



## DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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# Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 1

AUGUST 18, 2017



We are off to a great start to the 2017-18 school year. It truly takes a collaborative effort among parents, teachers, staff and students for all of this to work.

I wanted to provide you with some updates and some reminders:

- All students should have their lanyard and ID with them at all times during the school day. This not only serves as an identification for the student, but it also serves as their "payment" for breakfast and lunch as well as their "ticket" to check out books from our library. Thank you for your help in supporting our students in being ID responsible!
- The next few bullets are for car riders:
  - ⇒ Please have your child to school NO LATER than 7:30 in the morning. Our students need time to go to their lockers, get their breakfasts, and get to their first period class. Arriving after 7:30 puts our students at risk of not getting to first period on time.
  - ⇒ Please drop off your child on the SOUTH side of the Decatur Township School for Excellent. We want to keep the front circle clear of any traffic during this time. Thank you for not dropping off your child by the orange cones out front and for following our car rider drop off procedures.
  - ⇒ In the afternoon for car rider pick-up, please enter the Decatur Township School for Excellent (DTSE) parking lot off of High School Road using the SOUTH entrance. Upon entering, please make a loop all the way around the DTSE parking lot and then work your way back to the SOUTH. Thank you for entering the parking lot using the correct entrance as entering from the other side can cause back-ups on High School Road.
- We are looking for parents to serve on our PTO. If you are interested in learning more, please email me at [kbarrentine@msddecatur.k12.in.us](mailto:kbarrentine@msddecatur.k12.in.us).
- 8th Grade Washington, DC Trip: September 8 is the final day to sign-up for this trip. We will be traveling May 16-20 this year. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Considine or me.

Have a great weekend!

- Kyle Barrentine, Principal

# Apex SLC News



The 2017-2018 school year is off to an excellent start in the Apex hallway. Both the 7th and 8th grade learners have completed and presented their first PBL project of the year, Lifelong Learners. For this opening project, learners participated in workshops to explore their leadership style and academic strengths and challenges in order to set them up for success as we move into the upcoming interdisciplinary content projects throughout the rest of the school year. The 7th grade learners created multimedia vision boards with keynote or iMovie to present what they learned about themselves throughout this first experience with the PBL pro-

cess. The 8th grade learners created resumes and cover letters and participated in one-on-one interviews with facilitators to apply for a spot in collaborative grouping for the projects to come, and to prepare crucial real life skills for high school and beyond.

In the middle of the hard work of the first two weeks, Apex learners, facilitators and parent volunteers took an exciting field trip to the Indiana State Fair! The learners were able to explore the "Farm to Table" exhibits and learn how Indiana agriculture has impacted the evolution of our food. They also had a blast meeting, feeding and petting horses, cows, goats and all of the oth-

er animals at the fair. In the Apex community, we take great pride in establishing a positive, family culture and our awesome day at the fair got us off to a great start in building that culture between our staff, parents and students. Our first two weeks are commencing with the first Apex "Family Friday" of the school year, a celebration for both grade levels where we continue to establish our culture with community building activities and an ice cream party. We are looking forward to an awesome year here in the Apex hallway at DMS!

## 21st Century Scholars



Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university after they graduate from high school, dependent upon financial need. 7th and 8th grade Indiana students whose families meet income eligibility guidelines can apply to become a 21st Century Scholar. Applications must be received by June 30 of the student's 8th grade year.

As a Scholar, you pledge to:

- Complete the Scholar Success Program, which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help you stay on track for college and career success.
- Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by your college.
- Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.

To apply, you can visit [Scholars.IN.gov](http://Scholars.IN.gov), call the 21st Century Scholars office at 1-888-528-4719 OR contact Gail Barrett, Guidance Counselor at Decatur Middle School, at 317-856-5274 ext. 8014 or via email at [gbarrett@msddecatur.k12.in.us](mailto:gbarrett@msddecatur.k12.in.us).

# Explorations SLC News



## 7th Grade Explorations

During iTime this week, Explorations 7th graders had the opportunity to discover possible ideas for their iTime projects by listening to presenters talk to them about their own passions. After filling out a questionnaire that targeted certain characteristics, students were divided into two groups.

