



SPRING 2021 A. QUINN JONES JOURNAL

The teachers and staff at A. Quinn Jones want to work as a community to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of these students. At AQJ, we expect our students to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. Working together as a student-parent-teacher team, we hope to prepare every student for educational success. Whether a student plans to return to their home-zoned school, to complete his or her education here at A. Quinn Jones, or to prepare for vocational success through work/study programs, we are committed to working together to help children get the most out of his or her school experience. We will cultivate creative thinkers, competent communicators and career-focused students. We seek to establish equity for all student learners so that each child feels valued and respected. Our school environment embraces uniqueness and creativity, fostering support for student enrichment. Our daily routine is to inspire and motivate students, wherein their outcomes will include successful academic achievement, career readiness, college preparedness, social-emotional stability and noble citizenship. We hope the families and educators in our communities will come together here at A. Quinn Jones to establish the building blocks for future excellence.

A Letter from Principal Jones

Educating Students During a Pandemic

On March 13, 2020 life for America changed. Parents, students and schools quickly had to pivot from in person learning to distance learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, educators continued to educate students through any means necessary which included meeting parents at their job to drop off assignments, dropping off assignments at student's homes and talking to students through class-work on the phone or through Google Meets.

We have come a long way since that time with our digital learning platform, Canvas, and the Covid-19 protocols which help us keep our students and employees safe. There are many resources which can be found on the district's website to support students who are currently in the Alachua Digital Learning Academy. Students who are attending school in person may also take advantage of the in person learning opportunities. Please believe that we will overcome these challenges by working together to make sure all students are successful.



I encourage every parent to utilize the Family Skyward Access Portal. Skyward is the district data system. Family Access allows parents to monitor their student's attendance, grades, behavior and access other important information. We are also looking for additional parents and community members to join our School Advisory Committee (SAC). The purpose of a SAC is to assist in the preparation and evaluation (developing and evaluating) of the results of the school improvement plan and to assist the principal with the annual school budget. We look forward to continuing to help students be successful.

Please feel free to call me at (352) 955-6840 or email me at jonesdd@gm.sbac.edu if you have any questions.

Giving Back



Officer Ellis chose Zavione Simmons-Hopkins for the 2020-2021 annual Back to School Shop with a Cop program. Zavione was able to shop at Walmart with Officer Ellis to select clothes and items needed for the new school year. Thank you to Officer Ellis for supporting our students.



A. Quinn Jones would like to thank the following groups and organizations for their support and kindness to our students and staff!

- City Church
- The Word Church Global, Inc.
- UF PALS program
- Wells Fargo

Beautiful You Project for Girls



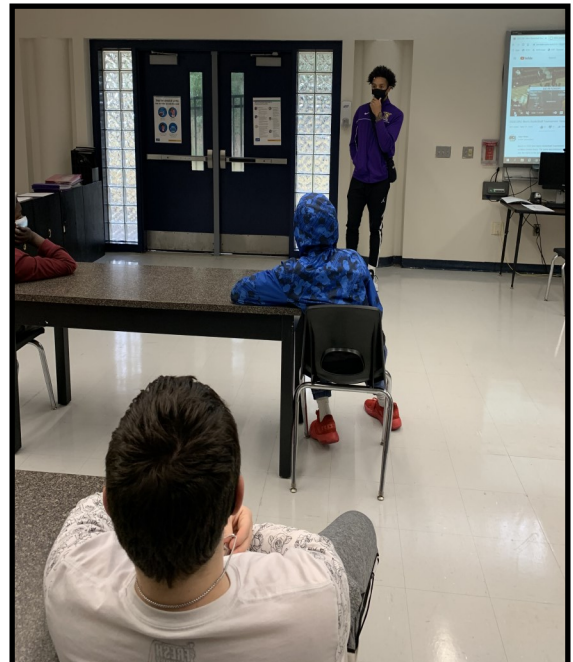
We are happy to have both the Beautiful You Project for Girls and Gentleman of Distinction clubs back on campus this year with the return of our wonderful school guidance counselor, Mrs. Smith. The Beautiful You Project for Girls is a monthly meeting that aims to empower girls to love themselves and their neighbors. The group is dedicated to helping the girls obtain the skills necessary for their growth and development in and outside of the classroom. The ladies have met to discuss topics such as human trafficking, positive body image, and career readiness. At each monthly meeting, one of the amazing volunteers provides a birthday cake for them to celebrate monthly birthdays. The ladies have t-shirts and face masks with the club's logo, and they decorated personalized face masks at the first meeting of the school year. The Beautiful You Project for Girls is an opportunity for the girls at A. Quinn Jones to address issues they face daily, meet motivational guest speakers, and work to become productive young ladies.



