

Cavalier Chronicle

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THE PRINCIPAL'S POINT

As the final quarter of the school year approaches, I want to take this time to applaud our students and faculty at Siegel Middle for their continuous hard work and dedication to our academic and extra-curricular activities. Last month, we celebrated this success with an impressive Academic Celebration of Excellence. This event showcased Siegel's most exemplary students and promoted the importance of academics. Also, I want to thank our parents and the community for assisting our students and faculty with our recent magazine sale, which helped raise more than \$37,000 for our students' academic needs.

Even though we still have two months left of school, it's hard to believe just how quickly this year has passed. The remainder of the year will continue to be busy including one of the most important tasks of our school year- TNREADY testing. Assessment is part of public education, and we take great pride in our students' performances each year. I know this year will be no different. We will begin testing on April 17th and continue through April 25th. It is very important for students to be in attendance, well-rested and have eaten a good breakfast. Of course, that doesn't mean that when TNREADY is over, we will be finished learning! We will still have a number of academic standards to cover to adequately prepare our students for their next grade. As always, thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

- Principal Kim Stoecker

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 23	Parent-teacher conferences; 3:15-6:30 p.m.
March 27-31	No school—Spring break
April 12	Progress Reports
April 14	No school—Good Friday
May 9	Open House; 6-8 p.m.
May 11	Honor's Night; 6 p.m.
May 19	Siegel Sprint

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at Siegel Middle School is to establish a strong foundation for lifelong learning and provide challenging expectations in a safe and structured environment. By working cohesively with parents and the community, our goal is to empower students with the necessary skills to become self-directed, responsible citizens who will succeed in a diverse and ever-changing society.

COUNSELORS' CORNER (DANIEL GREGORY, A-K, AND APRIL MONGOLD, L-Z, AND CORI LUKASIK, TUES./THURS.)

With state testing just around the corner, we want both you and your student to feel prepared to tackle the tests! Here are some helpful hints to guide you through the testing process.

- Keep calm. Make sure the goal is student learning and not simply getting a score. Try to help your child see the test as another way to learn. Studies show that the more relaxed the student is, the better he or she will perform on a test.
- Maintain your child's usual bedtime and morning routines on test days. If your child usually goes to bed at 9 p.m. and eats Cheerios for breakfast, don't turn off the lights at 7:30 p.m. and cook bacon and eggs for breakfast the next morning. This will only heighten the anxiety.
- Give positive encouragement.
- Have your child come to school on time, prepared, and with an "I Can" attitude.
- Be sure that mornings start as calmly as possible and that your child eats breakfast. This should occur not only on testing days, but every day. The same goes for a good night's sleep. A healthy brain lives in a healthy body.

We hope these tips will help you and your student have the most positive and productive testing experience possible! Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

TECHNOLOGY

The Internet is a wonderful place for learning and entertainment, but like the world around us, it can pose dangers if precautions are not taken. Today, U.S. households are filled with more devices than ever before. If you are a parent or guardian of a student who uses a smartphone, tablet, or computer, it is very important that you have the most current information on how to keep your child safe when using their devices.

Mrs. Frantz, Siegel Middle's Technology Coach, will conduct a "Cyber Safety@Home" night for all parents and guardians who would like to learn more about keeping children safe on the Internet and devices. The event will be April 4th at 6:30 p.m. Visit the Siegel Middle website and reserve your spot now!

BAND NEWS

We would like to recognize four of our Siegel Middle Band students for their selection as members of the Rutherford County Honor Band. They gave an outstanding concert on February 24th at Oakland Middle School. Congratulations to Kara Lane on flute, Marilyn McCarthy on alto sax, Holland Imes on trumpet, and Emma Gilland on trombone. We would also like to congratulate Grayce Basham from sixth grade, seventh grader Mason Womack, and eighth grader Maggie Rothchild for being awarded the Murfreesboro Symphony Orchestra Music Excellence Award. These students received this award at the family day concert by the orchestra on March 4th.

Our Beginning Band Concert was held on Tuesday, March 7th at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium here at Siegel Middle School. The concert showcased our sixth grade Beginners and was also an awards night for our sixth graders.

