

February 26, 2016

Edition 12

5108 S. High School Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46221

317-856-5274



Hawks Highlights



This week was the final week of preparation before we begin the first round of ISTEP. As I've written to you previously, our teachers provide lessons that are rigorous and relevant to what our students need to know. We do not spend a lot of time prepping specifically for ISTEP. We spend our time on the most critical academic standards so that our students will experience success. Students will be tested in the areas of math and language arts beginning Tuesday, March 1. We will be testing Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. 7th graders will also be testing on Friday.

As I've written before, parents often ask me, "what can I do to help in preparation for the ISTEP?" Most of these things are year round habits, and not just things to do during the weeks of ISTEP. Here are some things that you can do to help:

- * Provide time for your child to read at least 20 minutes each night. Having time to practice reading will allow our students the chance to become more skilled readers. Our "Hawks Read 20" challenge supports this concept to.
- * Encourage your child to do his/her best by reminding him/her that DMS has prepared its students as much as possible for the ISTEP.
- * Be sure that your child gets a good night's sleep during the week of testing. Turn off your TV (and other devices) earlier. Remove the distractions so that your child can go to sleep more easily. We will be testing right after breakfast each day, so being well-rested will assist your child in doing his/her best.
- * Make sure that your child is here each day and is here on time. Please avoid doctor's appointments during this week too.
- * No cell phones (students or teachers) are allowed in the testing room. Please remind your child to leave his/her cell phone in his/her locker or at home.
- * Reinforce your child's effort each evening when he/she gets home from school. Knowing that you are recognizing your child's efforts may be just the thing your child needs to be motivated for the next day!

Thank you for all you do for your children and supporting their success at DMS!

Have a great weekend!

- Kyle Barrentine, Principal



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.

Jack Kent Cooke National Middle School Scholarships

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Youth Scholars Program is the largest pre-college scholarship program in the country. Cooke Young Scholars receive the following support from eighth grade through senior year of high school:

- * A personal academic and college counselor
- * Funding for academic and enrichment programs in the summer and during the school year
- * Internship and study abroad opportunities
- * Educational resources including books and technology

The following eligibility criteria apply to this special scholarship program. Students must:

- * Be currently in the 7th grade
- * Have earned mostly A's and B's since beginning of 6th grade
- * Demonstrate financial need (families must have an annual household income under \$95,000)
- * Demonstrate drive, persistence, leadership, and a desire to help others.

The application period is open now through April 14, 2016. For more information [click here](#).

REMINDER: All fees are due by the end of the school year! Statements are sent home with mid-terms and report cards. If you need to know your balance and/or would like to make a payment over the phone, please call Mrs. Graham, Treasurer, at 317-856-5274 ext. 8015.



Thanks to the support of our parents, staff and students, our spring Book Fair was slightly better than our fall book fair. Our sales were \$1,632 which gave us \$652 in free books!

Students of the Week

Feb. 8-12, 2016



From left to right: Estefani Trujillo, Dominic Myrick, Wyatt Snyder, Jayden Bridgman, Josh Shipman, Taylor Jones and Justice Cadwell with Mr. Barrentine (not pictured: Victoria Toler)

Important Dates

- Mon, Feb 29—7/8 A Girls Basketball @ Guion Creek—5:15pm/6:30pm
- Wed, Mar 2—7 A&B Girls Basketball @ Clark-Pleasant—5:15pm/6:30pm
- Wed, Mar 2—8 A&B Girls Basketball vs. Clark-Pleasant—5:15pm/6:30pm
- Wed, Mar 2—Mid-State Diving @ Mooresville—5:30pm
- Thurs, Mar 3—Wrestling @ Lynhurst—5:15pm
- Thurs, Mar 3—Mid-State Swimming @ Mooresville—5:30pm
- Sat, Mar 5—Wrestling @ Franklin Twp. 16 Team Tourney—9am
- Mon, Mar 7—Girls Basketball vs. Martinsville—5:30pm
- Wed, Mar 9—7/8 A Girls Basketball @ Perry Meridian—5:15pm/6:30pm

Attendance as of Feb. 24 —

YTD Daily Average: 95.55%
Goal: 96%

Students of the Week

Feb. 15-19, 2016



From left to right: Coy Wilson, Brayden Hazelwood, Jynesis Chandler, Cedderick Brent, Jerry Doty, Taylor Smith, Mark Klingelhoef and Emma Etter-Cox with Mr. Barrentine