

Mr. LaPeen's Advisory Newsletter

March 2026

Instructional Focuses & Learning Targets:

Literature: Building on our Term 2 Read Aloud study that started in February, students will spend the coming weeks diving deep into characterization and the timeless themes of S.E. Hinton's novel, *The Outsiders*. They will craft a heartfelt eulogy for a major character and will sharpen their academic writing by composing a literary essay on the theme of conflict, featuring direct evidence from the text. To bridge the gap between media, we will also view the film adaptation to analyze the similarities and differences between the two. Finally, students curate character playlists, drawing connections between contemporary lyrics and the lives of the Greasers and Socs.

Math: 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), proportions, discounts, markups, and simple interest (Applied Math); data analysis and displays and functions (Intro to Integrated Math), exponential functions and data analysis and displays and Integrated I Math); and probability and relationships with triangles (Integrated II Math).

Science: In this month's Engineering Internship, students play the role of chemical engineering interns at Futura Engineering. They will consider the design problem of how to create an incubator that considers three criteria: keep the baby's average temperature close to 37°C, minimize the time outside the healthy temperature range, and keep costs low. Students use the Baby Warmer Design Tool to collect and analyze data about their designs, complete iterative tests, and learn about optimizing designs. By the end of this unit, students will compose a written proposal that supports their optimal designs for making an effective portable incubator, while managing the trade-offs among the project criteria.

Social Studies: This month, students will begin an exciting new unit on the ancient civilization of the Roman Republic and Empire. Throughout March, we will explore Ancient Rome through multiple social studies lenses, including geography, economics, politics, and social structure, examining how Rome's location influenced its growth, how its government was organized, how its economy functioned, and what daily life was like for different groups of people. We will also take a close look at the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, analyzing the key events, leaders, and challenges that shaped its expansion and eventual decline. Our study will include a variety of engaging and interactive activities, such as a gallery walk and collaborative investigations, all designed to bring the history of Ancient Rome to life while encouraging meaningful discussions and hands-on learning experiences.

Beluga Ball Basket: Excitement is building for the CSA District Parent Council's premier fundraising event! This year, we are blending tradition with a fresh twist to make it easier than ever to support our students.

Two Ways to Participate:

- The Virtual Action - Bid from the comfort of your home or host a small gathering with friends and family.
- The In-Person Celebration (NEW!) - Join us for an adults-only viewing party! Celebrate alongside CSA faculty and families with great food, drinks, and exclusive bidding opportunities available only to attendees. [Tickets are on sale now! Click the link to purchase.](#)

Our Silent and Live auctions feature an incredible lineup of local treasures and one-of-a-kind experiences:

- Luxury & Style: Diamond earrings from Silverstone Jewellers, a spa package from Visions, and a private, permanent jewelry party at Lolly Ella.
- Local Experiences: A private shopping party at Brass & Oak, gift certificates to Brighton's favorite eateries, and a 3-month Stemview Howell membership.
- Sports & Major Items: A Detroit Red Wings suite, Michigan vs Michigan State football tickets, and high-end surprises.
- CSA Classics: Classroom-created projects, Staff Experiences, and the coveted Reserved Parking & First-in-Line Carpool privileges.

Why Your Support Matters: Last year, our community raised over \$90,000. These funds are the "magic" behind our district, directly providing:

- Tech - Chromebooks, iPads, Kindles, and projectors.
- Academics - Lab equipment, microscopes, math manipulatives, and library books.
- Arts & Athletics - Professional stage lighting, musical instruments, and electronic scoreboards.

We are thrilled to welcome back CSPA alum parent Jim Carey as our auctioneer to keep the energy high. Let's come together to make this our most successful year yet!

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

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 in the summer.

Third Year Project

Students have completed their Extended Essays (due February 23rd) and are turning their attention to their speeches. Students should make any adjustments as necessary to their essays and then transcribe those essays into informative speeches. Speeches are due **Monday, March 9th**. After speeches are turned in, the last step before practicing (and practicing and practicing) their presentations is the creation of the Google Slideshow (due **Monday, March 16th**). If you haven't had the opportunity to read your 3rd-year student's essay, I encourage you to do so! The research and information they chose to share is quite impressive :)

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!

RESCHEDULED 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.

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: Friday, May 8th, 2026
Time: 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Location: Charyl Stockwell Academy Middle School

Kindly RSVP by April 24th, 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 May 1st. 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,



Monday, March 9th	3rd Year Speeches Due
Thursday, March 12th	Shakespeare Field Trip / Evening Performance
Friday, March 13th	CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
Sunday, March 15th	Beluga Ball Virtual Silent Auction Opens
Monday, March 16th	3rd Year Google Slideshows Due
Wednesday, March 18th	Math Term Two Final Exam
Friday, March 20th	Last Day of Term Two
Saturday, March 21st	Beluga Ball Viewing Party and Live Auction Event
Week of March 23rd	Battle of the Books Trivia Competition
Friday, March 27th	CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
Friday, March 27th	Report Cards Sent Home
Week of March 30th	No School – Spring Break

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.



POWERSCHOOL

Remember you can check your child's progress on PowerSchool at any time at <https://csadistrict.powerschool.com/public/>.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



CLASSROOM CONSTITUTION

We, the members of The LaPeen Crew, agree to the following principles – in this classroom and throughout our school community:

Respect Everyone and Everything

We treat each other, our teachers, our classroom space, and our entire school community with respect.

One Voice at a Time

We listen when others are speaking and value every voice in our classroom.

Make Time for Fun

We believe learning should include joy, celebration, and positive shared experiences.

Own Our Actions

We take responsibility for our choices – both positive and negative – and always strive to grow and improve.

Act with Integrity

We do the right thing, follow school rules, and hold ourselves accountable – even when no one is watching.

Follow Directions and Expectations

We respond promptly and respectfully, follow classroom procedures, stay in our assigned seats, read during silent reading, and keep our hands to ourselves so our classroom stays safe, focused, and ready to learn

Value and Celebrate Our Community

We intentionally recognize one another, celebrate our progress, and strengthen the LaPeen Crew through shared experiences like movies, games, breakfasts, and special celebrations.

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.

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,

Logan LaPeen

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