The Jazz Cavies, Siegel Singers, and Select Singers are busy preparing for the Cabaret Show on March 21st. Tickets for the Cabaret Show will be available now from any choir or jazz band member. We would also like to invite everyone to the Spring Band Concert featuring the seventh and eighth grade bands, as well as the Jazz Cavies. The concert is May 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Siegel Middle Auditorium.

ACE

Siegel's Academic Celebration of Excellence, ACE, was once again one of Siegel's most anticipated events. This year's theme, "Empowering Excellence", required each mini-school to take on the persona of a different Academic Avenger. Each mini school then created a student-designed banner to display their respective superhero and super power to be carried proudly into the gymnasium on the afternoon of ACE.

Throughout the event, students participated in competitions such as completing a giant floor puzzle of science terms, a Scrabble-inspired game for ELA, and a 3D superhero math challenge. In the end, 8B earned the most points to come out on top, while 8C and 6A tied for second place.

MAGAZINE SALE FUNDRAISER

Siegel Middle School's annual magazine sale fundraiser was once again a success with more than \$37,000 earned overall. At pay-off day, students and faculty honored challenges, prizes were awarded at random to students in the crowd, and those students who qualified participated in a money scramble. The top seller was Destiny McWhirter in 7C with \$579, and Mrs. Barker's class in 7B was rewarded with a pizza party for selling the most out of any homeroom in the school.

BASKETBALL NEWS

The Siegel Cavaliers Boys Basketball team finished the 2016-2017 season with an overall record of 14-6. After earning a trip to the Middle Tennessee State Sectional Tournament, an accomplishment that has only been reached three other times in Siegel's history, the Cavaliers went to the championship game against Mt. Juliet Middle School. Even though their state title hopes fell just short, Jaylan Wetzel, Martise Jackson, and Cassius Thorpe represented Siegel as Sectional All-Tournament players.

The Lady Cavalier basketball team competed fiercely in state sectionals; unfortunately, the season ended against an impressive Blackman basketball team. Standouts include AnnaCaitie Markham, who joined the All-County Team, and Claire Czajkowski, who joined the All-Tournament Team.

ELA/ELAB NEWS

Sixth grade ELA classes began a study of a dystopian novel this nine weeks called *The One Safe Place* by Tania Unsworth. While reading it, students continued to master their ACE writing skills as they responded to analysis questions about characters, plot, and author's purpose. In addition to reading the novel, students read nonfiction pieces and learned strategies to help with identifying the central idea. The end of the third quarter found sixth grade ELAB students establishing the foundation for the multi-genre investigation of a topic. Starting in mid-February, students began a list of 15 possible people, places, and interests, which was gradually reduced to one topic. This topic will become the focus of three essays in the fourth quarter.

After our unit on author's purpose and argument, students in seventh grade ELA began working hard to understand the language of poetry through analysis of word meaning and figurative language. This is an essential skill since authors use figurative language across all text types. As we transitioned into the fourth quarter, we continued to develop our analysis skills and moved into comparing texts with similar themes and elements. In ELAB, seventh graders began the quarter working in small groups to practice unpacking essay prompts, authorizing reliable evidence from texts, and vocabulary. From there, students once again reviewed the six purposes of writing to prepare for the upcoming multi-genre investigation, which will span the final quarter of the school year.

Eighth grade ELA began the semester with the novel *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. Students engaged in pre-reading, vocabulary and comprehension, and extension activities. Throughout the novel, students focused on characterization, tone, mood, and conflict. After completing the novel, students wrote an expository essay to prepare for the TN Ready writing assessment, and then they read a few myths and folk tales to study theme and author's purpose. The quarter concluded with the students writing a compare and contrast essay on the theme present in the tales. In eighth grade ELAB, students researched the Holocaust and wrote narratives demonstrating the theme of overcoming indifference. Our writers then explored the pros and cons of driverless cars and self-driving technology, and they created multimedia presentations in order to present an argument for or against this new technology.

