



The Americans with Disabilities Act

At Cornwall Consolidated School

Who we are, What we did, Why we did it

Who? 7th graders at Cornwall Consolidated School: Jonny, Qais, Mya, Mason, Donald, Austin

What? Made our school more accessible and inclusive for the differently abled.

Why? Disability Rights are Civil Rights. The ADA does so much, but there's more to do.

Inclusion Matters

Representation Matters

ADA

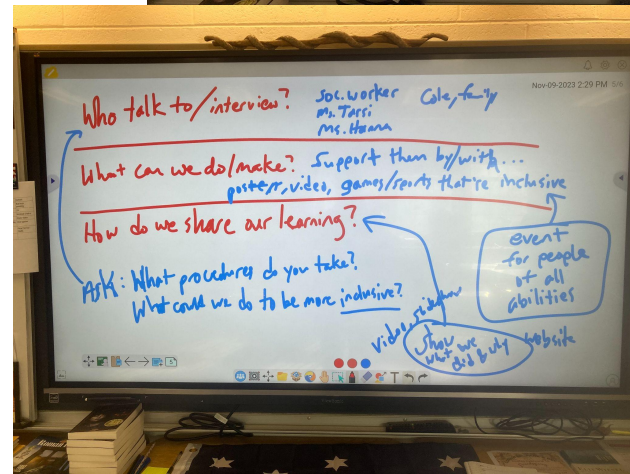
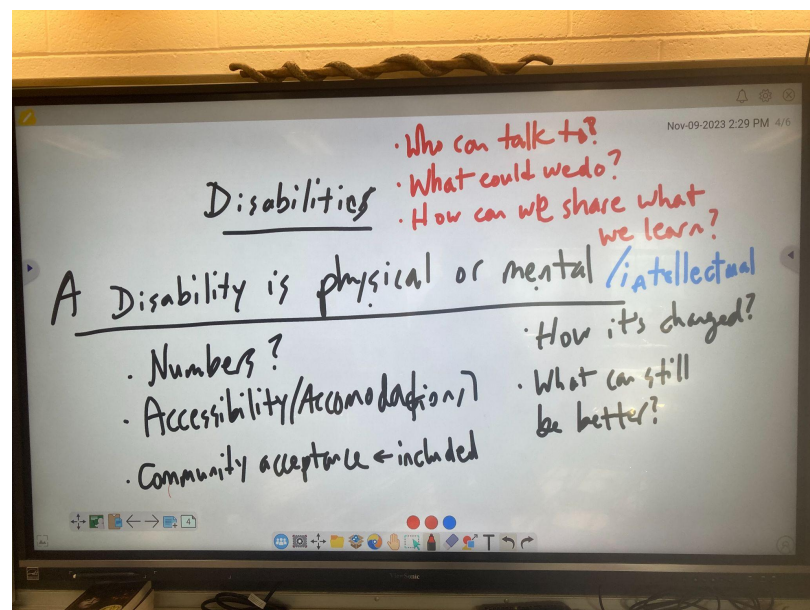
Americans with
Disabilities Act



Initial ideas

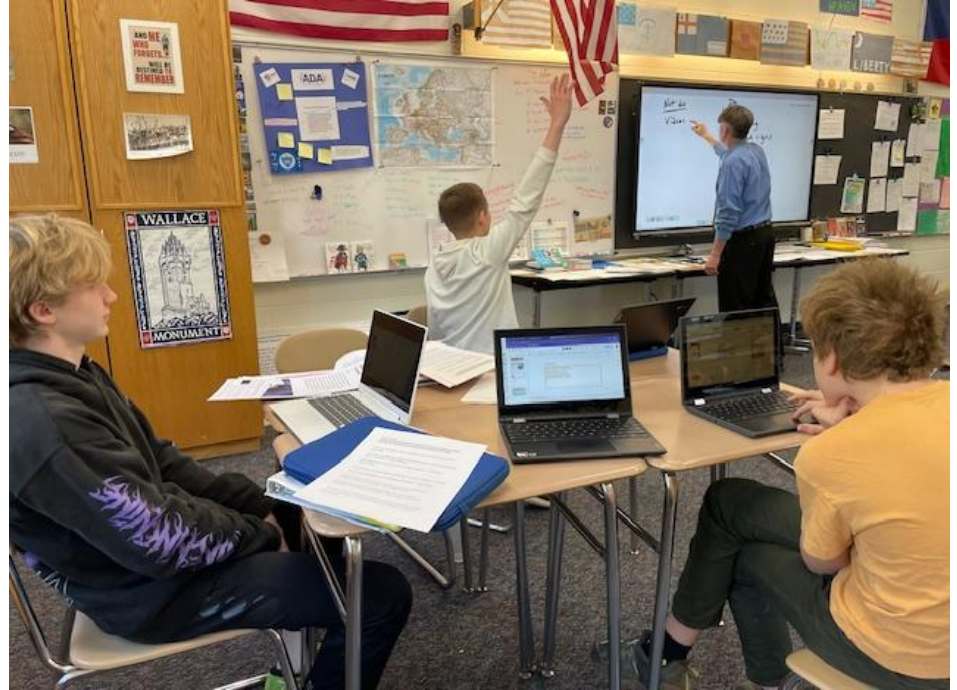
What we thought we were going to do:

