



Northern Hills Academy's Paw Prints Newsletter



Edition: Marking Period 1
2021-2022



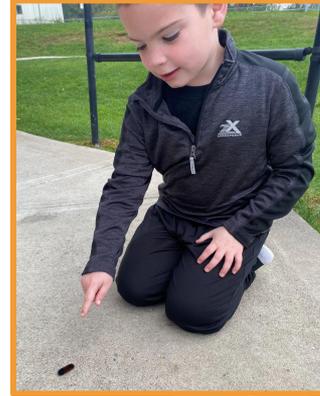
Principal Jenny and Supervisor Sara

Our 1st Marking Period was full of special activities including various Social-Emotional themes and specialized activities such as Respect Week and Red Ribbon Week. Mindful Mondays and Walking Wednesdays have continued throughout the past three months. Our local Fire truck came for a visit and we had our visits with our furry friends during Pet Therapy. We were able to have our Halloween Trunk-or-Treat outside. It was perfect! The students along with staff and parents had an amazing time. The classrooms and therapy sessions focused not only on IEP goals and objectives, but transitional skills as well. Students are now back into a more typical routine and schedule. We are looking forward to all our 2nd Marking Period learning activities and special events.



Ms. Chloe's Class

Our 2021-2022 school year has been loaded with learning fun. We embraced the changing season by learning all about fall and the different changes it brings. We studied the changing colors and falling leaves, the life cycle of trees, pumpkins, and acorns and ended those studies with pumpkin decorating and painting with acorns. We used our senses to explore pumpkins and shared our learnings while also using the seeds as math manipulatives to work on one-to-one correspondence. We were able to celebrate Halloween as a class, with a Halloween party, and as a school, during our Trunk or Treat parade. We loved being able to observe our earth, all it has to offer, and turn it into learning experiences. Where do rainbows come from? What is a caterpillar and what does it turn into? Our time spent together has been great for building peer relationships, improving language and communication, and working to better understand our feelings. Reading books has, and will continue to be, a major part of our days in class. We use books to learn new vocabulary, to stimulate imaginations, to help develop listening skills, and so much more.



Ms. Chloe's Class



Ms. Stephanie's Class

Our class has been busy over these past couple of months. Our class was excited for the new school year! We had a great month getting familiar with our classroom and meeting new classmates. We learned about different kinds of apples and how and where they grow. Students worked on activities about finding the main idea of a story and putting the events in order. We counted pumpkins and apples and worked with finding more and less.

Before we knew it, October was here. The days were getting shorter and the weather was changing. We needed a jacket to go outside in the morning! During October, we learned a few facts about Columbus and began getting ready to celebrate Halloween. Students worked on finding out about characters in stories.

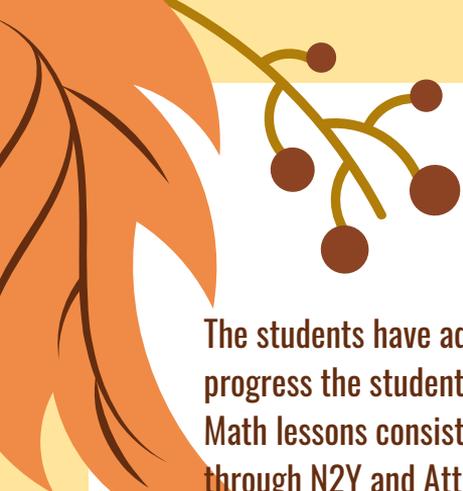
We read some spooky tales and did some fun fall activities. In math, some students worked on number sense and some worked with place value. Our class did a scary foaming pumpkin experiment to show a chemical reaction in action! A "Trunk-Or-Treat" was held in the NHA parking lot. That was fun! Our class walked around and received lots of treats! We dressed up as a wizard, Spongebob, a 50's Pink Lady, a skeleton, and Maui! We also had a small Halloween party in class!

