



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 1

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 30—
JobSpark Fair (8th Graders Only)
- November 10—
Indianapolis International Festival (Global SLC Only)

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We are off to a great start to the 2016-17 school year. I attribute that to all the hard work that our office staff and teachers put in preparing for the first days of school. I also attribute that to our parents and our students. It truly takes a collaborative effort for all of this to work.

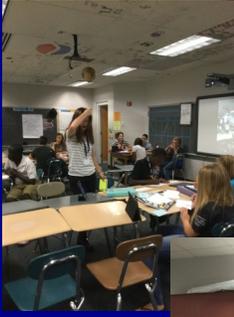
I wanted to provide you with some updates and some reminders:

- While trying to provide you as much information as possible, the newsletter this year will have a section for each of the four SLCs. My hope is that this will allow you to better keep up with your child's SLC.
- All SLCs are working their way through a digital citizenship curriculum called Common Sense Media. We will be revisiting these expectations and lessons as we work through this school year.
- If you bring your child to school in the morning, please drop your child off on the EAST side of the Decatur Township School for Excellence. We want to keep the front circle clear of any traffic during this time. Upon arrival, your child should enter Door 13 East. This door is open beginning at 7 a.m.
- Our first period classes begin at 7:45 a.m. Please help us with making sure that your child is here no later than

7:35. This allows your child to get breakfast and get all materials prior to class starting.

- Thank you for all your feedback, patience, and support as we work our way to improving the car rider area after school. Using the west entrance has proven to help with the back-up on High School Road.
 - Our first PTO meeting was this past Monday evening. Our next meeting is Monday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us for this meeting and for subsequent meetings throughout the year.
 - Speaking of the PTO... the trash bag fundraiser is underway. A variety of five trash bags are available for \$10 a roll. We will be collecting orders and money from anyone who is finished selling on Friday, August 19. The final Friday to submit orders and money is Friday, August 26.
 - 8th Grade Washington, DC Trip: September 9 is the final day to sign-up for this trip. We will be traveling May 17-21 this year. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Considine or me.
- Have a great weekend!
 - Kyle Barrentine, Principal

Apex SLC News



Apex 7th graders were given the task of discovering their learning styles as well as their leadership skills. They have learned about the 21st Century Skills, Habits of Mind, and discovered their leadership style through a Compass Point personality test. The learners identified a strength and weakness within those topics and set goals to work on growing as well-rounded leaders and listeners throughout the school year. To finish out the project, they will present “who they are” to a group of their co-learners and a facilitator. The facilitators and learners

will use this information as they collaborate to solve problems throughout the year. 8th Grade Apex Lifelong Learners—8th graders have started off the year learning about themselves as learners. They have explored learning styles, leadership styles, habits of mind, and their Holland code in order to prepare for an interview with facilitators. Learners will be introducing themselves and “applying” for the job of 21st century learner. Learners are answering the question, “How can I be a successful learner in the 21st century?” As part of the learning process, students visited

IUPUI to learn about what it takes to be a learner at the college level.



Explorations SLC News

7th Grade Global Studies students were introduced to the Five Themes of Geography by conducting research on a country from Africa or Asia. Students summarized the information gathered about their country and shared their findings focused on the Five Themes of Geography in an artistic way.

8th Grade Science students tapped into their scientific thinking when they were asked to build a pyramid of plastic cups during a lab activity. There was one requirement—lab group members could not touch the cups

with their hands in order to stack them. Lab group members were able to make use of a rubber band anchored with four strings to successfully stack their cups. Students quickly discovered that clearly communicating with lab group members, while working as a team, was the key to accomplishing the task.

regular text message notifications about upcoming Explorations events:

- 7th Grade Explorations Families: Text @7expl617 to 81010
- 8th Grade Explorations Families: Text @8expl617 to 81010

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

Sign up for Remind to receive



Global SLC News



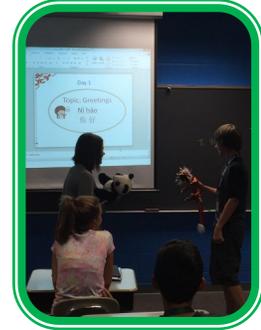
In the Global small learning community, our mission is to create a sense of global awareness and mutual respect for all cultures. Our teachers do that regularly by encouraging students to investigate the world, recognize different perspectives, communicate ideas, and take action. Additionally,

the Global community is excited to announce it will be joining forces with Decatur Central High School's CHOICE community for some service-learning projects later this fall. Stay tuned!

