

# CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## COUGAR TRACKS

CMS Online Parent & Student Newsletter

March 2018

### STATE TESTS ON THE HORIZON

#### *From the Principal's Desk*

We just have a few months left of school this year! Everyone has been working hard to ensure success in everything we do. Spring Break is March 19-23. After that, teachers and students will be really focusing on preparing for the State Assessments. Testing will occur April 3-26. All grade levels are tested in READING and MATH. Also, our eighth grade students take a science exam the first week of April. We are planning for 6th graders to take their assessments April 9-10. 7th graders will test April 11-13, and 8th graders will be April 16-19. Please make sure your students are there for these dates. Make-ups will be provided, but it will be better if your student is there for the specific testing dates.

The State Assessments are used to assess student achievement; target student, classroom, and program improvement; and inform parents of student progress. If you would like more information regarding the state assessments, you may access the Oklahoma State Department of Education website at: <http://ok.gov/sde/office-assessments>.

Please encourage your child to come to school ready to learn every day. Not only will we continue to focus on academics, but we will also concentrate on behavior, following procedures, and being a productive citizen. Parent/Teacher conferences are March 27 and 29 from 4-7 PM. Please call your child's counselor to schedule a time to meet. If you are not able



to attend those times but would like to meet with your student's teachers, please call the grade level counselor to set up a different time.

Thank you again for working with CMS to help your child be successful.

Sincerely,

Blake Thomas

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#### Important Dates:

March 12 – Cheer Tryout Meeting CMS

March 13 – Academic Letters and Bars Ceremony, 9:30 AM

March 16 – Professional day – no school for students

March 19-23 - Spring Break

March 30 – No School

March 31 – Cheer Tryouts CMS

April 2 – No School



2018 Sequoyah  
BOOK AWARDS



**Vote Now in the Library  
thru Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Must have read at least 3 of  
this year's nominees.**

## 8TH GRADE TEAM MEGAMIND

In Language Arts, on team Megamind, we are focusing on improving our argumentative writing. We've been working on how to write a proper topic sentence, how to use transitions, completed a major research project on how to enter into a career field of the student's choice, and are about to work on how to write a proper conclusion. We've also been practicing using sensory details in hooks and word choice in student writing.

In US History we are talking about the Jacksonian era as well as the increasing differences between the North and South and the consequent develop-

ment of sectionalism that will ultimately lead to the American Civil War.

In Math: "Students are completing units on Linear equations and graphs, which



will form the foundation of their mathematical futures. We will finish the year with the Pythagorean theorem and scientific notation as we get ready for

final year state tests after coming back from spring break!"

In Ms. Ricci's class we have been reading *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S. E. Hinton. With this novel, we have studied character analysis and literary elements. Most of March will be spent in reviewing skills in preparation for our end of year testing.

Science is beginning our natural resource unit and then onto electromagnetic waves! Looking forward to having some really cool demonstrations and activities for all our physics!

## 8TH GRADE TEAM AVENGERS

Testing time is right around the corner, so students have been busy reviewing elements of argumentation to polish their skills as writers in their English class. During the next several weeks we will also focus on word choice, transitions, and embedding evidence. Students can practice these skills at home with any of our web based programs.

In United States History we just completed the abolitionist and women rights movement of the 19th century. Throughout March we will be building up and heading into the Civil War. Students will compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the North vs the South. This will include the impact of leadership, technology, and population of each side.



This month in Reading class, we will be working on our skills of making inferences using text structures and context clues. This is a very important reading skill that will help student success on the state test in April. To close out March, we will begin extensive review

of what we have previously learned this year in preparation for the state test.

In math we are finishing up functions, and gearing up for Pythagorean Theorem. We will wrap up the last few objectives before we start our review. We will take the state math test the middle of April.

This month the Avengers science class is going to start exploring natural resources and the impact humans have on our planet. We will study how plastics are effecting our oceans and calculate our carbon footprint. We will move onto the study of waves towards the end of the month. We will do several experiments to bring these invisible spectrums to life for the students.

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CHEER & DANCE TRYOUTS

Cheer and Dance tryouts for all of LPS Middle and High schools are on Saturday, March 31st. This is for any student who is currently in the 5th - 11th grade.

