



## DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Monday, January 16—NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Wednesday, January 18—8th grade Imagine Field Trip to Children's Museum
- Wednesday, January 25—6:00-7:30pm—SLC Open House at DMS
- Saturday, January 28—ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Competition (TBA)

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# Hawk Highlights

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On Monday, January 16 we will not have school as we recognize and celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It got me thinking about his work and his life and how we can connect his words to our work here at Decatur Middle School.

Consider what Dr. King said:

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*

We, as adults, know that life is tough. In order to be successful in life, we have to be able to respond to adversity many times. Often, how we respond to life's setbacks will determine how successful we become. Some would refer to meeting these challenges head on as possessing grit; others would refer to it as perseverance. Regardless of the name you put on it, it is critical that we have it. It is important for our middle school students to possess this trait as well.

Consider this from Dr. King:

*The time is always right to do what is right.*

This is month we are highlighting the character trait of respect. I met with all the students at the beginning of last week, and we talked about how respect means "honor some one or some thing." We talked about how they can show respect at school on a daily basis. The list, as you can imagine, became quite long. One of the best ways our students can show respect to others, to their teachers, to the school, and to themselves is to make good choices.

Finally, consider this from Dr. King:

*Life's most important and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"*

Creating a culture of helping others will only make DMS a better place for all. So, "what are YOU doing for others?"

Have a great three-day weekend!

- Kyle Barrentine, Principal

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](http://www.msddecatur.k12.in.us).

# College Corner



## Get in the Game! Tips for Student Athletes and Their Families

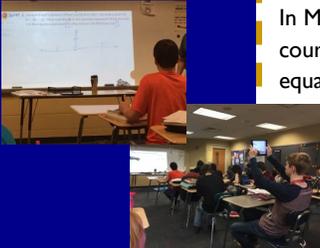
Playing college sports demands focus. Getting there does, too.

From registering with eligibility centers to signing a letter of intent, the college application process is different for student-athletes. Over the next few newsletters, we will explore the steps to help with preparing your child as he/she explores post-secondary educational options for his/her athletic and academic interests.

**Step 1—Select college-prep classes and study hard.** Take the most rigorous college-prep classes and keep grades up. The academic record and ACT/SAT scores determine athletic eligibility at many colleges including institutions of the NCAA and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Athletes are subject to the same admission standards as all other applicants. Students with poor academic records can lose the opportunity to receive an athletic scholarship, and in some cases, won't be able to practice or play during their first year of college.

**Step 2—Register with online eligibility centers, if applicable.** Both the NCAA and NAIA require student-athletes to register through their respective online eligibility centers. You will provide information about high school courses and the sport(s) you hope to play in college. The NCAA encourages students interested in competing in Division I or Division II schools to register during their sophomore year. Division II schools set their own admission and eligibility standards. Athletes bound for NAIA schools must register with that organization's eligibility center by their senior year. The NCAA eligibility center includes a list of core courses you must complete in high school. Registering with the NCAA and NAIA eligibility centers doesn't take the place of applying for college. You must follow all requirements for submitting applications, test scores, transcripts, and other documents for each school you want to apply to.

## Global SLC News



In Mr. Esterline's Algebra A/B class, a high school credit course, students worked on solving absolute value equalities this week. Mr. Esterline creates an environment where students are comfortable bouncing ideas off each other, asking questions, and taking risks as they explore complex concepts together. It's learning in action! iPads make note-taking a breeze. It's common to see students snapping pictures of example problems on the board and annotating them in Notability...and critiquing Mr. E's stick people, of course.

7th grade Global would like to officially welcome Mr. Hardin to the team! Mr. Hardin comes to us with several years of math teaching experience. He loves sports and spending time with his family.



He also has a good sense of humor! Welcome to the team, Mr. Hardin—we're glad to have you!

A growing part of the Global Small Learning Community is service-learning—using community service as a learning tool for lessons both in and out of the classroom.

Either January 31 or February 1, 7th grade Global students will be volunteering at Gleaners Food Bank. Parent volunteers are welcome! If interested in attending one or both days from approximately 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m., please contact a 7th grade Global teacher. You will also need to complete a district volunteer form, which can be done electronically



here: <http://www.decaturoproud.org/families/volunteer.cfm>. We are excited for this opportunity to give back—it will help shape our students into globally-minded citizens! Permission slips will be coming home soon.

On Tuesday, January 17, during social studies class, 8th grade Global students will meet with Ms. Barrett to begin building their schedules for high school! It's hard to believe they're almost in high school!

In Mrs. Tejchma's 7th grade Science class, students have been exploring various rocks and minerals in order to classify them. Students have had to reference different resources and think critically—just like geologists! They've even built their own metamorphic rocks by melting Starbursts. Students are really "rocking" it out this week!



This week, Mr. Phipps had 8th grade students explore the paradox that is Thomas Jefferson. How could a man who so passionately defended freedom be a slave owner? Ask your 8th grader to discuss what he/she learned this week as students discussed the complexity of Founding Father Thomas Jefferson, as well as took a virtual tour of the home he designed, Monticello.



# Imagine SLC News



In IMAGINE, to start the second semester, we as a Small Learning Community are creating norms that will drive our behaviors, decisions and how we interact with one another on a daily basis. Our theme is...this is how we act, this is how we treat each other **EVERY DAY, ALL DAY, EVEN ON BAD DAYS.**

As explained to all students in IMAGINE, norms are not expectations or rules. They are a mutually agreed upon set of values that drive our behaviors. Our students are working with Mr. Allen to identify 4-5 values or belief statements we will utilize this semester. Make sure to check our next newsletter to see the results of our actions and the “norms” we will be utilizing this semester.

