



## Ms. Kowalczyk's Advisory Newsletter - December 2025

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

This month is another busy but fun one! Can you believe that we are already a third of the way through the school year?! Term two begins this month, our students begin another term of learning and some have new enhancements, we have our Holiday Bazaar, term one report cards go home, and there is no school at the end of the month for Christmas Break! It's another month full of learning, teambuilding, and fun!

### Classroom Updates

**Literature:** This month, students will engage in a poetry unit, including the works of Carol Ann Duffy and Sandra Cisneros. They will annotate and analyze poetic devices while making connections to enduring themes and moral lessons. Writers will also replicate a poem in the author's style. Next, they will put their research skills to work by completing a comprehensive project to showcase their ability to source reliable information, organize it for effective clarity, and present the information to their peers.

**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 fractions, decimals, percents (Foundations Math), equations and inequalities (Applied Math), and graphing and writing linear equations (Intro to Integrated Math).

**Social Studies:** As we wrap up this term, students will get a hands-on experience by building their very own country! They'll create detailed topographical maps, design cities, and think critically about how geography shapes communities. Along the way, they'll make decisions about resources, transportation, and population, giving them a real sense of what it takes to run a country. This exciting project will serve as a bridge into our next term, where we'll dive into civics and the foundations of economics. Most of our civics study will focus on understanding the foundations of our government, helping students see how the systems they explore now connect to the world around them. By connecting geography, economics, and government, students will gain a deeper appreciation for how these pieces work together in real life.

**Science:** In December, we will continue to investigate how cells use important molecules during a chemical reaction in the body called cellular respiration to release energy that supports movement, growth, and repair of the human body. Students will continue to carry out scientific practices such as developing models and carefully considering all available evidence before making arguments about a phenomenon.

### Studying Snapshots



Some of our students completed a Ratio Project in math. For this project, students created and represented a ratio through equivalent ratios, a tape diagram, a graph, and finding the value of one quantity to another.



## 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.

### 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!](#)

### CSAMS 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](mailto:awoodruff@csaschool.org).



### 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.

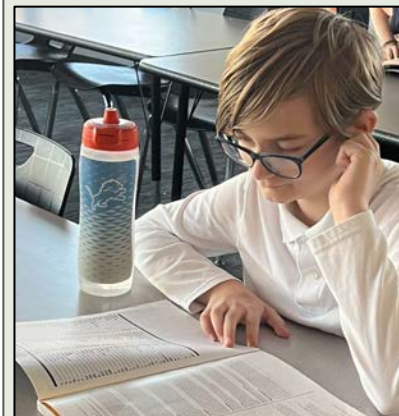


# A Peek Into Our Advisory Life



## National Junior Honor Society

Our advisory had the opportunity to see a presentation from two students who are members of National Junior Honor Society. These students shared information on what NJHS is, how to receive an invitation to apply, membership requirements, and answered questions our students had. In order to receive an invitation to apply, students must have all As on their report card for all three terms this year.



## Tree of Growth

One of our advisory portfolio assignments has been working on a Tree of Growth. For this assignment, students created their own tree and are adding leaves throughout the year that have their responses to different prompts.



## Term Two: Getting Along With Others

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.



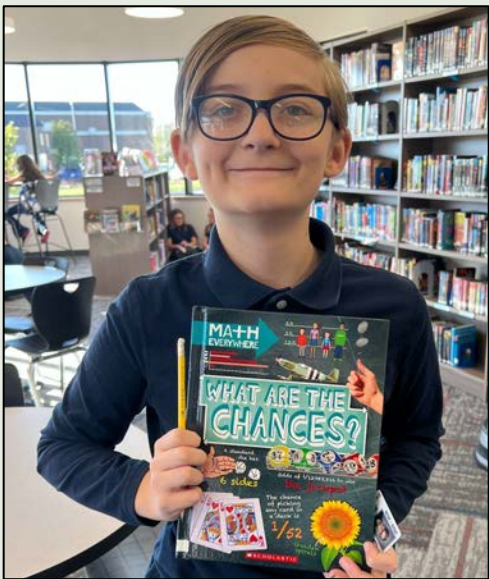


# Camp Copneconic Field Trip

A great time was had at our field trip to Camp Copneconic! Students had the opportunity to work together, encourage one another, and enjoy each others' company as they participated in various activities - the zipline, Capture the Flag, learning about reptiles, building a fire to make s'mores, and building a boat out of foil to see if it could withstand various weights.