- Be in a wheelchair for a day
- Find CCS alumni with disabilities
- Have a sign language interpreter
- Create videos



What we actually did

- Researched the ADA
- Updated parking spaces
- Book inventory and update
- Sign language
- Braille signs
- Bulletin Board
- Taught 2nd Grade
- Interview
- Volunteered

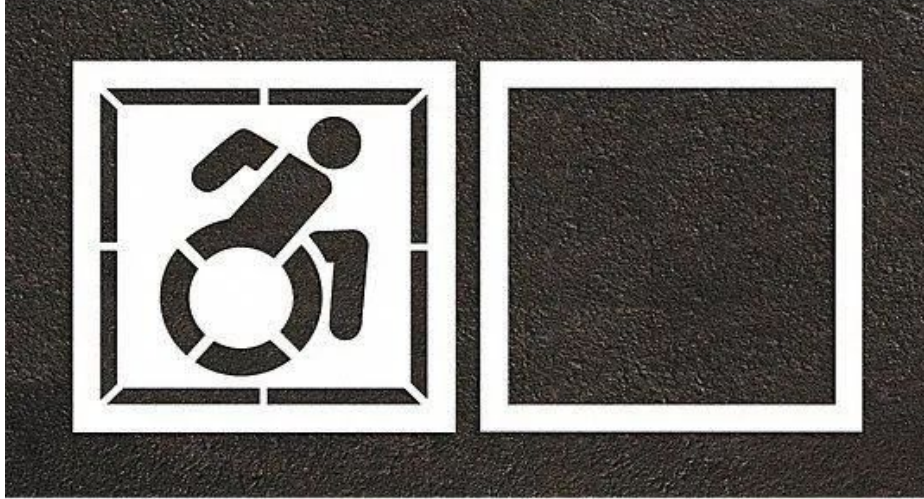


Parking Decals

- Out of date handicap icon
- Searched for new image
- Order
- Updated our signs and spaces with new decals



- Old ones



Stencils for the parking lot.

● **Ordering new Signs**



Stickers for the signs.



- **Updating the look**









Finished Product





Taking Inventory

We wanted to see how many books we had that directly address people with disabilities.



What we had

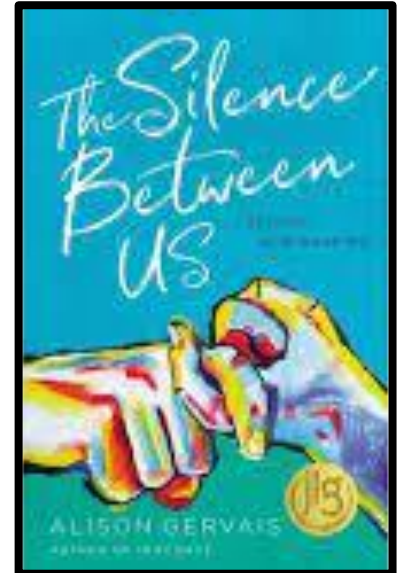
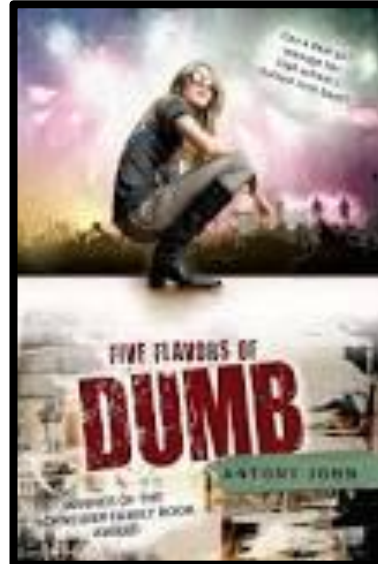
We noticed that we only had five books that directly addressed disabilities.

So we decided to order more books for our library.



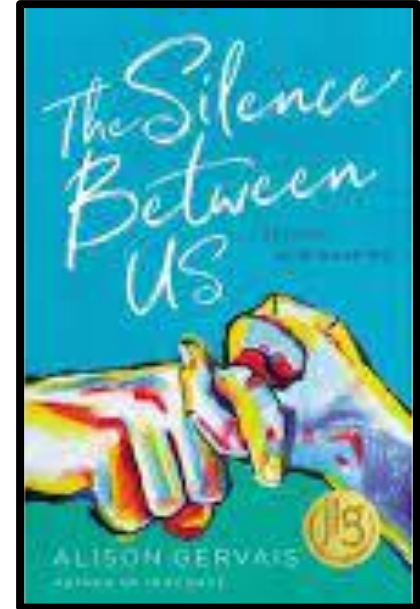
Ordering new books

Some of the new books we ordered were Freak The Mighty, The Silence Between us, Midget, Five Flavors of Dumb, Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, and All the way to the top.



