

Ms. Kowalczyk's Advisory Newsletter

January 2026

Happy January! Happy 2026!

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and wonderful break. The new year brings about so many opportunities to make this the best year ever. I look forward to all of the memories and moments our advisory family will have together!

Classroom Updates

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.

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), and graphing and writing and graphing linear equations (Intro to Integrated Math).

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.

Science: This month in science, students will begin by finalizing scientific arguments for how an athlete can increase cellular respiration to improve performance. Then they will take on the role of food engineer interns, applying their knowledge of metabolism to design a healthy food bar called the *FuturaBar*. Students will investigate how protein, carbohydrates, and glycemic index affect the body's energy, growth, and repair, and use this science to meet the needs of a specific target population. Using a digital design tool, students will collect and analyze data, test and revise recipes, and balance real-world constraints like taste and cost. The unit culminates in a final proposal where students justify their design choices, simulating an authentic engineering internship experience following the Metabolism unit.



Happy birthday to our January birthdays!

- ★ Aubrey
- ★ Shane
- ★ Macie

Studying Snapshots



Algebra is a topic that is covered in all of our math classes at some point throughout the year. Some of our students have begun solving one-step and two-step equations.

Information Station

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.

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!](#)

PowerSchool

Remember you can check your child's progress on **PowerSchool** at any time at <https://csadistrict.powerschool.com/public/>. If you need support/help with accessing your PowerSchool account, please let me know or you can email Mrs. Marcum at mmarcum@csaschool.org.

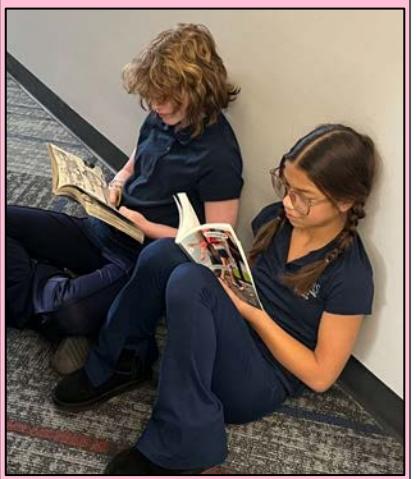
All CSA District annual student forms can be accessed and completed electronically through your student's PowerSchool account. Under the PowerSchool Parent Portal, you can update emergency contact information and complete all annual forms. If you need help or support with accessing your PowerSchool account, please let me know.



A Peek Into Our Advisory Life

The Importance of Reflecting

Reflecting throughout the school year allows our students to think about their classes, what they are most proud of, areas they want to focus on, and what works best for them. When term one ended at the beginning of December, our advisory students completed a reflection where they picked the assignment they did the best on, what their favorite class was, how their transition to middle school was, what they were most proud of, and what they want to do in order to be successful in term two. For each question, they had to explain their reasoning as well.



Student's Choice

We've added an activity into our weekly advisory schedule called Student's Choice. For Student's Choice, one student is selected at random and they get to pick the activity that we do for that day based on a list that we generated as a class. December's activities included Silent Ball and drawing!



Term Two: Getting Along With Others

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.

Student Celebration

For our Student Celebration for January, we recognize and celebrate the members of Kowalczyk Advisory who are a part of the Middle School Yearbook Team! These individuals have dedicated their time to helping create our yearbook.



Secret Santa

For this Christmas season, our advisory selected to do a three day Secret Santa gift exchange. Students who wanted to participate drew names and purchased three items that they gifted to their person, one per day on the three days leading up to break. There was a lot of excitement and Christmas cheer in Kowalczyk Advisory!



2025 Holiday Bazaar

Thank you so much for all of the support for our second annual Holiday Bazaar! I am very proud of our advisory for their work towards creating our Christmas/winter themed painted rocks to sell at the Bazaar and for our students who volunteered their time to sell our product or created their own additional product to sell. It was a great way to spread Christmas cheer and we were all hands in for our contribution: "Rock'in' Around the Christmas Tree!"



Good Boy Photo of the Month



Beluga Ball Basket

Each year, CSA hosts the Beluga Ball which involves fundraising for the CSA District. For the silent auction, our advisory's basket theme is centered around items that are PINK. Please send in any donations or money with your child - think items you would have at home that can come in pink!

Calendar Updates

- Friday, January 9th
- Monday, January 12th
- Monday, January 19th
- Friday, January 23rd
- Friday, January 30th

CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
CSAMS Girls Basketball Try-Outs
Day of Service
CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
Yellow Day for National School Choice

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!



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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