

Ms. Kowalczyk's Advisory Newsletter

April 2026

Happy April!

We are now in term three and the final term of the 2025-2026 school year! This month will have a little bit of everything. In addition to continuing our academics in literature, math, science, and social studies, students will be in full swing with their new enhancements, a field trip, spring testing beings, and Comprehensive Student Reviews are this month as well. I look forward to all that spring will bring!

Classroom Updates

Literature: Students are wrapping up their reading unit on *Out of My Mind*, where they have explored themes of voice, identity, and perseverance through close reading and discussion. The unit culminates in a reflective essay that allows students to demonstrate their understanding of the novel while supporting their ideas with evidence from the text. As they complete this work, the class is transitioning into a new unit centered on *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, where they will continue building comprehension and analytical skills while examining historical context, family dynamics, and the impact of significant events on individuals and communities.

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 geometry (Foundations Math), probability and statistics (Applied Math), and functions, exponents and scientific notation (Intro to Integrated Math).

Social Studies: This month, students will be exploring key parts of our government, including the Bill of Rights, political parties, special interest groups, and Congress. We will examine the first ten amendments and how they protect individual freedoms, as well as how political parties and interest groups influence decision-making and public policy. Students will also learn about the structure and role of Congress, including how laws are made and the responsibilities of elected officials. Through these topics, students will gain a better understanding of how citizens' rights are protected and how different groups and institutions shape our government.

Science: Over the next month, students will take on the role of student thermal scientists working with the principal of a fictional school to solve a real-world problem: choosing the best heating system to warm the building. The unit is anchored by a compelling phenomenon in which the principal is considering two systems and students must determine which will be more effective. To explain this, students investigate how temperature changes occur at the molecular level and how energy is transferred within and between systems until thermal equilibrium is reached. Through hands-on investigations and interactive simulations that make invisible molecular motion visible, students build understanding of these ideas and apply them to the heating system challenge.



Happy birthday to our
April birthdays!

- ★ Rowan
- ★ Alexis
- ★ Bryce
- ★ Ender

Studying Snapshots



Participating in science seminar!

Information Station

National Junior Honor Society

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

Last call to order a yearbook! 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!](#)

Comprehensive Student Reviews

Comprehensive Student Reviews provide an important opportunity for families and teachers to partner in supporting each child's growth and success. During these scheduled meetings, parents will sign up to meet with their child's teachers to discuss academic progress, as well as physical and sensory needs, social and emotional development, and character growth. Teachers will share and review assessment data to give a clear picture of each student's strengths and areas for improvement. Together, families and educators will collaborate to set meaningful goals for the remainder of the school year, ensuring that each child is supported holistically and set up for continued success. Please be on the look for an email to sign up for a timeslot!

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: 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.



A Peek Into Our Advisory Life

Social-Emotional Learning/Smart Character Choices

Our advisory had the opportunity to be audience members for a third year student as she practiced her third year presentation. This provided our advisory a glimpse into what they will be doing in two years when they are third years and allowed our advisory to practice active listening skills as they listened to her presentation and followed up with constructive feedback.



Deck the Halls

In March, our Explorer Students from CSA visited to take a tour and see what Middle School is all about. To welcome them to their future home, we "decked the halls" for their arrival and said "ALOHA" with our Hawaiian themed hallway.



Good Boy Photo of the Month



Student Celebration

This month we recognize and celebrate the members of Kowalczyk Advisory who showcased their athletic talents through participating in one of our winter sports!



Calendar Updates

Monday, April 6th: School Resumes after Spring Break. Term 3 Enhancements Begin
 Wednesday, April 8th: Rollerama Field Trip
 Friday, April 10th: CSA/CSAMS Spirit Wear
 Thursday, April 23rd: Comprehensive Student Reviews (CSRs)- No School
 Friday, April 24th: Comprehensive Student Reviews (CSRs)-No School
 Tuesday, April 28th: MSTEP Reading Part 1
 Wednesday, April 29th: MSTEP Reading Part 2
 Thursday, April 30th: Evening Comprehensive Student Reviews (CSRs)



Parent Support

As your child continues on their school year journey, 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.



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

