



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 5

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Discipline equals freedom.

Perhaps you've seen this message on our school sign out on High School Road and wondered what it means or why this is posted on our sign. I will try to explain.

Earlier this year (back in February), I was recommended a book by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin called *Extreme Ownership*. Willink and Babin, former Navy Seal Officers, have taken what they learned in their training to write a book and share their plan for leading and winning. What I found by reading this book is that most of what they shared is applicable to people of all ages and all walks of life. The phrase "Discipline equals freedom" stood out to me in my personal and professional life. Basically, having discipline in your life allows you the freedom to pursue and realize your dreams. For me, it is having the discipline to get up before school to get my run completed in order to keep my level of fitness. For students, it would be the discipline to meet the daily expectations of our school and for doing their very best in their classes daily. This discipline provides them with the freedom of an education and also the freedom of having to worry about poor grades or disciplinary actions.

Speaking of expectations...

- Students are not permitted to wear shorts to school after Fall Break. So, between October 23 and Spring Break, students must wear pants to school. Thank you for helping your child adhere to this policy.
- We will continue our cell phone policy after Fall Break. Students are allowed to have them at school, but they must be in their lockers during the school day. Any violation of this policy will result in a parent having to come pick up the phone from school.
- I will be meeting with the students upon return from Fall Break to review our school wide expectations. We want to reinforce those desirable behaviors as much as possible!

Have a great Fall Break!

- Kyle Barrentine, Principal

Apex SLC News



7th Grade

Fresh off their first group presentation of the school year for Plant Perfection, the 7th grade



learners in Apex are now approaching their second individual presentation of the year for Consider Your Culture. In the final week before Fall Break, learners are finalizing their children's stories that reveal aspects of a far-away culture. They are working to ensure their texts are written at the appropriate Lexile level for third graders, and they are creating original illustrations to make their books come alive. In November, top books will be presented to the third graders at Valley Mills Elementary. The projects starting after break are Monumental Measurements (Global Studies & Math) and Tec-

tonic Travels (Science, Language Arts & Global Studies) where learners will tackle their second full-class novel: Night of the Howling Dogs.

8th Grade

8th grade Apex learners have officially started learning the content for Generating Greatness.



This project was kicked off by Susan Miles from the Riley Children's Foundation, who came in to speak to learners about what Riley does for children here in Central Indiana and how we can support those efforts. Learners are tasked with answering the question: How do genetic diseases impact the individual, families, and the community? They are reading My Sister's Keeper in Language Arts class and discussing the elements of fiction. Later in the project, they will

write their own narrative stories that provide a perspective of someone impacted by a genetic disease. In Science, they are working to understand the concepts of genetics. Through this project, learners will have the opportunity to build empathy and awareness for a genetic disease they choose to research. When we come back from Fall Break, there will be a number of community partners that will come share their experiences and expertise with our learners. We are excited about how engaged they are in this current project.



Imagine SLC News



7th Grade

The 7th Grade Imagine community completed its second quarter roll-out on Friday. Students were introduced to the concept of transformation through the masterwork "Metamorphosis II" by M.C. Escher. Students discussed how the masterwork showed a transformation and had in-depth conversations about the art piece using the "Ask/Tell" strategy. Other activities included an artful learning strategy known as "Exquisite Corpse," completing a writing prompt that transforms

them into superheroes and then transforming the writing by making revisions to improve their score, and transforming numbers by creating factor trees.

As a reminder, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @ImagineDms and on Facebook (dmsimagine) to see all of the great things going on in our SLC!

Explorations SLC News



7th Grade Explorations



Miss Lay's 7th grade Global Studies students have been studying the various types of government. They

have learned how different governments are present in different countries. Students have even learned about our own government in regard to how decisions are made to govern our populations.

Students in Mr. Iliff's Science classes have been conducting investigations. They have had to examine rocks to



determine the properties of quartz and calcite. Students conducted different types of tests to identify the characteristics.

