



# Cheektowaga Central Middle School



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



### Message from the Principal

Dear CCMS Families,

Happy February! As we settle into the second month of the year, we are excited to share some important updates with you.

#### Character Education Word of the Month: Excellence

This month, we are focusing on the word **Excellence** in our character education program. Excellence is about striving to be the best version of ourselves and giving our best effort in everything we do, whether it's in academics, relationships, or extracurricular activities. It's not about being perfect but about showing consistent effort and doing things to the best of our ability.

To support your child in achieving excellence, here are a few tips:

- **Encourage a Growth Mindset:** Remind your child that excellence comes through effort and perseverance. Mistakes are part of the learning process.
- **Set Goals Together:** Help your child set realistic goals for their academic and personal growth. Celebrate progress, not just the outcome.
- **Provide Support and Encouragement:** Be involved in your child's learning by checking in on homework, projects, and upcoming assessments. Show that you care about their efforts, not just the results.

With your support, we are confident our students will continue to strive for excellence in all that they do.

#### Teacher of the Month

Please join us in congratulating our **January 2025 Teacher of the Month**, Mrs. **Candice Schneegold**! Mrs. Schneegold is an exemplary educator who works tirelessly to foster a love of learning in her students. She holds high expectations for her class and ensures that every student is supported in reaching their full potential. Beyond her classroom, Mrs. Schneegold is a positive ambassador for CCMS, always promoting a warm and welcoming school culture.

Her enthusiasm, dependability, and willingness to go the extra mile make her an invaluable member of our team. Mrs. Schneegold's dedication to her students is truly inspiring, and we are proud to recognize her this month.

#### Congrats to Mrs. Schneegold, our January 2025 Teacher of the Month!

Thank you for your continued support in making CCMS a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. Let's continue working together to help our students achieve excellence in all they do.

Warm regards,

Chris Salinas Ed.D.

# Important Information

## Upcoming Dates

February 10-14	Spirit Week (page 3)
February 13	Club Pictures
February 17-21	Winter Break - NO SCHOOL



## CCSD Student Code of Conduct 2024-2025



**SCAN ME!**

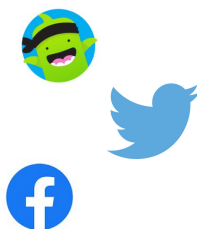


CHEEKTOWAGA  
**CHARGERS**

## School Contact Information

Main Office	716.686.3660
Student Services	716.686.3649
Principal: Dr. Salinas	716.686.3662
Asst. Principal: Dr. Daniels	716.686.3663

## Stay Updated!



## School Hours:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri	7:45am - 2:37pm
Wednesday	7:45am - 1:37pm

Follow us on Facebook  
and Twitter!

<https://www.facebook.com/CheektowagaMiddleSchool/>  
<https://twitter.com/cheektowagaMS>

# CCMS Spirit Week

## CCMS Spirit Week February 10th-14th



**Mon  
2/10**

**Healthy Heart Day-**  
Wear appropriate workout gear.

**Tue  
2/11**

**Peace and Love Day -**  
Wear Tie Dye, Peace Signs & Hearts!

**Wed  
2/12**

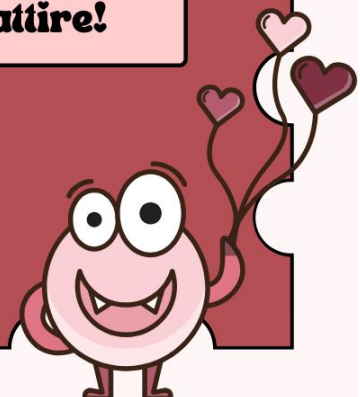
**Wear your Heart on your sleeve -**  
Deck yourself out in hearts!

