



## 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.decaturoproud.org/decaturn-middle](http://www.decaturoproud.org/decaturn-middle)

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# Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 1, 2017



Time is certainly flying by here in the 2017-18 school year. We are more than halfway through our first quarter of the school year. Students are settling in to their classes, and teachers are working really hard to meet the needs of our students.

As we continue with this school year, I'd like to provide you with some updates and some reminders:

- Your child's attendance at school is a HUGE factor in whether or not he/she has a successful school year. Not only is attendance a factor, but being ON TIME to school is a big factor. Attached to this newsletter is some information about school attendance. Please partner with us in ensuring that your child is here on time each day!
- I need to continue to stress to our car riders about the procedures for morning drop off and afternoon pick-up.
  - ⇒ Please have your child to school NO LATER than 7:30 in the morning. Our students need time to go to their lockers, get their breakfasts, and get to their first period class. Arriving later than 7:30 puts our students at risk of not getting to first period on time.
  - ⇒ Please drop off your child on the South side of the Decatur Township School for Excellence. We want to keep the front circle clear of any traffic during this time. Thank you for not dropping off your child by the orange cones out front and for following our car rider drop off procedures.
  - ⇒ In the afternoon for car rider pick-up, please enter the Decatur Township School for Excellence (DTSE) parking lot off of High School Road using the South entrance. Upon entering, please make a loop all the way around the DTSE parking lot and then work your way back to the South. Thank you for entering the parking lot using the correct entrance as entering from the other side can cause back-ups on High School Road.
  - ⇒ I have attached a map for the afternoon pick-up to assist you.
- 8th Grade Washington, DC Trip: September 8 is the final day to sign-up for this trip. We will be traveling May 16-20 this year. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Conside or me. Attached are the instructions for registering for the trip.
- Just a reminder that there is NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 4.

Have a great weekend!

- Kyle Barrentine, Principal

# Apex SLC News



## 7th Grade

After stepping up to the front of the class and presenting their Lifelong Learners presentation, 7th grade Apex learners are now working hard on their first content projects of the school year. For Global Studies and Language Arts, learners are in the early steps of Consider Your Culture, where they are working toward writing a children's book for a third grade audience that both entertains young students and informs about various aspects of an Asian culture.

For Language Arts, learners have just begun their first novel of the year, A Long Walk To Water, where they will practice critical reading skills while exploring how aspects of culture can be conveyed through storytelling. In Global Studies, learners are exploring world geography, religions, and other parts of culture throughout the world to set a strong foundation before they

embark on developing their own stories. The most creative and effectively constructed books will be presented to 3rd grade classes at Valley Mills Elementary in October.

For Math and Science, learners are working in the beginning stages of Plane Perfection, where they have accepted a challenge to create a paper airplane that will compete in one of three separate events. They will be working collaboratively to design paper airplanes that fly the furthest distance, for the longest time, and the fastest speed. Presentations will include information on the design process, what improvements were made throughout the experiment, and an analysis of the data they collect throughout the project.

## 8th Grade

At the 8th grade end of the hallway, learners are beginning to build Rube Goldberg machines

using the Engineering Design Process. Their machines will focus on solving a simple problem in a complex way. They are also writing lab reports to communicate their plan. This Science and Language Arts-focused project will culminate with an exhibit here at the middle school on Friday, September 8th. Parents, family members, and community members are welcome to come watch presentations and see what learners have been doing.

Next week, students will start their first content project for American History. Raising a Revolution will focus on the contributing factors that led to the American Revolution and ask learners to look for themes of revolution today. They will be working with a variety of non-fiction texts from American history as well as countries that are presently in turmoil.

# Global SLC News



Students have consistently been making good choices in the Global Small Learning Community this year! Of all of the positive referrals in August, these are the winners of the first monthly drawing! We are so proud of our students who are caught being good! Keep up the good work! From left to right: Haylee Clark, Nathaniel O'Connor, Lainey Lazo, Dominick Jackson, Kaden Addler, Ezera Steffey, Aycen Stevens and Jaylon Henderson.



# Explorations SLC News



## 7th Grade Explorations

Students in 7th grade Language Arts researched the culture of the 1960s. Part of their research included listening to music of the time period in preparation of beginning the novel The Outsiders. Students enjoyed this activity to gain some background knowledge before delving into reading the novel. Explorations 7th grade students will be taking a field trip October 30 to view The Outsiders. Please watch for more information soon.



Miss Lay's Global Studies classes gained consensus on what makes a religion a religion. 7th grade students had to work with group members to generate a group response that indicated what makes a religion.



## 8th Grade Explorations

Students in Mr. Manring's 8th grade Science classes participated in some activities to discover how the eclipse happened. They really gained a new "perspective" on how a small item could block a much larger item from view. These simulations helped students safely view an eclipse in action.



Miss Basham's ELA students have started reading Fahrenheit 451. Her 8th grade students shared their identity projects in order to determine the theme of identity in the book.



