



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **March 18—April 2—Spring Break—NO SCHOOL**

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Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 14

MARCH 17, 2017



Thank you for all your efforts in ensuring that your child was on time to school during ISTEP. It is always very important that our students are on time and present every single day of the school year (we only have 180 days with them after all), but it becomes even more important during ISTEP.

When we return from Spring Break, we will have 10 instructional days before our second round of ISTEP begins. For your planning purposes (as I know that some appointments require some advanced planning), our second round of ISTEP will be during the window of April 17 to May 5. As we get closer to that time, we will work to narrow down that tree-week window for you.

In all, we have 39 days of the 2016-17 school year left. I wanted to share with you some statistics regarding 8th grade students. This is from a study conducted in 2005. As 8th grade students has at least a 75% chance of dropping out if he or she:

- attended school less than 80% of the time in 8th grade, and
- Failed mathematics and/or English during the 8th grade

I share these statistics with you to ensure that we finish this school year strong. Continue to ensure that your child is here at school every single day! Continue to encourage your child to do his or her best in every subject every single day! We will continue to do our part to fulfill our core mission every single day:

The core mission of Decatur Middle School is the creation of highly engaging lessons, materials, and settings for learning that are too good—too interesting for students to resist AND increases student achievement.

Just a reminder that school resumes on Monday, April 3. As always, first period starts at 7:45 a.m.

Hope you all have a great Spring Break!

- 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

Happy Spring Break! Please be sure to check your son/daughter's third quarter grades. This week, we have had one-on-one conversations with our students and are asking for their best effort as we move towards the last nine weeks of the school year. We know that parent involvement can be one of the biggest predictors of student success and we value your partnership!



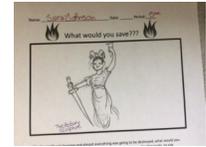
We also would like to take this opportunity to introduce Mr. Evans, who is our long-term substitute Global Studies teacher while Mrs. Ennis is out recovering from surgery. Mr. Evans comes to us from just down the hall in the Odyssey Math Support Lab. Mr. Evans has been with Decatur Middle School for two years now and also serves as our Academic Team Coach as well as the History Club Sponsor. Mr. Evans graduated from IUPUI and holds a degree in Social Studies Education. Mr. Evans is also an avid reader and loves to camp. We are very lucky to have Mr. Evans for the remainder of the semester.

The 7th grade Imagine students were able to visit the Kokomo Opalescent Glass Factory to see how stained glass is produced and made. KOG is the oldest art glass producing factory in the United States. Our students were taken on tours and were able to see how the glass is produced using the same techniques they used in the 1800's. This field trip was a part of our student's Quarter 3 Artist Hour Experience and Concept of *Interactions*.



In 8th grade, we are highlighting the awesome work being done in Mrs. Considine's American Studies class. In our U.S. History classes, we just completed our unit on The War of 1812. This year, we decided

to add a special Indiana History focus while learning about the events of the war. In one activity, titled *What Would You Save*, students learned of the heroics of First Lady Dolly Madison in saving the famous portrait of George Washington, just before the White House was burned by the British—thus saving an important piece of American History. As a result, students were asked to research an item of great importance to the City of Indianapolis. These items must be important enough to risk everything to save in the event Indianapolis was attacked. The item must inspire hope to rebuild the city. In addition to this activity, students also learned about a more local hero, a Shawnee Native American Chief named Tecumseh. Tecumseh's home was in Prophet's Town, just outside of Lafayette, Indiana and students learned about the famous Battle of Tippecanoe. The Shawnee tribe fought against Governor William Henry Harrison in this battle—the first governor of the Indiana territory. One way students were engaged in the events of the battle was through the novel *The Carter Journals* and we even took advantage of the warm February and took our reading outside one day!!



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!

Global SLC News

On Friday, March 10, 7th Grade Global students visited the Indianapolis Children’s Museum. They explored Chinese culture, Terracotta Warriors, and even the history of circuses. Not only did students have a fun-filled day, but they also represented Decatur well! The museum staff was complimentary of our students’ behavior, and teachers commented on how polite and respectful students were of the other museum patrons. We are so proud of our students! We also have about ten parent chaperones volunteer—thank you for joining us, too! We couldn’t have done it without you!



purchase—and be sure to visit the free #Selfie Station! Looking forward to having a good time for a good cause! If any parents are interested in helping chaperone, please contact Mrs. Kula at mkula@msddecatur.k12.in.us.

Students have become archaeologists and biologists in Global science classes this week. In Mrs. Tejchma’s science class, students created fossils. Mrs. Hammonds’ 8th grade students explored viruses, bacteria, and even the dreaded “superbugs.”



