

# DEYOUNG ADVISORY



## JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope you and your family had a restful, joyful holiday break and were able to spend meaningful time together. As we begin this next chapter of the school year, I am excited to welcome our students back to the classroom and jump into learning together.

The weeks ahead will be filled with new goals, engaging lessons, and opportunities for students to grow both academically and socially. We will be reviewing routines, reestablishing expectations, and building positive classroom habits to help set everyone up for success.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns—I look forward to working closely with you as we move forward.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy start to the new year.

In Partnership,  
Michele DeYoung

## advisory

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.

## yearbook

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](mailto:kkowalczyk@csaschool.org)).

# Science

THIS MONTH, STUDENTS WILL CONTINUE 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

THIS MONTH, STUDENTS WILL BE EXPLORING CONCEPTS OF ALGEBRAIC EXPRESSIONS (FOUNDATIONS MATH), SOLVING EQUATIONS (APPLIED MATH); GRAPHING AND WRITING AND GRAPHING LINEAR EQUATIONS (INTRO TO INTEGRATED MATH AND INTEGRATED I MATH); AND GRAPHING QUADRATIC FUNCTIONS (INTEGRATED II MATH).



# Literature

THIS MONTH, STUDENTS WILL KICK OFF THEIR LEARNING WITH AN ENGAGING MINI POETRY UNIT FOCUSED ON DEEP EXPLORATION AND CLOSE READING. THROUGH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS POEM REPLICATION, TEXT COMPARISONS, AND THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS OF THEMES, STUDENTS WILL STRENGTHEN BOTH THEIR INTERPRETIVE AND CREATIVE SKILLS. FOLLOWING THE DAY OF SERVICE, LITERATURE STUDENTS WILL TRANSITION INTO AN EXCITING STUDY OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY. AS THEY EXPLORE A VARIETY OF CLASSIC MYTHS, STUDENTS WILL CREATE INDIVIDUAL SCRAPBOOK PAGES THAT REFLECT THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND CREATIVITY. THIS UNIT WILL CULMINATE IN A FULLY ASSEMBLED GREEK MYTHOLOGY SCRAPBOOK, SHOWCASING THEIR LEARNING AND IMAGINATIVE WORK THROUGHOUT THE STUDY.

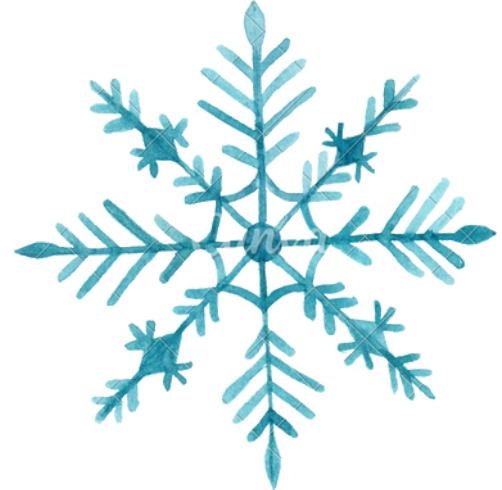


# Social Studies

Students are exploring the origins of the United States government and taking a deep dive into the Constitution. We are examining why it was created, the ideas that influenced it, and how it continues to guide our government today. Students will analyze key principles such as separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights. Through discussions and activities, they are learning how these principles shape laws and leadership in our country. This work helps students better understand their role as citizens and the importance of an informed and active public.

# Biography PROJECT

THE PERSON OF INTEREST THEY STUDIED FOR THEIR BIOGRAPHY PROJECT. STUDENTS SHARED THEIR WORK WITH PEERS IN A GALLERY WALK PRESENTATION. WE ALSO DID A MINI POETRY STUDY, REVISITING AND STRENGTHENING OUR ANNOTATION AND ANALYTICAL SKILLS AS IT RELATES TO FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND SENSORY DETAILS THAT CONNECT TO THE POEMS' THEMES. THEN, STUDENTS ENGAGED IN AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH UNIT WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO STUDY AN INFLUENTIAL HISTORICAL FIGURE, IMPACTFUL INNOVATION, THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES, OR A CULTURAL TRADITION AROUND THE WORLD.



REMEMBER YOU CAN CHECK YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS ON POWERSCHOOL AT ANY TIME AT [HTTPS://CSADISTRICT.POWERSCHOOL.COM/PUBLIC/](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.

## THIRD YEAR PROJECT

WE ARE EXCITED TO KICK OFF THE THIRD YEAR PROJECT FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR! THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO BE THE PINNACLE OF YOUR STUDENT'S MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, ALLOWING THEM TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ACADEMIC COMPETENCY, CRITICAL THINKING, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS.

PROJECT COMPONENTS: STUDENTS WILL DIVE DEEP INTO A TOPIC OF THEIR CHOICE TO PRODUCE:

- EXTENDED ESSAY: A WELL-DEVELOPED RESEARCH PAPER (MAXIMUM 1,500 WORDS) WRITTEN IN APA FORMAT. IT REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF SIX SOURCES, FOUR OF WHICH MUST BE SCHOLARLY.
- PRESENTATION: A PROFESSIONAL 4.5 TO 5-MINUTE SPEECH ACCOMPANIED BY A GOOGLE SLIDESHOW TO DEMONSTRATE THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM THEIR RESEARCH.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES: PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE KEY MILESTONES TO HELP KEEP YOUR STUDENT ON TRACK:

- WEDNESDAY, DEC 17: PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE
- MONDAY, JAN 12: SOURCES AND PAPER OUTLINE DUE
- MONDAY, JAN 26: 1ST DRAFT OF EXTENDED ESSAY DUE
- MONDAY, FEB 16: FINAL DRAFT OF EXTENDED ESSAY DUE
- MONDAY, MAR 2: PRESENTATION SPEECHES DUE
- MONDAY, MAR 9: GOOGLE SLIDESHOW DUE
- APRIL 13 – 16: PRESENTATION NIGHTS

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE INCREDIBLE WORK OUR STUDENTS WILL PRODUCE!

# National Junior Honor Society

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS FOR THE 2025 - 26 SCHOOL YEAR HAVE ALREADY BEEN SELECTED. TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP TO THE CSAMS CHAPTER OF NJHS FOR THE 2026 - 27 SCHOOL YEAR, CURRENT FIRST AND SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS MUST DEMONSTRATE OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP BY MAINTAINING ALL A'S IN EACH CONTENT AREA ON THIS SCHOOL YEAR'S TERM 1, 2, AND 3 REPORT CARDS. INVITATIONS FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR MEMBERSHIPS ARE SENT OUT AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

I AM VERY PROUD TO SAY THAT 10 OF OUR ADVISORY STUDENTS HAVE EARNED ALL A'S FOR THE FIRST TERM! CONGRATULATIONS AND KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

## Beluga Ball

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS YEAR'S BELUGA BALL BASKET. A LETTER AND AMAZON WISH-LIST WILL BE EMAILLED HOME SOON.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!



COMING  
CALENDAR  
SOON

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH CSA/CSAMS SPIRIT WEAR  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH CSAMS GIRLS BASKETBALL TRY-OUTS AT  
CSPA (5:00 - 6:30 PM)  
MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH DAY OF SERVICE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD CSA/CSAMS SPIRIT WEAR  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH YELLOW DAY FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL  
CHOICE

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.



holiday  
PICTURES