The Silence Between Us

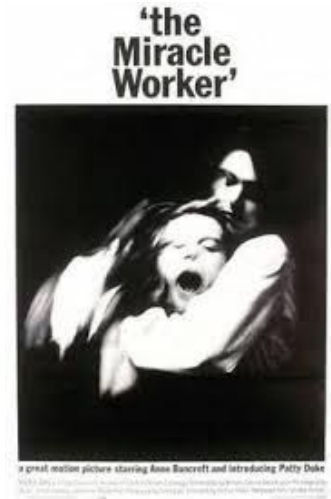
One of the books we ordered is "The Silence Between Us." We are reading it for our ELA class. and it is about a deaf girl and the struggles they go through, and what some stereotypes are.



The Miracle Worker

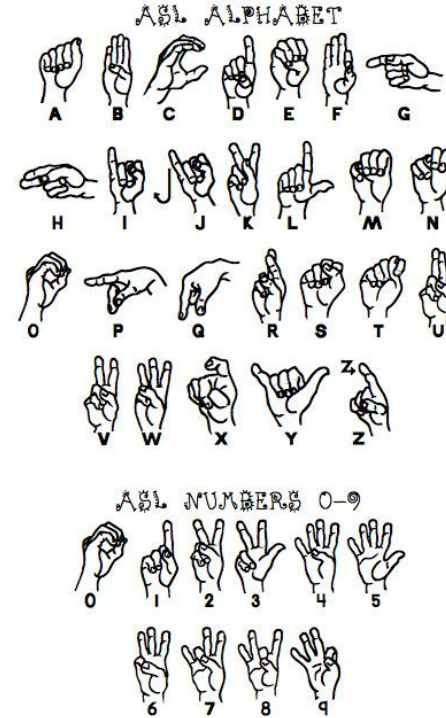
We are currently reading The Miracle Worker. It's a play about Helen Keller, the girl that became blind, deaf, and mute when she got sick as a baby.

We learned about what life was like for those with disabilities way before the ADA became law.

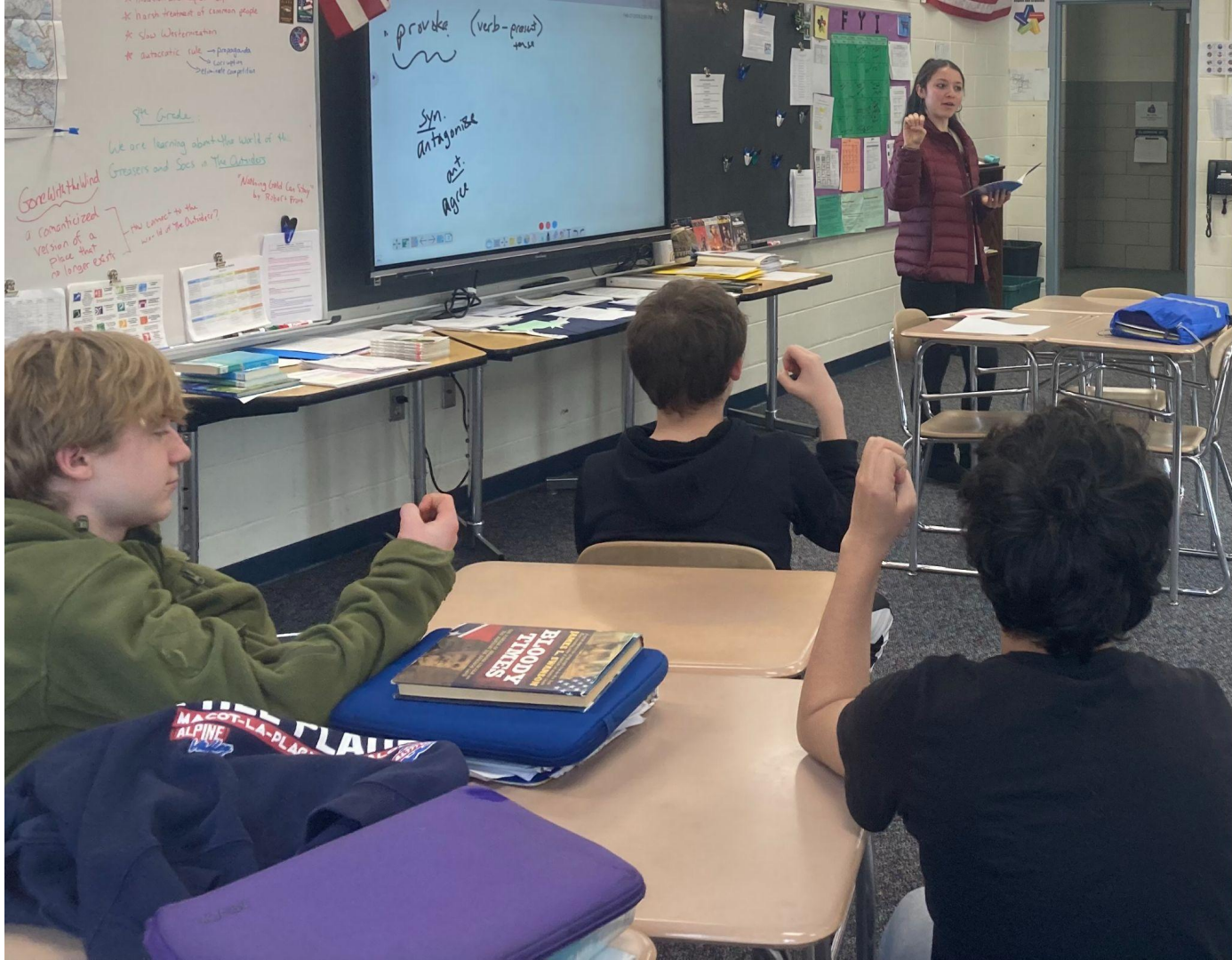


Sign Language

- We read a book about a deaf girl that goes to a hearing school for the first time
- Sarita, a CCS alum taught us some sign language



According to Gallaudet University, ASL is the sixth most common language in the United States. Learning a second language stimulates the brain. ASL has added benefits to visual-spatial thinking. Plus, you can communicate underwater and chat at a movie or the library without making any noise!