Before we knew, it was November! Our class learned about Veterans Day and how important it is to remember those who fought for our freedoms. We made cards for the Veterans and now Thanksgiving. This Holiday gives us the opportunity to learn how to be thankful for what we have. Our class filled our bulletin board with 30 days of thankfulness. When we return from our Thanksgiving break, we will we will begin to talk about December and what December brings!



Ms. Stephanie's Class





Ms. Karra's Class

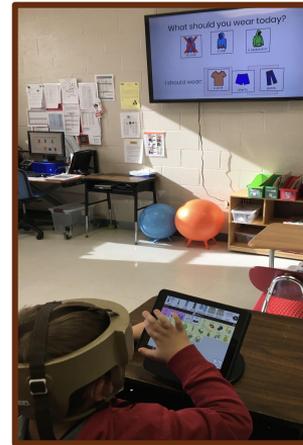
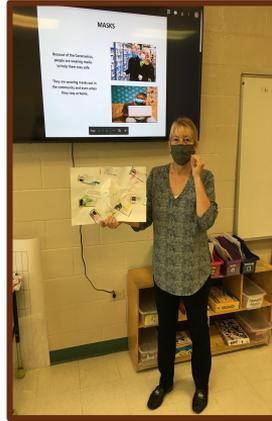
The students have adjusted well to the new school year and classroom. I am looking forward to a rewarding year with the progress the students are making. Language Arts lessons include individual stories and assignments from our Raz program. Math lessons consist of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, as well as, sorting and counting skills. Science lessons through N2Y and Attainment provide the students with some hands-on experiments such as “Fireworks In A Bottle.” Social Studies lessons through N2Y and Scholastic provide seasonal stories about Autumn, honoring Veterans, and Thanksgiving. Halloween celebrations included games and our annual Trunk-or-Treat. There were so many great costumes and fun for everyone. Thanksgiving celebrations include stories, related lessons, and fun activities.

NHA's Community Club is hosted by our class and Ms. Stephanie's class. The students are able to make cards and other projects to be given to the Veterans and the Chelsea Assisted Living in Sparta on a monthly basis. Students from other classes are able to contribute cards, as well. Our friends there love getting our letters, cards, and crafts. I am so proud of each and everyone of our students, their families, and all our staff.





Ms. Karra's Class



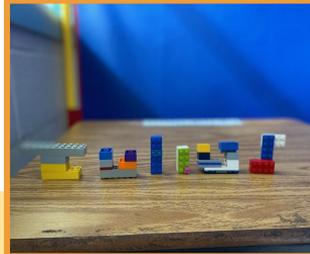
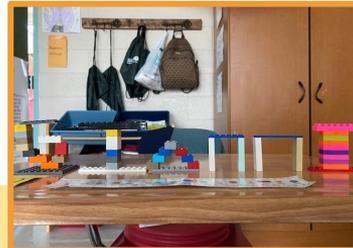
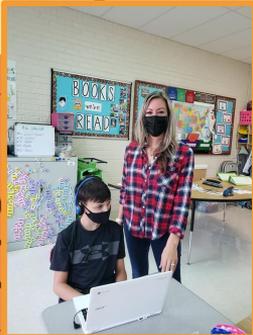
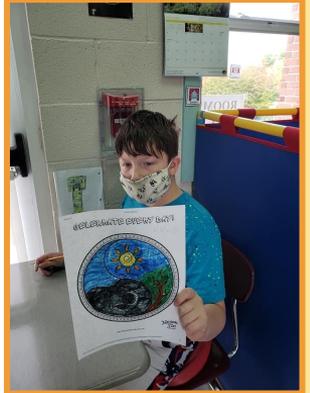
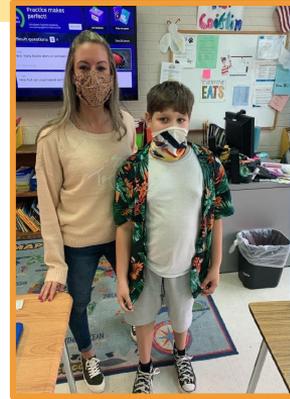


Ms. Caitlin's Class

Ms. Caitlin's class has had a great start the 2021 - 2022 school year. We have even welcomed two new friends, Jonathan and Taylor. The students have been enjoying all the fun fall activities, Trunk or Treat, and STEM Lego challenges.

