



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 5

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Welcome to Fall Break! I hope that you are able to spend some time with your family over the next two weeks. We are going to spend some time re-charging our batteries and preparing for the return of our students. While this has been communicated, I thought it would be a good time to re-visit our SLC structure so that we can better answer your questions when the time comes.

We have four Small Learning Communities (SLC). Each SLC has approximately 240 7th and 8th grade students, 9 certified teachers, and 2 instructional assistants. Each SLC also has a Director. The SLC Director oversees the development of the SLC, plans the professional development of the teachers in the SLC, supports the students both academically and behaviorally, and is the link to our parents.

In order to better serve you when you have a question, refer to the chart below to get your question answered in the most efficient manner.

Small Learning Community (SLC)	SLC Director	SLC Counselor
Apex	Missy Harvey	Gail Barrett
Explorations	Stacy O'Brien	Lori Voss
Global	Maren Kula	Gail Barrett
Imagine	Adam Allen	Lori Voss

Having the 4 SLC's allows us to make a school of 1,000 not seem like a school that big. We feel we can better support our students and our parents with this structure.

I would invite you to email me with any praises or concerns you have with Decatur Middle School. Your input is important to us as we strive to provide a quality education and great learning experiences for your child. My email is kbarrentine@msddcaturl.k12.in.us.

Enjoy your Fall Break! School resumes on Monday, October 24.

- Kyle Barrentine, Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 10-21—Fall Break—NO SCHOOL
- November 2-3—Vision Screenings (8th Grade)
- November 10—Indianapolis International Festival (Global SLC Only)

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Explorations SLC News

7th grade Language Arts students in Mrs. Gibbs' class are nearing the end of *The Outsiders*. Students have been engaged in discussion about characterization, conflict, and resolution. Additionally, students have been identifying ways they can relate to characters in the book.

Mrs. McCabe's 8th grade Algebra students have been solving multi-step equations. Students have to apply the distributive property, while employing inverse operations compounded with integer rules. Lots of analytical thinking!

iTime; We are excited to announce the Explorations Student Lounge Design Team Members:

- 8th Graders: Emma Etter-Cox, Fayth Malone, Mariah Perez and Shyanne Walker
- 7th Graders: Raegan Corbin, Chaikou Diallo, Faith Gladhill and Jonathan Sullivan

Pictured below are three of our 8th grade Student Lounge Design Team members. Not Pictured: Mariah Perez.



This team of 7th and 8th grade students have been brainstorming ideas about potential design layouts of our in-house student lounge. Ideas for fundraising events to raise money for resources students want to incorporate in the lounge have been generated, as well. Students plan to consult a few interior designers to begin the design process. Let us know if you would like to share your ideas with us!



Junior Achievement JobSpark Field Trip: Our 8th grade students recently attended a field trip to the Marion County Fairgrounds for the first ever middle school career fair. Students were able to talk with a wide range of career representatives. To prepare for event, students participated in lessons to learn how to gather information and ask appropriate career-related questions. Our students really enjoyed the opportunity to interact with experts in various career fields. Our district leaders, Dr. Duzenberry and Dr. Prusiecki, even attended the event.



Water Bottle Flipping Champions: Student have been participating in water bottle flipping as a lunchtime activity. There is a great skill required to flip a water bottle and get it to land on its base. Congratulations to Casey Chisham, our 7th grade champion, and Hunter Gibson, our 8th grade champion.



These two boys will face-off this Friday with the other SLC winners.

Student-led Conferences: Student-led conferences were a great success! It is awesome to conference with our students' families so students are recognized for the great work they are achieving.

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



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.



Global SLC News



On Friday, September 30, DMS 8th grade students attended the Junior Achievement JobSparks career fair. Here, they had a chance to explore various career paths and what it will take to get there! Global students were excited to participate—and they arrived in style via charter buses!

In Mrs. Gettinger’s class, students have been exploring world religions and governments. This Tuesday, students explored a culture clash in Iran over Pharell Williams’ “Happy” video. A huge component of the Global SLC framework is to investigate other perspectives—the world is a large place. Not everyone enjoys the same rights and freedoms as they do in the United States!



Leading up to fall break, DMS students faced off with one another in a school-wide bottle flip competition during designated lunch times. All proceeds benefited the various small learning communities. During the school pep session Friday, October 7, in front of all their peers, 7th grade, 8th grade, and overall DMS champions will be decided and awarded Visa gift cards. No pressure, right?



