

December 2025

Maniace Messenger

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH" HELEN KELLER

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IMPORTANT DATES

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Tuesday, December 2nd
Happy Birthday Savannah!
Happy Birthday Violet!
Library Visit

Wednesday, December 3rd
Math Term Finals

Thursday, December 4th
Glenlore Trails Aurora Winter
Wizards Fundraiser Event

Friday, December 5th
End of Term 1/ Reading of Biography
Book should be completed

Thursday, December 11th
CSAMS/CSPA Winter Collage Concert
in High Bay, 7 pm
Biography Project Due

Friday, December 12th
Holiday Bazaar 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Friday, December 19th
Report Cards Go Home
Christmas/Holiday Spirit Wear

Week of December 22nd
NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
Week of December 29th
NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

This term in Advisory...

In Term 1, students focused on the Self—understanding their mindsets, strengths, and emotions. In Term 2, we transition our focus to the Community, centered on the themes of Optimism and Getting Along with Others. Students will move from managing their own feelings to understanding the feelings of those around them. Specifically, we will target the skills necessary to use positive communication to interact effectively with peers. A major focus will be placed on the "work" of friendship: how to develop and maintain positive relationships through active listening and empathy. Finally, students will be equipped with support for conflict resolution, learning how to navigate disagreements with a helpful, optimistic mindset that prioritizes solution-seeking over blame.

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Instructional Focus and Learning Targets

- Science:** This month, students will be wrapping up their Plate Motion Engineering Internships and beginning Unit 4 - Rock Transformations. As student geologists, learners will explore a geological mystery: two rock samples—one from the Great Plains and one from the Rocky Mountains—look very different, yet contain a surprisingly similar mix of minerals. Did these rocks originally form together and later become separated, or did one form first and provide the materials for the other? To uncover the answer, students investigate how rocks form and change over time, and how various energy sources drive those transformations.
- Social Studies:** This month, students have been continuing on in their journey through ancient civilizations. We ended our Ancient Egypt unit and transitioned into our Ancient Kush and Phoenicia unit. Students had various chances to challenge themselves as writers and thinkers, as well as express themselves creatively through different projects that showcase their knowledge of the month. Moving into the new month, students will begin to learn about Ancient India, discussing the different ways that civilizations were able to survive and thrive in the ancient world. Students will end the month learning about Ancient China before we head into holiday break.
- Literature:** This month, students will wrap up The Last Cuentista unit by writing analytical essays on one of the novel's major themes, highlighting their growing ability to interpret literature with depth and clarity. Next, they'll put their research skills to work by creating a magazine that showcases the life and accomplishments of their chosen biography subject. To close out the month, students will shift their focus to engaging seasonal and holiday-themed nonfiction texts.
- 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 equations and inequalities (Applied Math); graphing and writing linear equations (Intro to Integrated Math and Integrated I Math); and graphing quadratic functions (Integrated II Math).

3rd Year Project

Starting this month, third-year students will begin their third-year projects. During CSR's we discussed that students should be focused on identifying a few topics they would like to consider for their project. Once Term Two starts in December, students will declare their topics and begin researching. Thank you for your support in discussing topic possibilities with your children. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Biography Project

This term in Literature, students will conclude their exciting biography project where they selected an influential person to study – such as a scientist, athlete, philosopher, or other revolutionary thinker from the past or present. Students read the biography, explored articles or periodicals, and will now 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.

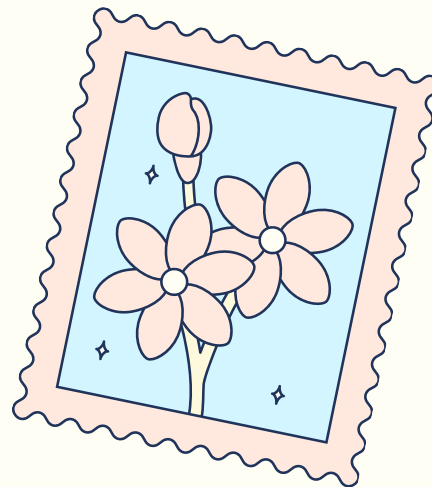
We encourage families to help students choose someone they'll enjoy learning about and to support them in finding reading materials at the CSAMS library, local library, or online.

Contact

Email: lmaniace@csaschool.org

POD Planner: [To view our digital planner link](#)

Photos: [POD Photo Album Link](#)



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

We are excited to share that our CSAMS students will be hosting our second Holiday Bazaar on Friday, December 12th. This event is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and enjoy the spirit of the season with our school community.

Students who are interested are invited to create homemade crafts, artwork, or simple projects at home to sell at the bazaar. (No food items, please). Participation is completely optional, and students may choose any project that sparks their interest. Last year, we had students 3D print items, create picture frames, and make homemade jewelry. Note: While many students will be providing homemade goods for the bazaar, all money collected will be used to purchase books for the CSAMS Battle of the Books.

Closer to the event date, we will send additional details regarding set-up and logistics. For now, we encourage students to start creating. All projects and items should be ready by Thursday, December 11th.

Thank you for supporting our students as they explore creativity, responsibility, and community engagement. We look forward to a festive and fun Holiday Bazaar!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Woodruff at awoodruff@csaschool.org.

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).

PowerSchool

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.



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.

