



DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hawk Highlights

ISSUE 7

DECEMBER 8, 2017

5108 S. High School Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46221

Principal: Kyle
Barrentine

**Asst. Principal/
Imagine:** Adam Allen

Asst. Principal/Apex:
Melissa Harvey

Explorations SLC Dir.:
Stacy O'Brien

Global SLC Dir.:
Maren Kula

Phone: 317-856-5274

Fax: 317-856-2163

Website:

[www.decaturnproud.org/
decaturn-middle](http://www.decaturnproud.org/decaturn-middle)

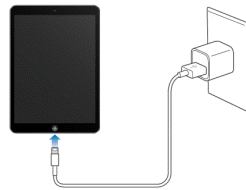
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Barrentine's Billboard	1
Apex News	2
Imagine News	2
Explorations News	3
Global News	4

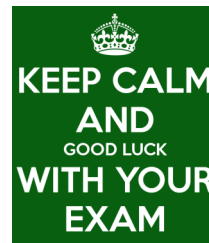


We are approaching the end of the first semester of the 2017-18 school year. With every school year that passes, it seems to go faster and faster! Please see below for some notes of importance as we finish out the first semester and head into second semester.

- **iPads:** Please ensure that your child charges his/her iPad each night at home so that the device comes to school fully charged. This is really the only way that the iPad can have enough power to last the entire day. I appreciate your willingness to make sure this gets done nightly.



- **Final Exams:** On December 18 and 19, we will be conducting our quarterly assessments in all classes. Please do your very best to avoid absences during this time. We will be taking assessments during period 2, 4 and 6 on December 18, and we will be taking assessments during period 1, 3 and 5 on December 19.



- The last student day is Wednesday, December 20. Our students will return to school on Wednesday, January 3. This will be a full day for students.

I look forward to our final 8 days of the semester. I hope that everyone has a relaxing break!

Kyle Barrentine, Principal

Apex SLC News



7th Grade

The 7th graders in Apex are presenting two projects in the final weeks of the second quarter. For the Global Studies and Math Project, Monumental Measurements, learners are participating in a gallery walk to show off the historical monuments they planned, designed, and created about an important figure in the history of a specific nation around the globe. Facilitators, parents, and learners took a field trip to downtown Indianapolis to provide some inspiration for the project. For the Language Arts and Science project, Tectonic Travels, learners are in the midst of creating a travel guide document and presentation about another location, where they are going in depth in an analysis of the topography and geography of the region as well as natural disasters present there, providing reasons to visit and travel tips for future tourists. In Language Arts

class, learners have finished reading Night of the Howling Dogs by Graham Salisbury, to learn and practice critical reading skills, while also supporting and enriching the ideas of the project. On December 15th, the 7th grade team will be traveling to the Indiana State Museum to support our science curriculum and view the many exhibits the museum has to offer, with a special focus on the exhibits on fossils and rocks. With two big projects running concurrently, the 7th graders in Apex are working very hard and learning how to manage time and responsibilities, developing crucial skills and creating work they are proud of and about ready to show off as we head towards our winter break.

8th Grade

As we finish the 1st semester, learners are finalizing their speeches for the last project, Advocating an Amendment. Learners have been studying the

government and issues that they believe we need to address as a nation. They are writing the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. They have each chosen a topic of personal interest and are practicing weaving evidence with persuasive techniques. Learners will have the opportunity to give their speeches in front of a panel that includes the superintendent of Decatur Township and secondary educators, school board members, and representatives of our own local government. We are very excited to see and hear how they want to change our country. We are also coming up on common assessments for quarter two. Learners will take exams December 18th and 19th before heading to winter break.

Imagine SLC News



8th Grade

Students in Imagine 8th grade have been competing to learn vocabulary! The team competition game Quizlet Live has been a highlight of our practice this week!

Students are completing concrete displays of research over genetic disease. This artful research project allows students to create a symbol for the disease that they have researched and gives them the opportunity to share information

which will increase awareness of genetic disease.

