



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Indianapolis, IN 46221

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Sunday, November 20—**
Free Thanksgiving Dinner at Salvage Yard Church—12:00pm—
anyone is welcome.
- **November 21-December 5—**
Decatur Shirt Sales—
Order Forms are in the Main Office
- **November 23-25—**
Thanksgiving Break—
NO SCHOOL
- **Monday, December 5—**
Canvas Parent Night & PTO Meeting—
6:30pm—DMS Cafeteria

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Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 7

NOVEMBER 18, 2016



There are two topics that I want to bring to your attention this week. With both I am seeking your help and participation.

Canvas Parent Night/PTO Meeting

I want to invite you to the Decatur Middle School Canvas Parent Night on Monday, December 5 at 6:30pm. The Canvas Night will be on the agenda of our regularly scheduled PTO meeting. We have a teacher, who also happens to be a DMS parent, who will facilitate the information about Canvas. We will begin our meeting in the DMS Media Center, and then we will move to a computer lab for the session on Canvas.

Please enter Door #1 and walk straight into the Media Center. I look forward to seeing many of you here on Monday, December 5.

Student Identification

As you all know, one of our three priorities in the MSD of Decatur Township is safety. One way that we ensure the safety of our students is through having students wear a school ID at all times during the school day. While our students are well known within their communities (Imagine, Apex, Explorations, Global), they are not as well known when they venture outside their community. Having this identification visible to all staff members allows the DMS staff to keep our students safe and secure. Please help me in encouraging your son or daughter to wear their SLC lanyards and ID around their necks at all times during the school day.

If your child has lost his or her originally issued lanyard and ID, replacements are available in the main office. An ID costs \$1, and a lanyard costs \$2. Thank you for your support!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy your time with friends and family. School resumes on Monday, November 28.

- 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.

Global SLC News

On Thursday, November 10, the entire Global SLC attended the 40th Indianapolis International Festival at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Students explored the sights, sounds, and tastes of a variety of countries. At the event, 158 new citizens were sworn in at a Naturalization Ceremony, as well. Students saw how important citizenship was to these new citizens and celebrated the diversity that makes our country great!



Please help a family in need this holiday season by participating in the DMS Giving Tree event sponsored by the Global Small Learning Community. Beginning Tuesday, November 15, during lunch, select an ornament from the tree located in the cafeteria. Each ornament has listed a very specific gift request for an Indianapolis family in need. Then, go shopping! Attach the ornament to a wrapped gift and drop it off in your hallway's breakfast line—that's all there is to it!

Make the holidays brighter for a family in need. This will begin Tuesday, November 15, and run through Tuesday, December 13. Questions? See 8th grade Global Science teacher Mrs. Hammonds in Room 223. Go see the tree!

Don't forget to order your 2016-2017 DMS yearbook through www.yearbookforever.com for \$28. The price goes up to \$30 after Christmas, so order now! Questions? Ask 8th Grade Global Math teacher Mr. Esterline in Room 229!



Explorations SLC News

Explorations teachers in both grade levels have implemented an incentive to reward students who submit their work on time. Please ask your child how many letters he or she has earned this week.

Students in Mr. Iliff's 7th grade Science classes are studying different forms of energy. The information they are learning will prepare them to build their solar panel ovens after Thanksgiving Break.



Students love this project because they have the opportunity to apply their learning.

Ask your 7th grade math student to figure the tip the next time you go out to dinner. Students in Mrs. Serrienne's math classes have been calculating tip, tax, and discounts. Your child can calculate how much money would

be saved when their favorite items are on sale.

8th grade Algebra A students in Mrs. McCabe's class have been solving multi-step equations. This involved applying the distributive property and combining like terms before finding a solution to the equation.

Mrs. Hair's 8th grade U.S. History students are enthralled with the Articles of Confederation. Many students learned that this document outlined our first form of an established government. Students quickly discovered the problems and concerns that impacted our country. Ask your child to describe some of those problems and concerns.



iTime:

Explorations students are immersed in their iTime projects. Most students have spent iTime researching information to support their passion project development. Teachers have been diligently seeking project mentors so students have a field expert to provide students with guidance as they expand their projects.

Follow us on Twitter at @ExplorationsDMS to see daily activities that occur in Explorations classes.