**Thu  
2/13**

**Kindness Day -**  
Leave a kind note to a Student or Teacher - and wear a shirt with a kind message.

**Fri  
2/14**

**Valentine's Day -**  
Red vs. Pink -  
Wear Red or Pink attire!





## Valentine's Day Candy Grams Are Here!



Send a sweet message and a treat to someone special for just **\$2.00!**

Your personalized message, with a candy of your choice, will be delivered to homerooms by the PTA on **Friday, February 14th.**

### How to Participate:

#### 1. In-Person Orders:

- Valentine's Day forms are available in your homeroom, the main office, or with Mrs. Scholl.
- Complete the form, choose your candy, and attach your cash payment.
- Submit the completed form to your homeroom teacher or Mrs. Scholl by **Wednesday, February 12th, 2025.**

#### 2. Online Orders:

- Teachers, parents, and families can visit our **Givebacks store** at the link below to purchase Candy Grams online **Mon, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 -Wed, Feb 12th, 2025.**

<https://ccmswarriors.givebacks.com/store/items/1158522>



### Who Can You Send Candy Grams To?

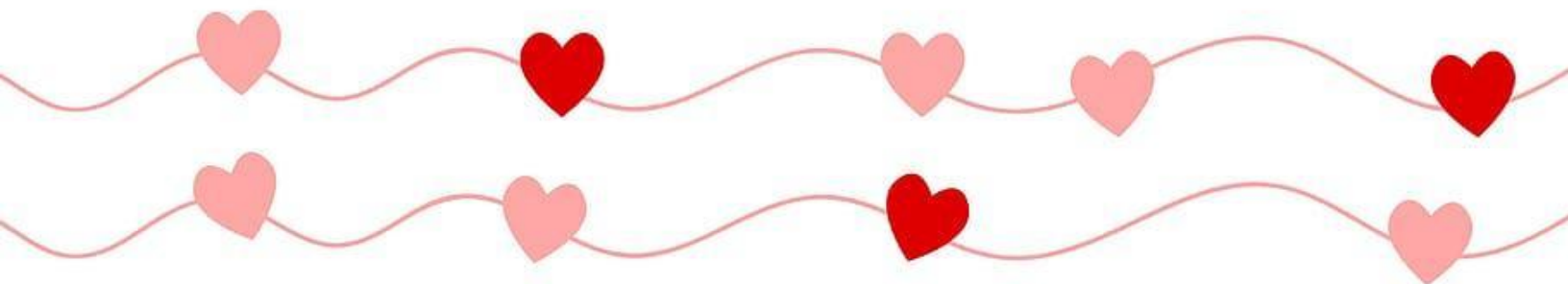
- **Students:** Surprise your friends, teachers, or anyone special at CCMS.

**Families:** Send a sweet gesture to your kids, their teachers, or even their friends.

### Stay Connected:

Keep up with the PTA on our Facebook page:

**Cheektowaga Middle School PTA 2024-2025.** For any questions, email us at [cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com)





# YEARBOOKS



## Order Your **YEARBOOK** **TODAY!**

[inter-state.com/order](https://inter-state.com/order)

Use Order Code: 91687T

**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
FOR EASY ORDERING!



**Online Orders Due By:**  
**Friday, March 14, 2025**

**\$30.00**

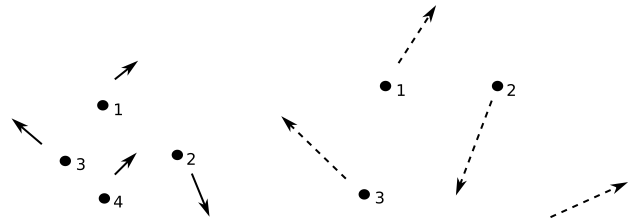
# 5TH GRADE

## Science:

Students are playing the role of food science engineers as they discover what happens to molecules of a solid when it is mixed with a liquid. By doing solubility and chromatography tests, students are seeing science phenomena first hand.



Solid



Liquid

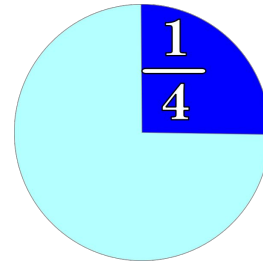
Gas

## Social Studies:

Students are learning about the Age of Discovery and how the quest for spices to preserve and flavor food influenced the exploration and colonization of the western hemisphere.