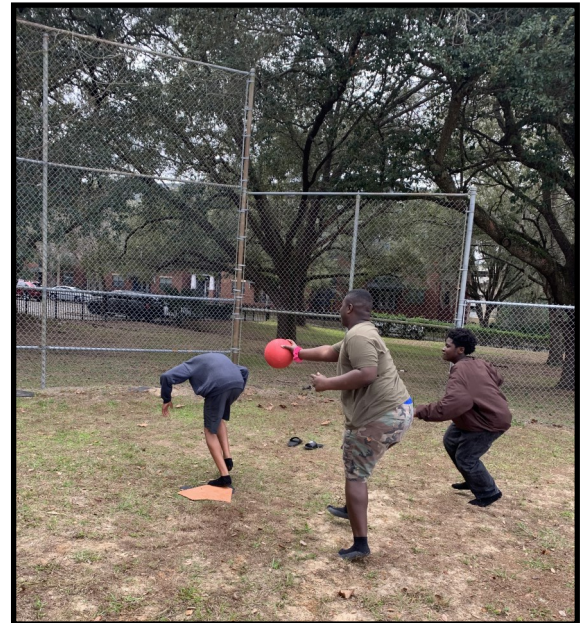
Mrs. Smith and the Beautiful You Project for Girl's team would like to thank Nurse Craft, A. Quinn Jones School Nurse, and Mrs. LaToya Lopez for their help as guest speakers at this semesters monthly meetings.



The Gentlemen of Distinction club also returned with Mrs. Smith this year. This club's goal is to empower the young men at A. Quinn Jones to love themselves and their neighbors while growing and maturing into productive men in society. Mrs. Smith, Mr. Lee, and other amazing volunteers provide meals and activities for the boys monthly meetings. The Gentlemen of Distinction team would like to give a special thank you to Mr. Eric Jackson, retired US military and previous student at the Horizon Center for speaking at a monthly meeting this semester. In addition, we would like to extend a thank you to Nurse Craft for providing an engaging discussion with the boys on human trafficking.



Supporting Positive Behavior



A. Quinn Jones would like to thank everyone who has supported our PBIS initiatives this year. We strive to be able to reward students for their good behavior in a quick manner, so that our students see the value in positive choices. To do this, we have Mr. Williams, our restart room supervisor, circulating through the school to catch students doing the right thing. When they are, they receive some of our Wildcat Cash, which they can spend at our PBIS store. Traditionally the store was only open on Fridays, however this year, students can spend their Wildcat cash at the store during lunch, and at the end of the day. We are also continuing our tradition of rewarding students that have met their behavior goals for the week with "Trip" a free choice time for the last two periods of the day in Friday. Additionally, we are also thankful to the UF PALS program for their continued support of our students with a breakfast reward for students that have met their behavioral goals for the week on Thursday. This additional breakfast reward also gives our students time to reflect on what they have done in order to receive their reward as well as have a discussion about their progress in our system and what they need to focus on in order to have continued success.