The Global hallway recently conducted a SWOT analysis of the Global SLC. During this time, teachers discussed the hallway’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to student success in order to provide students with the best possible experience at Decatur Middle School. Our teachers work very hard because our students are worth it!



During 8th grade IDEA Time, students are exploring global issues that are relevant to them, ranging from inequality to how schools look in different parts of the world. Final projects will appear as Keynote presentations or iMovies. Students will share their findings with classmates before fall break on Friday, October 7.

Before leaving for a much deserved Fall Break, 8th grade Global students presented their IDEA Time projects. IDEA Time gives students an opportunity to extend learning by exploring solutions for real world problems. This quarter, some students focused on “Hot Topics” in the headlines while others investigated improving education, sustainability, or equality. Two students discovered new perspectives about bullying towards students who identify with the LGBT community. They investigated the current data and even interviewed students and teachers at DMS. Ultimately, they were able to present several ideas they believe will help increase awareness and decrease the problem of bullying aimed at students who are exploring their own identities.



REMINDER: On Thursday, November 10, 7th and 8th grade Global students will attend the International Festival at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Students will explore the sights, sounds, and tastes of various cultures! Students may purchase a sack lunch from the school cafeteria. Endless international food vendors will be available, too, for additional cost. For more information about the festival, please visit: <https://www.nationalitiescouncil.org/indy-international-festival>.

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.

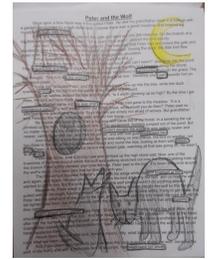
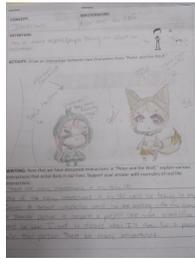
Book Fair

This year’s Fall Scholastic Book Fair was another success, thanks to the parents, students, and staff here at DMS. The Book Fair had sales of \$1,142.21! Based on those sales, the Media Center was able to obtain \$450.64 in books from Scholastic.

Thank you, again, to all of those who purchased items from the Book Fair.



Imagine SLC News



In Imagine each quarter our teachers roll out a new masterwork and concept as part of our Artful Learning model we incorporate to engage our students through experience, inquiry, creation and reflection. In 7th grade, the Masterwork our students analyzed was “Peter and the Wolf” with a focus on the Concept of Interaction. Through this activity our teachers utilized art journaling, abstract art and mood in music in order for our students to experience various types of interaction with this material. As we move through the quarter we will continue to utilize the concept of interaction in each of our core classes as an avenue for learning through the arts.

In 8th grade our students were lucky enough to take a field trip to Lucas Oil Raceway in Clermont, Indiana. On this field trip our students were able to see the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay as a part of the state-wide celebration of Indiana turning 200! Our students watched as the officials placed the torch on a drag-race car as it went flying down the race track.

Next our students boarded the bus and headed to Eagle Creek State Park where they were able to go on a nature hike, dissect owl pellets, learn about various Indiana birds of prey and complete a scavenger hunt in the part.

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



21st Century Scholars

Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university after they graduate from high school, dependent upon financial need. In middle and high school, Scholars are connected to programs and resources to help them stay on track for college and career success. Once in college, Scholars receive support to complete their college degrees and connect to career opportunities. 7th and 8th grade Indiana students whose families meet income eligibility guidelines can apply to become a 21st Century Scholar.

Apply online at Scholars.IN.gov and provide:

- Student's Social Security Number, date of birth and address.
- Parent or guardian's Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, if applicable.
- 2015 gross income amounts for all members of the household. If applying after December 31, 2016, use 2016 gross income.
- A valid email address (free email accounts are available at Yahoo.com, Gmail.com, Hotmail.com and Live.com)

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please contact Gail Barrett, School Counselor, at 856-5274 ext. 8014 or call the 21st Century Scholars helpline at 1-888-528-4719.

Boys

Basketball

Tryouts

Tuesday, Oct. 25th

8th Grade – 3:00pm to 4:30pm

7th Grade – 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Wednesday, Oct. 26th

8th Grade – 3:00pm to 4:30pm

7th Grade – 4:30pm to 6:30pm