

MR. ELLIS' CHAMPS



February 2026

CSA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Instructional Focus/Learning Targets

- **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 equations (Foundations Math), ratios and rates (Applied Math); graphing and writing systems of linear equations (Intro to Integrated Math and Integrated I Math); and solving quadratic equations (Integrated II Math).
- **Science:** This month in science, students will begin a new unit on Traits and Reproduction. Students will take on the role of genetic researchers investigating why closely related spiders can have different traits, focusing on the flexibility of spider silk used for medical purposes. Students will explore how genes provide instructions for making proteins and how differences in protein structure lead to differences in observable traits. Through hands-on models, readings, and an interactive digital simulation, students will analyze how different gene combinations affect the proteins made inside cells and, in turn, an organism's traits. Throughout the month, students will connect their learning about spider genetics to real-world human examples, building a clear understanding of how genes, proteins, and traits work together to create variation in living organisms.

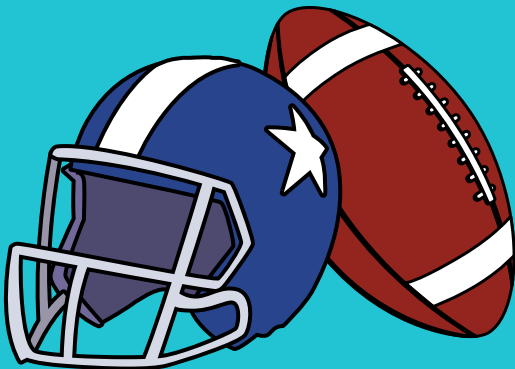


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- **Literature:** In February, first year writers will embark on an independent research project, exploring choice topics such as unsung heroes in history, environmental conservation and endangered species, innovations that changed the world, or cultural traditions around the world. Students will learn foundational skills for collecting, analyzing, organizing, and using evidence to support their thesis statement, as well as use an academic vocabulary to present their findings and viewpoints. At the end of the month, we will begin our second read-aloud unit: *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper: a heartwarming story about a gifted girl named Melody Brooks, a brilliant 11-year-old with cerebral palsy, who has a photographic memory but can't speak, walk, or write, leading others to underestimate her until she gets a device to communicate, revealing her genius and facing challenges of inclusion and acceptance.
- **Social Studies:** In February, students will be building a deeper understanding of citizenship and decision-making in our government. We'll explore the rights and responsibilities of citizens and how individuals and groups influence decisions at local, state, and national levels. Students will also study voting and elections, learning how leaders are chosen and why participation is essential to a healthy democracy. To wrap up the month, we'll examine foreign affairs and treaties, helping students understand how the United States works with other countries and makes decisions on the global stage.



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- **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.
- **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.



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January 2026

Beluga Ball Class Project & Gaming Basket Donations

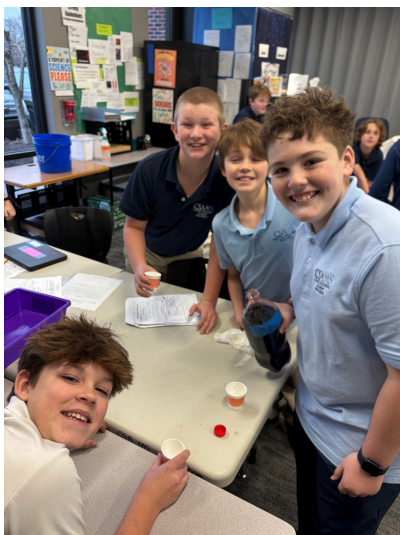
- Our class is excited to contribute to this year's Beluga Ball with two special projects. First, we will be assembling a gaming-themed basket designed to be broad and accessible for all types of gamers. Donations may include items such as a universal gaming headset, keyboard, or gift cards to places like Walmart, Target, GameStop, or Amazon. Gift cards are especially helpful, as they tend to perform very well in the auction and allow winners to choose items that fit their specific gaming systems. Students will also be asked to share ideas about what they enjoy or use in their own gaming to help guide the basket contents.
- In addition, we are exploring a large class project involving the transformation of a donated whiskey barrel into a functional cabinet. Students may have opportunities to participate in creative aspects of the project, such as signing the underside of the barrel before it is sealed and helping decide how it is finished. More details will be shared as plans come together, and we are grateful for the donated goods that makes these projects possible.



