

Happy Friday CMS Families!

We are now just three short weeks away from the end of the 2nd trimester (February 16)! This weekend is a great time to spend a moment with your student reviewing their progress on Aeries while encouraging your child to finish the 2nd trimester strong! Always emphasize positives while helping your student come up with a plan to address any areas of concern. Reach out to teachers or counselors if additional assistance or support is needed.

Highlight(s) of the Week

VAPA Showcase at CHS - On Wednesday our 8th grade students traveled up the hill to Carmel High School for their first of several transition activities, the CHS VAPA showcase (Visual and Performing Arts). This program, a culminating event for a variety of visual and performing arts, is always a big hit with our 8th grade students as they get to see and experience some of the numerous exciting electives CHS has to offer. With CHS schedule meetings and elective decisions coming soon, we hope your student was inspired and excited by the VAPA showcase!

Hidden Figures Viewing and Discussion - While our 8th grade students attended the VAPA showcase, our 6th and 7th grade students spent the block viewing and discussing Hidden Figures. The movie portrays the true story of three black females working at NASA during the civil rights movement. The story of these women, whose collective work helped fuel some of NASA's greatest achievements in space, is both powerful and thought provoking. The film serves as an excellent teaching opportunity for initiating conversation around our understanding of race, discrimination, and the contributions and achievements of people of color in our country's history. We hope your students found benefit in the conversations that took place in classrooms following viewing of the edited film. We would encourage you to view the unedited film as a family and engage in further discussions at home about the themes portrayed in the movie.

CMS Songwriters Concert at Carmelo

In addition to the above activities, Mr. Loosely's Songwriting class took advantage of our block days to schedule a field trip to Carmelo. At Carmelo, our songwriters put on a concert featuring original children's songs written by students. Mr. Loosely reports that everyone had a wonderful time and that the audience really enjoyed the performance and engagement with our middle school musicians. Follow this link for a few photos and some comments from Mr. Loosely!

[Carmelo Visit](#)

CMS Science Fair Update

The CMS Science Fair judges have selected 10 projects to move forward and represent CMS in the Monterey County Science Fair. Congratulations to Elli Blum, Mia Cobb, Nico Cobb, Tanner Henderson, Lily Hicks, Jasmine Jin, Gianna Kemerly, CeCe Steacy, Quincy Stratton, and Teagan Walsh who's projects impressed the judges enough to earn the honor of representing CMS at the county level.

A full list of award winning projects can be found below.

The CMS Science Fair judging has determined the Top 10 Projects representing CMS at the Monterey County Fair:

Elli Blum, Mia Cobb, Nico Cobb, Tanner Henderson, Lily Hicks, Jasmine Jin, Gianna Kemerly, CeCe Steacy, Quincy Stratton, Teagan Walsh

In addition the following projects were recognized for excellence:

Liv Anderson, Julian Bajpai, Joya Besler, Reed Borek, Wukong Emery, Ashley James, Hawk Moranda, Ben Palmer, Max Razzak, Jack Shillinger

Green

Willow Cosgrove, Wukong Emery, Blaise Laverty, Lucy Stephens, Alexis Zamora

Design

Harper Brown, Peyton Haag, Jasmine Jin, CeCe Steacy, Teagan Walsh

Honors

Alyssa Agafonova, Henry Bartle, Harper Brown, Victoria Duenas Paz, Lief Dunton, June Emerson, Sammy Goldberg, Eden Hage, Charlie Hinks, Kainoa Honda, Maisie Kalinowski, Blaise Laverty, Ian Lookinghawk, Fallon Lykken, Gissel Martinez, Colby Morse, Samantha Myrick, Van Myrold, Andrea Olvera, Azul Ramirez, Parker Roxas, Sibley Smith, Cielle Sogge, Natalia Ymata

The Week Ahead

Minimum Day on Friday - Professional Development Session

Friday, February 2nd is a district wide minimum day to accommodate professional development. School ends at 12:00 on Friday and buses will leave campus promptly at 12:15. Lunch is

served “grab and go” style in our cafeteria from 12:00 - 12:15. All students should be off campus by 12:30 as supervision beyond this time is not provided.

Black History Month Begin February 1st - Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape our nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an important part of our country's history. CMS will be recognizing Black History Month in several ways including tributes in our daily bulletin and a presentation at our February all-school gathering. We hope you'll take some time to explore the importance of Black History with your students.

Spelling Bee - The Spelling Bee begins on Wednesday, January 31st. To learn more about the bee and to access resources for spelling success, follow this link: [CMS Spelling Bee 2024](#). Best of luck to all our spelling champion hopefuls!

