

# CARMEL



COUGARS

# CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Cougar Update — 2.12.21

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**Mrs. Alison Fisch, Assistant Principal**

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Hello 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Cougar Families,

At the February 9 Board meeting, the return to in-person instruction was confirmed.

### **Return to In-Person Q & A and General PTSA Meeting**

Next Thursday, February 18 at 5:30 PM, Dr. Thompson and the Carmel Admin team will be hosting a parent question and answer session regarding the return to in-person instruction. Dr. Thompson will briefly review the [Welcome Back Presentation](#) that was shared with students and staff previously and then answer any questions. If you have a particular question and need clarification, please [record your question here](#) so we can ensure it is addressed. Following the question and answer, Carmel's PTSA Board will hold a general meeting for all members!

\*\*The Zoom link will be posted on the [Carmel Middle School website](#) under "School Announcements" on the afternoon of February 18.\*\*

### **In-Person Learning Days**

Group A - February 22-26, March 15-19, April 12-16, May 3-7, May 17-19

Group B - March 1-5, March 22-26, April 19-23, May 10-14, May 20-24

Group C - March 8-11, March 29-31, April 26-30, May 25-28

**Always bring a mask, headphones and a water bottle with you!**

### **School Picture Days**

Group A & 6th grade FRA students - Feb 24

Group B & 7th grade FRA students - Mar 4

Group C & 8th grade FRA students - Mar 31

*More photo information to come!*

### **Quarter 3 Progress Reports**

It is hard to believe, but we are already halfway through the third quarter! We wanted to make you aware that progress reports are available by viewing current grades and assignments in PowerSchool. If you have not accessed PowerSchool previously, please view [this informational page and video](#) for information about using PowerSchool. Please note: You will not be able to view your student's data unless you link your student to your account with the school-provided student Access ID and Password. If you run into this issue while setting up your account and need the student Access ID and Password, please contact our school registrar, Ms. McCauley. Her e-mail is: demetras.mccauley@cms.k12.nc.us.

After you have reviewed grades in PowerSchool, please complete [this form](#) to let us know you have received the information! As a reminder, the end of the third quarter is March 11, and any missing assignments must be submitted by Monday, March 8.

You will begin to receive course registration information for our 21-22 school year on Monday, March 1. This is a great time to think about your student's elective options. As eighth graders, it makes sense to begin considering your student's likes and interests, as high school offers many elective choices, and middle school is the perfect time to whet their palette!

For families with a rising sixth grader, please read the next below.

## Prospective Cougars

Rising 6th grade Cougars! Click [this link](#) to explore our Carmel Middle Virtual Hallway!

You can explore our virtual hallway and find out more on how to use a locker, remote learning tips, middle school success tips from current Cougars, a video tour, and the 2021-22 course registration guide.

To help you get started, watch Mrs. Boyd's [introduction video](#)!

Rising 6th grade registration will be in March. More information about this registration process forthcoming.

In an effort to help our Yearbook team, please continue to do the following:

- Take photos!
- Send an email to **CarmelYB2021@gmail.com** (not to Mr. Mahoney's CMS email)
- Please include the photo category in the subject line of your email
- Include the student's name, grade, and an explanation of what he/she is doing
- Send photos of anything else your student is doing (during or outside of school hours!)
- Buy a yearbook by going to **jostensyearbooks.com** and selecting Carmel Middle School

Be sure to sign up for PTSA's **Cougar News**, which has important information on all things happening at Carmel. To sign up, [click here](#).

## **Important Dates**

Feb 17 - Early Release Day - Asynchronous Work Day

Feb 22 - Group A comes In-Person

Feb 24 - Group A and 6th Grade FRA picture day

Mar 1 - Group B comes In-Person

Mar 1 - Rising 7 & 8 students will receive course registration information in homeroom

Mar 4 - Group B and 7th FRA picture day

Mar 8 - Last day to submit Q3 assignments

Mar 8 - Group C comes In-Person

Mar 9 - Window for current students to enter course selections into PowerSchool closes

Mar 12 - Teacher Workday

Mar 31 - Group C and 8th FRA picture day

## **Curriculum Updates**

**Language Arts:** Students are well underway with writing their literary argument essays. We spent the past two weeks researching, planning, drafting, and refining our papers, and students are now in the process of putting the final touches on their essay. Each ELA teacher has posted a due date for the essay in Canvas. An essay is a big undertaking, you don't want to fall behind! Your teacher has provided many resources, so reach out for help if needed.