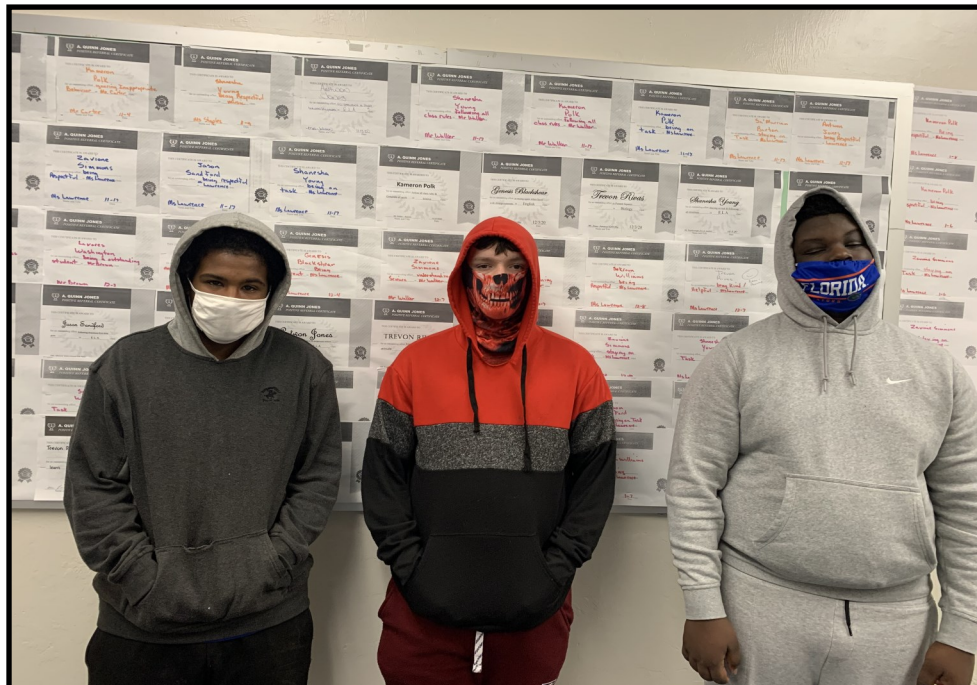
Dean's Corner



Dean Ramirez, Dean Dixon, and the PBIS committee have been working to improve the students ability to use their de-escalation strategies. The staff has been a positive and consistent presence for the students to be successful. Students have been responding well to the Positive Referral program and look forward to hearing their name announced on the intercom! The Positive Referral program is a way to reward students with good behavior throughout the week. Classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff can write them for students displaying positive behavior, and Mr. Jones announces them during the daily morning announcements. Thank you to all teachers and staff who have participated, and congrats to every student who has received a positive referral!

PBIS Statistics:

- Only 20/64 suspensions
- Suspensions and referrals are down 40-50% this quarter
- Positive referrals to date: 330

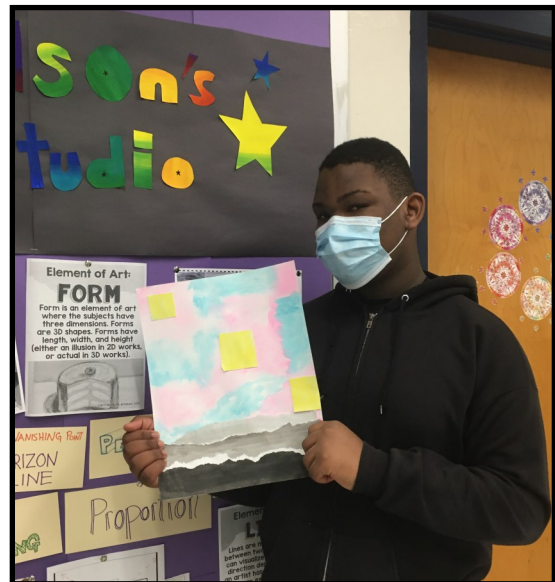
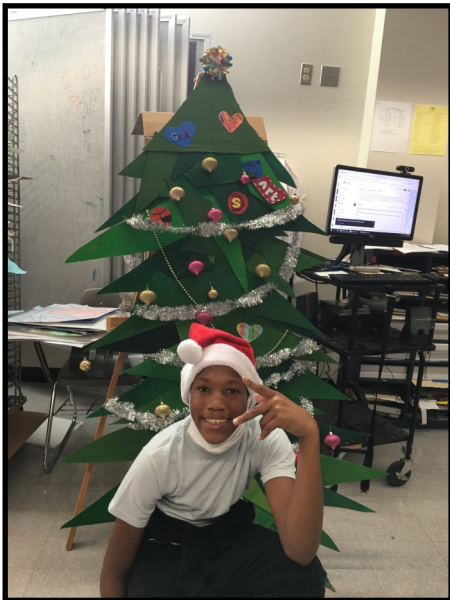


