



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

5108 S. High School Rd.
 Indianapolis, IN 46221
Principal: Kyle Barrentine
Asst. Principal/Imagine:
 Adam Allen
Asst. Principal/Apex:
 Melissa Harvey
Explorations SLC Dir.:
 Stacy O'Brien
Global SLC Dir.:
 Maren Kula
 Phone: 317-856-5274
 Fax: 317-856-2163
 Website:
www.decaturlproud.org/decaturlproud-middle

Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 13

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Tuesday, February 28—Band & Choir ISSMA Preview Concert at DCHS
- Monday, March 6—6:30pm—PTO Meeting in DMS Cafeteria

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Barrentine's Billboard	1
Imagine News	2
College Corner	2
Global News	3
Honors Breakfast	3
Explorations News	4
Calendar of Events	4



I want to begin this week's billboard by saying that this is the strangest February that I can remember. We have had an unreal stretch of weather here for over a week (and really the entire month of February)!! I hope you enjoyed it because it looks like we are in for a change tomorrow!!

On Monday, we will begin the first round of ISTEP. We will be testing between 7:45 and 9:45 on both Monday and Tuesday of next week. Once testing is complete, we will run a two-hour delay schedule beginning with period 1 at 9:45. Below are some things that you can do to help your child be prepared:

- ⇒ Please ensure that your child gets to school on time each day. If your child rides the bus, there will be no problem with that. If you bring your child to school, please try to get them here no later than 7:30 so that they don't have to rush to get their breakfast and get to their testing area.
- ⇒ If your child arrives late to school, they will wait until all testing for the day is complete. Please give your child an opportunity to do his/her best by getting them to school on time.
- ⇒ Encourage your child to do his/her very best on these assessments. I hope that you encourage your child to do his/her best each day regardless of the ISTEP.

The Indiana Department of Education allows no one to possess a cell phone in the testing room. All students and teachers will have to turn in their cell phones at the beginning of the testing. Many of our students carry cell phones, so it will be critical that you reinforce this procedure with your child prior to Monday. We, of course, have already primed them for this as well. Cell phones will be returned to students at the conclusion of the testing each day.

Thank you for all that you do for your children. It certainly makes our job much easier. Our students and teachers have been working very hard all year. We are looking forward to demonstrating that next week.

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.

Imagine SLC News



On Friday, February 17, 2017, 7th grade Imagine students went to the Children's Museum to learn about different cultures around the world. In the China exhibit, students performed a martial arts dance, wrote their names using calligraphy, and learned about other cultural pieces such as tea, theatre, and pandas. Next, students were able to experience the new NASA science exhibit. At the NASA exhibit, several students learned about Gus Grissom, an Indiana native, and his flight into space. They were also able to view the actual pod that he flew into space. Additionally, students got a glimpse of history in the "Power of Children" exhibit. Students were able to view a live performance by the U.S. Marshall assigned to protect Ruby Bridges at school.



We are excited to announce as a part of the Imagine Learning through the Arts framework we have intro-



duced Artist Hour! On Wednesday's, our students will have an alternate schedule and will be spending the last hour of the day experiencing various elements of Art in their classes. This week, 8th grade Imagine students have been examining the musical Hamilton.

We have been examining the questions "What is a Legacy?" using lyrics from the musical. It states a legacy is "planting seeds in a garden you never see." With this quote, students created 3D flowers with the center representing what they want their legacy to be. We are very excited to see the work our students continue to complete throughout the semester during Artist Hour.

As a reminder, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @ImagineDms and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/dmsimagine/>) to see all of the great things going on in our SLC!

College Corner



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

Step 7—Focus on finding the right fit. Sometimes the most stress comes from trying to make others happy—such as a tenacious college recruiter or a high school coach who'd like you to attend his or her alma mater. Remember, the decision of where to attend college is ultimately yours. Research each school's athletic and academic programs, making sure the institution offers your projected major. Visit campus to talk with student-athletes and athletic staff about practice and travel schedules, anticipated playing time, and the coaching style favored by program members. If possible, attend a game. Finally, consider the "broken leg" test: If you broke your leg and were unable to play, would you still be happy to attend the school?

Step 8—Follow all application instructions. Just because a college coach or athletic department has encouraged you doesn't mean that you have been accepted. You need to apply directly to all colleges you are interested in. Follow each college's requirements, submitting all the documents—applications, letters of recommendation, scores, transcripts, etc. Your counselor can help with this. Pay attention to each college's deadline for application. Remember that the final decision on your acceptance at a college comes from the admission office and not the athletic department.

