



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 11

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Monday, February 6—PTO Meeting—6:30pm—DMS Cafeteria
- Monday, February 20—NO SCHOOL (Snow Make-Up Day)
- Friday, February 24—7-8am—Honors Breakfast
- Tuesday, February 28—Band & Choir ISSMA Preview Concert at DCHS

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As with all our staff members here, I have many interests outside of school. For me, however, most of my interests have a way of typing back to my work here with students and with teachers. One of my interests is the topic of leadership. Particularly, what can I learn from people in positions of leadership in different industries?

One person that I have studied is Nick Saban, the head football coach at the University of Alabama. As a lifelong Southeastern Conference football fan, I have never been a fan of Alabama, but ever since Coach Saban has arrived (and won), I have been interested in his leadership style. Coach Saban says:

The process is really what you have to do day in and day out to be successful, we try to define the standard that we want everybody to sort of work toward, adhere to, and do it on a consistent basis. And the things that I talked about before, being responsible for your own self-determination, having a positive attitude, having great work ethic, having discipline to be able to execute on a consistent basis, whatever it is you're trying to do, those are the things that we try to focus on, and we don't try to focus as much on the outcomes as we do on being all that you can be.

I think this perspective from Coach Saban is a great one to apply to DMS as it relates to the administrative team, teachers, support staff, and students. DMS has a mission that we aim to fulfill on a daily basis, and our students have expectations that they strive to meet on a daily basis. When those two things come together, we can achieve great AND sustained success. One of my favorite Coach Saban quotes:

It's not human nature to be great. It's human nature to survive, to be average and do what you have to do to get by. That is normal. When you have something good happen, it's the special people that can stay focused and keep paying attention to detail, working to get better and not being satisfied with what they have accomplished.

My challenge to you is to be great! Don't settle for average!

Hope you all have a great 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.

Apex SLC News

7th Grade



The 7th grade Apex students are working to construct an argumentative essay. The students are learning about 3 ancient civilizations to decide on which one had the greatest impact on modern society. The students traveled to The Children's Museum of Indianapolis to identify what makes great evidence to prove that a society had an impact on modern day.

8th Grade



This week learners took time to pause from academic work to focus on what it means to be kind and respectful. Learners looked at

quotes and analyzed how they could apply it to their lives while at school and what that would look like. Then learners had the opportunity to practice being kind. They were challenged to write kind things on post-it notes and deliver them to the designated person anonymously. All day long, learners were bombarded with kind words from peers. Facilitators were also showered with kind words from learners.

This week, a new group of college students visited the Apex hallway in order to learn about the inner-workings of Apex and PBL to con-



tinue our partnership with the University of Indianapolis. The students are currently enrolled in Educational Psychology 200 as part of the education curriculum. Students in this course visit classrooms and do observation in order to better understand the development of adolescents and how they learn, with the goal being to provide real life observations of student learning and also showcase how project based learning fits into authentic student learning. The Apex students also have the benefit of talking with current college students and gaining a better understanding of post-high school opportunities.

Explorations SLC News

Classroom Instruction



Students in Mr. Liff's classes have really "rocked" it lately! They have been creating igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks during science instruction. In addition to forming rocks, they have taken the path of flowing water to create a meander and oxbow lake. Students are definitely learning how various landforms are created.



In Miss Basham's class, students are analyzing character actions and reactions to explain what they have learned about characters' personalities. Students have been working to explain how the inward and outward reactions characters portray when facing

challenging situations help them identify the character's traits.

Students in Mr. Manning's class have learned how meiosis works. They have taken a diploid cell and demonstrated how four haploid cells are formed during their lab activity.



Interventions and Enrichments

Explorations students have been diligently working in their new Intervention and Enrichment class. Please ask your 7th or 8th grader what they have been studying in I and E time.



iTime:

Some of our students were able to share their iTime projects with incoming 7th graders and their families at our SLC Open House Wednesday, January 25, 2017. Our students have presented some great ideas and have made lots of progress with their independent work.



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

Global SLC News

Next week is a busy week for Global! Here is a breakdown of what to expect:

- Tuesday, January 31: Ms. Murray and Mrs. Gettinger's 2nd period students' service day at Gleaners Food Bank (9:15-11:45am)
- Wednesday, February 1: 8th grade trip to Children's Museum for DNA extraction (8:50-2:30)
- Thursday, February 2: Ms. Tejchma and Mr. Hardin's 2nd period students' service day at Gleaners Food Bank (9:15-11:45am)

On Wednesday, January 25, Decatur Middle School welcomed hundreds of 6th grade students and their families to the SLC Open House! During this time, students had a chance to explore each of the four small learning communities before casting ballots for next year. The Global hall was



a buzz! Mrs. Gettinger explained how she regularly connects events from other parts of the world to current events in our own backyard.

"Clucky," the chicken she mummified to demonstrate the ancient Egyptians' mummification process, was a big hit! Ms. Murray shared some of the fascinating novels she uses to not only strengthen students' reading skills, but also to support Global's mission to create a sense of global awareness and mutual respect for all cultures. Mr. Hardin, our newest member of the team, explained the structure of Global. Last, but certainly not least, Mrs.

