

Ms. Kowalczyk's Advisory Newsletter November 2025

Classroom Updates

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.

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 in Foundations of Math will be exploring ratios and unit rates, and students in Applied Math will be exploring concepts of expressions.

Social Studies: In October, 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. In November, 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!

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.

Studying Snapshots



Working together in math to review fractions and simplifying.

Students have enjoyed looking through the microscopes in science.



Information Station

Reading Zone

Each Monday-Thursday, your student has 30 minutes of designated time to independently read in class! We know how important it is to give students time to read throughout the day to continue their development and love for reading. Please encourage your students to choose a novel that they are interested in and is the right challenge for them. Ask them what they are reading and do not hesitate to ask me if you have any questions.



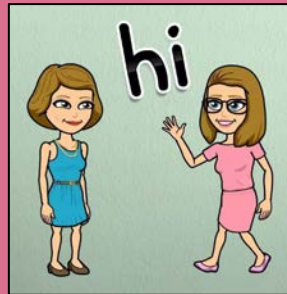
Adopt-a-Family Food Drive

CSAMS Student Government is hosting the Adopt-a-Family Food Drive during the week of November 17th 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 18th. 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.

Parent Support and Classroom Needs

As your child embarks on a new school year, 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.

Our classroom is currently in need of pencils. Any donations would truly be appreciated!



Yearbook Orders

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!](#)

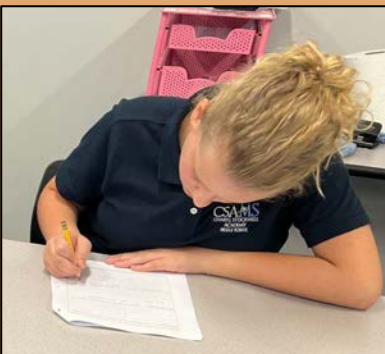


Weekly Assignment Report

On Fridays, students are receiving a weekly assignment report that outlines individual assignment grades in all classes. Students have time during Friday advisory to work on these assignments and have the opportunity to check in with their teacher as needed when they go to their content-area classes on Friday. Please check in with your child on if there is anything that they need to finish up. The end of term one is on Friday, December 5th.



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.



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.

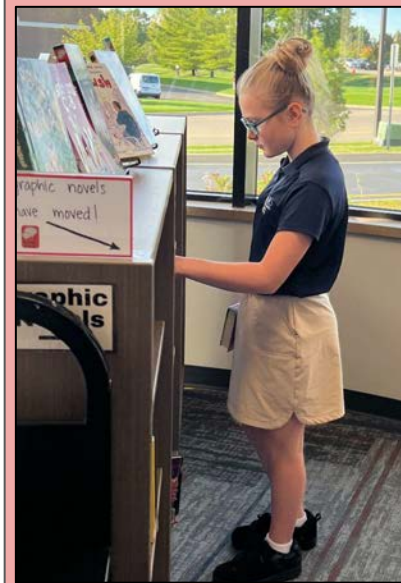
Project Overview:

- 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 12th.

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.



A Peek Into Our Advisory Life

Social/Emotional Learning

One of the mindset discussions that we've had this term have been on optimism. We talked about how mindset and optimism are connected, how it's a personal choice to be optimistic, and whether or not it's a responsibility to others to be optimistic. We also watched a video about how we are "contagious" when it comes to optimism and mindset.



Coming Up in November

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.

Middle School Library Visits

Our advisory had two visits to our school library during October. During this time, students are able to return books, check out books, browse our library's selection, and read. Students also have the opportunity to go to the library on their own time during the school day if they have finished their classwork and it is an appropriate time to ask to do so.



Student Celebration

For November's student celebration, we recognize and honor the Kowalczyk Advisory students who are participating in this year's musical!



👂 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>

We Have Spirit, Yes We Do!

October brought FIVE spirit days for us! We had our first "Count on Comfy Clothes Day", our monthly CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear, Pink Day, Michigan/Michigan State Day, and Fall/Harvest/Halloween Day! Take a look at how our advisory showed their spirit! Our Pink Day photo will now have a permanent place at the end of every monthly advisory newsletter.



All About Me

One of our recent advisory activities was where students created their own "All About Me" picture. Each student received an outline of a head that was divided into different sections. There was a question for each section and based on their personal preference, that determined what color, shape, picture, etc was put in the box. This activity allowed students to show their creativity and uniqueness, as no two pictures were the same!



Field Trip to MJR

All first year advisories took a walking field trip to MJR in October to watch "The Incredibles"! Students were able to purchase whatever concessions they wanted and could relax with their advisory friends and enjoy the movie.



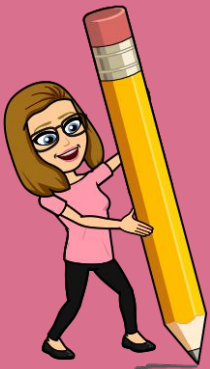
Good Boy Photo of the Month



Calendar Updates

• Upcoming Calendar of Events

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|---------------------------|---|
| • 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" |
| • Saturday, November 22nd | "Something Rotten" - Matinee: 12:00pm/Evening Performance: 7:00pm |
| • Sunday, November 23rd | "Something Rotten" - Last Show at 4:00pm |
| • Week of November 24th | No School - Thanksgiving Break |



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
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Pod A - Weekly Schedule

