

Happy Friday CMS Families!

I'll also wish you a Happy Thanksgiving as I will not be writing an additional letter on Tuesday evening prior to the break. I hope you're able to enjoy some time away from school and that you're able to safely connect with family in a way that is fulfilling for everyone!

As a reminder, school will only be in session Monday and Tuesday of next week and students/families will have November 25-27 off. Classes resume Monday, November 30th.

On Monday, November 30th, we will be exactly three short weeks away from the end of the second quarter of school. I know that in my own home my three boys seem to have hit a bit of a wall. In hearing from many of you, this seems to be true in many homes. I've been personally encouraging them by letting them know they need to work hard for the next three weeks and then we'll all get a break. Even when "regular" school is in session the weeks leading up to Winter Break can be a challenge, but I think it is likely that everyone is experiencing some fatigue right now, so here's a quick message for our students.

Hang in there! Be proud of what you've accomplished during these extremely challenging times and stay the course. If you feel yourself starting to fall behind, find the strength to get back to work. There's only 17 more school days! Finish the second quarter strong and then take a well deserved, hard earned break! Finally, know that the teachers and staff at CMS are very proud of you for your efforts and perseverance!

With the end of the quarter closing in, I'll reiterate my first quarter message that it's a great time to start looking at Aeries with your student. These next few weeks can be critical to a student's success and it's a great time to sit down with your child, review their progress, and show them how to manage their academics and time as a quarter comes to a close. Again, these are great tools for them to learn as they move toward more independence in managing their own academic responsibilities and your assistance, encouragement, and example will help them grow in a positive way as students and responsible individuals. Thanks again for your support in this area.

That's it for this week. Below you'll find information on upcoming opportunities.

Enjoy the weekend and the upcoming break!

With warm regards,

Dan Morgan

Principal; Carmel Middle School

Congratulations to THIS week's Cougar Pride Spirit Day Winners!

6th Grade: Nicolas Kraut

7th Grade: Lauren Galicia

8th Grade: Alexander Frederick

CMS Staff Member: Mr. Abate

The CMS PTO and Leadership Class hope you enjoy your gift cards that will be mailed to your homes very soon! Go Cougars!

California Junior Scholarship Federation Accepting Applications

Attention 7th & 8th graders: If you are interested in applying for CJSF (the California Junior Scholarship Federation) your second quarter final grades will be used for acceptance into this program. If you pride yourself on scholastic achievement and community service, please consider joining CJSF at the end of quarter two.

"In 1967, the California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF) was founded to foster high standards of scholarship, service and citizenship in the middle school/junior high grades. Like CSF, CJSF emphasizes service to the school and the community while encouraging pride in scholastic achievement. In recent years the rapid growth of the California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF) has greatly strengthened CSF."

Care Solace and Student Support Signups

CUSD has partnered with Care Solace to offer student support. Care Solace is an online resource with a live 24/7 concierge meant to assist individuals in finding local mental health related programs and counseling services. Care Solace's web-based system works alongside our multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) as a tool for school staff, students and families to connect with community-based mental healthcare resources and providers. The proprietary care navigation system taps into a vast database of mental healthcare resources to find carefully vetted local therapists and programs in minutes. Care Solace takes into account all types of private insurance including Medi-Cal, Medicaid, and Medicare and those that have no insurance. Care Solace is now available for use by district students, staff, and families at no cost. Care Solace does not require a name, address, phone number, or date of birth. All information entered on the Care Solace tool is completely confidential and securely stored.

Students, their families and school district staff can access Care Solace services in two ways:

- **Call (888) 515-0595 to speak with someone from your Concierge team. Representatives are standing by to take your call or email 24/7, 365 days/year and services are available in multiple languages.**
- Visit <https://www.caresolace.com/site/carmelusd/>

Distance Learning Attendance Procedure

Just a reminder if your student misses a class for any reason, both student and parent have a responsibility. Your middle schooler should reach out to their teachers via Gmail or GoogleChat in an effort to make up the missed work. In addition, a parent will need to contact the front office to verify the absence. The absence will remain unverified until a parent contacts the front office. A student can not excuse themselves from class. You may reach Attendance Secretary, Laura Cardinali at 624-2785 or lcardinalli@carmelunified.org to verify your student's absence.

Important Yearbook Information

We cannot do this year's book under these challenging circumstances without your participation. The types of photos we need, the submission link and the link to purchase a book can now be found on the CMS homepage:

<https://www.carmelunified.org/Domain/703>. PLEASE CHECK THE LINK AND SUBMIT PHOTOS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Photos are submitted directly to the secure site provided by our publisher, Jostens. Please:

1. Do not email photos to Mr. Fosler or Mrs. Rice.
2. Type what feature the photo is for in the "DESCRIPTION" box
3. Submit only 1 photo per feature

Thank you!

Our new CMS School Spirit T-Shirts are IN

The shirts have our COUGAR logo with CARMEL written across the front and are made from an **ultra-soft** cotton, rayon, polyester blend and have a cool "washed" look. Get yours from our school office starting today for \$15! Just call ahead to

make a pick-up appointment and specify if you want red or grey. Sizes start at Youth Large!

Important Dates

Friday, November 18th - End of the Second Quarter

Winter Break - December 21 - January 4 - Classes resume on Tuesday, January 5th.