



Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Barrentine's Billboard	1
Apex News	2
Imagine News	2
Explorations News	3
Global News	4



As we approach Thanksgiving Break, I always think it is a good time to provide reminders:

- Week of November 20-24: No School. This is a change from previous school years, so I just wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that we do not have school all of next week.
- I want to thank each of you who drop off and pick up your child for school each day. Using our procedures for those processes really increases the efficiency of getting you in and out of here, but more importantly, it really increases our level of safety for all students.
- This past Monday, we conducted a Data Day with our students. It provided our students an opportunity to see if they are "On Track" to enroll at Decatur Central High School. Students looked at their Grade Point Average, grades in individual courses, NWEA scores, attendance, and discipline. Any one of these factors can cause a student to get "off track" for enrolling at Decatur Central. Ask your child about it.
- At the urging of our students and through a collaborative effort with our student council, we completely revamped our very strict dress code two years ago to be more student-friendly. Despite this, we have seen an increase in the number of students who are not meeting our school's dress code. Two of the biggest issues are hooded sweatshirts and jeans with holes, rips, tears, etc. I am asking you to please partner with us in ensuring that your children abide by the dress code on a daily basis.
- Upon our return from our break, we will have 18 days of school before the end of the semester. Two things of note here:
 - ⇒ Please ensure that your child is aware of his/her grades and the timing of the end of the semester. We want to be able to provide an accurate picture of what your child knows and understands.
 - ⇒ Please ensure that your child is here each day. I can't stress enough the importance of your child's daily attendance at school.
- Our next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, January 9 at 6:00pm. Please email me at kbarrentine@msddecatur.k12.in.us if you plan to attend.

I hope everyone has a wonderful break!

Kyle Barrentine, Principal

Apex SLC News



This latest edition of Family Friday got students into the spooky spirit. On Friday, November 3rd, 7th and 8th grade learners worked together in groups to stitch together a “Franken-story.” In groups that were mixed by grade level, the students learned about Frankenstein, enjoyed a treat, and wrote scary stories. They worked on sharpening their

21st century skills of collaboration, communication, and creativity while having fun together as a family. Learners got a good laugh and a few frights while sharing these stories with their peers.

8th grade learners continued learning about DNA—the building blocks of life—in their project Generating Greatness. They are currently researching a genetic

disease in order to create an awareness campaign. Learners will present PSAs, fact sheets, and narratives that help answer the driving question: How do genetic diseases impact the individual, families and the community? They will present their work to a panel of professionals and community members in the coming weeks.

Imagine SLC News



7th Grade



In 7th Grade Imagine, students in Mrs. Tiffany’s math classes are learning how to be better consumers. The unit being covered right now is all about ratios, unit rates, proportions, and percentages. Students have learned how to calculate unit rates to identify the product that will be the “Best Buy.” Proportional reasoning was then followed with students calculating missing amounts based on equivalent ratios. Students will continue to use proportional reasoning to calculate discounts, sale prices, percent increases/decreases, and percent error during the month of November just in time for holiday shopping and Black Friday!

Mrs. Tiffany’s pre-algebra class is continuing with solving equations. Students have already learned to both solve and write 2-step equations. This foundation is fundamental to progressing to equations with variables on both sides. This will be their first foray into Algebra I standards. This unit will conclude with students using these skills and some additional knowledge to solve 2-step inequalities and inequalities with variables on both sides. As your child how to find x...because it is missing.

8th Grade

Imagine 8th grade students ventured into the wild woods of Eagle Creek on October 31st. Stu-

dents got close to nature as they dissected regurgitated owl pellets to determine what the owls had been eating. Then, naturalists from the Ornithology Center lectured on birds of prey. The students learned that these birds have swallowed bones, 103 degree temperatures, and talons.



This quarter, the students are also studying the concept of balance. We launched this concept with a look at the artwork of Dale Chihuly’s glass sculptures. The theme of balance then carries over into the content areas. Algebra classes are analyzing the balance of equations. History classes are debating the balance of rights between colonists and British citizens as well as the struggle between war and peace. Science classes are looking at the balance between dominant and recessive traits. Finally, Language Arts classes are discussing the impact of fiction elements (plots, conflict, point of view) on balance in a story.



As a reminder, don’t forget to follow us on Twitter @ImagineDms and on Facebook (dmsimagine) to see all of the great things going on in our SLC!

Explorations SLC News



7th Grade Explorations



All of our 7th grade Explorations students attended a live performance of *The Outsiders* at the Hebrew Academy Theater in late October. Following the performance, actors and actresses hosted a question and answer session. Our students were able to ask questions like how the cast came together, how the cast felt about the performance, and what type of experience and education was needed to have the opportunity to perform in a traveling production. The students and staff really enjoyed our time viewing this production.

8th Grade Explorations

Students in Mr. Manring's 8th grade Science classes have been investigating the amount of microbes present on their iPads. The students took a swab of the surface of their iPad screens and covers. They have been watching the bacteria grow. Check out the display of germs outside of Mr. Manring's classroom.



Mrs. Hair's students have been studying the three branches of government. Recently, they participated in a gallery walk in the Explorations hallway to learn about the differences between the branches.

D-Day at DMS

Our students analyzed their grades, attendance, GPA, and NWEA scores this past Monday for our first annual Data Day (D-Day) at DMS.



After School Study Table

Explorations hosted our second after school study table on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, from 2:50-4:30. Once again, the students were very focused and worked hard to improve their grades by redoing assignments, making up assignments, or studying for an upcoming quiz or test.



iTime

We have a group of students who are making their own music video. They are

teaching themselves how to edit their shots and fuse the entire video together. Another student is creating a golf workshop to teach her peers how to golf. We also have another student raising money for the American Cancer Society by selling *Fight the Fight to Find a Cure* bracelets at various DMS events. There are some really cool iTime projects being conducted in Explorations.



