
Clearwater Secondary

Newsletter

November 27th 2020

Adjusting the Quarter System

Hello Parents,

This year students are taking fewer courses at a time, in a condensed format, with courses only lasting a quarter of the year or about 9 weeks. This format has been an adjustment for both staff and students, with some benefits and some challenges. When I talked with students about how they liked or disliked the quarter system they shared the following feedback.

"We like only having to keep track of two courses at a time and only having two exams at once was nice."

"Sometimes when I am tired it is hard at the end of the day."

"I like having the time to learn an entire topic in one class vs cutting the lesson into two days."

I am teaching this quarter and have found the long blocks efficient for lab work in Physics 11 and 12, but that the pace of planning and marking creates a greater workload for the teacher. Overall the quarter system has both benefits and challenges, which we are getting better at adapting to as we progress through the year. If you have any thoughts around the quarter system please feel free to share them via email. We will keep your feedback in mind as we continue to plan for the remaining quarters this year.

Darren Coates, Principal

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Kitchen Renovations

We have been hoping for a full renovation of our Foods room for a number of years, and now it is happening! Maintenance staff started the process of disassembling the current cabinetry on Monday. Staff and students have been helping with the job of emptying the room over the week. This long awaited upgrade will be completed in time for quarter three and our Foods 9 class.



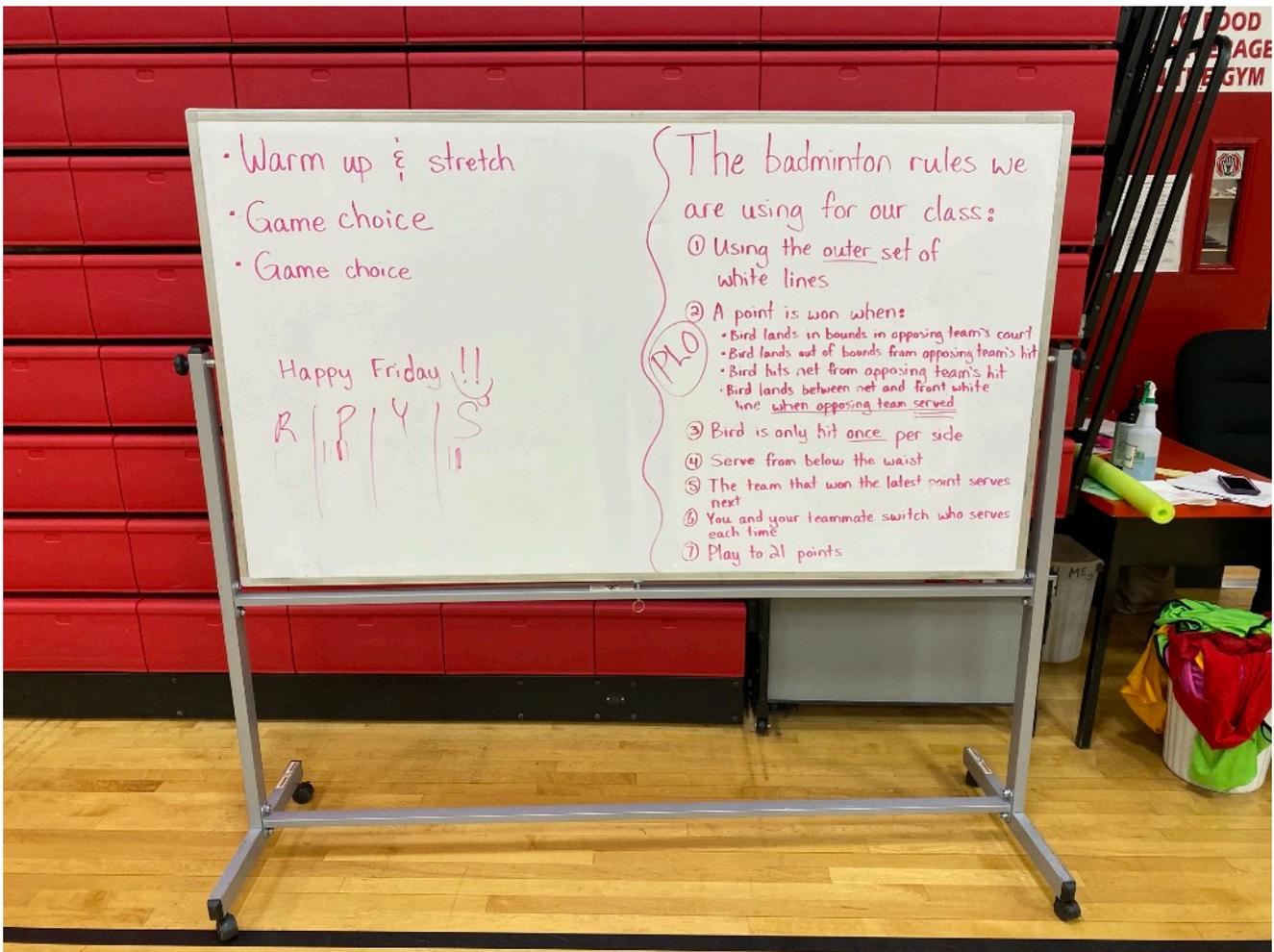
Additional Water Filling Station

When we split the school into two cohorts, one of the challenges was access to water filling stations. The junior cohort did not have a water filler in their half of the school. Maintenance staff quickly responded and ordered us another filler immediately and it arrived this week with installation to be completed next week.



