

# McCloskey Message

Happy New Year to all my advisory families! I don't know about you, but I'm ready for a fresh new year! I had a crazy busy break, everyone in my family got sick at least once, my oldest daughter got engaged, my foster greyhound, Firefly passed over the Rainbow Bridge, we had multiple cars that needed multiple repairs, we got to see family we haven't seen in a long time, I binge watched at least one new series, got better, and worse at Chess on Duolingo, sang lots of Christmas songs, did lots of cleaning and lots of school work, tried out some new crafts, (ever hear of the Resparked Customizer? It's an engraving pen...so fun!) some new games, and ate way too much food. I miss my students, so I guess its time to get back to school, on my 56th Birthday!

**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.

**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).

## 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.

## JANUARY 2026

**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.



### Upcoming Calendar of Events:

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

CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear  
CSAMS Girls Basketball Try-Outs at CSPA (5:00 - 6:30 pm)  
Day of Service  
CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear  
Yellow Day for National School Choice

### Advisory Program:

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).

**DAY of SERVICE** is coming up on MLKJ day! Don't miss it! We need your help to be the change!

### 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/>.



### THIRD YEAR PROJECT

We are excited to see the ongoing work of our Third Year Projects 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 so they can do their best possible work without last minute rushing!

- Wednesday, Dec 17: Project Proposal was 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

### BELUGA BALL BASKET INFO

Collect any and all UofM or Michigan State clothes, decorations, collectables, sports equipment, pictures, memorabilia, etc. for our Beluga Ball basket! Let's make it great!