Gore Vidal's Wind

a conventionalized version of a place that no longer exists

8th Grade
We are learning about the world of the Greeks and Spas in The Outsiders

the context in the world of the Outsiders?

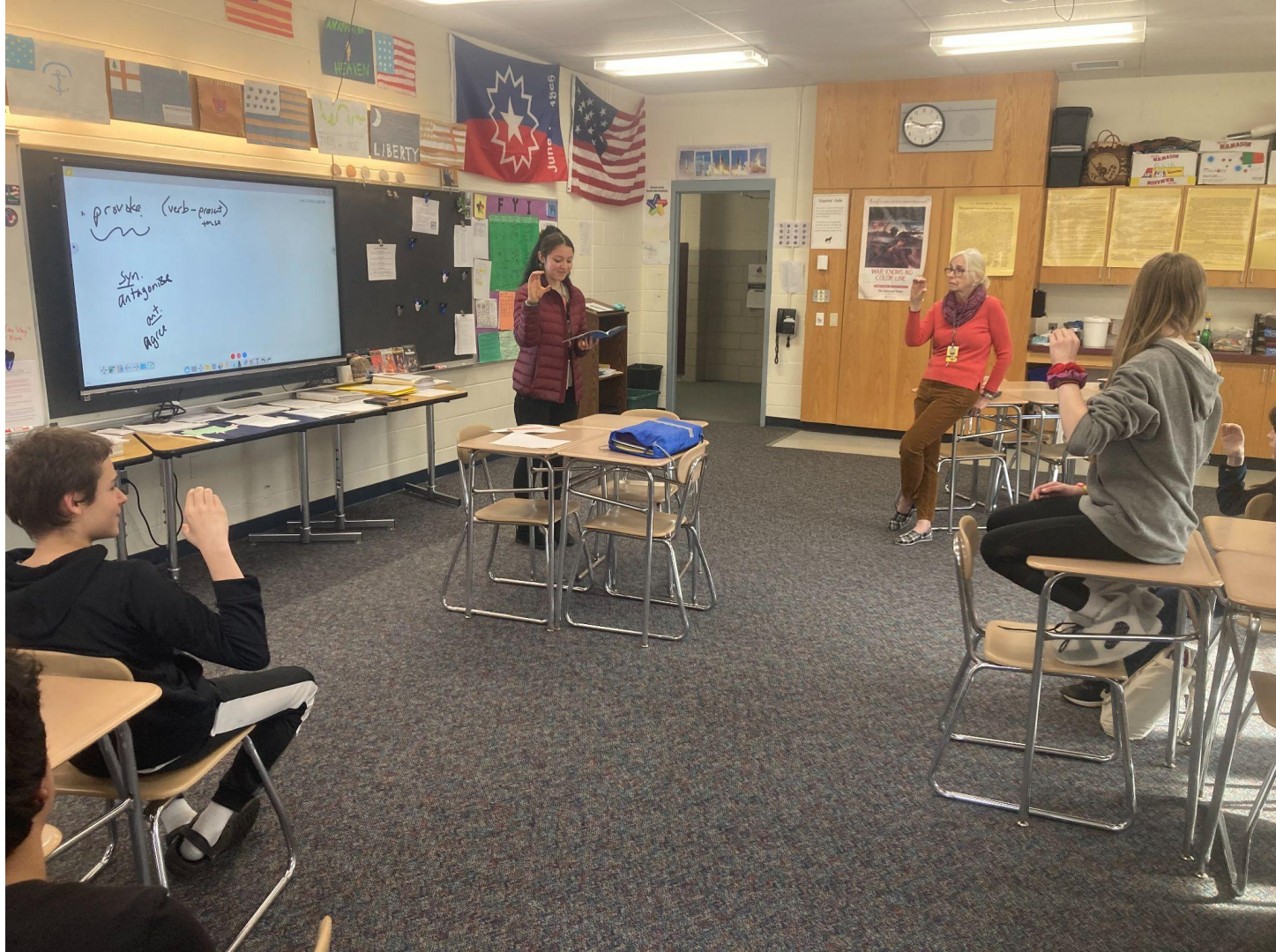
"Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost

provoked (verb-provide) +use

Syn. Antagonist
at: Agence

THE GODS ARE WITH US

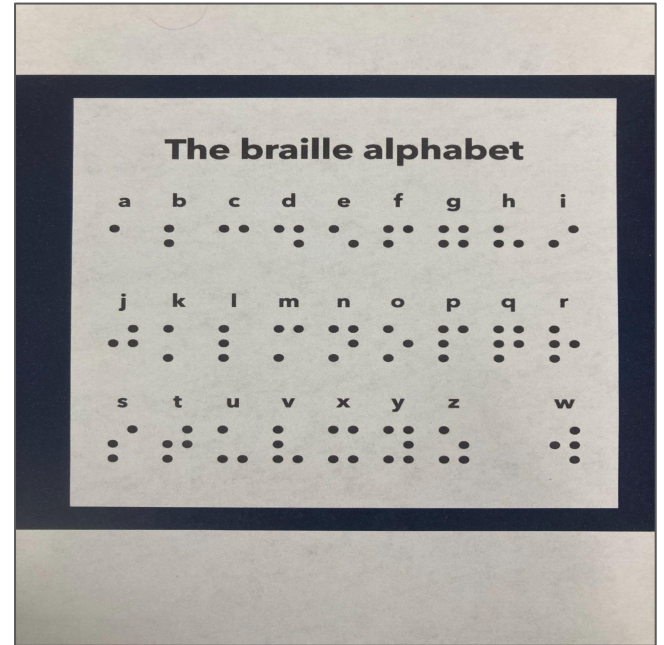
ALPINE



Braille Signs

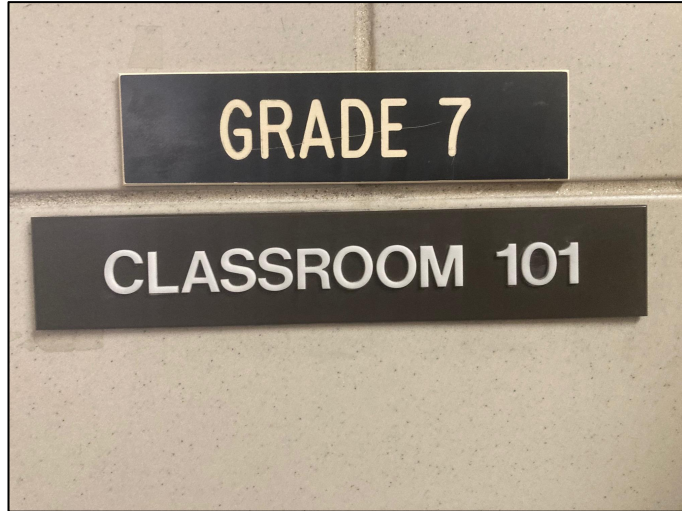
1. **Taking inventory**
2. **What we had (half and half)**
3. **Making our own**
4. **Finished products**

Show off an example



Taking Inventory

We needed to figure out what signs has braille and we found out that many rooms didn't have braille. Some that did were old and missing some letters.



INVENTORY - CCS Building, Rooms, Exits, Etc

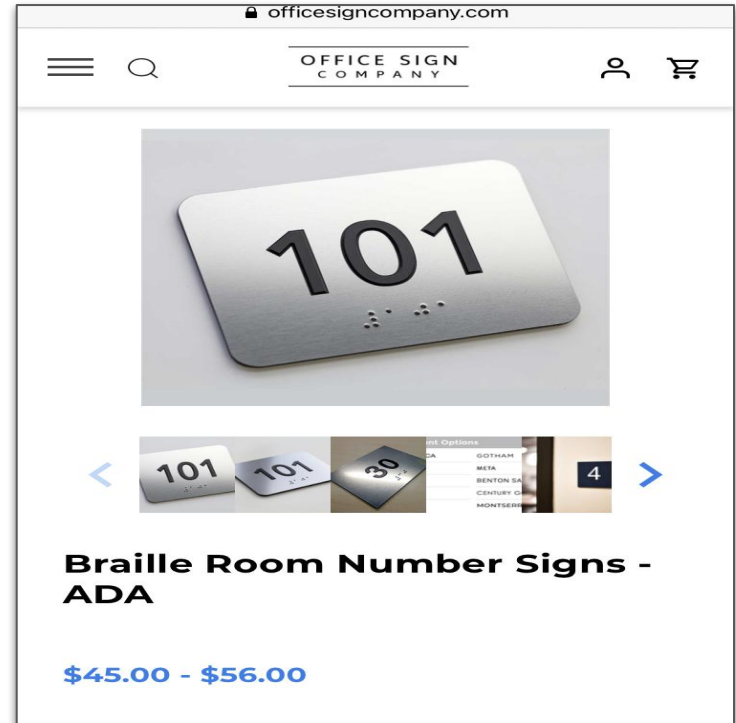
Needs Braille		Has Braille
101	Custodian	248
100	212	Main office
	Down stairs	girls
102	Exit	boy
103	work room	cafeteria
117 (fix)	work room (fix)	Gym class
119 (fix)		door
106	staff room, principal	Gym stage
EXIT	restroom, exit	entrance
stairs		Gym exit
Library	Boiler	Nurses office
200	room #2	storage
201		215
202		storage
Elevator		221
		music
		120
		203
		206
		256
		STAFF (FIX)
		storage
		246 (FIX)
		243 speech
		242
		Kitchen
		restroom
		LUNCH room
		Gym, Equipment
		Boiler room
		conference room
		218
		Music room 226

What we had

We had no Braille signs identifying fire alarms, extinguishers, AED, exits, or elevator.