Global students have had a busy first few weeks of school! They've studied the devastating effects of discrimination, practiced with various apps on new iPads, and some have even started learning Mandarin

Chinese for high school credit! When teachers are passionate about what they teach, students become excited about what they learn.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to follow us on Twitter @GlobalHawksDMS and on Facebook at DMS Global Learning SLC. Here, you will get a bird's eye view of the exciting daily learning that is taking place in the Global hallway at Decatur Middle School.



S.W.A.G.
SUCCESS
WILLPOWER
ATTITUDES
 and
GOALS



Imagine SLC News



One of the unique elements of our small learning community is the artful learning framework our teachers utilize in their classroom instruction on a daily basis. Through this framework our students will experience, inquire, create and reflect on various types of work. Teachers are currently working on rolling out our **Masterwork, Concept and Significant Question** for the first quarter.

In 7th grade our teachers are focusing on the **Concept of Connections**. This represents how each student is unique as an individual, yet when they connect with each other and work together they can create a masterpiece!

In 8th grade our teachers are utilizing the **Concept of Communication**. As we get to know our students and create relationships with them during this first term, we

will emphasize the importance of positive interactions and clear communication. Students created collage pieces expressing their personalities using The Elements of Art and Principles of Design. This creation will serve as our **Masterwork** for the first quarter.



Finally in our small learning community we will be focusing on implementing **S.W.A.G.** throughout our hallway. **S.W.A.G.** stands for **SUCCESS WILLPOWER ATTITUDES AND GOALS**. We believe with the correct **ATTITUDES, WILLPOWER** and **GOALS** we can help our students be **SUCCESSFUL**.

In Imagine we are implementing **S.W.A.G.** in two ways:

1. Students are filling out academic and personal goals sheets for the first semester. Our teachers will help the student's update and check grades every Monday during Intervention and Enrichment time.
2. Our SLC teachers will be choosing **S.W.A.G.** students of the week for students who demonstrate characteristics of **S.W.A.G.** These students will be receiving a certificate, other goodies and their picture will be displayed at the end of the Imagine hallway.

Thank you for partnering with us. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Please connect with us on Twitter so you can see all the great things going on in Imagine.....
 @ImagineDms



Calendar of Events

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|--|---|--------|----------|
| 15 | 16 | 17 Apex 7th & 8th Grade Field Trip to State Fair | 18 5:15pm—Boys Soccer @ Paul Hadley 5:30pm—7 A/B Football vs. Clark-Pleasant 5:30pm—8 A/B Football @ Clark-Pleasant 6:45pm—Girls Soccer @ Paul Hadley | 19 | 20 |
| 22 | 23 4:15pm—Boys Golf vs. Speedway (Eagle Pines) 5:15pm—7/8 Volley- ball—DMS Invitational (Armstrong Pavilion) 5:15pm—Girls Soccer vs. Beech Grove 5:15pm—Tennis vs. Paul Hadley 6:45pm—Boys Soccer vs. Beech Grove | 24 4:15pm—Girls Golf @ Clark-Pleasant 5:15pm—Boys Soccer @ Chapel Hill 5:15pm—Girls Soccer vs. Chapel Hill 5:15pm—Tennis @ Franklin Twp. West 5:30pm—Cross Country vs. Hokum Karem | 25 4:30pm—Boys Golf @ Indian Creek 4:30pm—Girls Golf vs. Speedway (Eagle Pines) 5:15pm—7/8 A Volley- ball vs. Greenwood 5:15pm—7/8 B Volley- ball @ Kingsway Chris- tian 5:15pm—8 A/B Football @ Perry Meridian 5:45pm—7 A/B Football vs. Perry Meridian | 26 | 27 |

2016-2017 SLC Directors



We would like to introduce you to our Small Learning Community Directors for the 2016-2017 school year. A couple of them are familiar faces taking on a new role in our building.

Maren Kula, formerly an Instructional Coach at DMS, is the SLC Director for the Global Community.

Adam Allen, a newcomer to Decatur Middle School, comes to us from Mooresville. He is the SLC Director for the Imagine Community and our second Assistant Principals.

Melissa Harvey is the SLC Director of the Apex Community and one of our Assistant Principals.

Stacy O'Brien, also a previous Instructional Coach at DMS, has taken on the new role of SLC Director for the Explorations Community.

We are excited to introduce our administrative staff to you and they are excited to interact with your children.



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.

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.