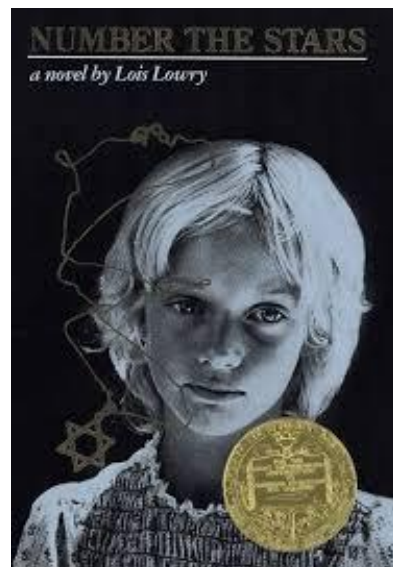
## Math:

Students have been dividing fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by fractions. It is imperative that all students know their multiplication and division facts. We will be moving on to multiplying and dividing whole numbers.



## ELA:

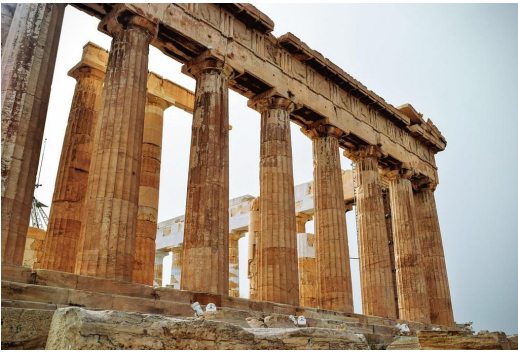
With the start of the second semester, half of the classes have begun the Read, Stop, Write program organized through the University of Buffalo, while the classes that have already completed this program are reading Number the Stars and learning about the Holocaust through the experiences of a young girl. This piece of historical fiction is based on actual events in Denmark during World War II.



# 6TH GRADE

## Social Studies:

This month, our social studies classes are diving into the fascinating world of Ancient Greece! Students will learn about the birthplace of democracy, the Olympic Games, and incredible myths and legends that have shaped history and culture. We are exploring the daily lives of ancient Greeks, their art and architecture, and how their ideas continue to influence our world today. Stay tuned for updates on our students' exciting journey into the past!



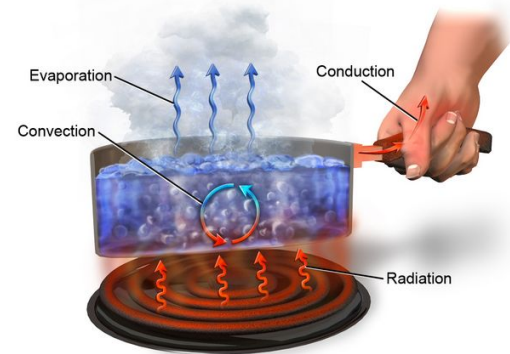
## ELA:

This month in ELA, we explored the powerful theme of equal rights through engaging texts and discussions. Students analyzed speeches, stories, and articles that highlight the fight for justice and equality, helping them connect historical movements to the world today. Alongside this, we introduced the Read, Stop, Write program, where students practice active reading skills and respond to thought-provoking prompts with creative writing. This program has been a great way for students to strengthen their critical thinking and writing abilities while reflecting on meaningful topics. Ask your child about their favorite text or writing piece from this inspiring unit!

## Science:

In science this month, we're learning all about heat transfer! Students are exploring how heat moves through conduction, convection, and radiation. We're conducting hands-on experiments to see these processes in action, like testing how different materials conduct heat and observing convection currents. We'll also discuss real-world examples, such as how the sun warms the Earth and how insulation keeps homes warm in winter. This engaging unit helps students understand the science behind everyday phenomena. Be sure to ask your child about what they've learned—there's a lot of cool (or warm!) discoveries to share!