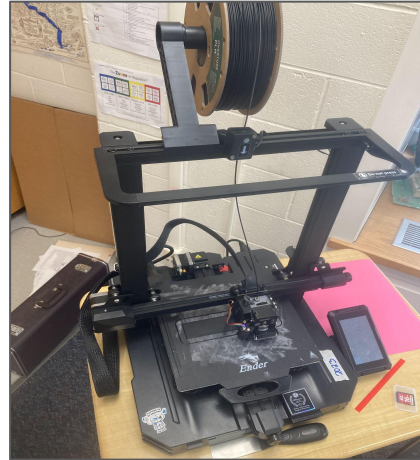
Buying these would be expensive.

So.....



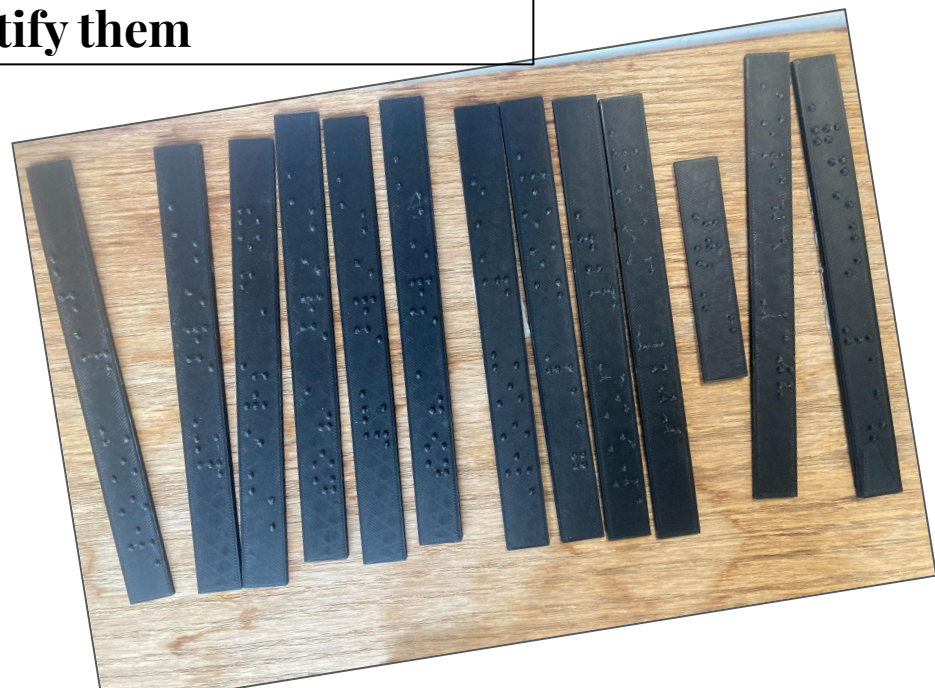
We made our own

We found an app that translated to Braille and we asked Mrs. Dineen from HVRHS about using a 3D printer from there. She brought one to us! She showed us Tinkercad and the way to design what we wanted to make.

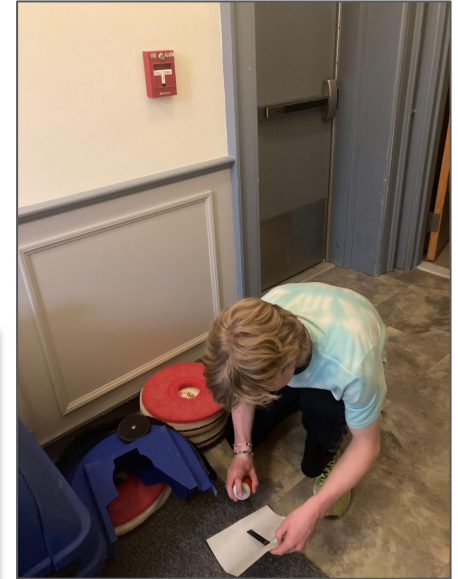
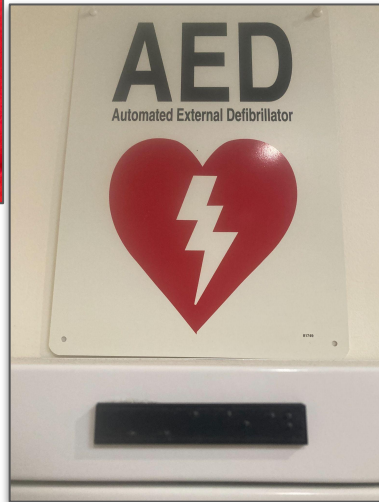


