

DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **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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Hawk Highlights

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Barrentine's Billboard



At our PTO Meeting this week, we had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Justin Dixson, Decatur Central High School Athletic Director. We invited Mr. Dixson to come talk to our parents about eligibility requirements for high school athletics and eligibility requirements for collegiate athletes.



I know that there are many of you who wanted to attend this presentation on Tuesday, but you simply were not able to be there. Mr. Dixson shared a lot of great and useful information. It simply is never too early to start planning for academic success. In order to learn more, please click on the link below.

<http://dchawks.com/hq/student-athletes/>

Once you are on the webpage, you will be able to learn about Core-CourseGPA, an online software program that is available to all Decatur Central student-athletes and their parents free of charge. Great stuff.

CoreCourseGPA.com incorporates the NCAA recognized core courses for Decatur Central High School into the online course entry forms, calculates BOTH Division I and Division II core course GPA, automatically factors weighted grades into calculations and tracks course requirements for BOTH Division I and Division II. Your son or daughter's core course information is saved for the duration of their high school career.

If you continue to scroll down to the end of this page, you will find the PowerPoint that Mr. Dixson presented at our meeting Tuesday evening. I hope you will take some time to check it out. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Mr. Dixson.

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.

Explorations SLC News

Classroom Instruction



Do you know the difference between dirt and soil? The 7th grade students in Mr. Iliff's science classes do. Students have been examining and identifying characteristics of soil in order to determine how the soil was formed and which layers of soil have been analyzed.

7th grade students are getting a unique perspective of the mummification process in Ms. Lay's Global Studies classes. To help her students better understand the mummification process performed by the Ancient Egyptians, each class period has had the opportunity to mummify a chicken. Students learned about the mummification process and then were able to see it performed first-hand during class. After each class chose their chicken's name, Ms. Lay walked them through the steps of the mummification process. The mummified chicken from each class will remain in a salt mixture for 40 days—just like the Egyptians did! Every 10 days the mixture gets changed. Students are making observations on the changes they



see happening to their chicken. Even though the process can be a bit smelly at times, students are excited to witness this authentic ancient ritual.

Students in Miss Basham's Intervention and Enrichment class spent four weeks sharpening their argumentative writing skills and learning about the federal court system. They collaborated on a research project, examined real cases and their outcomes, and formed arguments based on fictional cases. At the end of the course, students took a field trip to the Southern District Courthouse located in downtown Indianapolis. They toured the building and participated in a mock trial. Students learned the value of the judicial system and how to effectively write an argument.



iTime:



Kudos to Kylee Hyatt and Zoe Wright. They raised \$514 for the *Holy Family Shelter* by organizing a sweatpants and/or

hoodie day at DMS. We are so proud of the amount of money they raised in order to make this huge donation on behalf of DMS.

Two of our students have started their own business. They have used iTime to create a website and establish the guidelines for their customers. Please check out their website to gain more information about what service they can provide. Feel free to share their site with dog owners—<http://kcdogwalk-ing.weebly.com>.



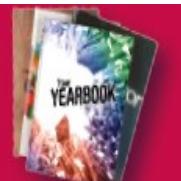
Follow us on Twitter at @ExplorationsDMS to see daily activities that occur in Explorations classes.

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

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

Walsworth yearbooks

**Yearbooks are great now, priceless later.
Buy your yearbook today.**



Pre-Order your 2016-2017 Yearbook today. Limited quantities are available. Don't let your student leave DMS without this lasting memory!

Order forms are available with STAR teachers. Or order online at www.yearbookforever.com or by clicking on the banner above to order yours today!

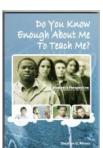
Global SLC News



On Thursday, February 2, 7th grade Global students volunteered at Gleaner's Food Bank. Alongside DCH's Choice Academy, our students helped move over 15,000 pounds of food that will be now available to local families in need. Students' primary job was to sort donated foods. They realized that giving back can be fun and exhibited tremendous teamwork. Great job, 7th grade Global! You continue to make us proud!



In the Global small learning community, we strive to create a sense of global awareness and mutual respect for all cultures. As teachers, we take this very seriously! For the past few weeks, Global teachers have been reading and discussing *Do You Know Enough About Me To Teach Me?* By Stephen G. Peters. This has led to some powerful discussions about how we, as educators, can become better educators by better understanding our students. (Yes, students, you will continue to read even as adults!)