8th Grade Explorations

Students in Mr. Manring's 8th grade Science classes have been studying living



and non-living things. They have had to infer the characteristics of items to determine how to decipher if an item is living or non-living. Ask your student about the items they examined to determine these characteristics.

In Miss Basham's 8th grade English Language Arts classes, students have analyzed infographics to select essential information that supports their analysis of the text they are reading. Students have learned how information in a graph, picture or infographic can provide information about a text.



Student-Led Conferences

It was great conferencing with all of our students' families. Thank you for attending your child's student-led conference.

After School Study Table

Explorations will be hosting a second after school study table after Fall Break. More

information on the date of the study table is coming soon.

iTime

One of our students has developed her own lip glass as her iTime project. Great work by Jalyn Kirkham to pursue this endeavor.



Follow us on Twitter at @ExplorationsDMS and like us on Facebook at DMS Explorations to see activities that occur in Explorations classes.

Sign up for Remind to receive regular text message notifications about upcoming Explorations events.

- 7th Grade Explorations Families: Text @7exp1718 to 81010
- 8th Grade Explorations Families: Text @8exp1718 to 81010

Global SLC News



7th Grade



In Mrs. Tejchma's science class, students are rocking—literally! They are becoming experts in analyzing and identifying minerals, just like real geologists!

In Mrs. Murray's classroom, students are flexing their superhero muscles as they write superhero personal narratives about an ideal super power. In the process, they're also strengthening their writing skills by walking through the writing process!



Looking ahead, 7th grade students will be attending the 41st Indy International Festival at the Indiana State Fairgrounds on Thursday, November 9. Permission slips and \$6 are due to Mrs. Gettinger by Friday, October 13! Students will have a chance to explore (and taste!) various cultures on this trip.

8th Grade

On Tuesday, October 10, 8th grade Global students volunteered with the



Million Meal Marathon at Lucas Oil Stadium! Together, they helped prepare meals for 3,744 families! Students had the opportunity to work alongside several Colts players, as well—even scoring some autographs from the current Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett! Students had fun giving back to the community and showed what it means to be #DecaturProud.

Did you know that struggling readers need to interact with a new word at least 40 times before the word is committed to memory! In Mr. Phipps' American History class, students are tackling some tricky vocabulary words by hitting the words from a variety of angles to help devote them to memory!

In Mr. Esterline's A/B Algebra class, students are exploring the connections between math and science as they analyze the relationships between tables and graphs. #independentvariables #dependentvariables



21st Century Scholars



Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university after they graduate from high school, dependent upon financial need. 7th and 8th grade Indiana students whose families meet income eligibility guidelines can apply to become a 21st Century Scholar. Applications must be received by June 30 of the student's 8th grade year.

As a Scholar, you pledge to:

- Complete the Scholar Success Program, which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help you stay on track for college and career success.
- Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.
- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by your college.
- Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.

To apply, you can visit Scholars.IN.gov, call the 21st Century Scholars office at 1-888-528-4719 OR contact Gail Barrett, Guidance Counselor at Decatur Middle School, at 317-856-5274 ext. 8014 or via email at gbarrett@msddecatur.k12.in.us.

Book Fees Due Now

All outstanding book fees are now due. If you need to make a payment arrangement or have questions regarding the charges on your student's account, please contact Donna

Graham, Treasurer, at 317-856-5274 ext. 8015 or via email at dgraham@msddecatur.k12.in.us.

PAST DUE

It is the Board's commitment to provide a safe, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. Any individual who believes a student has been or is the victim of discrimination, bullying, or harassment should report the situation to the building principal or designee or complete the School District's Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying report form, which is available online at www.msddecatur.k12.in.us.

The core mission of this school is the creation of highly engaging activities, materials, and settings for learning that are too good—too interesting—for students to resist **AND** increases student achievement.

The MSD of Decatur Township is *Student Invested, Community Connected*. We prioritize *Student Learning, Safety and Customer Service*, fostering a support system for our families.