

CARMEL



COUGARS

CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

7th Grade Cougar Update — 9.11.20



Mrs. Alison Fisch, Assistant Principal

Hello Cougar Families,

Here we are in mid-September, and we continue to learn and teach through Zoom, Canvas Chats, and other means to ensure engaging instruction is happening every day. Whenever possible, we ask that students' cameras be on during instruction. While not a requirement, we've found that students are more actively engaged when others in the class can see and respond to them. We appreciate your patience as we implemented various safeguards for our on-line platforms. Our top priority is keeping your child safe from inappropriate language and material, and as issues arise, we have worked to eliminate all instances where this can take place.

To maintain a healthy home/school balance, we expect classroom assignments to be completed during asynchronous time. We have discovered many students have not utilized that designated class time, and have instead, "logged out" of class, leaving the work to be done as "homework." We have made the decision to NOT assign homework while in Plan C, with the exception of ELA novel reading.

Please take the time to look at your student's grades in PowerSchool. If you see a 0 for an assignment, he/she has not turned it in, but it's not too late! Your child can submit work up until October 12 for partial credit. Progress reports are fast approaching, and we expect our Cougars to be on top of their assignments, so that they will be in the best position to finish 1st quarter on a high note.

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

- Sept. 28 - Teacher Workday (No school for students)
- Oct. 7 - Early Release Day (Schedule forthcoming)
- Oct. 8 - Virtual Curriculum Night (More info forthcoming)

Curriculum Updates

Language Arts: Students are quickly approaching the halfway mark in their novel, *A Long Walk to Water*. Our mid-unit assessments went well, and we would like parents and guardians to be on the lookout for those scores in PowerSchool. Students are encouraged to retake the mid-unit assessment if their score is below 79%. The second half of the first unit focuses on writing an objective summary and tracing the development of themes throughout the novel. Our end-of-unit assessment, on September 22nd and 23rd, will focus on these concepts.

Math: *Math 7:* Standard math is continuing Unit 1 on Scale Copies and Scale Drawings. The End-of-Unit Assessment is scheduled for Friday, September 18th. Then, we will move into Unit 2: Introducing Proportional Relationships.

Math 1: Students are learning about multi-step and compound inequalities. We will have our Unit 1 Assessment over the Real Number System, Equations and Inequalities on Friday, September 18th. Then, we will start our second unit on Literal Equations, Ratios, Rates, Proportions, Conversions, and Percents.

Math 7 Honors: Students are about halfway through the geometry unit. This week, we finished learning about angles and next week we will begin investigating triangles and their properties. Students also completed the Circles Quiz last Thursday and have the opportunity to complete a retake/corrections if needed.

Science: Although science class is not being held on school grounds currently, we are trying to engage our students in real-world and practical observations. Recently students were tasked with influencing the rate of evaporation using two teaspoons of water. Many of the students increased the time required by applying heat, wind, or increasing the surface area. This simple experiment highlights how water vapor forms around the world at different rates and was represented on graphs the students generated. Additionally, students are learning more about the formation of clouds and how to categorize them in an effort to predict weather. Many of them went outside to make an observation during class. In the next week we will take a formal assessment to measure their understanding of all the lessons taught thus far. Moving forward we will investigate the tools and variables associated with weather and air masses. Thank you for your continued support.

Social Studies: We continue to explore our 1st unit, "Introduction to Social Studies." We have been examining the concept, "History," where we have explored historical thinking skills used for historical investigations. The students have gathered and cited evidence from historical sources in order to write a historical argument. Beginning next week, we will examine types of governments and political systems. Please reach out to us if we can assist you in any way. Thanks for all you do, in your support, for educators.

Counselor Connection

This year's Social-Emotional Learning focus is on creating a culture of kindness and respect, where students are treated warmly in a safe and supportive environment. The SEL curriculum is from *Caring School Community*. It is a comprehensive, research-based social and emotional learning (SEL) program that builds school-wide community, develops students' social skills and SEL competencies. Next week's Caring School Community topic will be "*Taking Responsibility For Actions*" in which students will engage in conversations and activities that involve active listening, effective problem-solving, and social skills. For more information about this Social-Emotional Learning curriculum, click [here](#).

Charlotte's *Teen Health Connection* is offering three free, parenting workshops that can be completed virtually:

- *Parenting Without A Village*
- *Technology, Teens, and Covid-19*
- *School in the Fall: Making Peace with the Unknown.*

For registration information, click [here](#).

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.

Other News

- **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 for more information.
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>
- Click [here](#) for Nurse Hines's Notes

Thank You

Hello, September! Thank you for the reminder that change can be beautiful!

Next Cougar Update: September 25, 2020

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