AQJ Garden



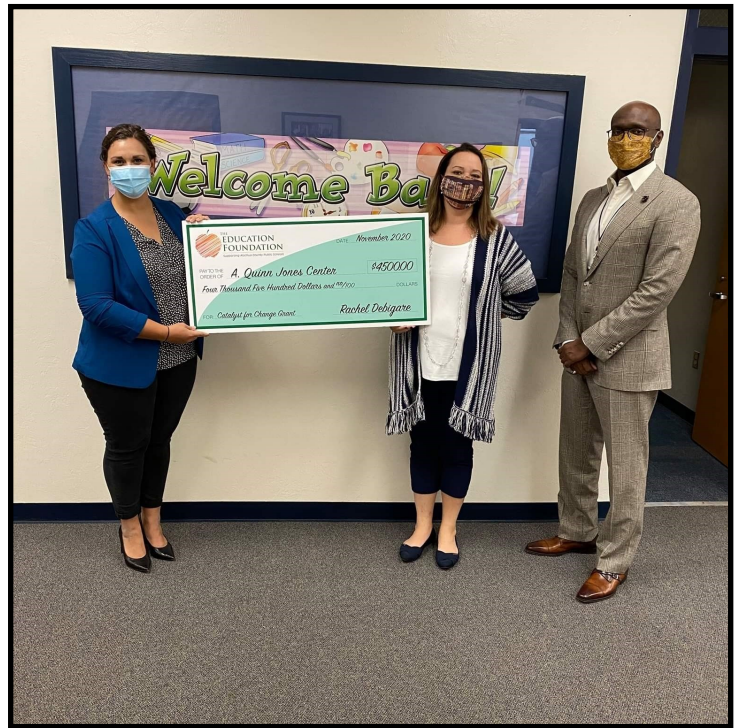
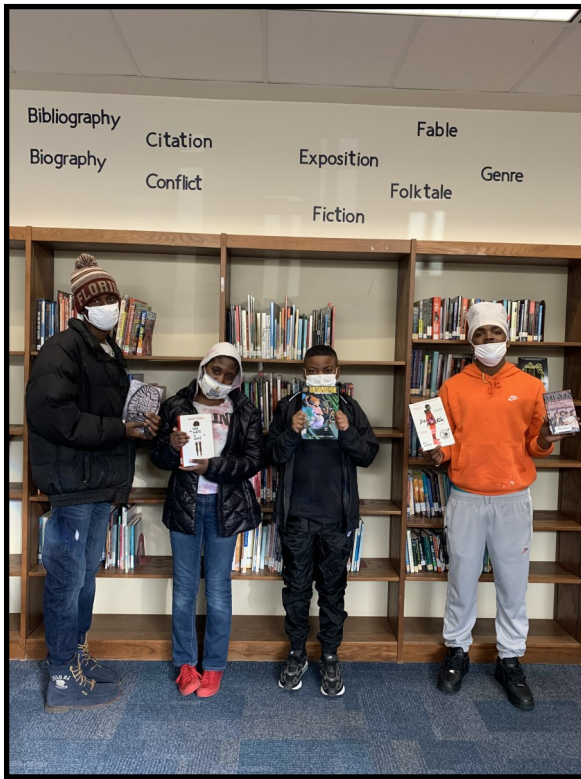
If you pass through our campus on any given day, you will see flowers blooming and bees buzzing in our beloved school garden. Work in the garden is supervised by Mr. Brown, Mrs. Worlds and Ms. Wilson. Accompanied by a group of hard working students, this team spends the first period of every school day pulling weeds, tending crops and landscaping. This year our garden at A. Quinn Jones has been going through some serious renovations. The team has been conducting experiments on soil nutrition and turning garden beds that no longer had the optimal soil makeup for crops. This season they have also focused on building a water feature. This endeavor has required skills in construction, engineering and creativity. The goal is to have a lovely pond surrounded by sugarcane and filled with fish. By devoting this year to construction and soil renewal, the team hopes to have a more beautiful and healthy garden than ever before when all of our students return to brick and mortar learning!