In addition to norms in IMAGINE, our 7th and 8th grade teachers rolled out their Artful Learning Concepts for the third nine weeks last week.

In 7th grade, our concept for this nine weeks is Transformation. Students were able to create an illustration of an object or idea and show its “transformation.” In addition to the illustration, our students participated in a discussion, rough draft activity and constructed response defining transformation and tying this to our significant question for the quarter.

Our significant question for the quarter is...How does

transformation affect us? Our students will look into this question throughout the course of the quarter and identify different ways transformations take place via masterworks in science, mathematics, language arts and social studies.

This week the Imagine 8th grade team launched our 3rd quarter unit by introducing students to the architectural masterpiece of the Brooklyn Bridge. Students will be looking at the concept of change in all of the classes this quarter and changes that the bridge had on New York City will be discussed in history. As part of our launch, students took an enlightenment walk around the bottom floor of DMS and discovered that 5 1/2 trips around would equal one trip across the bridge. As they walked, there were pictures of the bridge from 1883 to modern era. Students saw the changes the bridge itself has gone through: for example, the removal of the train and trolley. In Algebra, students looked at the slope of the stairs in the LGI compared to those in the hallway by measuring the rise and run.

Please continue to check our weekly newsletter in both 7th and 8th grades about upcoming events and an agenda for your son or daughter’s assignments and homework for the upcoming week. Also make sure you check our website and social media sites to see all of the great things going on in IMAGINE.



# Explorations SLC News

## **Congratulations to Dakota Lewis and the Robo Hawks!**



Our DMS Robotics team competed in a city-wide VEX tournament this past Sunday.

One of the robots that Dakota Lewis helped to build and used in this competition ranked 12th out of 48 different teams. Way to go, Dakota!

## **Classroom Instruction**

Miss Lay’s students have been studying the accomplishments of the Babylonians and Assyrians. Please ask your 7th grade Global Studies student about Hammurabi.



Students in Mrs. Serrienne’s Pre-Algebra class have been experiencing how math skills are needed for design. Students have been creating their own images by plotting points on a coordinate plane.

Algebra A/B students in Mrs. McCabe’s class have been writing and solving inequalities from word problems. Students have witnessed how much algebra is used in real-world situations.



## **Interventions and Enrichments**

Explorations teachers have incorporated SLC-wide interventions and enrichments during our academic day.

Students have been placed in an I and E class based upon intervention and enrichment need. Please ask your 7th and 8th grader what they are focusing on during this time.

## **iTime:**

The Student Lounge Design Team has been diligently working to renovate our Explorations Student Lounge. This team of students has spent two Saturday mornings over the last month painting the room. We have been working diligently to raise funds to purchase items our students have indicated they would like to have in our student lounge.



# Apex SLC News

7th Grade Apex has been working to create a website that will inform potential tourists about a location. The students had to learn about their locations and find interesting information to highlight. The students also needed to learn about potential disasters in that location so they could provide information for the tourists to survive if they were caught in a bad situation. Megan Thiele from the Decatur Township Fire Department came in to present to the students about how to be prepared for a natural disaster. She gave the students valuable information about how to survive and which tips to provide to tourists.

The 8th graders in Apex have been busy this winter exploring the impact of genetic diseases on individuals, families, and the community as a whole. The project, called *Generating Greatness*, kicked off with a visit from Ms. Stephanie Garner, a representative from the support organization Down Syndrome Indiana. She and



her friend Katie, who happens to have Down Syndrome, shared information about the genetic disorder and how the disease has impacted each of them personally. They encouraged the learners to build empathy for those affected by the disorder, and even gave students a taste of what it might be like for an individual with Down Syndrome to perform a task that many others take for granted. Learners were then challenged to research a genetic disease and create a campaign to increase empathy for and awareness of the disease's impact. They created Public Service Announcements, informational pamphlets, and short stories to have an emotional impact on their audience. Ms. Garner will return soon to see learners' final products and to hear their presentations.



To cap off the project, learners visited the Children's Museum to participate in a program called "Cells, DNA, and Life." Experts at the museum reviewed the basics of cell structure and DNA, then guided students



through the process of extracting DNA from a plant. Learners were even able to take home samples of the

DNA that they had extracted! It was a fun and valuable experience as they applied what they have learned throughout the project.

Soon, we will begin a project titled *Enduring Expansion*, which will focus on the westward expansion of the United States. Learners will seek to answer the question, "Should westward expansion be viewed in a positive or negative light?" As we explore the many events and complex issues that surrounded that time period, we will examine them from the perspectives of the U.S. government, of settlers, and of Native American groups. Ultimately, learners will take a stance on our driving question and be able to defend their position using historical evidence. The project will culminate in a formal debate on the topic.



## Calendar of Events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	17 5:30PM—7/8 Boys Basketball vs. Clark-Pleasant	18 5:30pm—7/8 Boys Basketball—2nd Round of Mid-State (TBA)	19 5:30pm—7/8 Boys Basketball Mid-State Finals (TBA)	20	21 9:00am—Wrestling—Paul Hadley Invitational
23 5:15pm—7 A/B Girls Basketball vs. Greenwood @ DMS 5:30pm—8 A/B Girls Basketball @ Greenwood	24 5:15pm—Wrestling vs. Plainfield @ DMS	25 <b>6:00pm-7:30pm—SLC Open House at DMS</b> 5:15pm—8 A/B Girls Basketball vs. Franklin Community @ DMS 5:30pm—7 A/B Girls Basketball @ Franklin Community	26 5:30pm—Wrestling @ John Wooden MS	27	28