### Mechanisms of Heat Transfer



## Math:

We're excited to begin our algebra unit in math class! Students will be introduced to foundational concepts such as variables, expressions, and equations. They'll learn how to solve for unknowns, identify patterns, and use algebraic thinking to tackle real-world problems. Through our lessons we aim to make algebra both interesting and accessible. This unit builds important skills that set the stage for future math success. Encourage your child to share what they're learning and practice problem-solving strategies at home.



# 7TH GRADE

## Social Studies:

Students will be ending Unit 3: American Revolution, but completing a Project, describing who was at fault for the American Revolution (The English or Colonists), and will defend their point of view through historical documents, pictures and paragraphs.

Students will then begin Unit 4: The Creation of the USA Government (the Articles of Confederation and the beginning of the United States Constitution).



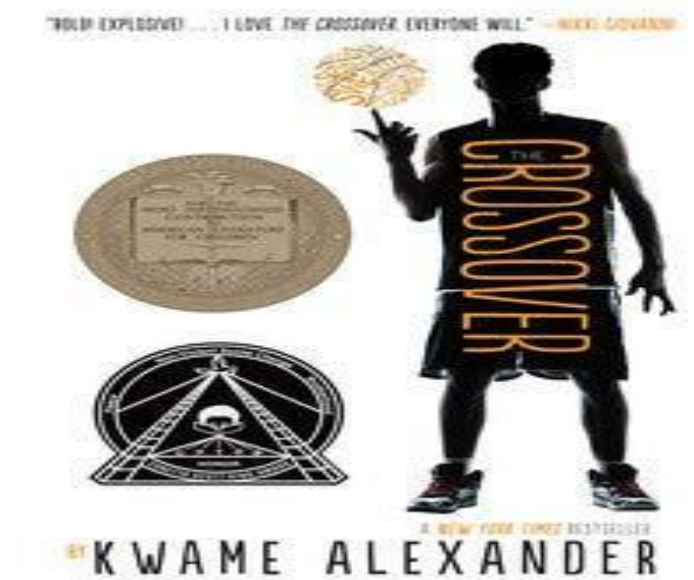
**Math 7 Honors:** Students are learning about how to solve equations.

**Math 7:** Students are learning about proportions and percentages.

A hand is writing multiplication and addition problems on a whiteboard. The problems are:  $3 \times 1 = 3$ ,  $3 \times 2 = 6$ ,  $3 \times 3 = 9$ ,  $3 \times 4 = 12$ ,  $3 \times 5 = 15$ ,  $3 \times 6 = 18$ ,  $3 \times 7 = 21$ ,  $3 \times 8 = 24$ ,  $3 \times 9 = 27$ ,  $3 \times 10 = 30$ ,  $3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12$ ,  $3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 15$ ,  $4^2 = 4 \times 4 = 16$ , and  $3^2 = 3 \times 3 = 9$ .

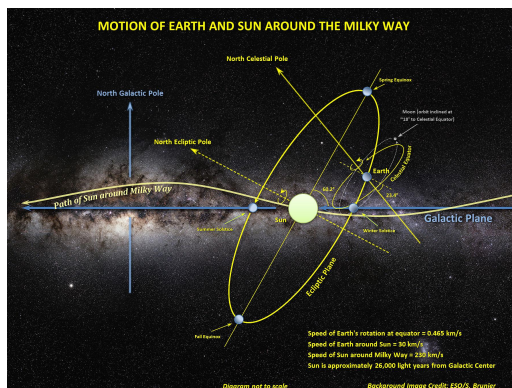
## English:

This month classes are beginning to read the novel *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander, a newly adapted Disney+ TV show, as we study elements of characters and characterization. Students will write their own poem analyzing the novel!



## Science:

Students are learning about the Earth, Moon and Sun Systems. Such as, The moon orbits the earth once per month, and the earth orbits the sun once per year. This happens because all bodies with mass in the universe attract each other. The earth's pull on the moon keeps the moon in orbit, and the sun's pull on the earth keeps the earth in orbit.