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



	HOT PINK WOMEN'S CREW SWEATSHIRT S-XL- \$30 XXL- \$32 XXXL- \$34				
	GRAY T-SHIRT S-XL- \$14 XXL- \$16 XXXL- \$18				
	NAVY 1/4 ZIPPER HOOD S-XL- \$30 XXL- \$32 XXXL- \$34				
	BLUE MARBLE T-SHIRT S-XL- \$17 XXL- \$19				
	BLACK T-SHIRT S-XL- \$15 XXL- \$17 XXXL- \$19	BLACK LONGSLEEVE S-XL- \$18 XXL- \$20 XXXL- \$22		WOMEN'S GLITTER NAVY T-SHIRT S-XL- \$18 XXL- \$20	

Decatur Middle School is selling Spirit Wear, just in time for the holidays! It is never too early to purchase just the right Christmas presents. The shirt sale will last until Dec. 5th and will be delivered to your student's 1st period class on December 18. Order forms are available in the main office or on the last page of this newsletter. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Joseph .

Global SLC News



On Monday, Global students participated in data day! Research supports that middle school students' grades, attendance, and engagement are three critical factors for predicting the likelihood of high school graduation. Students have been diving into their own "numbers" in order to help them take charge of their future!

ELA	Math	Science	Soc. Stud.			
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	
GPA pts: _____	GPA pts: _____	GPA pts: _____	GPA pts: _____	GPA pts: _____	GPA pts: _____	
Attendance		Mid-Term GPA Calculation				
Current # of Absences (Excused + Unexcused)	Current # of Tardies	_____	A 4.00	B 3.00	C 2.00	D- 0.66
			A- 3.66	B- 2.66	C- 1.66	F 0.00
			B+ 3.33	C+ 2.33	D+ 1.33	DCHS GPA Values
<p>To calculate your GPA, add all your GPA points and divide by the number of classes that have GPA pts.</p> <p>Step 1: Add all the GPA points for your classes. • Example: $4.0 + 3.66 + 3.00 + 2.33 + 2.66 + 3.00 = 18.65$</p> <p>Step 2: Divide your total from Step 1 and divide by the number of classes that have a GPA point value. • Example: $18.65 \div 6 = 3.10$ GPA for Mid-Term</p>						

7th Grade Global Update

On Friday, students in Language Arts will take their quarterly writing assessments. Students reviewed essential writing skills through a round of writing learning stations Wednesday and



Thursday. Station activities included prewriting to a narrative prompt, revising a narrative to include more descriptive language, and editing to improve grammar, punctuation, spelling and capitalization.



Last week, 7th grade Global students attended the 2017 Indy International Festival. Students had fun exploring multiple aspects of different cultures!



7th grade students will begin winter NWEA testing with Mrs. Tejchma in Science class after Thanksgiving break.

8th Grade Global Update

Algebra A students are wrapping up their work on solving questions with one variable. After break, they will begin working on solving equations with two variables. Algebra AB students are gearing up for their semester final exam to earn high school credit. In Mrs.



Lowe's class, all students have started the novel *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers. Each student has his or her own copy of the book to use. If your student has not returned his/her money for the book, the cost is \$8.00.

They also have a book report coming up that is due December 15th.

8th grade students will begin winter NWEA testing with Mrs. Hammonds in Science class after Thanksgiving break.



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.

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.

DECATUR SPIRIT WEAR

DEADLINE- December 5th

DELIVERY- December 18th

NO RETURNS DUE TO SIZE- To check for sizes contact Ms. Joseph in Rm 134 856-5274 Ext. 1134

Make checks payable to Decatur Middle School

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

1ST PERIOD RM. # _____ **Teacher's Name** _____

Decatur

HOT PINK WOMEN'S CREW SWEATSHIRT S-XL/\$30 XXL/\$32 XXXL/\$34

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____ **3X** _____

TOTAL _____

NAVY QUARTER ZIPPER HOOD S-XL/\$30 XXL/\$32 XXXL/\$34

CANNOT WEAR DURING SCHOOL

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____ **3X** _____

BLUE MARBLE T-SHIRT S-XL/\$17 XXL/\$19

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____

GRAY T-SHIRT S-XL/\$14 XXL/\$16 XXXL/\$18

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____ **3X** _____

GRAY CREW SWEATSHIRT S-XL/\$22 XXL/\$24 XXXL/\$26

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____ **3X** _____

GRAY HOODED SWEATSHIRT S-XL/\$25 XXL/\$27 XXXL/\$29

CANNOT WEAR DURING SCHOOL

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____ **3X** _____

WOMEN'S GLITTER NAVY T-SHIRT S-XL/\$18 XXL/\$20

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____

LIGHT GRAY LONG BODY T-SHIRT S-XL/\$18 XXL/\$20

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____

BLACK T-SHIRT S-XL/\$15 XXL/\$17 XXXL/\$19

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____ **3X** _____

BLACK LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT S-XL/\$18 XXL/\$20 XXXL/\$22

S _____ **M** _____ **L** _____ **XL** _____ **2X** _____ **3X** _____

PAID _____ **TOTAL** _____

CASH _____ **CHECK** _____ Check # _____ Bank Name _____



Dear Santa I can explain...

NAUGHTY

NICE

I TRIED



Please check, this is a Christmas present and parents will pick this up in Main Office.