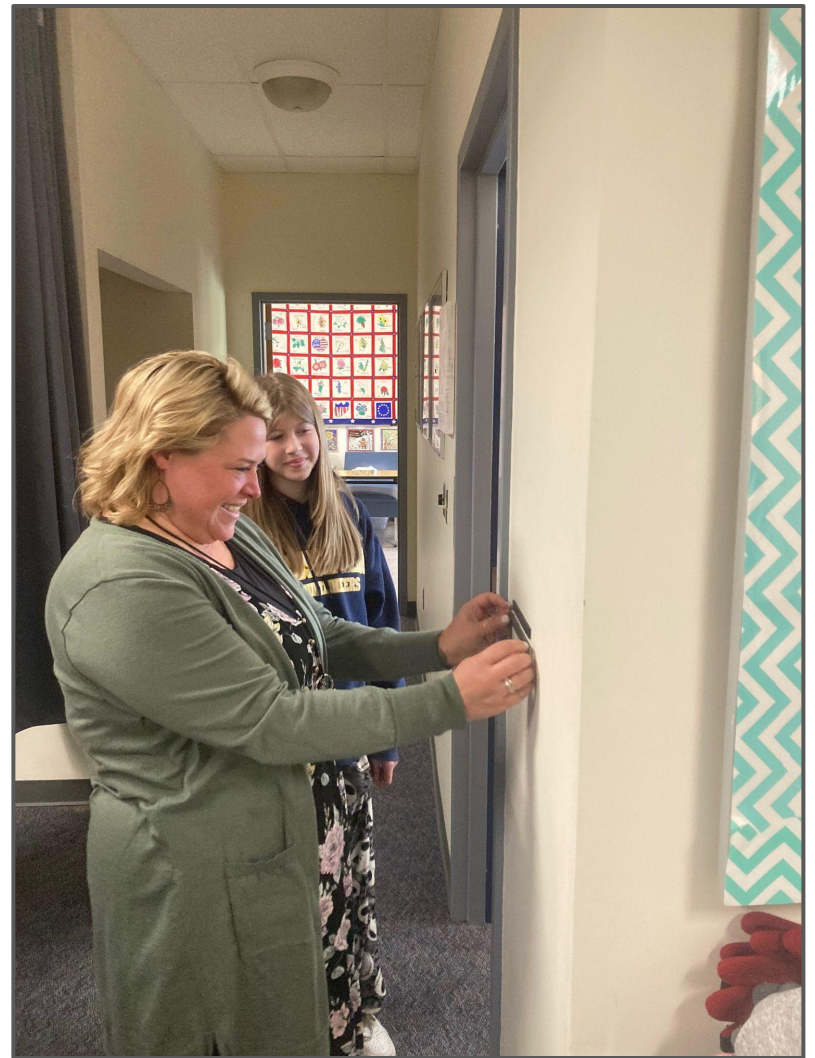
Keeping track

We kept track by putting labeling the room number on the back of each sign so with that we were able to easily identify them



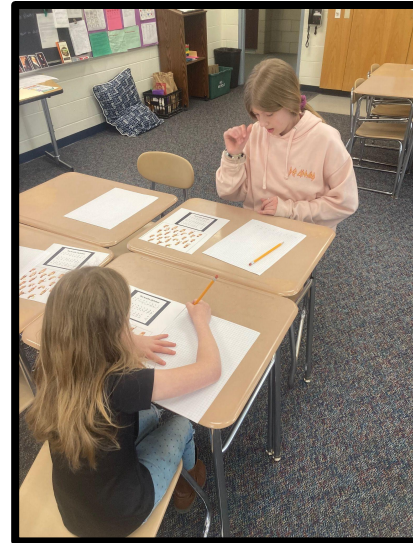
Hanging them up

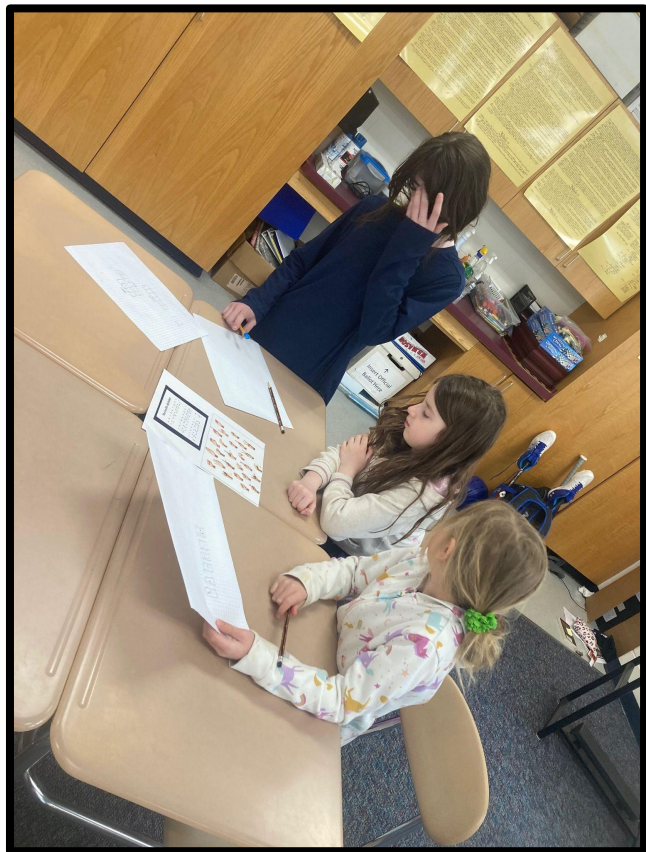




Teaching 2nd Grade

We taught our 2nd grade class what we were doing to make our school more inclusive, how to write in Braille, how to spell their name in sign language, and about Helen Keller.