Tejchma had an array of hands-on experiments for students (and their parents) to explore!

All of Global's 8th grade teachers also pitched in and were



ger to share information about our community's growing service-learning base. Several 8th grade students were on site to explain IDEA time and to share their personal experiences as "veteran" Global students. It was a team effort, and it was exciting to meet new prospective Global students!

In Mr. Phipps' history class on Thursday, students did a unique close reading activity using music. The song "Ghetto Gospel" by Tupac Shakur was used to introduce the lesson. In the video for this song, a young African-American man struggles to find peace in an inner-city environment that threatens to devour him. In the end, he finds peace only through death after a drive-by shooting. Throughout this powerful song there is a much older song that is sampled. That song is "Indian Sunset" by Elton John. The rest of the lesson is used to analyze the music and lyrics to "Indian Sunset," which tells the tragic story of a young Indian warrior struggling to find peace in his homeland which is under siege by encroaching white settlement. In the end, as in the Tupac song, "peace to this young warrior comes, with a bullet hole."

This is a powerful and moving lesson that allows students to make connections with history and current events through music.



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 3—Send your highlight video and resume to coaches, chick in with your school counselor. Only a small number of high school athletes are "discovered" by college coaches. In most cases, recruits get the ball rolling. Contact coaches at schools you'd like to attend, and send them a highlight video and resume listing your athletic and academic accomplishments. How they respond depends in part on the recruiting rules of the NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA. Students who hope to play at a Division I or Division II school should ask their counselors to submit an official transcript to the NCAA following their junior year. (An updated, final transcript is required upon graduation.) If you attended more than one high school or took courses from more than one program, the NCAA Eligibility Center needs an official transcript from each high school or program. Consider attending a sports camp or showcase where coaches and college representatives can observe your performance.

Step 2—Take the ACT or SAT. College athletic associations use your test scores—along with your grades in core classes—to determine whether you're eligible to compete as a college athlete. Learn about NCAA and NAIA requirements and take (and retake) the ACT or SAT to meet target scores. When you take the SAT or ACT, you may opt to send the scores directly to the NCAA or NAIA.

Imagine SLC News



As stated in our last newsletter, IMAGINE 7th and 8th grade students created norms that will drive our behaviors, decisions and how we interact with one another on a daily basis in IMAGINE.

Our theme is... **This is how we act, this is how we treat each other EVERYDAY, ALL DAY, EVEN ON BAD DAYS.**

Both grade levels met in the Large Group Instruction Room. While meeting, the students listened to a presentation on norms by SLC Director Mr. Allen and mutually created and agreed upon the following core set of norms that will drive our behaviors and interactions throughout the second semester.

In our hallway, we will be creating large posters that the students will have the opportunity to sign so they feel personally invested in this process.



7th Grade IMAGINE Norms

IN IMAGINE WE.....

- DON'T QUIT
- DO YOUR BEST
- RESPECT YOURSELF & OTHERS
- ACCEPT CHALLENGES
- MAKE GOOD DECISIONS
- STAY DETERMINED

This is how we act; this is how we treat each other, ALL DAY, EVERYDAY, EVEN ON BAD DAYS!

8th Grade IMAGINE Norms

IN IMAGINE WE.....

- TAKE OPPORTUNITIES
- DON'T QUIT
- CHALLENGE OURSELVES
- MAKE GOOD CHOICES
- SET GOALS
- DO OUR BEST TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS
- RESPECT EACH OTHER

This is how we act; this is how we treat each other, ALL DAY, EVERYDAY, EVEN ON BAD DAYS!

If you notice, a highlight on each of these sets of norms is “Don’t Quit.” We will be focusing on this value immensely this semester as we work to build character traits in all of our students that will help lead them to achieve their goals.

As always, thank you in advance for reading our newsletter and please make sure you check our social media pages to see all of the great things going on in IMAGINE!

Book Fees Due Now



If you have not made your January payment for book fees, please do so now. Past due accounts will be sent to collections soon.

If you have questions regarding your balance or would like to make a payment by phone, please contact Mrs. Donna Graham, DMS Treasurer, at 317-856-5274 ext. 8015.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>30</p> <p>6:00pm—Swimming/ Diving vs. Clark-Pleasant at DCHS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30pm—7/8 Girls Basketball @ Brownsburg East</p> <p>5:30pm—Swimming/Diving @ Pike Township</p> <p>5:30pm—Wrestling vs. Avon North at DMS</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:15pm—7 A/B Girls Basketball vs. Lynhurst at DMS</p> <p>5:15pm—8 A/B Girls Basketball @ Lynhurst</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am—Wrestling @ Brownsburg East</p>
<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm—Swimming/ Diving vs. Warren Township at DCHS</p> <p>5:30pm—Wrestling @ Paul Hadley</p> <p>6:30pm—PTO Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:15pm—7/8 Girls Basketball @ Franklin Twp. West</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30pm—Swimming/ Diving vs. Franklin Township at DCHS</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:15pm—7/8 Girls Basketball @ Southport</p> <p>5:30pm—Wrestling vs. Clark-Pleasant at DMS</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>