**Math: Math 7 Standard:** Students have started *Unit 6: Expressions, Equations and Inequalities*. We are making connections between equations, tape diagrams, and their solutions. Students will have a mid-unit assessment over the first half of the unit on Wednesday, February 24th. All formal assessments may be retaken if students scored lower than a 79%. All retakes must be completed prior to March 8th.

**Math 7 Honors:** Students are learning about percents and applying it to real life scenarios. They will be working on a Percent Project in which they get to choose food items off a menu and calculate costs based on coupons, tip, and tax. Students will be assessed on the Percents Unit in a couple weeks.

**Math 1:** Students finished up Part 1 of Chapter 8 this Wednesday with a quiz on multiplying polynomials and monomials, as well as factoring monomials out of polynomials. We are learning how to factor trinomials the rest of this week and next week and will have our Part 2 Quiz over Chapter 8 on Wednesday, February 24th. The Chapter 8 Test is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rd.

**Science:** Hello Families, As we dive deeper into our understanding of genetics and heredity, students are learning how to determine inherited traits from their parents. That is because each child receives one gene for every trait from each parent.

Although we may not always know our parents personally, the future of genetics includes our ability to better understand why our appearances are the way they are. Additionally, each student will be responsible for conducting a genetics related lab at home independently on February 17, our upcoming asynchronous day. The lab will be graded as a formal assignment. Please continue to review your child's PowerSchool assignments and grades to best assess their learning and assignment completion. Thank you for your continued support.

**Social Studies:** This week we completed our unit on the Industrial Revolution. The students worked through document-based questions (DBQs), which will be assessed as their formal grade for this unit. We will begin lessons on the Age of Imperialism, next week, in which we explore reasons and outcomes of European imperialism. Please continue to monitor Canvas and Powerschool and make sure your student is caught up on all assignments. The absolute last day to submit any late work, for the quarter, will be March 8. Thank you for your help.

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## Counselor Connection

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The Student Services & Support Department is getting ready to welcome Carmel's first rotation of students back to the building! We will be providing the teachers with SEL lessons on topics like inclusion and resilience over the next couple of weeks to help students transition back. We will also be re-introducing ourselves and remaining visible for students that need support. We, like them, are excited and anxious, but we mostly look forward to seeing them in person for the first time in almost a year ☺ Be sure to keep your eyes out for information about the 21-22 Course Selection process as students will soon need to complete this process online and in PowerSchool (planned for early March.)

Please check the [Student Services & Support website](#) for updates regarding resources - we just added a link to the list of alternative remote learning sites in Charlotte.

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## Other News & Reminders

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### Yearbooks

Great news: the 2021 Carmel yearbook is happening! The yearbook this year will look a little different than in the past, but the Carmel Yearbook Staff is committed to providing a keepsake for all of our students. In order to make it happen, we will need tons of parents and students to participate by submitting pictures. More information on how to do that will be coming soon. We are once again teaming with Jostens Yearbooks to make our yearbook this year, so all orders will be placed directly through their website, [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com). They have also sent emails, as well as "snail mail" flyers that normally would have come home from the school. If you have any questions about yearbooks or ordering, please email Mr. Mahoney at [adam.mahoney@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:adam.mahoney@cms.k12.nc.us) and keep an eye out for photo requests and submission procedures. Thank you for your support of *Through the Cougar's Eye*, the official Carmel Yearbook!

**ATTENTION Ms. Stewart's ELA Classes:** Ms. Stewart is currently on an approved leave. Her students have been moved to other Carmel ELA teachers' classes to ensure delivery of instruction by a highly qualified teacher. Once Ms. Stewart returns from leave, her students will be moved back to her class. Please email me at [alison.fisch@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:alison.fisch@cms.k12.nc.us) if you have any questions or concerns.

### SEL Time

"Mindful Mondays" and "Finish-Up Fridays" occur each week during our SEL block. This is time allotted for students to have additional opportunities to finish any asynchronous work from the week and to ask their teachers questions. Caring Schools lessons are delivered on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week during SEL time. Students in ACE PE and Learning Lab will still attend these classes during this time.

- **Canvas:** Parents can access Canvas! Click [here](#) to find directions on how to create a parent account.
- The CMS English Language Learner (ELL) department is available to assist any family needing support. Click on the links below.

English Learner Parent & Community Outreach Website

<https://sites.google.com/cms.k12.nc.us/el-parent-community-outreach/home>

K-12 English Learner Remote Learning Website

<https://sites.google.com/cms.k12.nc.us/remote-english-learner/home>

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**Thank You**

**Next Cougar Update: February 26, 2021**

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