

MONROE CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

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).

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



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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 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.



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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.

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).



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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.



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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. 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.

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POWERSCHOOL & 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.



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.





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Upcoming Calendar of Events

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

December 11th Biography Project Due

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

Friday, December 19th Report Cards Go Home

Friday, December 19th Christmas/Holiday Spirit Wear

Week of December 22nd NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

Week of December 29th NO SCHOOL - Winter Break