Imagine SLC News

In this section of the IMAGINE newsletter, we want to highlight our Science teacher's Ms. Uebelhor and Mrs. Greenwood. Check out below to see what cool things your son/daughter are doing in Science class.

In Ms. Uebelhor's 7th grade science class, students have



been learning a lot in science about the Rock Cycle the last couple of weeks.

Students have studied samples of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. In addition, Mr. Smith, Purdue scientist, visited, brought crystals, and explained that crystals can be found in certain types of rocks. Students have "traveled" through the rock cycle to discover the different changes that can occur. This helped the students in creating their Rock Cycle Comic Strips. We are also learning about what makes up soil.

Apex SLC News

7th Grade

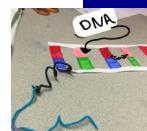
The 7th grade Apex students are learning about a few of the ancient civilizations in our History and Language Arts classes. The students are researching inventions and discoveries that these people made and learning how those inventions and discoveries have made an impact on today's world. The students will choose one of the three and write an argumentative essay to prove that the one they choose is best. To help students understand the mummification process of the Ancient Egyptians and Chinese, we have started the process to mummify chickens. The chickens have been placed in a salt and baking soda mixture. After 15 days of being in this mixture, the students will have to swap out the salt and baking soda. After 35-40 days, the chicken will be completely dehydrated and will have lost more than half its body size. Students will then wrap the chicken in cloth and place them in a sarcophagus that will be created in conjunction with their Math class.



DMS had the opportunity to have an Eli Lilly scientist visit and demonstrate some awesome experiments. It was an explosive experience!

Here is an excerpt from Mrs. Greenwood, our 8th grade Science teacher! Students in 8th grade Imagine Science have been studying DNA. During a recent quick create, they were given several random items and instructed to show the relationship between DNA, genes and chromosomes. Students then had to label their works with the three words.

Please continue to check our bi-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.



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 newsletter, 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 5—Research colleges; consider a range of schools. Only a few students get into the best-known or most exclusive colleges whose teams play in nationally televised championships. Set your goals high, but also ask your counselor for a list of schools where you have a good chance of gaining admission. Submit applications to colleges that interest you. Remember, athletic eligibility doesn't guarantee admission. Likewise, just because a coach says you are coming to a school doesn't mean you have gained admission. While pursuing your goal to compete at the highest level possible, always remember to have a back-up plan. Consider applying to a college that is a less-competitive school athletically. Another option? Check out colleges that offer the right fit in other ways. You may still be able to play the sport you love as part of a club or intramural team.

Step 6—File the FAFSA; apply for other scholarships. Athletic scholarships are awarded by colleges that compete in the NAIA, NJCAA and Divisions I and II of the NCAA. However, such awards are rare. For example, only 2 percent of high school athletes receive NCAA athletic scholarships. And even among those students, few gain full rides. Submit the US Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible during your senior year. Some colleges may also require you file the CSS Financial Aid Profile from the College Board. Work with your school counselor and with college admission officers to seek out additional aid opportunities. The money available to students through academic and need-based aid outweighs scholarship dollars earmarked for college athletes.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13 5:30pm—7/8 B Girls Basketball vs. Belzer at DMS 6:00pm—Teen Court at Administration Office	14 5:15pm—7/8 Girls Basketball vs. Southport (Marion Co. Tourney) at DMS 5:30pm—Swimming/Diving @ Wayne Twp. 5:30pm—Wrestling @ Franklin Community	15	16 6:00pm—Swimming/Diving vs. John Wooden MS at DCHS 7/8 Girls Basketball—2nd Round Marion Co. Tourney at Beech Grove	17	18 7/8 Girls Basketball—Semi-Finals Marion Co. Tourney at Chapel Hill
20 NO SCHOOL—President's Day 7/8 Girls Basketball—Finals Marion Co. Tourney at Lawrence Central	21 5:30pm—Swimming/Diving @ Cascade	22 5:15pm—7/8 B Girls Basketball vs. Beech Grove at DMS 5:30pm—Wrestling @ Speedway/Lutheran	23 5:15pm—7/8 Girls Basketball vs. Center Grove Central at DMS	24 7:00am—Honors Breakfast in DMS Cafeteria	25 9:00am—Wrestling vs. Greenwood (Triple Dual)