

Graham High School
Principal's Report
October 2015

Please share information about your class so that we may publicize the great things happening at Graham High School. Please include all pertinent information. - Thank you! JGordy

INNOVATIONS: What have you done differently?

- Astronomy
 - 95% paperless in Astronomy, all Astronomy assignments and video files of lectures and class activities on G Classroom, & learning to score my own lessons on HEAT - Astronomy
- Physics
 - We explored Projectile motion & Newton's laws with Cat-a-Pults. The cat is a foam one and they discovered how mass, force and acceleration are related. For projectile motion, they discovered how angle of launch affects the motion.
- I have started using POGILs in my AP Chem and AP Bio classes. These are student-centered, guided inquiry lessons that bring about a deeper understanding of some difficult course topics.
- Algebra I - We are starting to work assignments using Desmos and getting immediate feedback with concepts learned.
- This year students are using Google Classroom to obtain and turn in assignments for chemistry class. I also use the Google Classroom for sharing info with the kids and passing on announcements from admin. and other teachers.
- Life Skills - We have implemented more technology....with the help/knowledge from our peers, we have been able to use technology in teaching more often. Also, we had a large TV donated to our classroom. Our peers helped us set this up where we can get educational and fun programs. It has been awesome!!
- I have used google slides for a few assignments and have found it to be successful. I have a group collaborate to create a presentation on google slides. In addition to sharing the document with each other, I have them share it with me. As they build their powerpoint, I observe (through google drive) and make comments and suggestions. It has been successful because a) they know i'm watching, and b) I can individualize instruction much more effectively.

- Trying out Test Analysis Sheets - idea taken from the book *Grading Smarter, Not Harder* by Myron Dueck. Students calculate their percentage success on each section of a test. Students are then offered the opportunity to retake those sections of the test for which they did not display mastery. Students are asked to complete a form explaining what additional or different study tactics they will use to prepare for the retest. Eventually.... I would like to have previous quizzes in sync with the unit test. Students who show mastery on a section of the unit test could gain extra points onto their previous quiz over the same section. It is problematic, though, when quizzes and subsequent tests do not always fall within the same grading period.
-

CAMPUS NEWS: What is going on in your class/club?

- DECA students have been competing in an online competition. The competition consists of different business simulations. We have a sports and entertainment team that is currently ranked #3 in the state of Texas, and we have two retailing teams that are currently ranked #3 and #6 in the state of Texas. Students have the ability to qualify for international competition through this online simulation.
- Key Club held the annual Amazing Pumpkin Race at Crestview the week. We had over 50 Key Clubbers participate in teaching trick or treat safety to our young students in 1st - 3rd.
- GHS Student Council hosted a Family Fall Festival with free games and candy. Many student organizations assisted by creating booths. GHS students ran all booths and provided a fun-filled family night for the community. Participating groups include: Student Council, Key Club, Interact, Cheer, Bella Blues, Debate, Art, and others
- The Fishing team competed in their second tournament for the year at Eagle Mountain Lake. Rob Lucas set a lake record for spotted bass and he and Luke Stone finished 40th out of 150 teams. Their next tournament is in February.
- Astronomy has completed multimedia projects on the movements of the Sun, Earth, and Moon. We have also researched and devised methods for indirectly measuring the cosmos, including finding the speed of sound through experimentation.
- We (Spanish) just recently celebrated “Día de los Muertos” (Day Of The Dead). This is a Latin American festival honoring loved ones who are

deceased. Students enjoyed researching and designing projects relating to the occasion.

- Algebra I students are learning all about linear functions and parameters that can change the look of the graph.
- Our class has been adopted by a GISd supporter and will be having a full-filled Halloween Party. She is so good to utilize fine motor skills and gross motor skills while enjoying Halloween activities. It is a great time! Also, our class attended the Homecoming Dance. It was a blast!!
- AP European History completed an activity where they sculpted bars of ivory soap. It was a fun assignment that gave them more appreciation for some of the artists we studied in the Renaissance.
- AP Government created new political parties. In addition to providing information about the party and why they would compete against the Republicans/Democrats in national elections, they had to create a short political ad for a fictitious candidate from their party.
- Spanish Club
 - Spanish Club members are currently volunteering in the community ESL class for adults that is taught in the Graham Learning Center. These students help those trying to learn English by working one-on-one to improve speaking skills.
 - Spanish Club is also collecting supplies to donate at the end of the school year to Adopt a Troop. Items will be mailed to troops from Young County at the end of the school year.
 - Spanish Club will also provide snacks to teachers and staff here at the high school on Friday, Oct 31st. This will be in recognition of Día de los Muertos.
 - AP Spanish IV completed Día de los Muertos ceiling tile projects along with an oral presentation.
 - Spanish III PAP will present handmade masks in honor of Día de los Muertos on Thursday, 10-29; the projects will be displayed in the Spanish hallway.
- The AP Statistics students designed and conducted an experiment to investigate the effects of response bias in surveys. The students chose the topics for their survey and carried out the survey. Students were required to present an analysis of the data collected with graphical and numerical evidence to support their conclusions.
- In English I, we are introducing Shakespeare and *Romeo and Juliet*. We recently finished a PBL on surviving a real-life challenge after reading the short story "The Most Dangerous Game." In debate class, we are preparing