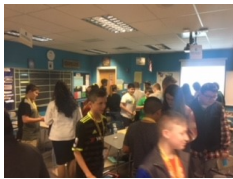
As a reminder, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @ImagineDms and on Facebook (dmsimagine) to see all of the great things going on in our SLC!

Explorations SLC News

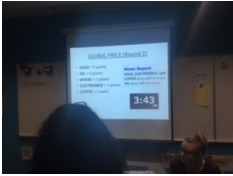
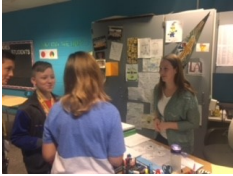


7th Grade Explorations

Mr. Iliff's 7th grade Science students have been busy moving mountains. Using Play-Doh, students created folded mountains. Students also have discovered how tectonic plate movement creates landforms.



Does your 7th grad student know how to make a good trade? Miss Lay's students do! Students in her class participated in a global trading activity so students could experience how the economy changes so quickly.



8th Grade Explorations

Some students in Miss Basham's class have been participating in a Socratic Seminar over Fahrenheit 451 (Part 2).



They have really enjoyed discussing the book in a different format. Ask your student about his or her experience with Socratic Seminars.

Mr. Manring's 8th grade Science students have been working hard to learn the vocabulary terms essential for

understanding the science material. Students have become proficient at appropriately using terms such as prokaryote and eukaryote. Mr. Manring has implemented a variety of vocabulary strategies in his classroom. Which strategy is your child's favorite?

Area 31 Field Trip

Before Thanksgiving Break, our 8th grade students attended a career field trip at Area 31. Students were able to visit various career clusters to inquire about those careers. They really enjoyed learning how they could start training for a career while they are in high school. This was a great hands-on experience!



After School Study Table

Explorations will host another after school study table on Monday, December 18, 2017 from 2:50-4:30pm. Once again, students will need to craft a study plan to indicate the assignments they wish to redo or make-up. Teachers will be present to answer questions and help students study for upcoming quizzes and tests.

iTime

Explorations will host our first iTime Soiree on Wednesday, December 13, from 8:00 -9:00am. Student iTime projects such as increasing the participants on the girls' golf team, quotes that inspire, basketball warm-up designs, and many more will be shared during this iTime.



Please RSVP for the soiree by going to this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/IDpo3sjk18xTkY5H3>. Here is the link to complete the volunteer check if you plan to attend: <http://www.decaturlproud.org/community-partners/volunteer>. This typically takes two days to process.

We are really excited to showcase all of the passion projects!

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



As the 2nd quarter draws to a close, that can mean only one thing: End of Quarter Common Assessments!

- Monday, December 18: periods 2, 4 & 6 assessments
- Tuesday, December 19: periods 1, 3 & 5 assessments

These assessments are heavily weighted and provide teachers with an accurate snapshot of what students know and don't know. Please make sure your student arrives to school on time and well-rested!

GLEANERS

In 7th grade Global, students are preparing to volunteer at Gleaners Food Bank Friday, December 8th! Students will help organize food donations in order to make them available to local families in need. A special thanks goes out to all of our parents who volunteered to chaperone—watch out, we're going to put you to work too! During IDEA time, students will begin researching hunger statistics in Decatur Township and brainstorm potential solutions. #servicelearning

In 8th grade Global, students are currently reading *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers. As they read, students are exploring the judicial system. Did Steve



Harmon commit the crime? There are some big-point assignments connected to the reading—students should be completing their chapter-by-chapter annotations and their witness analysis worksheet. Students also have a mobile book report due at the end of the quarter, which is rapidly approaching!

Looking ahead to December 20, 8th graders will participate in Reindeer Games!

This annual tradition combines holiday spirit with a little friendly competition as students from each SLC compete for bragging rights! In order to participate, however, students must meet the following behavior qualifications:



- No OSS
- No more than 1 day of ISI
- No more than 2 Tuesday or Thursday Night Schools

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.