

# CARMEL



COUGARS

# CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cougar Update — 1/15/2020

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**Teresa Peterson, Assistant Principal**

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Cougar families,

Happy New Year!! School is going and students are working. We just finished our second round of MAP testing. If your student did not complete both test, contact your homeroom teacher.

As you may know, our CMS Board of Education approved a recommendation to delay the return to in-person instruction. In support of the Mecklenburg County Health directive, CMS will remain in the current plan of full remote learning. CMS will reevaluate the timeline, in partnership with Mecklenburg County Public Health, at the **February 9** Board of Education meeting. It will be determined if CMS will return to in-person instruction based on district and county evaluation at this meeting.

If the Board approves the return to in-person instruction at the February 9 Board meeting:

- **February 15** -- PK-5, K-8 schools, EC self-contained, and EC students (whose IEPs indicate in-person instruction) will return to in-person instruction.
- **February 22** -- Middle and High schools return to in-person instruction following A,B,C attendance rotations.

**Middle School Sports:** CMS has made the decision to **cancel** middle school and K-8 athletics for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. Logistical and operational challenges were factors in the decision.

[Here](#) is the CMS Calendar to help you know which week and dates your child will come to school

Congratulations to our 2nd Quarter A and A/B Honor Roll students! <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWgLwmGOS10o4DzfHatVt6jhsWflcHom/view?ts=5ff8ac0a>

**Congratulations to Mr. Justin Armstrong, our 20-21 Carmel Middle School Teacher of the Year!**

During Teacher of the Year nominations, here are some of the comments from Mr. Armstrong's colleagues:

"The most positive and professional person. He embodies the Cougar Pride motto and is always smiling."

"He has been in the school building with his students for many weeks already, and he never hesitates to do ANYTHING that he thinks will help them learn, grow, and get better at life. He also is an amazing colleague and is willing to step in with his students or any other students who needs assistance."

"Mr. Armstrong is 100% about the solution, whether its classroom, logistics, or behavior. He does it with zero complaint and a smile."

"He is such a kind, caring, compassionate person, all while still holding his students to the high expectations."

The Carmel Middle community is so lucky to have Mr. Armstrong in our school's Exceptional Children's program!

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**

- January 18                      No School
- February 22                     Rotation A starts

## Curriculum Updates

### Language Arts

The 8th grades students have chewed their way through the first part of the new module by dissecting pieces of *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. We have been examining the process in which industrial farming, free range livestock, and organic farms produce food. By doing so, the students are finding ingredients to support author claims and purpose such as relevant evidence, sufficient reasoning, and counterclaims. Furthermore, the students just completed a formal assessment on the first part of the book. We are moving on to analyze different media pertaining to the book topics by identifying the purpose and appeal next week. After analysis and practice, the media mini unit will be assessed with a formal test reflecting those skills.

### Math

**Math 1:** Students have just finished learning to simplify monomials. In our next half of the unit they will apply these rules when we multiply and divide numbers written in scientific notation. We will then move in to exploring exponential functions and how they are similar and different from linear functions. Students will be writing equations for real world problems involving exponential growth and exponential decay as well as compound interest.

Assessments: Chapter 7 Test Friday January 29

**Math 8:** Students will take their unit 4 test Friday January 22. This test will cover systems of equations, solving multi-step equations and solving multi-step inequalities. Students will also be given real world situations where they will write systems of equations and inequalities to help them answer the given questions. Following the unit 4 test students will begin unit 5 which introduces them to the concept of a function. Students will interpret and identify various functions given graphs, equations,

tables, and verbal descriptions. As we continue through the unit they will write their own function equations and identify what makes a relation not a function versus a function.

Assessments: Unit 4 Test Friday January 22

**Math 2:** To learn about upcoming Math 2 assessments, please join Ms. Frank's Remind by texting the number 81010 with the message @frankmath2. Assessment and graded assignment dates are also posted on Canvas regularly.

## Science

In science classes, we are wrapping up our short unit on Biological Energy with a test on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 19th and 20th. Students should know about how food provides energy for the body as well as how we can keep our bodies healthy through diet and exercise. After that, we will have a short mini-unit on Biotechnology. This is a growing field of study, and students will have a chance to learn about the ways that it is used in agriculture and medicine, as well as reasons that there are some aspects of biotechnology that are ethically challenged, and ways that it can and has impacted the state of North Carolina specifically. On the horizon is our big Chemistry Unit, and then we will wrap up the year with Energy Resources. As always, if you have any questions, please email Mr. Mahoney, Ms. Elliott, or Ms. Ploeger directly.

## Social Studies

In Social Studies, we are currently examining Westward Expansion and how we became the 50 states we are today. We are looking at the concepts of Manifest Destiny, Louisiana Purchase, Indian Removal, and the Trail of Tears. Students were assigned a DBQ this week that will be taken for a formal grade. Our next test is not scheduled until the beginning of February.

## News:

- **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!

- **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.
- Here is information regarding the January CMS ELL Family Nights topics and tutoring options.
  - [January EL Services Virtual Family Night Flyer\\_Spanish \(1\).docx](#)
  - [January 2021 EL Services Virtual Family Night Flyer \(English\).docx](#)
  - [January 2021 EL Tutoring Flyer \(English & Spanish\).docx](#)
- 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

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*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.*

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**Next Cougar Update: January 29th , 2020**

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