

WALLERSTEIN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

Instructional Focus/Learning TargetsFocus/Learning Targets

Literature

This month, students have been learning about narrative writing, including key features such as figurative language and descriptive imagery. Students also reviewed analysis response writing (known fondly as the Five Step Format) and practiced this technique using popular fables and fairy tales. Next, we will focus on our Science Fiction short story unit and study the lives and works of Isaac Asimov and Ray Bradbury. Readers have also been introduced to their first long-term Literature assignment in which they will choose and read a biography of an important historical figure who represents the character traits that CSAMS upholds: Respect, Responsibility, Work Ethic, Kindness, Getting Along, and Optimism. Parents, please support your student by ensuring they have a biography that is at or slightly above their reading comprehension level, and encouraging them to read each evening. Biographies should be read by December 5th.

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.

This month, students will be exploring concepts of numerical fluency, operations of rational numbers, as well as equations involving rational numbers and functions.

SCIENCE

Pod B and C students will explore plates and plate boundaries through a series of hands-on investigations and engaging articles and videos.

Students create continents, set plates in motion, and watch what happens using the Plate Motion Simulation. This will allow them to see in cross section how the plates and mantle interact at convergent and divergent plate boundaries, observe what geologic events occur when plates move, and investigate what types of landforms form due to different types of plate motion. By the end of the month, students will be able to explain that plates are destroyed and rock is added to plates constantly and slowly (and these processes have been occurring for millions of years) due to large-scale plate movement.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This month, students have been learning about prehistoric societies and early technological advancements.

Students have been working to strengthen their note taking skills to prepare them for high school. They are also working on reading nonfictional texts and strengthening comprehension with this type of text. Moving forward, students will be concluding the study of Mesopotamia. As we journey through ancient human societies, we will be beginning our studies of Egypt.

3RD YEAR PSAT TESTING

All third-year students will take the PSAT 8/9 assessment on Tuesday, October 14th. The PSAT 8/9 helps students identify their areas of need so that they are well-prepared for college upon graduation from high school – and it supports educators as they guide them along the way.

The PSAT 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10 – in a way that makes sense for third-year students. It measures what they're already learning, showing them whether they're on track for college, and lets them know where they need the most improvement. That means students have time to tackle these areas long before they take the SAT.

NJHS

The NJHS Induction Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, October 29th. I

wanted to send out a huge congratulations to all new members - we are inducting 18 NEW members!

This ceremony is for students who were invited and accepted during the 2024 - 25 school year. NJHS serves to honor middle school students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character, and challenges them to develop further through enthusiastic involvement in school activities and community service. Some examples of events that NJHS members attended in the past include Michigan Humane Society, Doggie Dash, School Beautification, Pet Drive (collecting and creating pet supplies), Warm Clothing Drive, and assisting CSA Elementary School classrooms.

Members for the 2025- 26 school year have already been selected. To be considered for new membership to the CSAMS chapter of NJHS for the 2026 - 27 school year, current first and second year students must demonstrate outstanding scholarship by maintaining all A's in each content area on this school year's Term 1, 2 and 3 report cards. Invitations for next school year memberships are sent out in the summer.

ADVISORY PROGRAMS

In Term 1, students will focus on building self-awareness, responsibility, and empathy. They will reflect on their personal strengths, emotions, and mindsets –recognizing where they show growth and where they may feel stuck. Lessons will emphasize how a growth mindset connects to self-respect, how better choices lead to better lives, and how responsibility and respect work together. Students will also learn strategies for managing emotions like anxiety, practice optimism, and explore how kindness, inclusion, and empathy strengthen friendships and school community. Through discussions, examples, and real-life scenarios, students will develop the skills to make respectful choices, handle conflicts constructively, and positively impact both their own lives and the lives of others.



PARENT SUPPORT

As your child embarks on a new school year this month, 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.

POWER SCHOOL & CSA DISTRICT FORMS

Remember you can check your child's progress on PowerSchool at any time at <https://csadistrict.powerschool.com/public/>.

All CSA District annual student forms can be accessed and completed electronically through your student's PowerSchool account. Under the PowerSchool Parent Portal, you can update emergency contact information and complete all annual forms. If you need help or support with accessing your PowerSchool account, please let me know.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT REVIEWS

Throughout the year we look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress and growth in a Comprehensive Student Review. My goal is to meet with you two times during the school year (one during the fall and the second conference completed in the spring) to review your child's growth and development as a whole child: academically, socially, morally, and physically. I look forward to sharing information with you as well as hearing from you about your child.

Comprehensive Student Reviews are scheduled for October 23rd and October 24th, with other dates to follow for those who can't meet on those days. More information will be coming out soon with additional dates and a signup.



YEARBOOKS

Middle School Yearbooks are on sale!

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!](#) If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kowalczyk (kkowalczyk@csaschool.org).

THANK YOU!

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.

UPCOMING DATES

Friday, October 17 Pink Out Spirit Wear Day

Wednesday, October 22 Michigan/Michigan State Spirit Wear Day

Thursday, October 23 No School - Comprehensive Student Reviews

Friday, October 24 No School - Comprehensive Student Reviews

Wednesday, October 29 NJHS Induction Ceremony, 6:00pm

Thursday, October 30 Activity Night, 4:05pm-5:30pm

Friday, October 31 Harvest/Fall/Halloween Themed Spirit Wear Day