We continue to work on individual goals for ELA and math. We focus heavily on positive behaviors and reinforcements. The students have created positive rapports and relationships with each other which has lead to a fun, caring classroom environment.

We are all looking forward to some fun holiday activities that are approaching in the next few weeks.



Mr. Brian's Class

The beginning of the 2021-2022 school year has been productive and fun. The students adjusted to a new class, while learning and understanding rules and expectations. During the first marking period, we honed our skills and learned about new topics. In ELA, we focused on finding the Main Idea and locating supporting details, learned about story elements, and began writing in a narrative format. Math is tailored to each student, ranging from basic computations to algebra, with each student displaying effort and growth in the subject area. Small groups and direct instruction have been beneficial during math lessons. In Science, we have spent time learning about about the earth, sun and moon, and the solar system. In Social Studies, we spent time focusing on United States geography and breaking down the history of Native Americans in our country. This will blend into the history of America, including colonization and the Revolutionary War.

In addition to hard work and positive behavior, our classroom has developed a good rapport and has helped create a great learning environment. We enjoyed Halloween with our students dressing up and participating in a "Trunk-Or-Treat." We look forward to learning about ALL the November and December holidays. Finally, our class is now in charge of the Student-Directed Lunch Program, where we collect NHA's monthly lunch orders, sort, and deliver lunches daily. This will help build life skills, including data entry and collection, inventory, sorting, functional math, referencing, and delivery. We look forward to the challenge! We have had a great start to the year and look forward to an equally efficient second marking period. Happy Thanksgiving!



Mr. Brian's Class





Ms. Amber's Class

We have had such a wonderful first marking period of the 2021-2022 year! There have been many activities and skills we have been working on, with our **independence** being an important focus! We have been putting our culinary skills to the test weekly with our News2you recipes and Attainment curriculum. Our class has enjoyed Halloween and the Sparta Fire Truck, along with the beautiful fall weather!

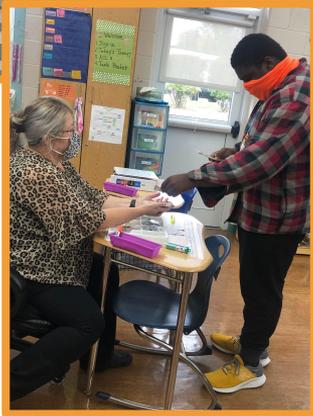
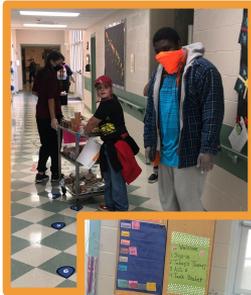
Everyone has been working hard each and everyday with their individual academic goals and objectives!

We are all excited about the upcoming months with special holidays and festivities!





Ms. Alyssa's Class



The 2021-2022 school year is off to an amazing start in Ms. Alyssa's class! While academics is a huge focus, we have also been hard at work with our life and pre-vocational skills. The students created a rolling snack cart and named it the Bear's Bodega. It is student-run and managed and sells snacks and drinks to students and staff daily. We are also working side by side with the Sparta Community Food Pantry. We will be working at the pantry performing different jobs and tasks. We also set up a our very own food pantry in the school that will also be student-run and managed. The students will work on skills such as budgeting, money management, inventory tracking as well as how to perform job duties, give and receive direction, track hours worked, and how to time manage on breaks.

All of these skills are skills that will be added to a resume that the students have started creating. The students, along with resume creation, have been working on filling our job applications, and soon will start practicing interviewing skills.