# 8TH GRADE

**Dear Families,**

We hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with joy. As we move forward into another exciting period of learning, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are creating a nurturing environment for our students to thrive.

**Important Announcements:**

- **English Language Arts (ELA):** Students will be working on the Read Stop Write program, exploring WWII novels, and preparing for the upcoming state exam.
- **Algebra:** We are finishing our unit on systems of equations and inequalities.
- **Math 8:** Students will complete their studies on solving linear equations before transitioning into graphing linear equations.
- **Social Studies 8:** We will delve into the Progressive Movement, examining its emergence due to the problems of the Industrial Revolution.
- **Science:** Our unit on Traits and Reproduction continues, where we will introduce Punnett squares and pedigree charts.
- **Living Environment:** We are excited to start a new unit on Evolution.

Please encourage your child to engage actively in these subjects, as their participation is key to their success!

**Celebrations:**

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the second marking period! This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, supported by you, their families. Thank you for your encouragement and commitment to their education.

**Additional Information:**

- Our High School Guidance Counselors have been working diligently with our 8th-grade students to plan for their transition to 9th grade.
- Please note that Mid-Winter Recess will take place from February 17th through February 21st. We hope this break provides a wonderful opportunity for rest and family time.

We are grateful for your continued partnership and support in fostering a positive learning environment for our children. Together, we can make a significant impact on their lives.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the collaborations and achievements yet to come. Thank you for being an integral part of our school community, and we look forward to what the future holds!

Warm regards,

**Team 8 A and B**

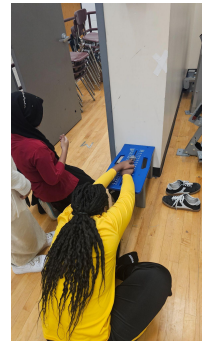
# SPECIALS UPDATES

8th grade students in Ms Hallmarks class wrapped up their 1 Point Perspective projects. They used their knowledge of 1 Point Perspective to draw 6 or more forms and then leaned into their creative brains to come up with a unique design for their final.



Students in Middle School P.E. are currently preparing for the second round of Fitness Testing, which marks the culmination of their efforts for the 2nd quarter. This assessment provides an opportunity for students to measure their progress in various fitness components, such as strength, endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness. Students are encouraged to reflect on their performance and set goals for future improvement.

As the 3rd quarter begins, students will transition into an exciting new unit combining floor hockey and fitness room activities. In the floor hockey portion, they will develop teamwork, hand-eye coordination, and strategic thinking while engaging in dynamic and fast-paced gameplay. In the fitness room, students will focus on building strength, improving endurance, and fostering an understanding of lifelong fitness practices. This blend of activities is designed to keep students active and engaged while promoting both skill development and physical well-being.



Modified wrestlers hosted their last home match on January 30th  
Congrats to all!



Modified Swim: Isabella Campbell dives in her first meet!



# NATIONAL JUNIOR HONORS SOCIETY



## National Junior Honor Society [N.J.H.S.]

The National Junior Honor Society (N.J.H.S.) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students. More than just an honor roll, N.J.H.S. serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1929. The purpose of N.J.H.S. is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage citizenship. The Cheektowaga Central Middle School Chapter of the N.J.H.S. is administered by Mrs. Lynnae Kwilas, the induction process is demanding and the selection process is extremely difficult.

### How do you become a member?

- ⌘ At Cheektowaga students are considered for membership when they are 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- ⌘ Students must have a semester cumulative grade point average of 93% (This includes 6<sup>th</sup> grade).
- ⌘ Students must demonstrate excellence in character, scholarship, leadership, service, and citizenship.

### What are the membership expectations?:

- ⌘ Maintain a minimum grade point average of 93%
- ⌘ Demonstrate character, leadership, citizenship, and service
- ⌘ Attend all meetings and participate in group service projects
- ⌘ Complete 3 hours of community service monthly

### What is the selection process?:

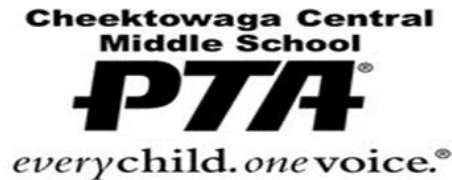
Step 1: If students qualify academically for the N.J.H.S., they are notified in February. To be considered for membership, students must fill out the information sheet, and write an essay.