At the fundraiser, the party facilitator will bring all the materials you need to create a wood sign that you love.

## Explorations Fund Raiser

We will host a Creative Gatherings Wood Painting Sign Fundraiser on Tuesday, September 26, from 6:30-8:30pm in the Decatur Middle School Cafeteria. \$10 from each sign will go to the Explorations SLC fund to help pay for field trips and other SLC student needs.

Creative Gatherings has over 600 designs, 6 stain colors and 60 paint colors. You must pre-order the sign you want to paint, so they can stain the wood and cut the vinyl stencil ahead of time. Creative Gatherings signs cost between \$35-\$60.

Creative Gatherings has 2 collections of signs. The Ready2Go requires a \$10 non-refundable security deposit. The security deposit goes toward the cost of your sign.

To order your sign, go to [www.creativegatheringsindy.com/order-your-sign.html](http://www.creativegatheringsindy.com/order-your-sign.html). Find the date, time, and location of our party on the calendar to order your sign (September 26, from 6:30-8:30pm, at DMS). This will ensure your sign arrives at the correct party.

ALL SIGNS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, AT 10:00 AM. Creative Gatherings will need 4-5 days to prepare the signs. They cannot accept late orders.

Follow us on Twitter at @ExplorationsDMS and like us on Facebook at DMS Explorations to see 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 @7exp1718 to 81010
- 8th Grade Explorations Families: Text @8exp1718 to 81010

# Imagine SLC News



**S.W.A.G.  
SUCCESS  
WILLPOWER  
ATTITUDES  
and  
GOALS**

In this edition of the Imagine Newsletter, we would like to focus on one of our strategic initiatives that are already up and running for the 2017-2018 school year. S.W.A.G.

As we look to increase student achievement and push our students to be successful, we know that the habits they create today will impact tomorrow and ultimately their future. In an effort to push our students to be successful, we are in the second year of implementing S.W.A.G.

S.W.A.G. is an acronym for Success, Willpower, Attitudes and Goals. We strongly believe that if our students at DMS are going to **SUCCESSFUL**, they will have to have the appropriate growth mindset and **WILLPOWER** to push themselves and give their best effort in school, extra-curricular activities, athletics, and in their personal lives away from DMS.

In addition to this, we know that none of this is possible without the correct **ATTITUDE**. If students come to school each day and truly give their best effort and approach each day with a positive attitude, they will achieve their **GOALS**.

Here is what S.W.A.G. looks like in IMAGINE.

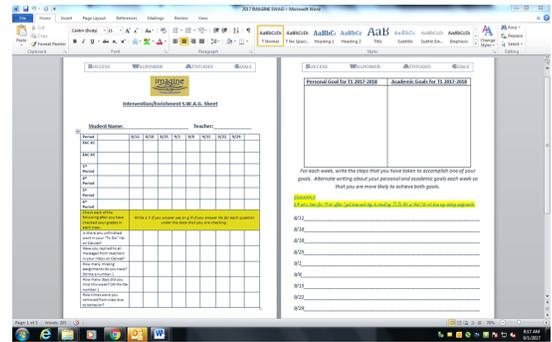
EVERY student has what we call a S.W.A.G. sheet, Once a week during our Interventions and Enrichment time, they fill out their S.W.A.G. sheet. On their S.W.A.G. sheet, students check their grades in each class once a week and then answer the following questions:

Check each of the following after you have checked your grades in each class.	Write a Y if you answer yes or a N if you answer No for each question under the date that you are checking.				
Is there any unfinished work in your "To Do" list on Canvas?					
Have you replied to all messages from teachers in your inbox on Canvas?					
How many missing assignments do you have? (Write a number.)					
How many days did you miss this week? (Write the number.)					
How times were you removed from class due to behavior?					

Once the students have completed their S.W.A.G. sheet, they go and show their I&E/STAR teacher. They highlight areas of improvement and get a high five! After that, they are then sent to Mr. Allen where they take their magnet (with their name) and place it in the appropriate category based on their grades.

Mr. Allen then give a high five and sets a GOAL for the student to work on for the following week.

Below you can see an example of a blank S.W.A.G. sheet. Please ask your IMAGINE student about their S.W.A.G. sheet. I am sure they will be happy to show you the great progress they are making this school year!



As a reminder, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @ImagineDms and on Facebook at DMSImagine to see all of the great things going on in our SLC!