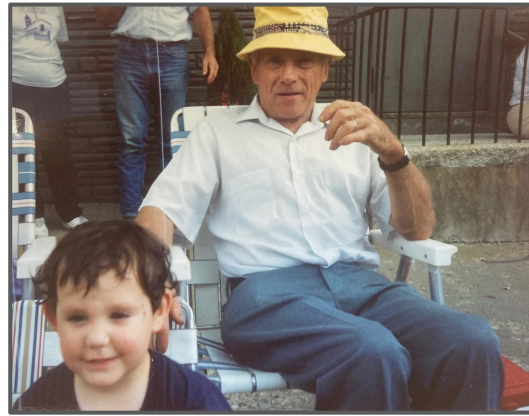
Interview



ADA (interview) questions by 7th grade 2023

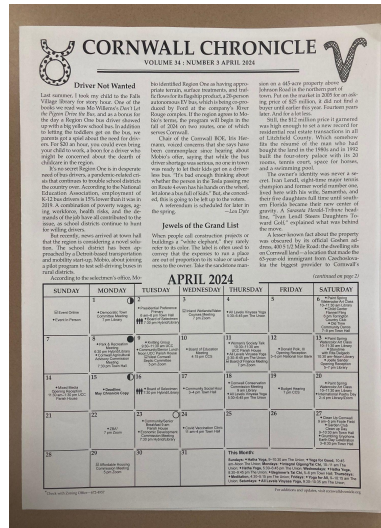
1. What is your favorite thing to do? MW
2. How did you meet your husband? MW
3. What did you guys like to do? MW
4. What was his disability? Did he always have this disability? In what ways did it affect him and you? QA
5. Describe his daily routine. MB
6. Tell us about your extended family members and their different abilities. MB]
7. What sort of discrimination have you faced? What feelings have you felt in regards to it? DP
8. What challenges did your family face? AW
9. What was your life like before and after the ADA? JB
10. What did the ADA do that helped him? DP
11. Tell us some stories about students with disabilities that you have worked with at CCS. JB
12. What's missing in the ADA? What could be better? What wouldfor your husband, family members, or students? QA
13. What would you change in the world? AW





Volunteering

- Advertised
- What we did (if it happens)
- Why it mattered
- Taught us



Letter to the Chronicle

CCS SEVENTH-GRADERS WILLING TO HELP

In an effort to foster a community that continuously prioritizes inclusiveness, seventh-grade students at Cornwall Consolidated School have been learning about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the roles that we all can play to ensure equal access for all individuals.

Some ways seventh-graders have been increasing universal layers of inclusion are by updating the handicapped parking symbols, printing 3D Braille signs for classrooms, ordering new books for the school library that address the ADA and disabilities, as well as learning some sign language.

Seventh-grade students are also interested in the authentic experiences of individuals with disabilities in our community. Students would love to volunteer with individuals who are willing to share their experiences, while helping out with household jobs, such as yardwork, cleaning, arranging, carrying, lifting, or any other way we can make life a little easier.

Students feel it is a great way to say, "We see you and we value you as members of our community!" If you are interested in having the seventh-graders from CCS assist you in some way, please contact the school at 672-6617 or email Will Vincent at wvincent@cornwallschool.org. Seventh-graders are willing and wanting to help.

—CCS Seventh-Graders

join them. Contact [redacted] for more details. [redacted] students. The Brad- [redacted]-year stipend, is [redacted] Cornwall student [redacted] university of Con- [redacted]. Those interested [redacted] of Education clerk [redacted] school.org for more [redacted] est an application. [redacted] are due by May 13. [redacted] vation Trust is of- [redacted] tuating high school [redacted] ling in Region One [redacted] nvironmental conser- [redacted] vation trust.org. [redacted] with its naturalist [redacted] offering a series of [redacted] s year. Its website [redacted] how to get up-to- [redacted] coming treks. [redacted] in the Mill Brook [redacted] Cornwall will begin [redacted] access to River [redacted] vo weeks. [redacted] school and the town [redacted] April 19 at 7 p.m. at [redacted] school. The budget [redacted] ary to deal with [redacted] related to recent [redacted] mber of Cornwall [redacted] atonic Valley Re- [redacted] Village.

(pics of volunteering from 4/26/24)

How this project changed us

- Our understanding changed by...
- Our empathy increased because...
- We are proud of making our school more inclusive and representative.
- We will continue by making sure our school stays inclusive.

Impact at CCS

- 2nd grade came to our room.
- Other grades noticed, sparked conversations
- More Braille - better than it was.
- Updated Parking decals, signs.
- Learned and taught a little bit of sign language.
- Accessibility improved
- Made many connections



What can you do?

The World Health Organization reminds us that “almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life.”

Here are some simple steps you can take to make your schools & communities more inclusive:

- Inventory
- ADA applicable (compliant?)
- 3D printing
- Order decals from this site (add link here)
- Respect privacy
- Research ADA, respect and include those of all abilities
- Consider how to talk to those with disabilities

Thank you, Troutbeck!

Image of Braille sign saying “Troutbeck Symposium 2024”