



MR. ELLIS' CHAMPS

November 2025

CSA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

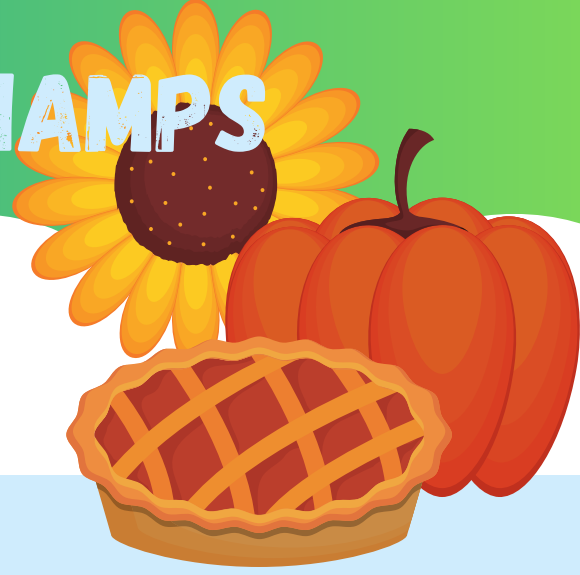
Instructional Focus/Learning Targets

CSA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- **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 expressions (Applied Math), and deepening our understanding of ratios.
- **Science:** Throughout November, our POD A students will run tests with multiple trials and develop and compare models like real scientists. This will help them write a scientific argument with evidence to support a teen patient's diagnosis. They will continue to learn how the body systems work together to deliver important molecules like glucose, amino acids and oxygen to cells. They will investigate how cells use those molecules through cellular respiration to release energy that supports movement, growth, and repair.
- **Social Studies:** This month in social studies, we built on our understanding of geography and completed our study of the United States and Canada before journeying south into Latin America. Students explored the diverse landscapes that make up Central and South America and learned about the ancient civilizations of the Aztec, Inca, and Maya. We then examined the reasons people migrate and began studying the economic and political landscapes of modern South America. Next week, students will write an essay reflecting on everything they've learned, and then we'll begin our exploration of Europe which will take us up to Thanksgiving!

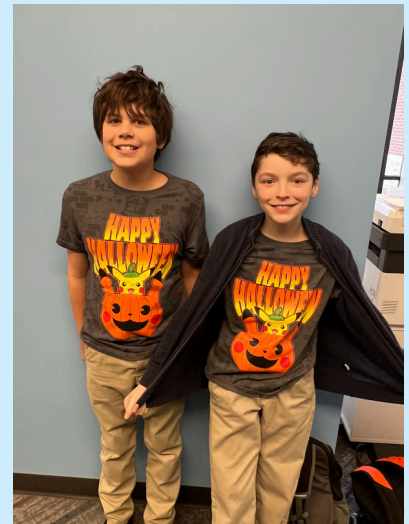


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- **Literature:** Our Term 1 novel study takes us on a journey through *The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer L Holm. Students will learn that change can be uncomfortable, but it's also how we grow and discover who we are. Please ensure your student has selected their biography of an important historical figure who represents the character traits that CSAMS upholds: Respect, Responsibility, Work Ethic, Kindness, Getting Along, and Optimism. Students are expected to have the biographies read by December 5th.



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Advisory

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.

Biography Project

This term in Literature, students will begin an exciting biography project where they'll select one influential person to study — such as a scientist, athlete, philosopher, or other revolutionary thinker from the past or present. Students will read a biography, explore articles or periodicals, and complete a series of creative projects to demonstrate what they've learned.

Project Overview:

- Topic Selection: Students will choose a person of interest (teacher approval required).
- Research: Students will read one biography and at least two articles about their chosen individual.
- Projects & Presentation: Students will complete three projects and give a short (5-minute) presentation during our Gallery Walk on December 12.

Timeline:

- Sept. 22 – Dec. 5: Independent reading and research (biography + articles).
- Dec. 8 – 11: Complete final projects in class.
- Dec. 11: Final projects due.
- Dec. 12: Gallery Walk presentations.

We encourage families to help students choose someone they'll enjoy learning about and to support them in finding reading materials at the CSAMS library, local library, or online.

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Adopt-A-Family

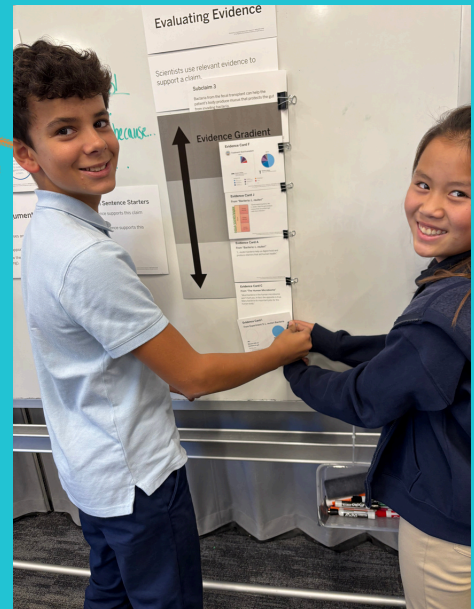
The CSAMS Student Government is hosting the Adopt-a-Family Food Drive during the week of November 18th to collect items to provide a Thanksgiving meal for families within the CSA community. Each advisory will collect donations for a basket of food items during the week of November 17th. The baskets will be assembled and distributed on Friday, November 21st. Suggested items for donations include boxes of mashed potatoes, jars of gravy, canned vegetables, cans of soup, boxes of muffin mix, boxed dessert mixes, macaroni and cheese, pasta sauce, canned tuna, and stuffing.

POWERSCHOOL and CSA District Annual Student 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.



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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.

“Something Rotten!”

🎭 Hear ye, hear ye! A most egg-cellent announcement! 🎭

The CSA District Players proudly present Something Rotten Jr.! – a musical so funny, it'll make even Shakespeare drop his quill and say, “Now that's comedy!” Come witness the Bard's rivals try to outdo him with the world's first musical – complete with show-stopping numbers, outrageous rhymes, and just a bit of Elizabethan absurdity.

Prepare for a night that's truly to thine own laugh be true!

📅 Show Dates: At Jane Tasch Theatre in Pinckney

Friday, Nov. 22 at 7:00pm

Saturday, Nov. 23 at 12:00pm and 7:00pm

Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4:00 pm

🎫 Tickets: <https://cspamusic.seatyourself.biz>



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Upcoming Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 6th Evening Comprehensive Student Reviews

Friday, November 14th CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear

Week of November 17th Adopt-a-Family Food Drive

Friday, November 21st Flannel/Plaid Spirit Wear

Friday, November 21st CSA District Hug Day and Opening Night of “Something Rotten” at Jane Tasch Theatre in Pinckney

Saturday, November 22nd “Something Rotten” at Jane Tasch Theatre”

Matinee: 12:00

Evening Performance: 7:00

Sunday, November 23rd Last Show at 4:00

Week of November 24th No School - Thanksgiving Break