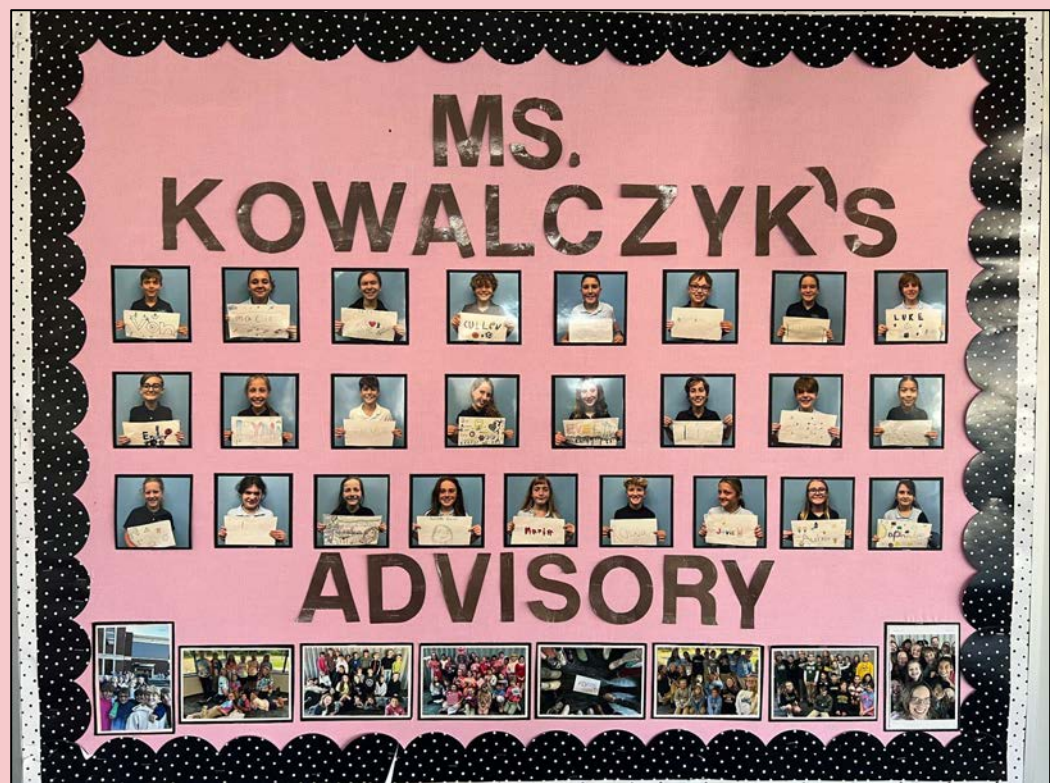
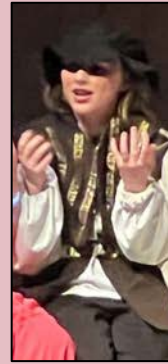
## Student Celebration

For our Student Celebration for December, we recognize and celebrate our Student Government representative, Luke! Luke participated in and helped coordinate our first Activity Night and helped with assembling our Adopt-a-Family baskets. We appreciate his leadership!



## An Egg-cellent Performance!

Alexis, Lydia, Evelyn, Ila, and Macie showcased their talents in our district's musical production of Something Rotten Jr. This Shakespeare-parody comedy featured our talented middle school and high school students.





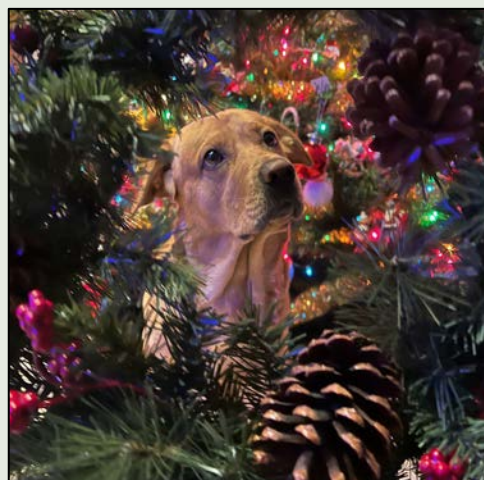
## Parent Support and Classroom Needs

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, highlighters, and coloring supplies.. Any donations would truly be appreciated!



## Good Boy Photo of the Month



## Calendar Updates

- Wednesday, December 3rd
- Thursday, December 4th
- Friday, December 5th
- Thursday, December 11th
- Thursday, December 11th
- Friday, December 12th
- Friday, December 19th
- Friday, December 19th
- Week of December 22nd
- Week of December 29th

Math Term Finals

Glenlore Trails Aurora Winter Wizards Fundraiser Event.

End of Term 1/ Reading of Biography Book completed

CSAMS/CSPA Winter Collage Concert in High Bay, 7 pm

Biography Project Due

Holiday Bazaar 1:00pm-3:00pm

Report Cards Go Home

Christmas/Holiday Spirit Wear

NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

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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