AQJ Art

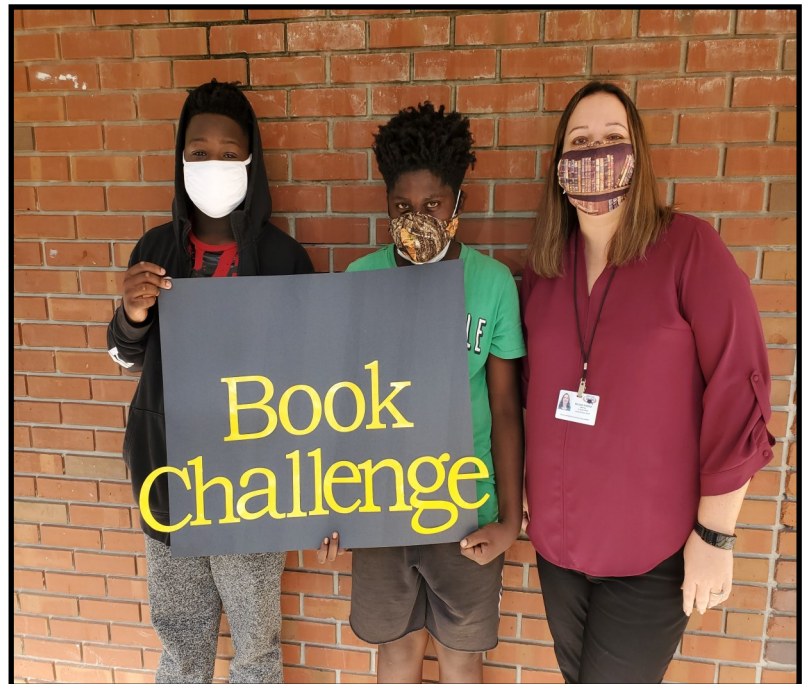


A. Quinn Jones is proud of Ms. Wilson and her art students for their hard work and creativity. Two students, who exited AQJ to attend Gainesville High School, are pictured above with the wall mural they worked on for several weeks with Ms. Wilson. Ms. Wilson's students have been focusing on an artist of the week for the Fall semester. Some projects have included: pastel and watercolor relief, collages, and cubism Christmas trees.

AQJ Media Center



This year AQJ welcomed Mrs. Pardue as our new media specialist. She was also the recipient of the Catalyst for Change Grant in which she received the funds to purchase over 500 new books and class sets for the media center. She also started the first AQJ Book Challenge. Students were challenged to read as many books as they could in the first semester. The students took a short quiz on the books to receive credit. The student with the most books won \$100 at the end of the challenge. Congratulations to Kendrick Johnson, Owen Rushing, Genesis Blackshear, and Ja'Zae Ferguson for completing the challenge.



