

Ms. Kowalczyk's Advisory Newsletter April 2025

Happy April!

We are now in term three and the final term of the 2024-2025 school year! This month will have a little bit of everything. In addition to continuing our academics in literature, math, and social studies, students will be in full swing with their new enhancements, and Comprehensive Student Reviews are this month as well. I look forward to all that spring will bring!

Classroom Updates

Literature: March was Reading Month, and we continue to celebrate in many ways! Students have been engaged in a Picture Book Project where they have checked out historical texts to analyze within the context of our CSA character traits and Integrated Learner Profile traits. Students also had a "Book Tasting" to browse novels for our Independent Novel Project. Students will select a classic literature text to read and complete a series of projects. This month we will also start our next read-aloud unit:

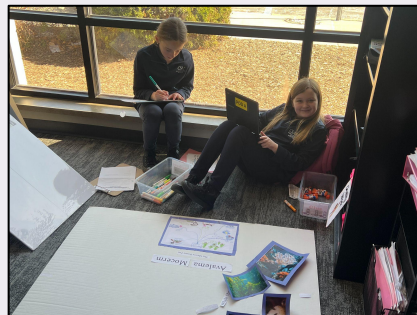
Behind Rebel Lines: a historical fiction about a girl named Emma who disguises herself and works as a spy during the Civil War, risking her life for freedom. Additionally, we will study Civil War poetry to align with our Turbulence and Turmoil unit in Social Studies.

Math: The instructional learning targets of the CSA middle school math curriculum focus on developing students' proficiency in key mathematical areas such as ratios, geometry, algebraic expressions, and statistics, while fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application skills. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for high school math and beyond by encouraging a deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

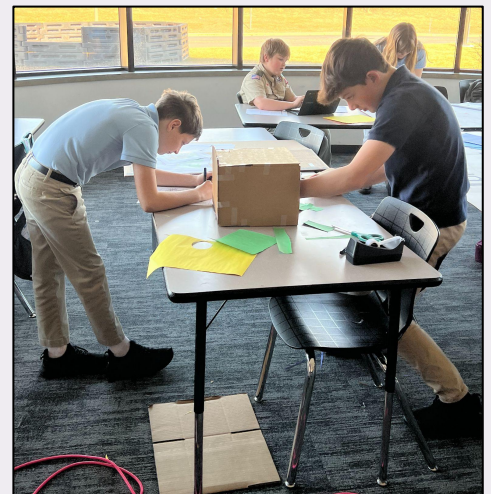
Social Studies: This term, students will continue their journey through America's history by learning about the Civil War era. Students will analyze events leading up to the war, major battles and events during the war, as well as the Reconstruction time period. Students will also analyze the relationships between free and slave-holding states, as well as the policies and consequences of slavery and early attempts to abolish it. Finally, students will compare and contrast America before and after the Civil War. The unit will conclude with an oral or written assessment.



Studying Snapshots



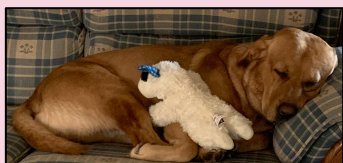
Working on their Environment of Change biome culminating event.




**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
To You!**

Happy birthday to our
April birthdays!

- ★ Brantley
- ★ Avalyn
- ★ Alexander



Information Station

Final Yearbooks

Last call for Middle School Yearbooks! Our yearbook is a 68-page color yearbook made by our Middle School Yearbook enhancement that captures events and memories from this school year. If you would like to order a yearbook, please visit this direct link: [Order Link!](#) Once we have sold out, we will not have any more for sale. If you have any questions, please let me know!

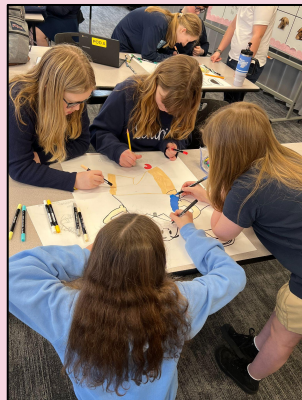
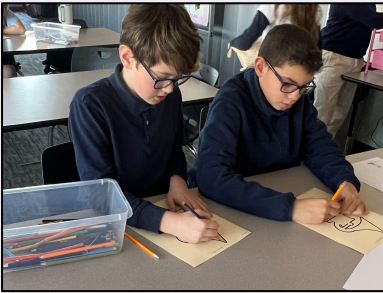
National Junior Honor Society

Invitations for new NJHS 2025 - 26 membership were sent out with Term 2 Report Cards. Current first- and second-year students who received invitations demonstrated outstanding scholarship by maintaining all A's in each content area on this school year's Term 1 and 2 report cards. Students who wish to complete applications should review the expectations found in their invitations. Completed applications are due Friday, May 9th.

Spring 2025 Testing

Our state standardized testing for PSAT and M-STEP will occur in April and May. Students will be required to use a school-provided device for the assessment. Each exam will begin promptly at 9:00 am, requiring students to arrive no later than 8:45 am. Please note that students are not permitted to eat or drink during the exam. Breaks will be given at select times, but it will be important that students have a healthy and balanced breakfast before taking the test. Students are also not permitted to have ANY type of electronic communication with them during these tests. Students will be able to safely store them at the school, receiving access to them after the test.

