From the Principal’s Desk

We are happy to be able to share and highlight some of the positive activities that happened at Harmony this year. Please read this over to see the results of student efforts, teacher hard work, and parent support. Together, all three make the school a great place to be.

Thanks for all of your efforts and support of your children. Thanks to all who were able to volunteer. And thanks for living in the community and sending your children to Harmony MS.

Harmony Named Wall-to-Wall PBL Middle School

In March, Harmony was awarded the designation of Loudoun County Public School’s first Wall-to-Wall Project Based Learning School. Continuing the foundation built by Harmony faculty and staff over the past three years, teachers will facilitate the continual launch of experiences that incorporate the essential elements of great PBL instruction.

Student learning will be more authentic and inquiry-based, involving more student voice and choice, reflection, and revision. PBL also offers students the opportunity to practice real world success skills like collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

We are excited by the experiences teachers have already created for student learning at Harmony, and look to the future where instruction will continue to focus on student-driven, meaningful learning experiences.
8th Grade Be the Change Night

Having researched social justice issues that were important to them, 8th graders wrote letters to local leaders, expressing their opinions and urging the leaders to help them make a change in the world. After writing letters, every student created a visual representation of his/her issue. Each class chose a winner, who shared at the April 3rd “Be the Change Night.” A panel of judges from the community was invited to hear from the students and ultimately chose Brielle Schermerhorn as the winner for her project about self-image, encouraging young females to ignore what they see in the media and to love who they are. The panel was very impressed by the work of our students, the passion they showed for their topics, and how motivated students were to “Be the Change” in the world.

Math 6/7 Students Engineer Tiny Houses

Students used many of their math skills to create, build, and calculate the cost of their tiny houses. This is just one example of students thinking critically to solve authentic problems, which is a key component of PBL.
7th Grade Math: Mega Room Project

Students were presented with the Driving Question: How can we design/create a classroom better suited for 21st Century learning? Each design group worked collaboratively to decide what furniture, technology, and other materials will best promote a learning atmosphere. Students are using the concepts of Geometry and Scale Factor as well as research skills to solve this real world situation, which will be put into action next school year!

6th Graders Create Solar Cars

Acting as true scientists, and working with the driving question: “Why is there a push among scientists to use renewable energy?” 6th graders teamed up to design, construct, and test a solar powered vehicle that had to be able to travel at least 10 meters. Harmony’s 6th graders did a lot of testing, revising, and refining their cars before putting them into action.
6th Grade Archeological Dig

As part of their historical thinking skills unit, 6th grade students learned about the importance of archaeology in studying the past. During their “dig” they analyzed “artifacts” and uncovered the secrets of an ancient civilization. This was just one step in helping students begin the process of digging deeper into history, which they have practiced all year.

8th Graders Become Published Authors

All 8th graders participated in National Novel Writing Month in November, writing more than 4 million words during the month. After dedicating great time to writing their pieces, students practiced the writing process and edited and revised their pieces until they were ready to be published. Each class selected some of their favorite lines of writing from the month and their words were written on the side of coffee sleeves available for the patrons of Sweet Rose in Purcellville. 75 students were published in the 8th grade anthology, released at a signing party in May.
8th Grade Math: Consumer Math

Students in 8th grade math were given a budget to redesign their rooms and applied their knowledge of discounts, taxes, and tips to work within their budgets. Students collaborated to offer feedback and help each other revise their room designs.

Spectrum Explores the World

For Spectrum’s PBL experience, sixth and seventh grade students applied creative thinking skills and conducted research to create a product for presentation at WOW Night, our Sister Team collaboration. Wonders of the World featured student created Iconic Architectural structures. These students also experienced a “Dig,” excavating valuable chocolate chips from extraordinary large cookies and the process of mummification through “mummifying” one of their own!

World Health Muffins

7th graders in FACS and HPE collaborated to create muffins that would help alleviate world health issues. Using what they learned about nutrition and health, our students created some tasty recipes to help the world!
Wonders of the World

Harmony's first annual Wonders of the World night took place on the evening of November 14th, 2018. Harmony students contributed projects of all sorts, all centered around the theme of global citizenship and appreciation of all world languages and cultures. Students from Spectrum, civics, art, music, and the four world languages - Spanish, French, German, and Latin - took part in hosting and making this night a huge success. Friends and family attending the event traveled using a passport, collecting stickers and stamps from different stations created by students, including interactive games and presentations, food tastings, and musical and theatrical presentations.
Empty Bowl Dinner

On December 5th, Harmony held its ninth annual Empty Bowl Dinner, raising more than $3,000 for the Western Loudoun Food Pantry. Students worked with local artists to bring awareness to the issue of hunger and food insecurity in our area, while learning the basics of pottery. The Empty Bowl Dinner is a true example of collaboration between Harmony and the community, with local businesses donating the delicious soups served at the event. To date, this project has raised over $20,000 for this cause.