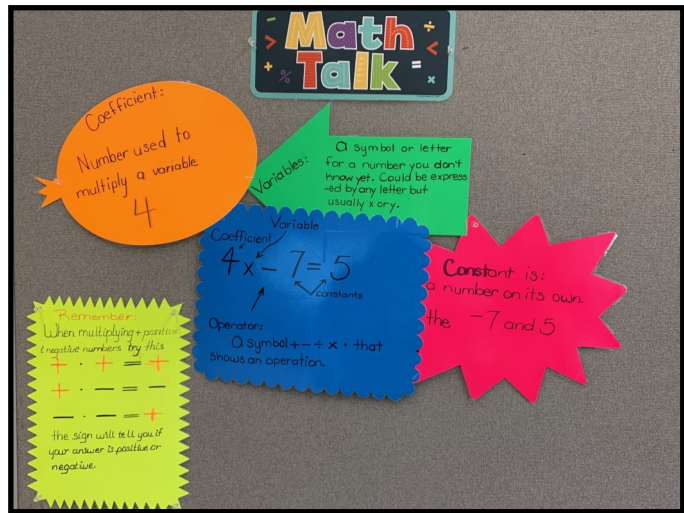
We are so proud of Mrs. Pardue and all of her hard work to instill a love of reading in our students.

Learning Strategies



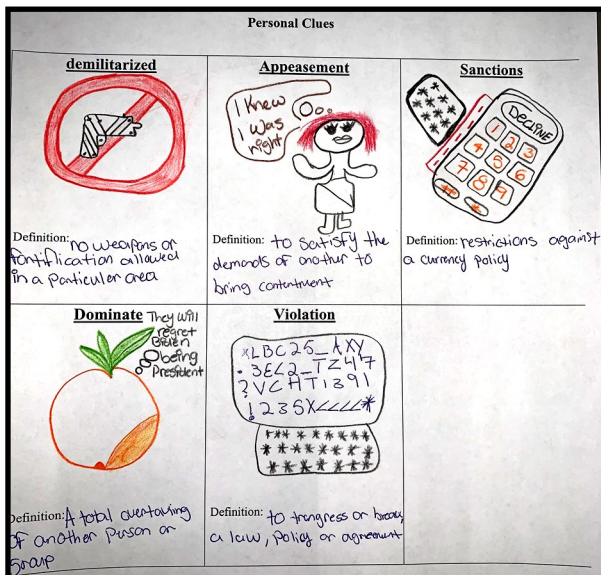
"In my ELA classes, students will start the persuasive writing process by using the OREO graphic organizer. The objective is for students to be able to write an opinion statement and be able to support their position while showing the reader their point of view."

- Mr. Scarborough, Middle/High School ESE ELA Teacher



"The word wall is an ongoing organized display of key vocabulary words. In my math classroom, I reference the word wall throughout class and encourage students to use it when they don't remember the meaning of a word."

- Mrs. Snyder, High School Math Teacher



"The personal clues strategy is a derivative of the Frayer Model that I use in my classroom. Students are introduced to new social studies vocabulary words and draw pictures to help them remember each word."

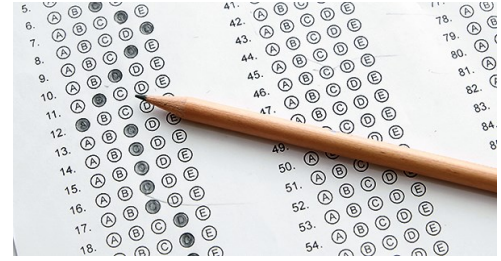
-Mr. Watts, High School Social Studies

Definition	Characteristics
<h1 style="text-align: center;">The Frayer Model</h1>	
Examples	Non-examples

"One instructional strategy I have focused on this year is the Frayer Model. Students practice the various history vocabulary terms, including the definition, synonyms, examples, and non-examples. They have really enjoyed coming up with non-examples. Kudos to my students for accepting the challenge of a new learning strategy!"