- **Wednesday, April 9th - 3rd Year PSAT**
- **Monday, May 5th - MSTEP ELA for 1st and 2nd Years/ Social Studies for 3rd Years**
- **Tuesday, May 6th - MSTEP ELA for 1st and 2nd Years**
- **Thursday, May 8th - MSTEP Math for 1st and 2nd Years/ Science for 3rd Years**
- **Monday, May 19th - Reading NWEA**
- **Wednesday, May 21st - Math NWEA**

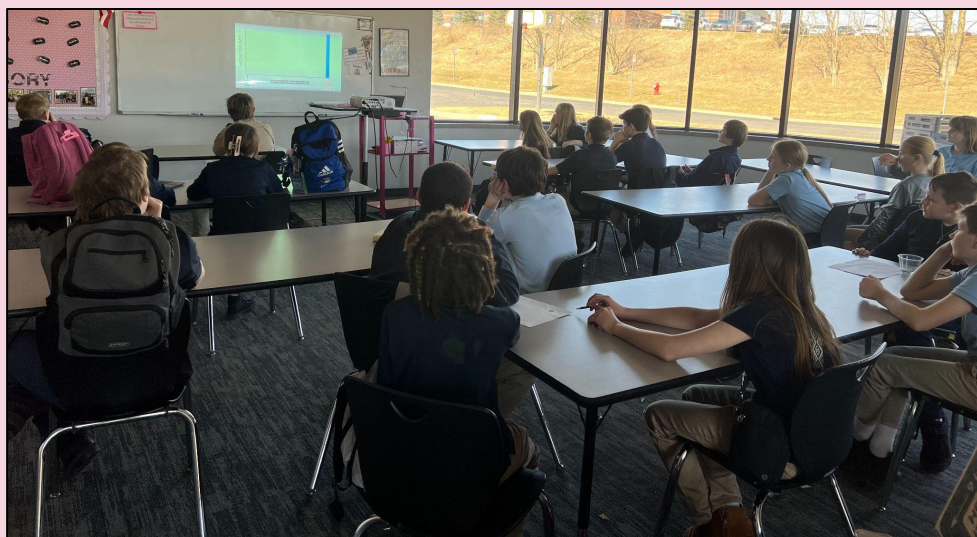


Remember you can check your child's progress on **PowerSchool** at any time at <https://csadistrict.powerschool.com/public/>. If you need support/help with accessing your PowerSchool account, please let me know or you can email Mrs. Marcum at mmarcum@csaschool.org.

A Peek Into Our Advisory Life

Social-Emotional Learning/Smart Character Choices

One of our recent advisory lessons was focused on work ethic. For this lesson, we watched a TED-Talk about "the mind of a procrastinator" where someone spoke about their own experiences with procrastination and how they picture what's going on in a procrastinator's mind. We then discussed where our procrastination takes us. It was a timely lesson with our culminating event preparation occurring and how we should take advantage of work time before the "panic monster" sets in. This term in advisory, we will focus on "Solving Problems Together." We will explore this through our social-emotional learning of relationship skills. Our lessons will center on using social awareness and responsible decision-making.



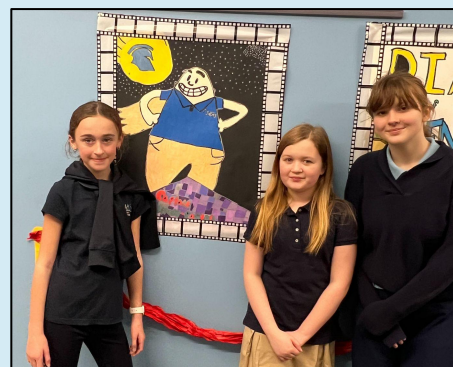
Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our dog-themed Beluga Ball basket! We had enough donations to contribute two assortments of items for bidding that will surely make any dog happy! Our two baskets collectively brought in over \$100 for our district!



Deck the Halls

At the beginning of March, our Explorer Students from CSA visited to take a tour and see what Middle School is all about. To welcome them to their future home, we "decked the halls" for their arrival, where each pod decorated the hall with a specific theme. Pod A rolled out the red carpet for them with a Hollywood theme and showed them that they are "The A-List"!



Good Boy Photo of the Month



Calendar Updates

Friday, April 18th

Thursday, April 24th

Friday, April 25th

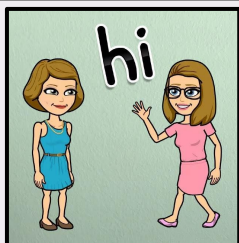
Thursday, May 1st

No School (Good Friday)

No School (CSRs)

No School (CSRs)

Evening CSRs



Parent Support

As your child continues on their school year journey, we encourage you to regularly engage with them at home. Establishing consistent routines—such as practicing math with flashcards, reading together, or setting aside dedicated homework time—can significantly contribute to your child's success this year.



Your child receives the best education when you and I work as a team. It is a parent's enthusiasm, support, and involvement that inspires children to do their best; and a teacher's ability to teach what they need to learn. Together we can achieve wonderful things that will allow your child to excel. Thank you for your commitment to your child's education and I feel privileged to be a part of your child's educational journey.

In partnership with you,
Katie Kowalczyk