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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.
- **Battle of the Books:** Get ready for an exciting showdown of reading knowledge! In March, we will host our first annual "Battle of the Books": a fast-paced trivia competition where students go head-to-head by answering questions based on novels from a pre-selected reading list. Participants will put their comprehension, teamwork, and recall skills to the test as they compete for bragging rights and schoolwide recognition. It's a fun and engaging way to celebrate reading, encourage thoughtful discussion of literature, and spark a little friendly competition. Let the reading—and the battle—begin!



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Career Day: We are excited to announce our school's third annual Career Day, aimed at providing valuable insights into various professions and helping guide our middle school students toward their future careers. We believe that exposing our students to various career paths early on can positively impact their academic choices and future endeavors.

Your participation at this event is crucial in making it a success!

We are seeking Presenters to share their career journeys, educational experiences, and valuable advice with our students. Our goal is to inspire and inform students about the myriad of career possibilities that await them!

If you, a family member, friend, or community contact are interested in presenting during our Career Day, we extend a warm invitation to join us:

Date: February 12, 2026

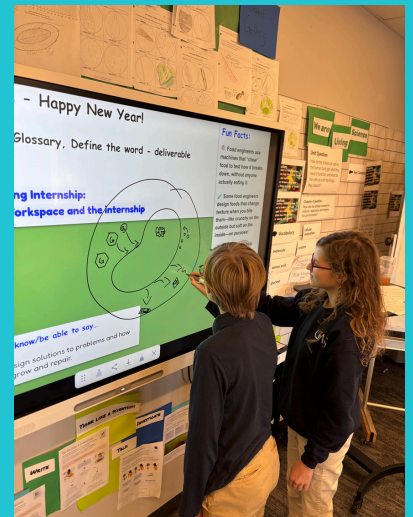
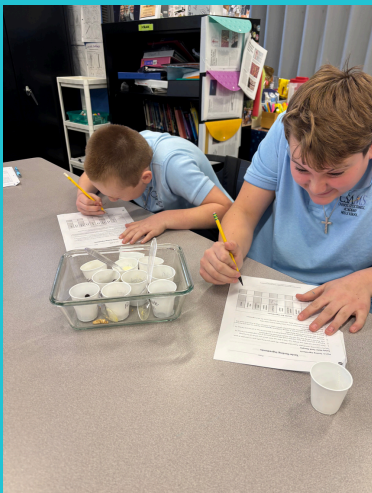
Time: 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Location: Charyl Stockwell Academy Middle School

Kindly RSVP by February 2, 2026 by completing this [FORM](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Woodruff at awoodruff@csaschool.org. Please inquire if you require any assistance or accommodations.

Note: All presenters must have a valid background check on file with the front office before Feb. 11. Expect a follow up email with this documentation.

We look forward to seeing you at our school's Career Day and appreciate your support in shaping the future aspirations of our middle school students.



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Activity Night: Our upcoming Winter Glow Activity Night is going to light up the winter season with neon colors, glow sticks, music, and tons of high-energy fun. It will be held after school on February 12th from 4:00-5:30. The cost of admission is \$5 if pre-paid, or \$7 the day of the event, and covers pizza, water, and snacks! Parents **MUST** enter the building to sign out their student(s) afterward. We're so excited to create a bright, memorable night for our students—and we'd love your help to make it shine! Please consider using the donation link below to contribute glow sticks, neon décor, or other event supplies. Every donation helps us bring the glow and make this night a huge success. Thank you for your support—we can't wait to see everyone glowing! 💚💙💛

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.

- Upcoming Calendar of Events
- Wednesday, February 11th Comfy Clothes Spirit Day
- Thursday, February 12th Activity Night, 4:00pm-5:30pm
- Friday, February 13th No School - Midwinter Break
- Monday, February 16th No School - Midwinter Break
- Friday, February 27th CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear