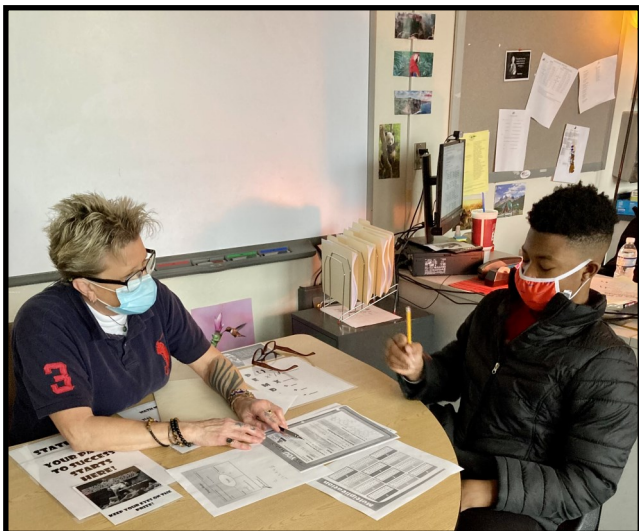
Mr. Long, Middle/High School ESE Social Studies Teacher

FSA Tips for Success



With the FSA right around the corner, we thought it might help to hear a few tips on preparing your students for their big day. Every parent wants to see their student experience success in the classroom. Here are five simple tips for parents to help your child perform his or her best on testing days.

1. Prioritize attendance and classwork. Tests are ultimately intended to be a measure of how well students have learned the material being taught in class. The best piece of test-prep advice for parents is to ensure that your child is fully engaged with his or her classwork .
2. Communicate with your child's teacher. Regular communication with your child's teacher can help you gain insight into his or her progress. Make a point of meeting or talking with your child's teacher on an ongoing basis to understand what your child is working on, what he or she will be tested on, and the areas that he or she is exceling and struggling in.
3. Talk to your child about test taking. Sometimes, the purpose and goals of testing are difficult for children to understand. It's easy for children to be intimidated by testing and not feel motivated to put forth their best effort. Have open, ongoing conversations with your child to explain how they will benefit from testing.
4. Offer positive reinforcement. A little encouragement can go a long way in helping students walk into testing days feeling confident. Praise your child for the work they do to prepare for testing, share in their excitement when they succeed in a new concept or skill. If they struggle with a topic, point out their progress, encourage them to continue working.
5. Support healthy habits. On testing days, make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and starts the day with a filling breakfast



Ms. Lawrence's math classes are working in learning stations to enhance their math skills. The students rotate through the centers during class, which allows them to work on math skills independently, one-on-one with the teacher, or with their peers. Great work, Ms. Lawrence and her math students!