# Calendar of Events

## Monday, September 4

- Labor Day—NO SCHOOL

## Tuesday, September 5

- 4:15pm—Boys Golf vs. Plainfield at Deer Creek Golf Course
- 5:15pm—Boys Tennis vs. Southport
- 5:15pm—Boys Soccer @ Southport
- 5:15pm—Girls Soccer vs. Southport

## Wednesday, September 6

- 4:30pm—Girls Golf vs. Plainfield/Brownsburg at Pittsboro Golf Course
- 5:15pm—Boys Tennis vs. Franklin Twp. West
- 5:15pm—Volleyball @ Center Grove Central

## Thursday, September 7

- 4:15pm—Boys/Girls Golf vs. Paul Hadley Middle School at Eagle Pines
- 5:15pm—Boys Tennis vs. Clark-Pleasant
- 5:15pm—Volleyball vs. Lynhurst (Marion County Tournament)
- 5:15pm—Boys/Girls Soccer vs. Franklin Community
- 5:45pm—7/8 Football vs. Southport

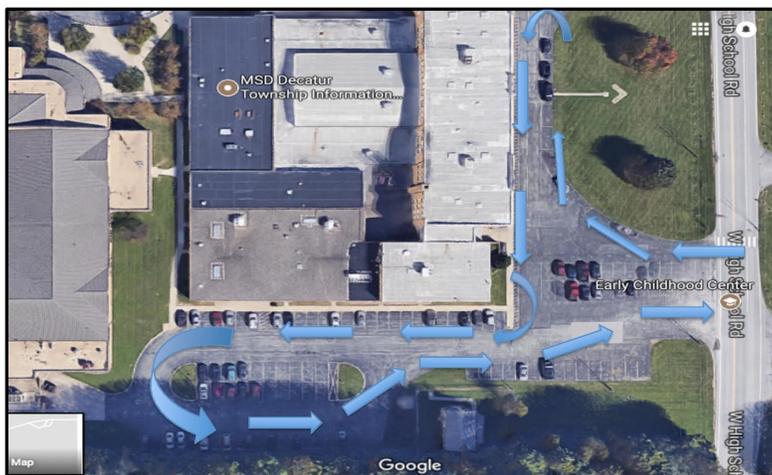
## Saturday, September 9

- Cross Country @ Cascade Invitational
- Volleyball @ Marion County Semi-Finals

## Thursday, August 31

- 4:15pm—Boys/Girls Golf vs. Southport Middle School
- 5:15pm—7/8 Volleyball vs. Eastwood Middle School
- 5:15pm—Cross Country vs. Speedway Jr. High School
- 5:15pm—Girls Soccer @ Lynhurst
- 5:30pm—7th Grade Football vs. Paul Hadley Middle School
- 5:30pm—8th Grade Football @ Paul Hadley Middle School

## Car Rider Pick-Up Map



*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](http://www.msddecatur.k12.in.us).*

**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.**



## Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School

*Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

#### Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

#### Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
- Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs.

#### Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
- Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
- Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.





**\$680\***  
STUDENT:  
QUAD ROOM OCCUPANCY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16 - SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

# — Washington, DC —

ACADEMIC EXPEDITIONS AND DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL ARE JOINING TOGETHER IN THE CREATION OF A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

**Highlights:**

- Explore the heart of **Capitol Hill**, home to the U.S. Capitol Building, the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.
  - Stop to take a picture at the most notable symbol of the presidency, the **White House**.
  - Pay your respects at the **Arlington National Cemetery**, the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in the name of our country.
  - Visit **Mount Vernon**, George and Martha Washington's beautiful home and plantation.
  - Experience the **US Holocaust Memorial Museum**, a living memorial to the Holocaust.
  - Nourish your knowledge through the amazing exhibits of the Smithsonian Museums on the **National Mall**, such as the Natural History Museum, the National Air and Space Museum, and the American History Museum.
  - Follow the events of Lincoln's assassination at **Ford's Theatre**.
  - Marvel at D.C.'s must-see monuments: Lincoln Memorial, World War II Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, and Iwo Jima Memorial to name a few.
  - Visit the **United States Naval Academy** in Annapolis, MD to see where future officers are educated and trained.
  - Dine, dance and experience DC from a new perspective with a **cruise** on the Potomac river.
- ...and more!

**Your Academic Expeditions trip includes:**

- Deluxe motor coach transportation with driver and all transfers (5 days)
- Premium hotel accommodation (2 nights)
- All meals (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners)
- Custom designed itinerary
- Full time Professional Academic Expeditions tour educator per motor coach
- Entrance fees to all program sites and activities
- Private professional hotel night time security (2 nights)
- Potomac River dinner & dance cruise

**Optional:**

- Comprehensive accident, medical, liability, and travel protection/cancellation/interruption insurance
- Cancel for any reason insurance - cancel up to 48 hours prior to departure and receive 75% refund

\*Price for Adult in Double Occupancy: \$780/person & Adult in Single Occupancy: \$980/person, based on a group of 45+ travelers. A \$100 deposit is due by 9/8/17.

For more information and to sign up go to <http://www.academicexpeditions.com/>, enter the access key code **DMS2018DC** under the Trip Registration tab and follow the instructions.

If you should have any questions about the trip program, please do not hesitate to contact:

**Jessica Considine (Decatur MS):** [jconsidine@msddecatur.k12.in.us](mailto:jconsidine@msddecatur.k12.in.us)

For questions regarding registration, payment, and insurance:

**Kara Williams Mawyer (Director of Finance, Academic Expeditions)**

[kwilliams@academicexpeditions.com](mailto:kwilliams@academicexpeditions.com) or 917-608-4177