MATH NEWS

Sixth grade math students began the third quarter by learning about exponents. They then moved on to practicing the correct order of operations, which included exponents and parentheses. After that, students learned about variables and how to translate words into mathematical expressions and vice-versa. They also evaluated expressions by substituting a given value for a variable and then using the order of operations to find the value of the entire expression. Then, classes moved on to recognizing equivalent expressions and the properties that allowed them to be equivalent. Students proved whether expressions were equivalent or not by substituting the same value for the variable in each expression. They then finished the quarter by writing and solving one-step equations.

During the third quarter in seventh grade math, the students were challenged with real world geometry problems. They found the area of compound shapes, as well as how to calculate the surface area and volume of prisms. Students then learned that the relationship between two equivalent ratios is called a proportion, and how to solve for a missing part of a proportion. After this, students learned how to identify if a table or graph is proportional. Lastly, they learned how to use proportions when working with percentages.

Eighth grade math started 2017 off right with systems of equations in graphing and using substitution. Students recently completed a corporate logo project based on three types of transformations that include translation, reflection, and rotation. Next, they began working with the Pythagorean theorem. In order to help your students carry these math skills further, we encourage students to practice at home. There are a number of resources to help with this, including www.learnzillion.com and www.khanacademy.com.

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

This quarter in sixth grade social studies, students learned about the powerful leaders of Ancient China. They learned what leadership skills are more successful than others, and they even studied some of the most popular philosophies of that time. From there, students moved west to explore the influences of Greek culture, including its famous philosophers, the beginnings of democracy, and the makings of the largest empire of that time, the empire of Alexander the Great! At the end of the quarter, students participated in Myth Madness 2017, during which they debated the merits of Greek gods and goddesses.

The seventh grade social studies department wrapped up our third quarter by examining Japan and the Americas in the Middle Ages. Students also studied the expanding education and culture of the Renaissance, as well as the groundbreaking invention of the printing press. Afterwards, they investigated the Reformation and the formation of Protestant churches. During the final quarter, students will find out how all of this led to the Age of Exploration and discovery of the Americas, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment. This knowledge will help build a foundation for eighth grade U.S. history as they continue their study on the gradual formation of our great country.

Eighth grade U.S. history was busy learning about our nation's growth and expansion throughout the 19th century. Classes discussed settlers traveling west for religious freedom and their quest to achieve the American Dream. They also discussed how our war with Mexico allowed us to gain California and the Southwestern U.S. We will wrap up the year by examining the causes of the Civil War, as well as the war itself and its impact on our nation.

SCIENCE NEWS

In sixth grade science, students started the grading period as astronomers studying the many components of the solar system. Then, they zoomed in specifically to the Earth, moon, and sun, focusing on seasons, time, moon phases, eclipses, and tides. They then wrapped up the third nine weeks as ecologists studying producers, consumers, and decomposers. They also studied the difference between food chains and food webs. The fourth nine weeks will begin with a biome project.

Seventh graders began this semester learning about heredity. Students can now find the probability of an offspring inheriting certain traits by using a Punnett square. Using cones, flowers, and ferns, they were then able to classify each one based on criteria learned in class. In addition to classifying plants, students learned the many details of plant reproduction by analyzing the parts of a flower. They shifted gears and explored waves, simple machines, and Newton's laws of motion. Students had a great time demonstrating each law in action.

The periodic table has been the focus for quite some time in eighth grade science. Students are now able to explain how the table is arranged and predict which elements are mostly likely to form ionic, covalent, and metallic bonds. Be sure to check out their own element card projects in each mini-school hallway. Eighth grade students became chemists as the grading period progressed. They know all about classifying chemical reactions and balancing equations. In addition, students can also classify substances as acids and bases and explain the pH scale. Do you need to test the pH of your swimming pool? If you catch an eighth grader in the hall, be sure to ask them to show you how to use an indicator!

The Rutherford County Board of Education does not tolerate harassment on the basis of disability. Any student who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment on the basis of disability should report the harassment to Paula Barnes, 2240 Southpark Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37128, (615) 893-5812 or to a school administrator. The Rutherford County Board of Education will take immediate action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and address its effects. Students or employees who are found to have engaged in acts of harassment on the basis of disability will be promptly disciplined up to and including suspension and termination for employees. The Rutherford County Board of Education and Siegel Middle School encourage parents, students, and school staff to work together to prevent harassment on the basis of disability.