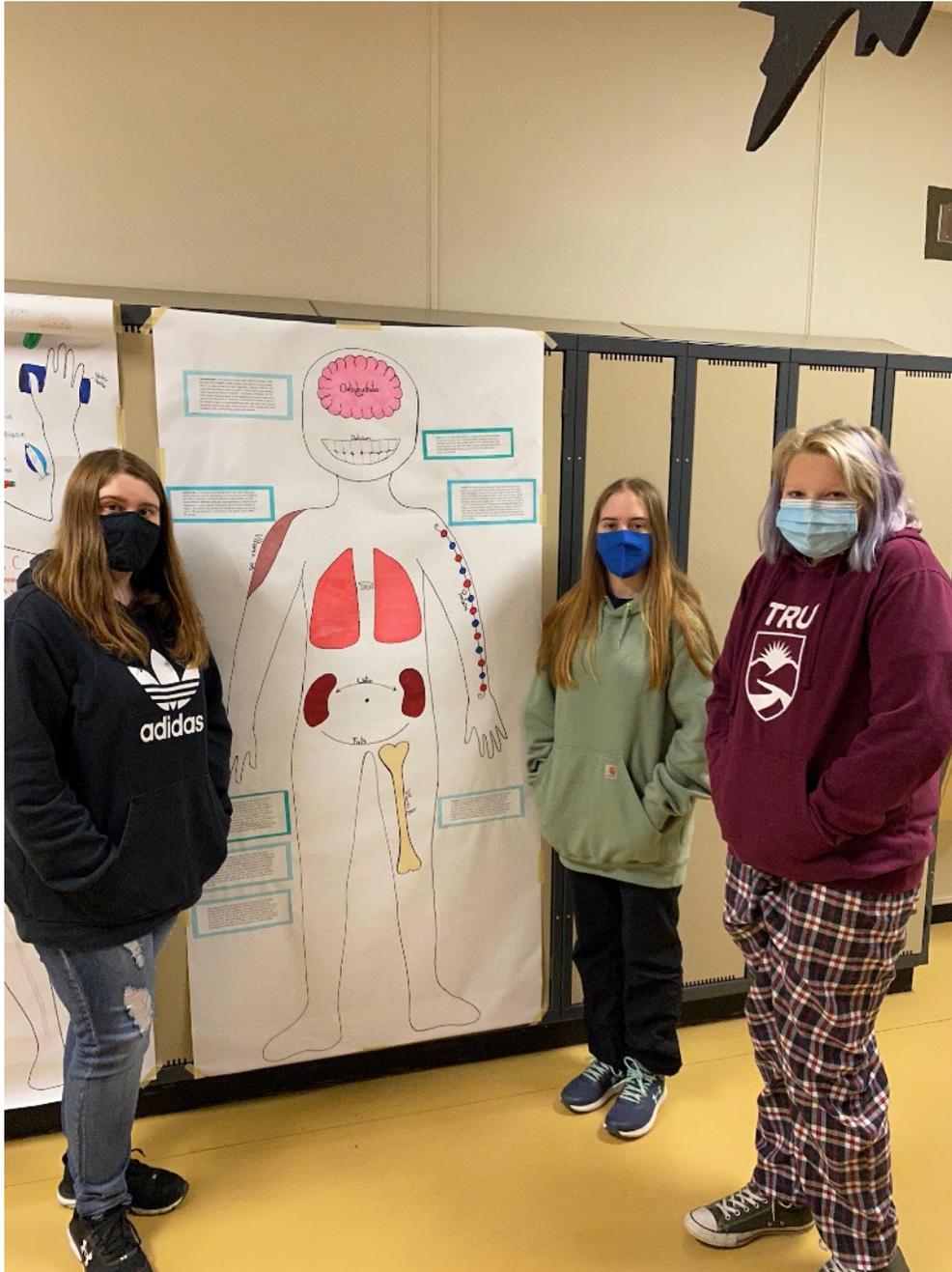
Additional Whiteboards

In order to utilize some larger learning spaces this quarter we needed some additional rolling whiteboards. These items are surprisingly expensive but also key learning tools for classrooms. The school district provided supplemental COVID funding for this purchase which will allow us to make better use of both the library and the pit as classroom spaces.



Outstanding Student Posters

Although we hope to be able to use lockers in the near future, one upside is that we have more space to display student work in the hallways. Pictured below is an excellent poster from quarter one which was part of an assignment on nutrition in senior Foods.



Upcoming Dates

Monday December 7th
Professional development day

Thursday December 10th
Interims home

Monday December 14th
Early dismissal, students will be dismissed at 12:30 and busses will pick up shortly after.
Parent teacher interviews, via phone, from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Last Reminders

As mentioned in our last news letter, please keep your child home if they are sick. We have many layers of protection place and keeping sick people out of the building is an important part of our overall plan.

Please do not drop by the school without making an appointment ahead of time. We are limiting the number of visitors to the school to those essential for program delivery. If you wish to make an appointment please phone ahead of time. If we can conduct the meeting over the phone or zoom we will.