



OMPH School Scene

Integrated Language Arts in Middle School



ILA, or Integrated Language Arts, means that students are taught through common experiences using genuine pieces of literature. Students then use these pieces of literature to improve their reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking skills. While reading *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert O'Brien, sixth grade students worked in theme groups, discussing and identifying textual evidence to support their chosen theme. The sixth graders are also working on a STREAM challenge. They have been tasked with creating a new creature for an author who has writers' block. The seventh grade has been reading *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, dramatized by Fred Gaines. After each scene, the students discuss what Scrooge had experienced and then write about the lesson he learned from the spirit who had visited him. When they finish the story, the students will decide on the theme, or central message, of the book. As the eighth graders prepare for high school, they continue to work on ILA skills. Currently, the eighth graders are reading *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor. While reading, the class will discuss racism and how the setting of the story affects the novel. All the middle school ILA classes just finished writing a News Feature for the Lancaster Newspaper News in Education Contest. Sixth graders have just begun to work on how-to articles, while the seventh and eighth graders are going to be writing a persuasive essay for the Diocesan Speech Tournament. From book reports to novel study projects to oral presentations, the students display their ILA skills daily!

St. Nicholas Visits OMPH School



Our students had a special visitor in their classrooms on December 6: St. Nicholas spent his feast day with us! The children each left a shoe outside their classrooms, and were delighted when St. Nicholas stopped by to fill them in the afternoon.

Great Job, Eighth Grade!

The OMPH School 8th Grade class, along with support from their siblings and our 7th Grade class, presented "Fruitcakes" on December 6. The ORFF group performed Christmas carols prior to the play. Thank you to all who came out to support our Music Department, and to Mrs. Rineer, Mrs. Gochnauer, and the volunteers who helped make our 8th grade play a success!



For more information on OMPH School, contact us at:

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Find us on Facebook: OMPH-Ephrata

Final School Advent Wreath Prayer Service to be Held Tomorrow

The last Advent Wreath Prayer Service of the season will be held tomorrow. Each week during Advent, the OMPH students have gathered in the church to light the Advent wreath candle and pray together as a school family. Please join us on December 18 at 1:30 pm in the church!

