



Calhoun News



Calhoun Middle School 709 Congress St. Denton, TX 76201 Phone: 940-369-2400 Fax: 940-369-4939

March, 2016 Looking Ahead

- March 02 - Orchestra UIL**
- March 03 - Cheerleader and Mascot Tryouts** **3:45 - 5:30**
- March 04 - 6th & 7th Grade Course sheets due for next year.**
If you are taking an Enhanced class or a Pre-AP class, remember to also turn in the form signed by the parent and student.
- March 05 - PTA Color Run www.cmscolorrun.eventbrite.com** **9:00** **Southlakes Park**
- March 05 - GOAL COPA FAMILIA** **9:00 - 3:00** **Calhoun Practice Field**
A fun filled day of soccer and community bonding
- March 07 - Boys and Girls Track Meet** **4:00** **Ryan HS**
- March 09 - Classic Movie Club Meeting** **3:30**
- March 10 - 7th & 8th grade Varsity and Non Varsity Girls Choir UIL**
Make sure that your concert attire is prepared ahead of time.
- March 10 - Special Olympics Track Meet** **Keller ISD**
- March 10 - Team 6-1 Field Trip to Perot Museum** **8:00 - 5:00**
- March 11 - COUGAR DAY** **12:30 - 3:30**
- March 14-18 - SPRING BREAK**
- March 24 - Special Olympics Track Meet** **Guyer High School**
- March 24 - Boys and Girls District Track Meet** **4:00** **Little Elm Sports Complex**
- March 25 - No School/Bad Weather Day** **(check with school for information)**
- March 30 - Classic Movie Club Meeting** **3:30**

STAAR & MOCK STAAR TESTING

Tuesday March 29th	Wednesday March 30th	Thursday March 31st
6 th Grade MOCK Math	6 th Grade MOCK Reading	Regular Day
7 th Grade Writing STAAR	7 th Grade MOCK Reading	7 th Grade MOCK Math
8 th Grade Math STAAR	8 th Grade Reading STAAR	Regular Day

From the Nurse - Tips for a safe Spring Break

- *Use plenty of sunscreen – remember the sun is strongest between 10 and 4.
- *Stay hydrated.
- *Always have at least one other person with you during any water activities.
- *If you go on a road trip, switch drivers frequently to avoid fatigue.
- If your kids go out, know who they are with and how to get ahold of them.

***It is important that student be on time as testing begin at 8:20am.**

***Please do not schedule appointments for your child on testing days.**

***Please be sure your child has adequate sleep and a healthy breakfast in preparation for testing.**

***Our campus will be "closed" to lunch visitors and volunteers on testing days. Lunches will not be delivered to classrooms on testing day, so please do not drop off lunches.**



Cathoun IB News



SIXTH GRADE:

Students in Individuals and Societies are finishing a unit on Africa focusing on the European colonization of Africa, apartheid, multicultural societies, and the current struggle of many African countries to become strong, stable and independent nations. We will also begin a unit on Southern and Eastern Asia in March. Our focus will be on the characteristics of culture: values, traditions, art, architecture and religions in the East.

In March ELA will begin the month by wrapping up our IB unit on World Folktales. This will culminate in the students creating an original poem that features the theme from a folktale they have analyzed with a small group. Students will be able to select a style of poem to write. This is a great way to extend learning and show creativity. We will also start preparing for our practice STAAR scheduled for the end of the month by working on some testing strategies and revisiting some dictionary skills. Students will complete a variety of warm-ups that focus on grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, as well as writing a variety of journal entries. We also fit in as much time as possible for independent reading.

In math, we are currently working on updating our next IB project pertaining to Geometry. It is called Zoo Project, and in this students will work to create a map of a zoo from a set of parameters that is provided. We are updating the project which we have done for several years to meet the new 6th grade TEKS. We will assign this project at the end of Unit 5.

SEVENTH GRADE:

“Duck and Cover!” In Language and Literature MYP Year 2, we have just completed our Fear Factor unit. We traveled back to the 1950’s, reading articles about the Red Scare, the Cold War, and the Dawn of the Atomic Age. Next, we read and created our own poems related to fear. Finally, we read a teleplay from the 1950’s television show *The Twilight Zone* titled “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street.” Our summative assessment was an expository essay in which students addressed the question **How does fear affect our decision-making?**

Texas History is diving into the Age of Industry and Jim Crow laws. As we ramp up to the early Civil Rights movement this spring, our students will be analyzing political cartoons, photography and primary sources through the ages, weighing bias and learning about the value and limitations of media. Our students will be visited by the Denton County Office of History and Culture to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of industry on Denton County through the ages. We are working hard to connect the past with the present so that students can gain a deeper understanding of their ideology on the community they live in.

EIGHTH GRADE:

U.S. History is studying The Presidency of Andrew Jackson. Our IB Assignment is titled: Andrew Jackson- Hero or Villain? Students will illustrate and write an essay once they decided their stand on President Jackson using their background knowledge and understanding of the Jacksonian Era.

ELA just completed a novel study analysis of the novel *Anthem*. They will now switch their focus to STAAR Reading preparation.

Math is studying Unpacking Functions. They are taking a deeper look at assessments and “unpack” what it is that the student needs to know to be successful. During the learning process we will complete a “stoplight” evaluation. RED = Student does not understand, YELLOW= learning, GREEN= understanding is present. Afterwards, we will discuss successes, strengths, and weaknesses.

In Science, the students will be researching an area of the world with a plate boundary of their choice. They will write about the science behind the plate boundary and how the people of that area are affected by living on that plate boundary.



Cathoune IB News



DESIGN:

Students are creating Math Tutorials in Design class. They are taking a Math concept and developing a tutorial tool that can be used by other students. The teams get to choose their mediums for displaying the information. Some examples are videos, board/video games, and stop-motion videos

SPANISH:

6th Grade: **Family Tree** Students will create a Family tree, using family vocabulary, possessive adjectives, and adjectives of description to provide information about the personalities and physical attributes of various family members. Students may base their project on their own family or on a make believe family. Students will create a family tree and present it in Spanish and include descriptions of at least 3 members of the family. Our past students have really enjoyed this project and have done a very good job on both creating the tree and describing their family.

7th Grade: **Project Runway** Students will work in groups of 5 to “create” 5 outfits. They will then have a fashion show and take turns describing, in Spanish, the clothing each student is modeling. They must include the clothing vocabulary as well as adjectives of description and pricing. This can be done live or with pictures in a power point. Verbal descriptions must be done “live” at the time of the presentation.

8th Grade: **Home Give Away** Students will work in teams of 3-4 to decorate a home for a DIY game show. Using household item vocabulary and adjectives of description, they will create “design boards” showing the colors, furniture, and accessories needed to decorate the rooms of a house or apartment. They need to include the costs of each item.

FRENCH:

Valentines, tongue twisters, and adjectives. What do they all have in common? Well, in the French classes at CMS during the month of February, students created Valentine cards and tongue twisters (8th grade classes) with adjectives working on correct gender and number formation. The students sent Valentine cards to Mr. Martinez. In 8th grade, students wrote tongue twisters and designed Google slides to illustrate them.

Upcoming activities for the month of March:

8th grade - verb boot camp (tennis shoes not required)

Students will exercise their brains, as they review past verbs and learn new ones with some simple stretches thrown in for good measure.

6th and 7th grades - France discovery (passports not required)

Students will explore the geography of France through maps and our teachers’ personal experiences in France.