Family Arts Night

Harmony celebrated March as Youth Art Month with Family Arts Night, which has become a much anticipated tradition. Art students led stations such as Spin Art painting, Recycled Art Bags, Model Magic Sculptures, and much more. The evening also included guest artist demos, Spectrum claymation videos, and the library’s used book sale. The PTA sponsored a pizza dinner, and the entire community came together to enjoy and celebrate the great art created by our students!
In March, Harmony’s 8th graders spent the day in Washington, DC, exploring some of the many things our nation’s capital has to offer. Students chose to visit the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian’s Natural History Museum, or the US Capitol Building. Our students represented Harmony well, and a great day was had by all!

7th graders went to George Mason University to see several short plays including “The Tell Tale Heart,” “The Necklace,” and “The Monkey’s Paw.” Before going on the trip, students read and analyzed each play. Students had a brief stop over at the Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum for lunch before heading back to school.

6th grade students went on a field trip to Ball’s Bluff Battlefield, Morven Park, and Oatlands. At Morven Park, students participated in some drilling with Corporal Smith out by the replica winter encampment huts. The students had a great time learning about the rich history of Loudoun County.
In the Field

This year’s Spectrum 6th and 7th graders attended a Forensics Lab at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The “Q?rius Experience” is one of exploration and discovery through conversations with museum scientists and interactions with authentic specimens and objects.

“Q?rius” (pronounced “curious”) gives students the opportunity to interact with items that normally would be behind the scenes. By interacting with scientists and working through authentic mysteries, students get to practice lifelong inquiry skills.

8th grade Spectrum students were in for a “Shakespearience.” This Student Matinee Program introduces students and teachers to classical theatre on stage, helping to deepen their study of literature, and develop an appreciation of drama and theatre arts. Lansburgh Theatre presented The Comedy of Errors, a humorous comedy about separated family and mistaken identity. Prior to the performance the students participated in a workshop put on by the Shakespeare Theater.
Accolades and Awards

Foxcroft STEM Challenge

Harmony Lady Hornets compete at the annual Foxcroft STEM Challenge!

157 girls from 23 schools in MD, VA, and DC participated in problem solving involving the subjects of Math, Science, Technology and Engineering. In keeping with the theme of Pandemics, the event featured disease-inspired team names, fictitious public safety challenges, and a “silent killer.” Harmony entered two teams of 4 students which resulted in an individual 3rd place in separate Challenges and Team Chicken Pox placing 3rd overall in the competition.

Odyssey of the Mind Team Represents Harmony at World Finals!

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) members competed at Michigan State University, where 892 teams from 16 countries around the world came together for the 40th anniversary of World Finals. Harmony Odyssey of the Mind Team members placed 5th in their division competing against 65 teams. Congratulations to: Lizzy Brubaker, Isabella DeMark, Lily Eddy, Ashley Gingerich, Sarah Gingerich, Margaret Rouse, and Liam Warner, and coach Lori DeMark.
VICTORES! WINNERS!
National Latin Exam winners by block

GOLD summa cum laude:
Alexandra Toporowicz
BRONZE magna cum laude:
Caroline Clegg
SILVER maxima cum laude:
Prescott Noll

HONORABLE MENTION cum laude:
Hugh Brown
Moses Zhang
Aidan Thimons
Sarah Burns
BRONZE magna cum laude:
Lily Acker

BRONZE magna cum laude:
Maddy Jones
Elise Bortey
Henry Zeigler

Faculty Recognitions

- Melissa Espinoza and Mallary Chapple were selected to participate in a Ford’s Theatre program to explore Civil War sites around DC and using primary source documents in the classroom.
- Meghann Donohue and Teresa Weis participated in the fifth year of the Virginia Department of Education's Co-Teaching Initiative. Through this grant initiative, their 8th grade English classroom was a demonstration site for educators from around the state to visit and observe quality co-teaching in action.
Spelling Bee Winner

Congratulations to 8th grader, Emma Ymeri, who won the Harmony Spelling Bee after 23 rounds with the winning word, electrolysis. Emma represented Harmony at the Loudoun County Spelling Bee in March. The runner-up was Riley Murphy.

Geography Bee

In February, students participated in our annual geography bee. While the knowledge of all of the students was impressive, congratulations to our Harmony winners.

1st Place: James Torrible (6th grade)
2nd Place: Todd White (8th grade)
3rd place: Patrick Lyons (6th grade)

Orchestra and Guitar

At the Music in the Parks Festival in Hershey, PA, the guitar ensemble got a very respectable "Excellent" rating.

The 8th grade orchestra got a "Superior" rating of 92.5. They were 1st in their class and they received overall best orchestra out of 9 orchestras.