Learning Stations



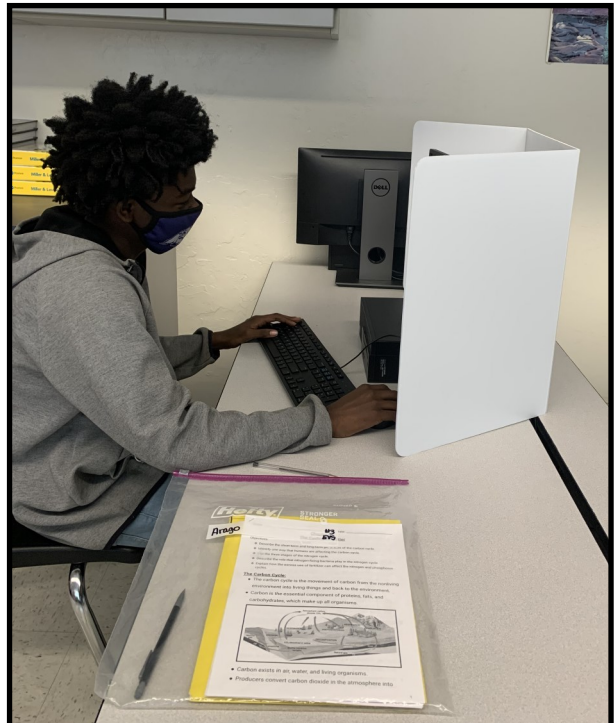
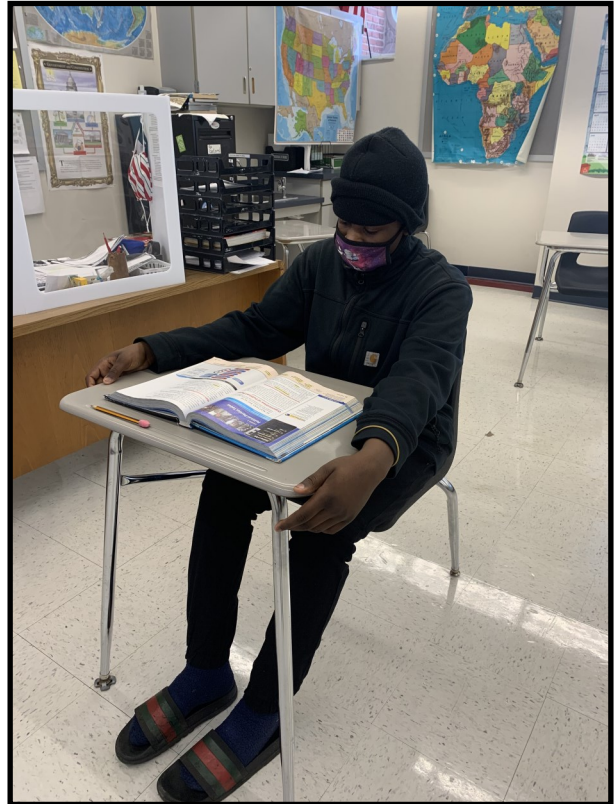
Staying Safe

COVID-19 AND YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Tips to managing anxiety during COVID-19:

- Ask someone to be your support buddy
- Exercise at home
- Create a new routine
- Take 10 deep breaths when you feel stressed
- Use a mindfulness and meditation app

A. Quinn Jones would like to thank the students and staff for working hard to navigate school during these unprecedented times. Many of our students are learning through the Digital Academy this semester. Students check in on Zoom with Mrs. Sutor and complete assignments in an online platform called Canvas. Thank you to Mrs. Sutor for meeting with these students and helping them learn and engage with their teachers from home! We are proud of our students for wearing their masks during the day, maintaining a 6 feet distance from peers, and washing their hands throughout the day. Many teachers have come up with creative ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For example, Mrs. Montmarquette has placed student work and materials in individual bags so that students are not spreading germs around the classroom. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to keeping our school safe!



Congratulations

A. Quinn Jones would like to congratulate **Kendrick Johnson** for graduating and receiving his high school diploma this semester! Kendrick said, “A. Quinn Jones helped me to become a better man. After graduation, I plan to work with the city and continue making music.” We are so proud of you, Kendrick!



A. Quinn Jones would like to congratulate **Ms. Cynthia Williams** for being chosen as the A. Quinn Jones 2021 School-Related Employee of the Year! Ms. Cynthia has worked at A. Quinn Jones for 11 years. She is a team player, and she is the first to lend a helping hand without a complaint. We are so thankful for everything she does for our school.

A. Quinn Jones would like to congratulate **Mrs. Cassidy Klein** for being chosen as the A. Quinn Jones 2021 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Klein is the high school English Language Arts teacher, and this is her 3rd year teaching at our school. Mrs. Klein serves as our ELA department chair, journal editor, and CREATE contact. Thank you for being passionate about our students and making learning fun!