for the district congress tournament on Thursday, November 10th. In ESL, we did Halloween Idioms and looked at scary legends from Mexico.

- Students in Principles of Architecture and Construction Systems are currently working on our OSHA Certification. The goal is to have the students certified before the Christmas break. We also have several projects in the works in the shop
- Anatomy & Physiology
 - Created google classroom projects to reinforce Histology and the identification, function, and location of the different human tissues.
 - Worked in a practicum lab setting for the purpose of learning the bones of the human skull.
- Biology
 - Conducted Biomolecules lab to determine what biomolecules are found in common foods consumed.
 - Conducted an Enzyme rate of activity lab to determine how different factors affect enzymes reactivity.

●

STUDENT HONORS:

- Boys golf team finished in 1st place at Champions Circle on 10/15. They shot a 336. Coby Byrant finished 1st individually, shooting a 78.
- Ashley Choate won the Coyote Classic at Canyon West on 10/27 with an 83.
- On October 3rd, Libby and Lainey Choate placed 6th at the Debate tournament in Princeton.
- Ponder Band Festival-5th place overall. Golden Triangle Festival-missed finals by two bands competing against 5A and 6A bands.

●

FIELD TRIPS:

- Key Club held the annual Amazing Pumpkin Race at Crestview the week. We had over 50 Key Clubbers participate in teaching trick or treat safety to our young students in 1st - 3rd.
- Several students attended a transition fair to Midwestern State University to learn opportunities available to them after high school. They also toured the Vernon College Skills center in Wichita Falls to learn different trades they may learn as well.
- We made a field trip out to Ms. Mitchell's house last month. We were able to take a hayride and experience many of the outdoors. We discussed

different aspects of having a ranch. We dined on hotdogs and hamburgers in a picnic style. We learned what a geyser was--fun was had by all!!

- Coach Tommy Grace will be coming to our classroom on November 2nd to discuss and explain VETERAN'S DAY. Coach Grace has a unique relationship with my students; therefore, I felt they would benefit from listening to first hand experiences from him.
-

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- After researching careers as a civil engineer and urban planner, Geometry students worked in teams to conceive the plan for a new themed town. The teams had to construct parallel and transversal streets as well as placing structures such as school, post office, fire department, etc. at various locations in their city based on geometric criteria. The students were given the choice to either create three-dimensional models or use the online graphing site desmos.com to display their new city maps. At the conclusion of the project, Harrison Holland, a senior civil engineer student from Texas A&M University, spoke to the classes about what civil engineers do and how to become a civil engineer. Mr. Holland offered the students good advice on how to prepare in high school for advanced mathematics topics in college.
-

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Please list any professional learning opportunities

- Connected Consulting training.
- Mrs. McCurdy attended Region 11 librarians book review meeting; received 2 books to review.
- Professional Learning - PLTW BioMedical Sciences
 - *Grading Harder, Not Smarter* - Myron Dueck
 - *Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All* - Paul Offit, M.D.
 - *Cellular and Molecular Immunology* - Abul K. Abbas (in progress)
-

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Baxter Loesch and Libby Choate will present their essays honoring a local veteran at the Veteran's Day program at the Memorial Auditorium on

11/11. Catlin Lewis and Bailee Green have volunteered to help Libby write her essay.

- Spanish Club
 - Christmas Caroling at local Nursing homes
 - Elder Angel sponsorship
- We have debate tournaments scheduled for November 10th, November 14th, and December 5th.
- All District auditions- Nov. 7

OTHER:

- Student Council led two class reunion tours on Saturdays in October.