Art

After a schoolwide design contest, 7th grader Derek Thompson’s work was chosen as the winning design for the 2019-2020 Harmony agenda cover. The 2018-2019 yearbook cover design was created by Karlie Sprecher.
Accolades and Awards

Chorus News

Congratulations to the 8th Grade Chorus for receiving top ratings from the judges at the District Choral Assessment. Both the Treble Ensemble and the Men's Ensemble received superior ratings from every judge.

Several Harmony students were selected to participate in All-Virginia Chorus in April:
- Treble Choir - Sophie Mason, Aubrey Coates, Eliza Prymak and Alex Amost
- SATB Choir - Luke Murtaugh, Travis Gahafer, Brielle Schermerhorn, Samantha Huffer, and Breanna Burress

Band

The Harmony Bands did a tremendous job at District 16 Middle School Band Assessment!

The Harmony Concert Band received ratings of Excellent (II) from all three stage judges, and a rating of Superior (I) in sight-reading, with an overall rating for Concert Assessment: Excellent (II).

The Harmony Symphonic Band received a stage performance rating of Superior, a rating of Excellent (II) in sight-reading and an overall rating for Concert Assessment: Superior (I).

We also had two students selected for All District Jazz Ensemble (Hugh Brown and Will Ranck), and had one student selected for the Honors Performance Series, a national honor band that will rehearse in New York and perform at Carnegie Hall this summer (Nathan Malone).
Mental Health Awareness Week

Harmony’s 2nd annual Mental Health Awareness Week reminded students and faculty that taking care of their mental health is an important part of a happy life. Strategies such as listening to music, getting exercise, talking about mental health and supporting others were encouraged as students participated in this week long event put on by Harmony’s Mental Health Team.

Harmony celebrated Kindness Week in February with many activities meant to promote kindness and caring. Each day students were presented with a quote over the announcements like, "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." Students also shared Compassion Cards with other students, an event sponsored by the SCA meant to encourage more kindness all around.
Harmony Musical

Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr.

The cast and crew of Harmony’s production of Thoroughly Modern Millie pulled off four outstanding shows in late January after months of hard work and rehearsals. Under the direction of Karla Louis, the cast and crew took us back in time to New York City in 1922. The singing, dancing, acting, costumes, and set design were all exceptional, and it wouldn’t shock us to see any of these actors or actresses on Broadway in the coming years!
Math Club

Twenty-five 6th, 7th, and 8th graders participated in the Harmony Math Club this year. Anyone was welcome that wanted to work to improve not only their math skills, but also problem solving and collaboration. Students competed in the Continental Math League once a quarter and sent 3 teams on April 6th to the Loudoun County Regional Math Tournament at Farmwell Station Middle School.

Running Club

Under Coach Woldt, Frau Yerkes, and Mrs. Espinoza, members of the running club met weekly to train and improve their running skills and endurance while having fun. Members competed together in Sadie’s Race 5k on May 5th in Purcellville.
Harmony Clubs

**Fishing Club**

Led by Harmony’s own master fishermen, Mr. Stewart and Mr. McGrady, the fishing club allowed students with an interest in fishing to learn lure tying, fly tying, short casting, and species identification.

**Buddy Club**

The Buddy Club brings together students of different grades, interests, and abilities to build friendships. Buddies get a chance to make a friend they might not normally get to interact with a lot.

**Anime Club**

This year’s Anime club was an anime art workshop. The members created their own characters and stories while watching two seasons of "My Hero Academia." It was a good year in Anime and we will miss the 8th graders and look forward to our returning 6th and 7th graders.
The Student Council Association

Harmony's Student Council Association, or SCA, is an organization designed to give students a chance to provide leadership within their school while making it a better place to learn and helping the community at the same time. It consists of a General Assembly and an executive committee, led by the SCA president. This year, that office was held by Hannah Edwards, a three-year SCA member.

The Harmony SCA is responsible for organizing the Veterans' Day Assembly, where parents who have served in our nation's military come to speak to the student body. The SCA also coordinated the sale and distribution of Compassion Cards, which encouraged students to do random acts of kindness both inside and outside of school. The SCA also staged a fundraiser with our First Annual It's Academic: Teacher Edition competition. The event raised $100 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital as well as $100 for the SCA itself.

The SCA hosted the third annual Senior Citizen prom in our own cafeteria, where we enjoyed the company of about 20 senior citizens from the Carver Center in Purcellville.
Hive Time is a special advisory period that meets twice a month. Hive Time is used to build connections between students and teachers through team-building activities like our annual, schoolwide Rock-Paper-Scissors tournament, “It’s Academic” Game, and more. Eighth grade students serve as WEB leaders and lead 6th grade students through lessons to help teach strategies that promote success in middle school. Throughout the year, the Eagles, Sharks, and Wolves teams compete in many ways to earn their spirit stick and be the Hive Time champions for the quarter.