Ms. Alyssa's Class



In Social Studies, the students have been learning about the election process and other American government topics. In Science, we are in the process of learning about chlorophyll and pigments in leaves. In health, we have been learning about germs, how to stay healthy, and nutrition. We had a great time celebrating Halloween and are looking forward to an awesome Thanksgiving!

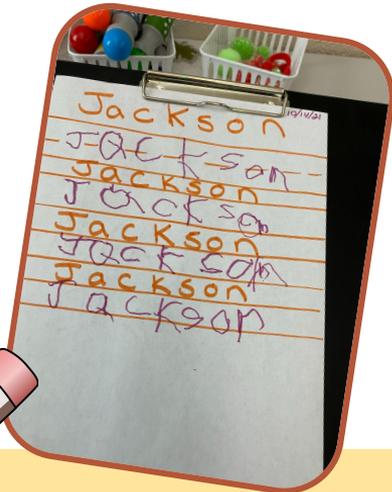
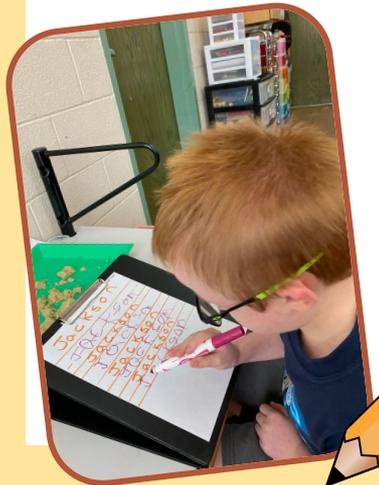


Occupational Therapy

with Ms. Jen, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Casey, and Ms. Danielle

We have been so busy in the OT department! We have been working on our fine motor skills and visual motor skills making crafts, iADLs by making fun recipes, Pre-Vocational and life skills, our sensory processing and having lots of fall fun!

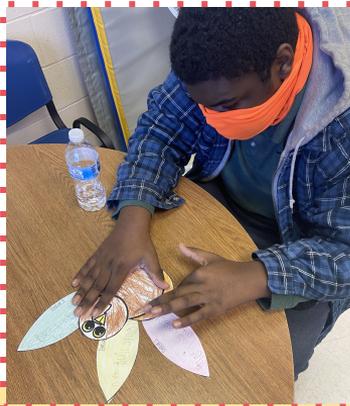




Speech with Ms. Courtney, Ms. Katie, Ms. Sydney, Ms. Rachel, and Ms. Deidre



We've been busy turkeys in speech! We worked on finding the main idea and supporting details from a text, expanding vocabulary, following directions, and the Preschoolers participated in various speech group activities!



← Making "spooky soup" for Halloween!

We also celebrated AAC Awareness Month in October!

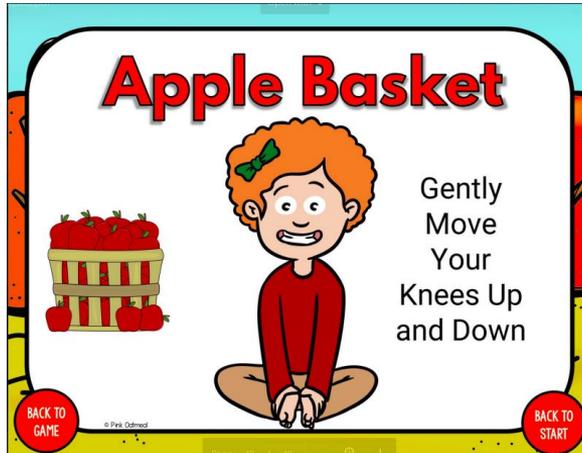


Keep on modeling!