Parent Information Meeting is on Monday, March 12, at 6:00 pm in the CMS Auditorium. We will discuss expectations, requirements and cost.

Last date to sign up for clinic and pay \$20 tryout fee is Friday, March 16th, by 3:00 pm at Shoemaker Center.

Clinic for Cheer and Dance is Monday, March 26, 6:00-8:00 pm in the CMS Gyms. This are the tryout routines that need to be learned.

If you have further questions, contact the school your student will be attending. For Central MS Cheer, please contact Donna Chao at

[donna.chao@lawtonps.org](mailto:donna.chao@lawtonps.org).

## 7TH GRADE TEAM NEWS



### The Extraordinary X-Men Move Forward

We are traveling to Asia in Geography. We began our excursion with an exceptional visit from a foreign exchange student from Vietnam who told us about the culture of his country. We will also closely examine the physical features, deforestation in Indonesia, and all major waterways. We will make travel brochures filled with information of any

Asian country and finish up our study in the region with the Middle East and North Africa. In Science, we will be examining the honeybee population to discover its importance. Math will feature all things Geometry, and in Language, we will finish our research unit and extend our grammar skills in preparation for the ELA state test in April. We will be beginning a new novel, *The Face on the Milk Carton*, in Reading and continuing to prepare for our state test. We will be focusing on skills that need improvement as indicated by our recent Interim Assessment. In addition to being ecstatic about our studies, we are also extremely excited about Spring Break and our days off around Easter!



ELA students researched for, completed, and presented a timeline for Black History Month.

Geography – We will be working on a Travel Brochure for an assigned Asian country.

In March we are continuing to work our way through the world of Geometry. We will also review daily for our upcoming state test.

## CMS GIRLS & BOYS TRACK & FIELD

This year we had a large number of 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls and boys sign up for track. Track is a very demanding and tiring sport and we have 60 girls and 50 boys who are determined and hardworking young women and men still going strong running the track and practicing the field events!

The coaches are very excited to see what this season holds! Our meets are March 7 at Healdton @ 9:30 am, March 15 at Duncan @ 10:00 am, March 27 at Chickasha @ 9:30, March 28 at Elgin @ 9:30 am for 6th grade, and April 5 at



Jarman/Midwest City @ 9:00 pm.

We would love to have support from our parents and faculty! Hope to see

you there!

We have track T-shirts for sale for \$15. Parents, please see Coach Slawson or Coach Leighow in the office or send your money with your child to purchase one! We have sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL available. All proceeds go to the CMS track fund!

Thanks,

Coach Leighow, Coach Slawson, Coach McKillip, Coach Svec, Coach Floyd and Coach Loving

## FCA FIELD TRIP MAY 7



The FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) meets every Wednesday Morning at 8:05. March 7th is the deadline for

the Field Trip, which is May 7th to Brick town Ball Park to see the Dodgers. Permission slips and \$15.00 ticket price must be turned in to a sponsor by that date. (There is a limited number of tickets available) On March 14th, the Lovings will be guest speakers. Both are former students of CMS and now they have a ministry together.

## 6TH GRADE TEAM JUSTICE LEAGUE

Mrs. Morlett's Reading classes and Ms. Floyd's Language Arts classes have finished up their third Interim Assessments and will wrap up learning about different genres of texts and punctuation soon. Next we will finish reading *I Am Malala*, and we will apply critical thinking skills to our reading and writing as we review and prepare for our state tests next month.

Mr. Mietchen's Science classes are beginning the transition from life science to physical science. We are learning about different types of energy, and what factors influence the movement of energy. We will be moving to electricity and magnetism next.

Ms. Long's Pre-Algebra classes just finished a unit on measurement conversions and are working on Geometry. Students are working on

calculating the measurement of different angles as well as the area of shapes including triangles, rectangles, squares, trapezoids and parallelograms. We will then move



to rotations, reflections and translations across the x and y axis. The last objective before testing is probability. What is the probability that we will finish all our testing objectives before the OCCT test? Certain! Encourage your child to work on these skills in [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com).