News and Announcements

YEARBOOK NEWS: There's less than one month left to reserve a yearbook. **Purchases will close on February 23rd.** Extra copies will be limited, so if you don't buy in advance your child may not get a book. To purchase your yearbook, follow this link and scroll down just under our calendar and you'll see the Jostens link. [Buy the CMS Yearbook](#)

In Person PTO Meeting: Tuesday, February 6th at 8:00, Habitat Green Building

Make plans to join us on **Tuesday, February 6th at 8:00 AM** in the Habitat Green Building for an in-person CMS PTO meeting. The agenda features Claudia Alcala, CMS Wellness Counselor/Social Worker who will provide information about her Breathe for Change certification and how she's using these tools for positive change on our campus. In addition, Karin Stratton, Executive Director of MEarth will provide an overview of MEarth programs and opportunities. Finally, Lisa Hanes, CMS Assistant Librarian, will discuss the recently developed CMS Cheer Club and detail plans for future growth. We'll also take a look at our end of year activities as we begin planning to celebrate our students! Come join us if you can!

Spring Sport Registration is now open for all students that wish to try out for Tennis or our Golf program. Track and Field and wrestling are non-cut sports and excellent choices. We've also added Cheerleading to our offerings! To register your student, please click on the Athletics tab or <https://www.carmelunified.org/domain/265>. Students must be registered on SportsNet in

order to participate in any sport. If you have any questions, please contact: [Cathleen Rice](mailto:Cathleen.Rice@carmelunified.org)
crice@carmelunified.org

6th/7th Grade Elective Sheets Due ASAP - If they're not in, they're late!

Last week Ms.Greco and Ms.Magreta presented your child the elective choices for the 24-25 school year. Your child should have brought home a sheet for you to review and sign, this information is necessary for us to prepare our master schedule. The form should have your signature and their top four elective choices listed 1-4. If you haven't turned in your elective sheet, please do so ASAP!

If your child will not be attending CMS next year please email Ms. Elaine
eeldridge@carmelunified.org so we don't place your child classes for next year.

Cultural Travel and Language Opportunity!

Interested in immersing yourself in French language and culture? Come learn French in southern France Spring 2025. There are some spots left on this amazing travel experience.

Come to an informational zoom meeting Jan 31, at 5 pm. Please RSVP with EF tours

<https://bit.ly/48BEhW7> and join the meeting with the following code:

<https://carmelunified.zoom.us/j/94745550362>

Meeting ID: 947 4555 0362

Passcode: France

Sport Dates week of January 29 - February 2

Monday 1.29.24

8th Grade Girls vs Los Arboles @ Los Arboles 4:00

7th Grade Boys vs Los Arboles @ Los Arboles 5:00

8th Grade Boys vs Los Arboles @ Los Arboles 6:00

Tuesday 1.30.24

6th Grade Boys vs San Benancio @ Salinas Rec.Center 6:00

Thursday 2.1.24

8th Grade Girls vs Monte Vista @ Carmel 4:00

7th Grade Boys vs Monte Vista @ Carmel 5:00
8th Grade Boys vs Monte Vista @ Carmel 6:00

CMS Events and Important Calendar Events 2023 - 2024

January

25 - 27. CCS Choir Festival

February

1 - 3. Music Program: CASMEC All State

2. Minimum Day - School dismissed at 12:00

6. PTO Meeting 8-9 AM on Zoom

15. CHS 8th Grade Parent Night via Zoom, 6:30 pm

12 - 16. Kindness Week

16. End of 2nd Trimester

19 - 26. February Break - No school

27 - 29. 8th Grade one-on-one minute meeting in the Library 7:55 - 2:40

March

1. 8th Grade to visit CHS, 8:30 - 11:15

4 - 8. Spring Sport Tryouts

5. PTO Meeting 8-9 AM on Zoom

5. CUSD District Choral Festival, Sunset Center 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

7 - 8. 7th and 8th Grade Benchmark Testing - Block Schedule

13. Report Cards sent via Parent Square

15. CMS Spring Dance, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

21. Down Syndrome Awareness Day

22. Minimum Day - School dismissed at 12:00

27. CUSD Strings Festival, Sunset Center, 7:00 - 8:00

April

2. District Band Festival Sunset Center 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

9. PTO Meeting 8-9 AM on Zoom

11. 6th Grade Cycle Wheel Change

12 - 19. Spring Break - No school

24 - 26. CAASPP Testing - 8th Grade Science

24. Progress Reports sent via Parent Square

29 - 30 CAASPP Testing

May

1 - 3. CAASPP Testing

6 - 10. Staff Appreciation Week

7. PTO Meeting in Person - Location and Time TBD

15. CMS Spring Concert, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

16 - 19. CMS Spring Drama Show

- 18. Music Program - Music in the Parks
- 20 - 22. 7th Grade Monterey Bay Outdoor Education (MBOE)
- 23. CMS Open House 5:30 - 7:30 pm.
- 27. Memorial Day - no school
- 28 - 31. Spirit Week
- 31. 8th Grade Dance 8:00 pm

June

- 3. 8th Grade Beach Party, 10:30 - 2:30 pm.
- 4. Minimum Day - school dismissed at 12:00
- 5. Minimum Day - school dismissed at 12:00
- 6. Minimum Day - school dismissed at 12:00
- 6. 8th Grade Promotion
- 7. 6th and 7th Grade Awards
- 7. 8th Grade Brunch 10:30 - 12:00 pm
- 7. Last Day of School - Minimum Day - school dismissed at 12:00
- 12. Report Cards sent via Parent Square