Step 2: The teachers and staff at Cheektowaga provide feedback about students who are seeking membership. They are asked to comment on the students' strengths and weaknesses in the areas of character, leadership, service, and citizenship.

Step 3: A Faculty Council is assembled to review the information sheets, essays, and staff recommendations. When reviewing candidates, the Faculty Council will not have the names of the candidates while making the decision for membership. The actual selection of new members must be made by a **majority vote of the five appointed members of the Faculty Council**. With the vote on each candidate, those candidates receiving a **majority vote of the faculty council** should be invited for induction into the chapter.

Step 4: Formal notification of all selected and non-selected candidates and their parents will be done with a letter by the chapter advisor to inform them about selection and the timing of the induction ceremony.

**The N.J.H.S. The Selection Process as outlined above conforms to the national guidelines, is applied fairly and consistently to ALL candidates, and provides a meaningful recognition of deserving students. Please be on the lookout this February for more information.**



### VALENTINE CANDY GRAMS

Don't miss out on a chance to say "Happy Valentine's Day" to someone special for only **\$2.00!** A message from you, along with your choice of candy, will be delivered by the PTA on Wednesday, **February 14th** to your special valentine.

Teachers, parents, and families can visit our Givebacks store at the link below to purchase Candy Grams online **Mon, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 -Wed, Feb 12th, 2025.**



**<https://ccmswarriors.givebacks.com/store/items/1158522>**

### SPRING FUNDRAISER

The projected dates for our spring fundraiser will be February 24-March 10. We plan on delivery to be the week of April 7. Please note that these dates may change. Be on the lookout for an email or a message on Class DoJo with updates.

### DONATE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS

Support our PTA by dropping off your cans and bottles to  
***Any Fast Cash Redemption Locations – 3 local locations are***  
**2377 Harlem Road Cheektowaga** (Corner of Walden Ave).  
**1350 Harlem Avenue** (Corner of Parker)  
**10 Hyland Avenue Depew** (Corner of George Urban)

Make sure you ask for the funds to go to the **"Cheektowaga Middle School PTA"**.

We are always looking for new members! Please consider joining the PTA!

**<http://ccmswarriors.givebacks.com/store>**

Please contact Angela Scholl at  
**[cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com)**





# REMEDIAL SCHEDULE

## Grade 5: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Hoeltke/McKeever/Zilliox/MacVittie/Gandy

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Math/Science/ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Lewis/Wasner/Skierczynski/Richter

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** Math/Science
- **Teachers:** McKinney

## Grade 6: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** Math/ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Braddock/Kwilas/Petre/Panikowski

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Science/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Niederhauser/Granat/Christopher

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** Math
- **Teachers:** Lambert

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./Science
- **Teachers:** Zajdel/Carroll

**\*\*\*Teacher invite is required. After school buses leave at 3:35PM.\*\*\***

## Grade 7: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** Math/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Torrillo/McGill/Gozzo/Buscaglia

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** ELA
- **Teachers:** Lewandowski/Cadwallader

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** LOTE
- **Teachers:** Casper/Clare/Schneegold

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** Science
- **Teachers:** Al Qaysi/Hess

## Grade 8: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./ELA/Spanish
- **Teachers:** Shehadi/Maloney/Todaro

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Science/ELA/Math
- **Teachers:** Stonebraker/Orlowski/Baker/Burnett/Campbell

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./Science
- **Teachers:** Accurso/Huber/Silliman

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** Math
- **Teachers:** Garrison