Mrs. Pool's World Studies classes are continuing learning about Mexico. Students are reading the book, *Esperanza Rising* in order to get a better understanding of the history of the country. Students have also been learning about "Day of the Dead" and have been learning about and creating their own sugar skulls. Many classes have been able to take a "virtual field trip" to Mexico, using our virtual reality headsets to develop a better understanding of Mexican culture. Next week, students will become "television producers" of a three minute travel channel segment. Students will chose a Central American country, research their country, create a travel segment script about their country, and present their segments to their peers.

## 6TH GRADE TEAM GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

It has been a busy time for the Guardians.

As state testing approaches, students will be learning about area and decomposing figures. They will learn about reflections, rotations and transformations. We will wrap up the year learning how to analyze and interpret data. At home, students are encouraged to work through material on IXL- 6th grade math if they have access to a computer and internet. Their log in is the firstinitial-lastname@cmschool and the password is abc.

In Geography, the Guardians of the

Galaxy, will be visiting the countries of Central America. We will then tour the islands found in the Caribbean Sea.



This month we will continue learning about kinetic and potential energy. We will be conducting some hands-on labs to help the scientists understand the physical science concepts. Once we are finished

with energy, we will move to electricity and magnetism. The scientists have been doing well in class. Remember to stay focused and keep doing the best work possible.

Reading and ELA students have completed their research projects. We have been reviewing grammar, mechanics, and genres. We will continue to prepare for state testing in April. Students with internet/computer access at home can utilize IXL-6th grade ELA.

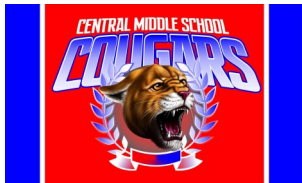


## CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

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### Mission Statement:

"The CMS community will work collaboratively to help all students grow in knowledge, citizenship, and responsibility."

### Student Motto:

PRIDE- Personal Responsibility In Daily Education



## CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL IS A SUCCESSFUL TITLE I SCHOOL

### 2016 A-F School Report Card

Parents are encouraged to access the Lawton Public Schools Website and view our 2016 School A-F Report Cards. The Lawton School Report Cards are available at the following website address:

<http://afreportcards.ok.gov/>

If you do not have internet access at your home, you may request a copy of the school report card at the principal's office.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra Solo Contest



The annual 5th/6th GRADE Spring Solo Festival will be held at Tomlinson Middle School after school on Tuesday, March 13th. Judges will be in the building from 3:30 to 6:30pm. The Strings students from all over town have been polishing a memorized piece of their choice and will receive a rating from a judge. This is a come and go event. Parents may bring their musician at anytime during those hours. As soon as the student has played, they may go home.

## TIPS TO IMPROVE TESTING



### Avoid Test Anxiety

It's good to be concerned about taking a test. It's not good to get "test anxiety."

This is excessive worry about doing well on a test and it can mean disaster for a student. But there are ways to reduce test anxiety.

### Encourage your child to do these things:

Space studying over days or weeks. (Real learning occurs through studying that takes place over a period of time.)

Don't "cram" the night before - cramming increases anxiety which interferes with clear thinking. Get a good night's sleep.

Read the directions carefully when the teacher hands out the test. If you don't understand them, ask the teacher to explain.

Look quickly at the entire examination to see what types of questions are included

(multiple choice, matching, true/false, essay) and, if possible, the number of points for each. This will help you pace yourself.

In taking an essay exam, read all the questions first and use the margin for noting phrases that relate to the answers. These phrases will help in writing the essay answers.

If you don't know the answer to a question, skip it and go on. Don't waste time worrying about it. Mark it so you can identify it as unanswered. If you have time at the end of the exam, return to the unanswered question(s).

### Do's and Don'ts

You can be great help to your children if you will observe these do's and don'ts about test and testing:

Don't be too anxious about a child's test scores. If you put too much emphasis on test scores, this can upset a child.

Do encourage children. Praise them for the things they do well. If they feel good about themselves, they will do their best.

Don't judge a child on the basis of a single

test score. Test scores are not perfect measures of what a child can do. There are many other things that might influence a test score.

Meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss his/her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork.

Make sure your child attends school regularly. Remember, tests do reflect children's overall achievement.

Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.

Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

Give your child a well rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.

Excerpt from: [education.com](http://education.com)