

# McCloskey Message

The month of December brings the end of 1st term and the beginning of a new term, with new enhancements, and other changes. I love a fresh start! As Mrs. Barnaby always reminds us, on December 8th, every student has straight As in all classes, and a fresh opportunity to keep it that way! Let's wrap up the year the very best we can, with kindness, and good grades, and knowing we are being our best selves!

**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.

**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), angles and triangles (Intro to Integrated), linear functions (Integrated I), and quadratic functions (Integrated II).

**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.

**Declan Kirby and Ben Northrup inducted into NJHS --->**

## DECEMBER 2025

**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.



## 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

### 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.

### 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).

## Comprehensive Student Reviews

Throughout the year we look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress and growth in a Comprehensive Student Review. My goal is to meet with you two times during the school year (one during the fall and the second conference completed in the spring) to review your child's growth and development as a whole child: academically, socially, morally, and physically. I look forward to sharing information with you as well as hearing from you about your child.

I so enjoyed meeting with the families that have come in so far, and I have quite a few scheduled between now and Thanksgiving. However, I know some have not found a date that works for them yet. Please check the times I have listed and either pick one, or offer days/times that work for you and I will pick one of yours! I'm sure we can find a time to meet somehow! [Mc2 CSR Calendar](#)

## Advisory Program:

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).

## Parent Support:

As your child embarks on this 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!



Emma Petroski & Dania Hashmi in Something Rotten

## 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.