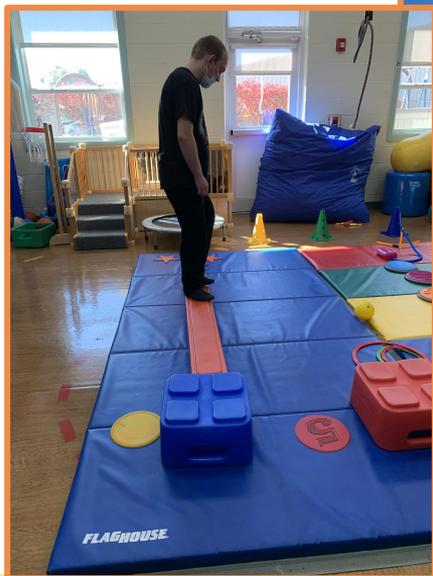


Physical Therapy

This marking period, we have been working on building muscles, improving our coordination, and having fun! The students participated in fun fall gross motor and yoga activities along with challenging obstacle courses. Some of the students also participated in fall based sport activities, such as soccer and football.



Physical Therapy



Ms. Paige's Counseling Corner

Hello NHA Family!

The start of the regular school year 2021-2022, has been full of learning and fun. Students learned about respect and responsibility. This November, we are going to be exploring conflict resolution skills. Please look for the All About... topics that are uploaded to the virtual backpack (on the NHA Website) each month to get additional information on how to carry over the monthly social-emotional learning topics in to your home.

Say Hello Week, Week of Respect, and Red Ribbon Week covered so many important topics and skills. The goal of these weeks is to educate the students at NHA and set them up for success far in to their future.

Some of our older students engaged in a lesson that allowed them to experience the dangers of drinking and driving. This was done through the use of goggles lent to us from Center for Prevention and Counseling. These goggles simulated what it would be like to try and engage in hand-eye coordination activities while under the influence. There was a group discussion following the experience to discuss the outcomes of drinking under the influence and what to do if ever put in a situation if someone were to suggest driving them under the influence.



Ms. Paige's Counseling Corner



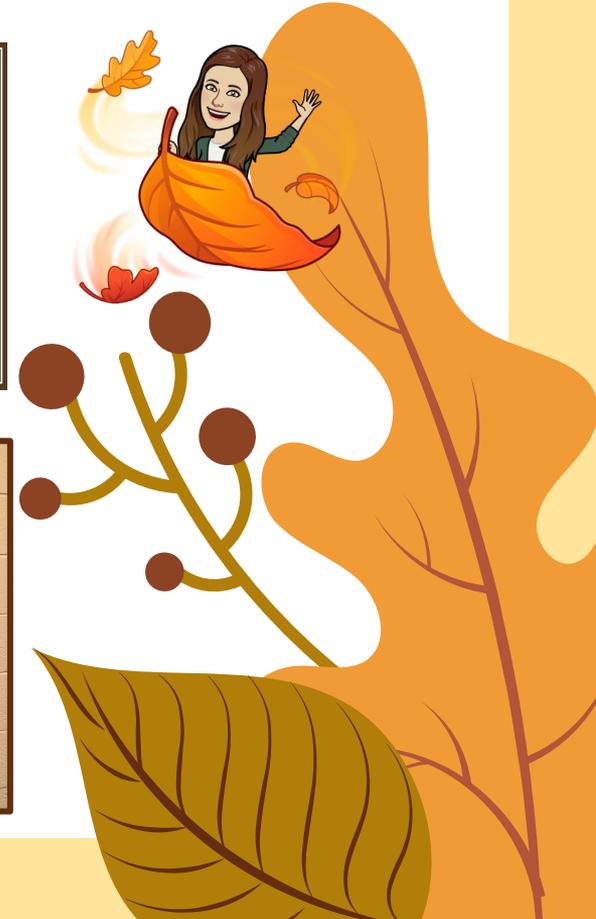
A time I felt respected
was when....

...I was accepted for who I am.
-Ryan W.



A time I felt respected
was when....

...the boys at the park told me how to
play basketball.
-Julius



INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE?

Check out our website at:

<https://www.sussexesc.org/northern-hills-academy>

If you'd like more information or
have any questions?

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