This week in Mrs. Lowe’s 8th grade Language Arts classes, students have been studying the concept of allusions through song lyrics. Up to the challenge? Read the lyrics of Old Dominion’s “Song for Another Time.” Can you identify all the references to other

classic hits from artists ranging from the Righteous Brothers to Guns ‘n Roses? Students enjoyed listening to GOOD music (perhaps for the first time!) as they explored these allusions!

If you haven’t already, we encourage you to follow us on Twitter @GlobalHawksDMS and on Facebook at DMS Global Learning SLC. Here, you will get a bird’s eye view of the exciting daily learning that is taking place in the Global hallway at Decatur Middle School.



As part of their IDEA Time service-learning project, several 8th grade Global students are planning a school dance in the gymnasium on Friday, April 21, from 3:00-5:00.

They have been in charge of everything from coordinating promotion to supervision. (They realize that planning a school dance wasn’t as easy as they previously thought!) All proceeds will benefit the Dayspring Center, a local organization that helps Hoosier homeless families get back on their feet. Tickets for the dance are \$3 and can be purchased upon entry. Students may enter the dance free of charge if they bring two non-perishable food donations to the dance. Concessions and neon glow-in-the-dark necklaces will be available for

Dental Assisting Program
Presentation and Tours
Saturday, April 1, 2017

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

The DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM will host a presentation and tours on Saturday, April 1, 2017, for anyone interested in pursuing a career as a dental assistant. Dental Assisting faculty will give tours and provide information about both the campus and distance-learning programs. Participants will have ample opportunity to ask questions.

IU School of Dentistry
on the IUPUI Campus
1121 W. Michigan St., Room 115
Indianapolis
9 a.m.-noon

On-campus parking is available in the Vermont Street covered parking garage east of the dental school (\$7.00 for 3-4 hours).

Please call the Dental Assisting Office at 317-274-7801 to register.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
Division of Dental Assisting
1121

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

Yearbooks are still available to order! If you haven’t ordered yours yet, you can get an order form from the main office or your STAR teacher.

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!

Explorations SLC News

Classroom Instruction



Students in Mr. Iliff's 7th grade science classes were able to learn about geology from IUPUI professor, Dr. Thomas Rossbach. They explored mineral resources and investigated various rocks to see if those minerals were identified.



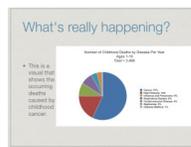
Some 7th grade students attended a field trip to the Children's Museum. The students had a blast learning new concepts and ideas while interacting with the hands-on activity stations. This was a great learning experience for all involved. We really appreciate those parents who were able to chaperone our field trip.

iTime:

Recently, our students shared their iTime projects with other Explorations students, teachers, staff and community members. We are so proud of what our students have accomplished during iTime.



Phoenix Bauer has conducted some research about childhood cancer as part of her iTime project. She has found two organizations where 100% of your donations go directly to fund this specific research. If you would like to donate to funding research about childhood cancer, please go to these websites:



- St. Baldrick's: <https://www.stbaldricks.org/types-of-childhood-cancer#retinoblastoma>
- St. Jude: https://www.stjude.org/?gclid=CPb7gj2dktlCFdW3wAodAX0FBw&sc_cid=kwp21783&s_kwcid=AL14519131171088963560!e!!g!!st%20jude&ef_id=WKRaWQAAUBUblOTFL:20170215134041:s

For his iTime project, Dakota Lewis is taking on an apprenticeship for blacksmithing. He

has already forged a fire poker and a hanger. In the next couple of classes, he plans to create a knife. Dakota has decided to do this project to make his own forge or further his experience with metal. His exposure to blacksmithing also introduces him to other skills like woodworking. Dakota understands this experience can easily increase his chances of being employed at a factory or metal working job in the future. He has also entertained the possibility of opening his own blacksmithing business.



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

College Corner



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

Step 9—Understand what you're signing. For many college-bound athletes, the recruitment process culminates with the completion of official documents. Before you sign, review any paperwork carefully with a parent or other trusted adult. Students who agree to join the NCAA Division I or Division II team are often asked to sign a National Letter of Intent (NLI). The process is voluntary and isn't required to receive financial aid or participate in sports. However, students who sign a letter but subsequently decide to attend another college lose one year of eligibility and must complete a full academic year at their new school before they can participate in athletics.

Step 8—Work with your counselor to finalize details. As you complete your senior year, check in with your counselor. Seniors headed to Division I or Division II schools must request final amateurism certification beginning April 1. All athletes should work with their school counselor to ensure that a final transcript and proof of graduation are forwarded to the appropriate college athletic association.