# MS CLUB WEEKLY SCHEDULE



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><b>GSA</b> - Every other week (starting September 23rd) <a href="#">GSA Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net">hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Midway TV</b> - Every week <a href="mailto:abaker@ccsd-k12.net">abaker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>STEM</b> - Meets every other week (*only 3 Tuesday dates 10/15, 11/12 &amp; 1/21) <a href="#">STEM Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net">pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>International Club</b> - Meets 3 times each month on Mondays <a href="#">International Club Dates</a> <a href="mailto:wwasner@ccsd-k12.net">wwasner@ccsd-k12.net</a></p>	<p><b>Junior Unified</b> - Every other week (starting October 8th) <a href="#">Unified schedule</a> <a href="mailto:lkwilas@ccsd-k12.net">lkwilas@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>NJHS</b> - (starting September 24th) <a href="#">NJHS Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:kwilas@ccsd-k12.net">kwilas@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>STEM</b> - (*only 3 Tuesday dates 10/15, 11/12 &amp; 1/21) <a href="#">STEM Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net">pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Junior Challenge</b> - (every other week <i>mostly</i>) <a href="#">Junior Challenge Dates</a> <a href="mailto:jorlowski@ccsd-k12.net">jorlowski@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:kbarbati@ccsd-k12.net">kbarbati@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Student Council</b> - Third Tuesday of every month <a href="#">Student council</a> <a href="mailto:mgoc@ccsd-k12.net">mgoc@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:bpanikowski@ccsd-k12.net">bpanikowski@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:kmacvittie@ccsd-k12.net">kmacvittie@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Jazz Band</b> - Every week ***Until the musical is over it will be a 5th-8th grade group*** <a href="mailto:kdolan@ccsd-k12.net">kdolan@ccsd-k12.net</a></p>	<p>NO AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES</p>	<p><b>Literature Club</b> - Starting September 24th (Grades 5 &amp; 6 alternate with Grades 7 &amp; 8 each week) <a href="#">Lit club calendar</a> <a href="mailto:sscheffler@ccsd-k12.net">sscheffler@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net">hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Math Club</b> - Meets the first two weeks of each month (9/27 - the only friday date) <a href="#">Math Club Dates</a> <a href="mailto:jlewis@ccsd-k12.net">jlewis@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Student Ambassadors</b> - Meets the last Thursday of every month with exceptions to holidays <a href="#">Student Ambassadors</a> <a href="mailto:mzilliox@ccsd-k12.net">mzilliox@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:vhoeltke@ccsd-k12.net">vhoeltke@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Art Club</b> - Meets every other Thursday starting 10/3 <a href="#">Art club dates</a> (only Monday meeting is 11/25) <a href="mailto:jhallmark@ccsd-k12.net">jhallmark@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Science Club</b> - Meets every week on Thursdays <a href="#">Science Club Dates</a> <a href="mailto:wwasner@ccsd-k12.net">wwasner@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Chess Club</b> - Every Thursday</p>





# Important Information



## Grade Level Leaders

The following staff are delegated grade level leaders for each grade. To contact them, you can email them with their first initial, last name and @ccsd-k12.net (ex: [csalinas@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:csalinas@ccsd-k12.net))

<b>5th Grade</b> Mr. M. Skierczynski	<b>6th Grade</b> Ms. L. Braddock
<b>7th Grade</b> Mr. M. Buscaglia	<b>8th Grade</b> Mr. L. Silliman

## CCMS Student Handbook 2024-2025



Scan Me!

## School Counselors

Our school counselors and school social worker are:

- Mrs. Goc
- Mrs. Dudas
- Mrs. Schu
- Mrs. Kean (Social Worker)



Please note the assignments to learn of your son or daughter's school counselor:

5th Grade	
School Counselor:	Teacher:
<b>Mrs. Goc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wasner</li><li>• Richter</li><li>• MacVittie</li><li>• McKinney</li></ul>
<b>Mrs. Schu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skierczynski</li><li>• Zilliox</li></ul>
<b>Mrs. Dudas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gandy</li><li>• Lewis</li></ul>

Grades 6-8	
<b>Mrs. Goc</b>	6th Grade
<b>Mrs. Dudas</b>	7th Grade
<b>Mrs. Schu</b>	8th Grade