Global SLC News

8th grade Global students are anxious to begin participating in MSD of Decatur Township's 2016-2017 Technology Showcase Challenge. During IDEA Time, students will continue to explore real-world issues that are personally meaningful and then share their findings and potential solutions in a way that utilizes technology. Finalists from each building will present to the public at Jones Crossing later this spring.



- April 5, 2017—Third Check In
Students share product proposal and results with teacher and class
Students refine results
- April 7, 2017—Practice Session
Students share product proposal and results with local representatives
Students refine presentation and product
- April 18, 2017—Showcase to the Public
Students share and celebrate with public

Below is the timeline that will guide student projects during IDEA Time:

- February 22, 2017—Begin Project
Explore project ideas with students
Develop a driving question (Complete by February 24)
- March 3, 2017—First Check In
Student inquiry process begins
Generate student questions
Build a list of resources to research
Develop a list of experts
Student research begins
- March 10, 2017—Second Check In
Students report out on first level of research
Students and teachers review and categorize research results
Students and teacher determine additional information needed
Teacher and students develop a product plan
Students finalize product proposal and results



7th grade Global students are gearing up for a March 10 field trip to the Children's Museum! Last week, students were sent home with permission slips. Click [here](#) to access the

permission slip electronically. Students must return completed permission slips and \$2 to their first period teachers no later than Thursday, March 2, to attend. If you are interested in chaperoning, please contact a 7th grade Global teacher! We'd love to have you join us! In order to chaperone, however, you must first complete an [MSD Decatur Volunteer Form](#) for the 2016-2017 school year. (Once completed, it takes 2-3 school days to process, so please complete in advance!)

2017 Honors Breakfast

Each year, we host an Honors Breakfast to recognize the 7th and 8th graders in our building who were on all A or A/B Honor Roll all of first semester. This year, we have more than 185 students who met that criteria!

On Friday, February 24, those students and their family members listened to Justin Dixon, Athletic Director at Decatur Central High School, talk about leadership and integrity. We had a great turnout, with approximately 300 students and their families!



Explorations SLC News

Classroom Instruction

7th grade English Language Arts students are buffing up their argumentative writing skills in Mrs. Gibbs' class. They have analyzed the evidence on both sides of an issue before declaring the side that is strongly supported based upon the evidence provided in the text. Students then must indicate how the opposing argument is not worthy. Her students have had many opportunities to read a text and then evaluate the argument through their writing.



just finished reading in class (7th grade: Son of the Mob; 8th grade: The Other Wes Moore). To complete their missions, they collected evidence using the Goosechase app that focused on cause and effect, sequencing, figurative language, theme, setting, and other key elements in literacy. There was even a mannequin challenge involved in the real-time scavenger hunt.



at our elementary buildings. Cierra Wright and Tamara Yates are conducting workshops to teach third and fourth grade girls to have a positive self-esteem. They have collected funds to purchase supplies for the activities and games they will be using in their workshops.

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



Our Woodrow Wilson Indiana teaching fellow, Mr. Van Y, has launched 8th grade Science students into a project using

superheroes to learn about genetics. Students will develop their own superhero (or villain) and determine not only their superpowers, but also the genes behind them.

Students in Mrs. Wilkerson's classes went on a scavenger hunt to wrap up the novels they



iTime:

Aubree Kayler and Zoey Rather are working with the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital to raise money to purchase items needed for cancer patients. These girls are reaching out to principals to sponsor different fundraisers

Calendar of Events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>27</p> <p>5:15pm—7 A/B Girls Basketball vs. Paul Hadley @ DMS</p> <p>5:15pm—8 A/B Girls Basketball @ Paul Hadley</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5:15pm—7 A/B Girls Basketball vs. Clark-Pleasant @ DMS</p> <p>5:30—8 A/B Girls Basketball @ Clark-Pleasant</p> <p>5:30pm—Mid-State Diving @ Mooresville HS</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30pm—Wrestling vs. Lynhurst @ DMS</p> <p>5:30pm—Mid-State Swimming @ Mooresville HS</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am—Wrestling—Franklin Twp. 16 Team Tourney</p>
<p>6</p> <p>6:30pm—PTO Meeting @ DMS Cafeteria</p> <p>5:30pm—7/8 Girls Basketball @ John Wooden</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:15pm—7/8 Girls Basketball vs. Perry Meridian @ DMS</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am—Wrestling—Mid-State Conference Tourney</p>