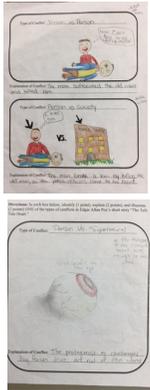
Sign up for Remind to receive regular text message notifications about upcoming Explorations events:

- * 7th Grade Explorations Families: Text @7exp1617 to 81010
- * 8th Grade Explorations Families: Text @8ex1617 to 81010

Imagine SLC News

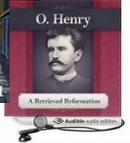
In this week's Imagine newsletter, we will highlight our Language Arts teacher's Mrs. Jacobs and Ms. Johnson and the great things they have going on in their classroom during this quarter.

In Language Arts, students have been focusing on sharpening their comprehension skills by reading several short stories. Recently, we read "A Retrieved Reformation" and "After Twenty Years" by O'Henry to help them identify story devices (foreshadowing, flashback, cliffhanger, and suspense) and make inferences in a text. These stories required the students to look for clues and make inferences in order to figure out and understand the surprise endings in both texts. Students also focused on anchoring their answers in the text to prove their answers.



This week we will look at theme in stories using past readings to understand the message the author is trying to give the reader. We will be reading "War of the Wall" and use the story to create our personal theme murals.

Students in 8th grade Language Arts just wrapped up a unit involving practicing fiction skills through scary stories. They wrote the ending to the short story "The Elevator," identified and illustrated the different conflicts in "The Tell-Tale Heart," and wrote a paragraph analyzing the differences between the original and a filmed version of "The Hitchhiker." Students are now beginning to apply these skills to the novel *Monster* by Water Dean Myers. As this story is written mostly as a screenplay, students are blocking the different parts to help one another visualize the action in the story.



Please continue to check our weekly newsletter in both 7th & 8th grades about upcoming events and an agenda for your son or daughter's assignments & homework for the upcoming week. Also make sure you check our website and social media sites to see all of the great things going on in Imagine.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
21	22 5:15pm/6:30pm—7 A/B Boys Basketball vs. Center Grove Central @ DMS 5:15pm/6:30pm—8 A/B Boys Basketball @ Center Grove Central	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL
27	28	29	30	1 5:15pm/6:30pm—7/8 Boys Basketball vs. Speedway (2nd Round Marion County) @ DMS

College Corner



You and your child need to start planning for college no later than middle school. In each of the newsletters, we will provide you with information to help begin the journey of college and career readiness.

Most U.S. parents expect their kids to go to college, and most students have the same goal. But they are not necessarily taking the practical steps to get there.

Counselors, colleges and organizations like the National Association of College Admission Counseling and ACT emphasize that parents should start planning for college no later than middle school. Their reasoning is simple: Your child needs strong preparation in middle school to take the high school classes that colleges require.

You need to do your homework to make college affordable for your family. There are lots of options to cut college costs—scholarships, low-interest loans, work-study, spending the first two years at a community college—but it takes time to research them and get the information you need to meet application deadlines.

College planning is important for all families, whether parents attended college or not. Rose Fabiszak, director of the College Board's program called College Ed, notes, "The college process has changed, even from four years ago—the forms have changed, there are web sites where you child can take a virtual tour of a college."

Get Savvy About College Costs

Experts emphasize that there are lots of ways to finance a college education, but you have to do your homework. Researching the way the system works, saving options such as 529 plans, and creative financing ideas will keep you from the last-minute panic that leads families to take out high-interest loans.

"You can find money for college," says Fabiszak. "It takes work and you need to start early."

There are also other cost-cutting measures you'll uncover: Your child can get college credits by taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes in high school or in summer classes at your local community college. That can save you a year's tuition—but your child must be academically prepared to take advantage of these options.

Box Tops for Education



We are now collecting Box Tops for Education! The Box Tops Contest starts now & continues until Thanksgiving break. The winning Star class may choose pizza or donuts. Also 1st & 2nd place Star classes may choose an "Athletic Wear" day with Hats & Sweats or a Free Technology Lunch Pass.

All proceeds go directly back to students with treats for ISTEP etc.

Santa at The Log Cabin

(5106 S. High School Rd, Across from Valley Mills Elem)

Saturday Dec. 10th 12-4pm / 6-8pm
Sunday Dec. 11th 12-5pm

Saturday Dec. 17th 12-4pm / 6-8pm
Sunday Dec. 18th 12-5pm

Framed Picture with Santa \$5
Warm, fresh cookies \$1
Hot chocolate \$1
Hand-painted ornaments \$1

Book Fees Due Now



If you have not made your November payment for book fees, please do so now. Past due accounts will be sent to collections beginning December 1, 2016.

If you have questions regarding your balance or would like to make a payment by phone, please contact Mrs. Donna Graham, DMS Treasurer, at 317-856-5274 ext. 8015.

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.