School Play 7 p.m.

**APRIL 2019**

4/02- 4/9: ELA State Testing  
4/12/19: 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Ends  
4/15/19: 4<sup>th</sup> Marking Period Begins  
4/17/19: Career Day 10 a.m.  
4/19 - 4/26/19: Spring Break: School Closed  
4/29/19: School Session Resumes

**May 2019**

5/01 – 5-8: Math State Testing  
5/17/19: Parent & Student Appreciation Day  
10 a.m.  
5/20/19: Science Fair  
5/22/19: State Science Performance Testing  
5/28 – 5/30: State Science Performance Testing  
5/27/19: Memorial Day School Closed

**JUNE 2019**

6/04/19: School Closed: Eid al-Fitr  
6/5 & 6/7: State Science Written Testing  
6/06/19: Staff Development Day  
\*School closed for students  
6/12/19: Senior Trip  
6/14/19: Variety Show 10 a.m.  
6/20/19: Awards Ceremony 10 a.m.  
6/21/19: 4<sup>th</sup> Marking period ends  
6/24/19: Field Day  
6/27/19: Graduation: \*Last day of school