The first group listened to Jason Burcham, a representative with the IBEW, tell them about electrical and construction career options. Students learned that apprenticeship programs are another pathway to consider after high school. Mr. Burcham shared that his passion of electrical work has allowed him to be involved in some neat projects such as the building of the Indianapolis International Airport and Lucas Oil Stadium. The students were impressed that his job has also allowed him to be involved with three different Super Bowls.

The second group listened to Paul Dieterlen, who has a passion for wood working. Students listened intently as he explained his passion and the time it takes for him to build his many projects. Mr. Dieterlen brought examples of tools he uses to build and a few of his finished products. They were in awe of what he was able to build with a piece of wood using non-electric tools. Students are invited to join him at Avon Library on September 23rd for a free wood carving demonstration.

We are excited to have both presenters willing to answer questions and mentor students during the year who choose to explore electricity or wood working during their iTime. We will continue to have different presentations throughout the year that will help students discover new passions.



## 8th Grade Explorations

Our 8th grade Explorations students also took a student interest survey so teachers could begin to organize students into iTime groups. Since most of our 8th grade students are familiar with iTime, we anticipate beginning iTime projects much sooner. Again, please let us know if you know of someone who is interested in sharing their skills with our students.



## Explorations Fundraiser

We will host a Creative Gatherings Wood Painting Sign Fundraiser on Tuesday, September 26 from 6:30-8:30pm in the Decatur Middle School cafeteria. \$10 from each sign will go to the Explorations SLC fund to help pay for field trips and other SLC student needs.



At the fundraiser, the party facilitator will bring all the materials you need to create a wood sign that you love. Creative Gatherings has over 600 designs, 6 stain colors and 60 paint colors. You must pre-order the sign you want to paint, so they can stain the wood and cut the vinyl stencil ahead of time. Creative Gatherings signs cost between \$35-\$60.

Creative Gatherings has 2 collections of signs. The Ready2Go requires a \$10 non-refundable security deposit. The security deposit goes toward the cost of your sign.

To order your sign, go to [www.creativegatheringsindy.com/order-your-sign.html](http://www.creativegatheringsindy.com/order-your-sign.html). Find the date, time and location of our party on the calendar to order your sign (September 26, from 6:30-8:30pm, at DMS). This will ensure your sign arrives at the correct party.

ALL SIGNS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED BY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, AT 10:00 AM. Creative Gatherings will need 4-5 days to prepare the signs. They cannot accept late orders.

Follow the Explorations SLC on Twitter at @ExplorationsDMS to see daily activities that occur in Explorations classes.

Sign up for Remind to receive regular text message notifications about upcoming Explorations events:

- 7th Grade Explorations Families: Text @7exp1617 to 81010
- 8th Grade Explorations Families: Text @8ex1617 to 81010

*It is the Board's commitment to provide a safe, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. Any individual who believes a student has been or is the victim of discrimination, bullying, or harassment should report the situation to the building principal or designee or complete the School District's Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying report form, which is available online at [www.msddecatur.k12.in.us](http://www.msddecatur.k12.in.us).*

**The core mission of this school is the creation of highly engaging activities, materials, and settings for learning that are too good—too interesting—for students to resist AND increases student achievement.**

**The MSD of Decatur Township is Student Invested, Community Connected. We prioritize Student Learning, Safety and Customer Service, fostering a support system for our families.**

# Calendar of Events

## Tuesday, August 22

- 4:15pm—Boys Golf @ Speedway Jr. High School
- 5:15pm—Girls Soccer @ Beech Grove Middle School
- 5:15pm—Boys Tennis @ Paul Hadley Middle School
- 6:30pm—Boys Soccer @ Beech Grove Middle School

## Wednesday, August 23

- 4:30pm—Girls Golf vs. Clark-Pleasant Middle School
- 5:15pm—Boys Soccer vs. Chapel Hill
- 5:15pm—Girls Soccer @ Chapel Hill
- 5:15pm—Boys Tennis vs. Franklin Twp. Middle School
- 5:30pm—Cross Country vs. Hokum Karen

