

Ms Wallerstein's Class Newsletter

January 2026

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 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).

Science

This month, students will be continuing 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.

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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.

This month, students will be exploring concepts of algebraic expressions (Foundations Math), solving equations (Applied Math); graphing and writing and

Social Studies

Students have just completed our Ancient India unit and will begin our exploration of Ancient China. In this unit students will examine how China's location and geography shaped its history and people. From the Himalayas to the Gobi desert, these early civilizations were shaped by the climate and natural geography. This unit will also include a study in civilizations that developed along the Huang He River, including the Shang Dynasty, which will set the stage for the discovery of these civilizations' innovations, societal structures, economies, linguistics and the arts. Students will also learn how early belief systems, ruling dynasties and innovations, like the Great Wall, impacted the development of this great society.

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Advisory

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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.



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Beluga Ball Basket

The Beluga Ball is CSA's largest annual fundraising event supporting both the Elementary and Secondary campuses. Funds raised help enhance classrooms, provide new technology, and support experiences that benefit all students. The event includes an exciting auction featuring classroom baskets, class projects, and generous community donations — all made possible by our incredible families and volunteers.

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.

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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).

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.

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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Important Upcoming Events

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

Important Calendar of Events

- Friday, January 9th CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
- Monday, January 12th CSAMS Girls Basketball Try-Outs at CSPA (5:00 – 6:30)
- Monday, January 19th Day of Service
- Friday, January 23rd CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
- Friday, January 30th Yellow Day for National School Choice