

CARMEL



COUGARS

CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

8th Grade Cougar Update — 12/11/2020

Teresa Peterson, Assistant Principal

Cougar families,

I want to say Thank you for all your support and hard work you are doing to support our students and teachers. We are coming to the end of first semester and look forward to Winter Break. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Please 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](#).

Follow us on social media: [Twitter](#) -- [Facebook](#) -- [Instagram](#)

Important Dates

- December 14 Last Day to turn in make-up work for Quarter 2
- January 5th Semester 2 begins
- January 19 Rotation A comes back to School

Curriculum Updates

Language Arts

The 8th grade language arts students are taking a bite of the next unit focusing on the book *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. If your student wants a hard copy of the book, they can get one by stopping by the school; otherwise, the online copy will be available. To conclude the novel, *Summer of the Mariposas*, we are writing a compare and contrast essay based on the portrayal of La Llorona in the story versus the myth. Keep an eye out for a formal grade populating pertaining to this essay. Upon the completion of the essay, the students will get a taste of what's to come by creating a mini project based on what they eat. This project introduces the new unit and will be a formal grade. Don't forget-- last day for assignment submission for the quarter is December 14th.

Math

Math 8: Students have been exploring various ways to solve multi-step equations with variables on both sides. They have learned to explain multiple ways to solve the same equations, and to interpret the way different people have solved equations. We have started to look at the structure of equations to determine what it tells us about the solution to the equations. Students have been exposed to equations that have infinite solutions and no solutions and should be able to explain why this is the case based on the structure of the equation. Once back from winter break, students will begin to explore systems of equations.

Mid-Unit 4 (equations) Test: Thursday December 17 (will count on 3rd quarter)

Benchmark: Friday 12/18 and Monday 12/21

Math 1: Students are finishing up interpreting data through a scatter plot. They are using technology to assist them in creating an equation for the line of best fit to better help them make generalizations and predictions from the data. They should be able to explain what the equation represents and helps them predict in the context given to them. All Math 1 students should be reviewing for their **December 17th** midterm. This mid-term will count for 20% of their semester grade and will cover everything we have done this year. It will include equations, inequalities, systems of equations, linear equations, and functions. Following the mid-terms we will

be exploring specific types of system word problems. Once back from winter break students will begin simplifying monomials.

Assessments: Math Mid-Term Thursday December 17th (20% of semester grade).

Science

In science classes, students are now wrapping up our Microbes and Disease unit. The unit test, on December 11th and 14th, will go in the third quarter gradebook. This is because all assignments at Carmel are due for Q2 by Monday, 12/14, so this way students who do not achieve mastery will have an opportunity for a re-test to increase their grade. As we move closer to the Winter break, we will begin our study of Biological Energy. This will include an exploration of foods, how organisms use them to get energy, and the body processes that occur to make those things happen. Looking ahead to our return to classrooms in January, we will take time to be certain that students who are in the building as well as students who are at home understand expectations and continued supports that are in place for anyone who needs them. As always, if you have any questions about science, please email Mr. Mahoney, Ms. Elliott, or Ms. Ploeger.

Social Studies

Social Studies is halfway through our unit on the Formation of the US Government. We have examined the Articles of Confederation, Federalists and Anti-Federalists, and Shay's Rebellion. Next up we will delve into the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. All makeup work for the 2nd quarter is due on 12/14. Please be sure to check Powerschool before that date. Our next test is scheduled for December 11th and 14th

News:

Free Parenting Classes!

[The Relatives](#) offers monthly classes on "Parenting Challenging Youth" based on the Love & Logic parenting model.

Classes are free and are held every month at our Uptown Charlotte location.

Reservations are required. To reserve a spot in an upcoming class, call The Relatives at 704.377.0602.

The Love and Logic model is a 30-year-old philosophy of raising and teaching children which allows adults to be happier, empowered, and more skilled in the interactions with children. Love allows children to grow through their mistakes. Logic allows children to live with the consequences of their choices. Love and Logic is a way of working with children that puts parents and teachers back in control, teaches children to be responsible, and prepares young people to live in the real world, with its many choices and consequences.

Classes are for parents with children of any age and the techniques are simple and easy to learn.

For more on Love and Logic parenting, visit the [Love and Logic Institute](#).

[Revised Timeline for In-Person Instruction](#)

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education voted at its Dec. 8 meeting to return to remote instruction until Jan. 19 for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Carmel Middle students now begin in-person attendance rotations on January 19th, 2021.

Before that time, you will receive bus transportation information in the mail along with a second semester welcome letter.

[Schedule Changes](#)

All students and families should check Powerschool after 12/31 for any Elective class changes that have been made. With the rebalancing of attendance groups and tweaking the master schedule with staff constraints, several students in each grade-level will have their Electives changed. These changes cannot be avoided as we schedule new students into in-person attendance rotations and the Full Remote Academy.

Students Switching In/Out of the Full Remote Academy

For families that submitted a request to switch in or out of the full remote academy for second semester, if it is necessary for your child to have a schedule change that impacts their core-content classes we will email you to confirm the change has been made and direct you to Powerschool to access their new schedule for second semester.

This is only for students who have made a switch in or out of the Full Remote Academy and will largely impact those in sixth grade because of staffing constraints.

Attendance Rotation Notification

CMS will be sending out Connect5 messages on 12/14, 1/5, and 1/15 to notify and remind families of their child's second semester attendance rotation (In-person ABC or FRA). This will also confirm second semester attendance changes that were submitted by those wishing to switch in or out of the Full Remote Academy.

Unless there was an egregious error made, these attendance rotations cannot be changed

- Link to Carmel Main page with bell schedule: <https://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/carmelMS/Pages/Plan-B+-Updates-and-Information.aspx>

Thank You

Thank you for your ongoing support as our partners in learning. Our success would not be possible without your engagement and collaboration in the educational journey our children embark on.

Next Cougar Update: January 15th, 2021