## Thursday, August 24

- 4:30pm—Boys Golf vs. Indian Creek Middle School
- 5:15pm—7/8A Volleyball @ Greenwood Middle School
- 5:15pm—7/8B Volleyball vs. Kingsway Christian
- 5:15pm—7th Grade Football @ Perry Meridian Middle School
- 5:30pm—Girls Golf @ Speedway Jr. High School
- 5:30pm—8th Grade Football vs. Perry Meridian Middle School

## Tuesday, August 29

- 4:30pm—Boys Golf @ Clark-Pleasant Middle School
- 5:15pm—7/8 Volleyball vs. Franklin Community Middle School
- 5:15pm—Boys Tennis vs. Beech Grove Middle School
- 5:15pm—Cross Country vs. Lynhurst

## Wednesday, August 30

- 4:30pm—Boys/Girls Golf @ Warren Township
- 5:15pm—7/8 Volleyball @ Lynhurst
- 5:15pm—Boys Soccer vs. Warren Township
- 5:15pm—Boys Tennis @ Perry Meridian Middle School
- 6:30pm—Girls Soccer vs. Warren Township

## Thursday, August 31

- 4:15pm—Boys/Girls Golf vs. Southport Middle School
- 5:15pm—7/8 Volleyball vs. Eastwood Middle School
- 5:15pm—Cross Country vs. Speedway Jr. High School
- 5:15pm—Girls Soccer @ Lynhurst
- 5:30pm—7th Grade Football vs. Paul Hadley Middle School
- 5:30pm—8th Grade Football @ Paul Hadley Middle School

# Global SLC News



It's hard to believe the first few weeks of school are already in the books! We are off to a great start in Global! Great relationship building is already at hand, and engaging lessons are occurring regularly. We're all excited to see what the 2017-2018 school year has in store!

On Wednesday, August 16, two 2016-2017 8th Grade Global students presented a check for \$616.73 to Dayspring Center—a downtown family homeless shelter. Last spring as their IDEA Time project, Emily and Charles coordinated a school dance in order to raise funds for the shelter, which relies primarily on donations. They toured the facility, learned about the various causes for homelessness, and picked up more information about ways they can continue to help. Very proud of our Global alumni!



7th grade Global students completed their fall NWEA testing this week. This is an online test that provides teachers with instant reading, math and language usage data. The Global team is already utilizing the data to be creating intervention groups to make sure each student's unique academic needs are met. 8th grade Global students will test next week!

7th grade Global students have been researching the historical context S.E. Hinton's novel *The Outsiders*. Students, remember your signed letters and \$7 are due this Friday! You will begin reading



in just a couple short weeks!  
#StayGoldPonyboy



Global students are already racking up the positive referrals for caught being SUPER! Here are just a few:

- Isaiah took it upon himself to help a new student with his work and

schedule.

- On the second day of school, Kourtneigh found a 7th grader's schedule. Knowing that the student might be lost without it, she made a special trip down to the 7th grade wing to give it to a teacher.



- A student lost his glasses, and Dominick volunteered to help him retrace his steps. The glasses were eventually found!

During Intervention and Enrichment time this past week, 8th grade Global students have been digging into each element of IDEA! We are excited to see the powerful concepts our students explore this year.



1. Investigate the World
2. Discover Different Perspectives
3. Explore Possible Solutions
4. Articulate Findings and Act

## Global Announcements

- The mid-term ends on August 30. Reports will go home with students September 9!
- 7th grade students: Don't forget your cereal box reports are due August 30!
- If students need to purchase an additional ID (\$1) or Global lanyard (\$2), they may do so at the front office.
- Students wishing to participate in Club Phoenix must bring a completed packet and first attend on a Monday in order to participate in Club Phoenix Orientation!
- Follow us on social media to see regular updates on the exciting things taking place in our Global classrooms:



@GlobalHawksDMS

DMS Global Learning SLC