

CARMEL



COUGARS

CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th Grade Cougar Update — 1.15.21

Mrs. Alison Fisch, Assistant Principal

Hello Cougar Families,

We are already two weeks into our second semester, and MAP testing is now behind us. 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.

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.

Congratulations to our 2nd Quarter A and A/B Honor Roll students!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWgLwmGOS10o4DzfHatVt6jhsWflcHom/view?ts=5ff8ac0a>

Our heartfelt congratulations go 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 - Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Birthday Holiday - No School for Students and Staff

Curriculum Updates

Language Arts: Students recently completed a study of the short story "His Motto" and will continue studying narrative through short stories with "The Boy and the Bayonet". A mid-unit assessment (formal) is scheduled for January 27. In the second half of the unit, following the mid-unit assessment, students will continue to explore the context of the Harlem Renaissance by writing a literary argument essay, discussing how three pieces of work from the Harlem Renaissance are connected by a common theme. Students will work on composing this five-paragraph essay over the course of two weeks.

Math: Standard Math 7--Last week, we started *Unit 5: Rational Number Arithmetic*. The students are learning how to add and subtract signed numbers (positives and negatives). We will have a mid-unit assessment next Wednesday, January 20th over lessons 5.1-5.7. All lessons and extra practice problems can be found on the open-up website (<https://access.openupresources.org/curricula/our6-8math/en/grade-7/unit-5/index.html>).

Honors Math 7--Students have been working with solving, graphing, and explaining inequalities. They will be assessed on Wednesday, January 20th on their skills and abilities to solve equations and inequalities.

Math 1--Students started *Chapter 7: Monomials and Exponential Functions* last week. They have a quiz on Friday, January 15th over laws of exponents. Next week we will continue the unit with scientific notation and exponential functions. The Chapter 7 Test is scheduled for Friday, January 29th.

Science: Hello Families, Next week all 7th grade students will take a test demonstrating their knowledge of human physiology. Additionally, they will submit a human body systems flip book as a formal grade. They have a choice for submission as either a paper copy, Google presentation, or Canvas format. Please encourage and follow-up with your child that they did their work. As we celebrate MLK Jr. this weekend, we will also prepare to learn about genetics through the lens of the relationship and mechanisms of cellular reproduction, patterns of inheritance, and external factors to potential variation. This is of special importance as we explain the impact of the environment and lifestyle choices on biological inheritance and survival. Students will be asking questions in the coming days regarding knowledge of their family traits, such as eye color, attached ear lobes, and presence of hair on knuckles. Although those questions may seem odd independent of context, they are all connected to genetically linked characteristics, our area of study. Thank you for your continued support during our remote learning experiences.

Social Studies: Good afternoon. The 7th grade Social Studies classes will be completing our unit on the Age of Revolutions, next week. The test is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, and the review/retake will take place on Thursday and Friday. Our next unit will introduce us to the causes, events, and outcomes of the "Great War" (World War 1). Please continue to follow your student's assignments and progress on Canvas and PowerSchool.

Counselor Connection

Happy New Year! Your Student Services Department has begun this year with SEL lessons that align to our Panorama (student SEL survey) results. Overall, students indicated weaknesses in the areas of emotional regulation, conflict resolution, and cultural diversity/awareness so, beginning last week, teachers will be focusing on those lesson topics throughout January and February.

Counselors are checking in with individual students and planning for small counseling groups for those that indicated major weaknesses in SEL skills on the survey. Additionally, the department will be working with SEL teachers to begin one-on-one conferences to check in with students as well as strengthen their relationships and sense of connection to school.

Please see an invitation [here](#) for a free career exploration opportunity called "Build It!, Middle School Students Explore Careers Along the Way!" (begins January 23.) This club is for students interested in a career in the construction industry.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Please visit [Carmel's Student Services & Support Website](#) for lots of resources and information that can assist with the well-being of families and students.

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. 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 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: Beginning on Tuesday, January 19, Ms. Stewart will be on an approved leave. Her students will be 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 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.
- 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>

Thank You

Next Cougar Update: January 29, 2021

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