

Cavalier Chronicle

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THE PRINCIPAL'S POINT

The new school year is off to a remarkable start, and it's hard to believe the first quarter has already come to a close. In this short time, I have seen the high spirits and intelligence of our student body, hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff, as well as tremendous support from parents.

This year has seen several changes to build our school spirit and set the bar high for achievements in and out of the classroom. One such addition is the RT12B program, which is our new behavioral reinforcement initiative meant to reward students for various positive behaviors in all aspects of Siegel life. We have also set in place new safety precautions to ensure each student receives a continually safe and rich education.

I am truly proud of all of the efforts of everyone at Siegel, and I fully expect to end the semester as strong as it began.

- Principal Kim Stoecker

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 10	Cookie Dough Kick-Off
October 18	Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 24	Cookie Dough Turn-In Day
November 6	Election Day; no school
November 7	Progress Reports
November 15	AIT Day—Students dismiss at 11:15
November 21-23	Thanksgiving Holiday; no school

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

(KATELYN CONNER, A-G; APRIL MONGOLD, H-O; AND DANIEL GREGORY, P-Z)

The school year is off to a great start! We hope to continue seeing growth and progress in all of our students this year. One area that often leads to student success is organization. Here are a few tips that your student could use to stay organized:

- **Write down all assignments, tests, papers, and projects in his or her agenda.** Creating a plan for the day or week can help your student focus and make sure no deadlines are being missed.
- **Set achievable goals.** Help your student break down major projects and papers into smaller, more manageable parts. It is easier to write one paragraph after school each day rather than write the entire essay in one night.
- **Make time to clean and organize his or her locker, backpack, and work space.** For example, your student may clean his or her locker every Monday before school or backpack every Sunday before the school week starts. When backpacks, binders, and lockers are organized it is easier not to lose assignments! Also, having a clean work space helps eliminate distractions.
- **Make a To-Do List every day.** Put the most important tasks at the top of the list and then have him or her work down it. Your student will feel accomplished once the hardest project is done!

TECHNOLOGY

Middle school classrooms in Rutherford County in grades 6-8 were provided a learning device to use at school at a two-students-to-one-device ratio beginning in the 2018-19 school year. RCS strongly believes this initiative is a vital component to prepare students for their futures in both college and career readiness.

For students to access the devices, a "Student Mobile Device Responsible Use Agreement" must be signed by a parent or guardian. This form, along with the "Instructional Technology Responsible Mobile Device Use Policy and Technology Handbook," can be found on the front of the Siegel Middle website.

TENNIS

The Siegel tennis team had a great start to the 2018 season. The boy's team holds a total of three wins and no losses, while the girls ended up with two wins and one loss. Both teams have several new faces in addition to many returning players. We are looking forward to building on early successes to compete in the county-wide tournament in October.

BAND NEWS

The Siegel Middle School Band has had a successful start to the 2018-2019 school year. More than 200 members strong, the Siegel Middle Band welcomed the sixth grade beginning band members, as well as both new and returning seventh and eighth grade band musicians. Our football Pep Band featured approximately 80 of our seventh and eighth grade band members this year. Special thanks to all of these students and the band parents who have supported the Pep Band!

Congratulations to the members of band who were selected as "Band Student of the Week" during the first nine weeks. Eleven students were chosen from each grade level to receive this honor. We would also like to recognize the Tri-M Music Honor Society members who volunteered to organize band music, clean the band room, assist with the Sixth Grade Band Instrument Fitting day, and mentor fellow student musicians in the band and choir programs. We are proud of all of our eighth grade Tri-M Music Honor Society members: Grayce Basham, Lily Grace Lyons, Rebecca Deal, Madison Gilland, Adelia Latta, and Chelsea Rife.

RTI2B

In order to have a greater focus on rewarding positive behavior, Siegel Middle has chosen to adopt a behavior reinforcement program called RTI2B. All students earn points for demonstrating appropriate behaviors in all areas of the school building, including classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and the cafeteria.

With the push toward attendance, students will also receive a point for every day that they are present and on time. The points are given and tracked in a program called LiveSchool; students may log in at home to check their total points. With their earned points, students may visit the CAVSmart store on designated days to spend their points on items such as candy, school supplies, backpacks, free seating at lunch, and even wireless Bluetooth headphones. Items range in cost from one to 500 points, so students may choose to visit the school weekly or save up their points for as long as they'd like. It has been a treat to see our students so excited about the points they have been earning.

STEM

In sixth grade STEM, students learned how engineers use the design process to create brand new inventions. Next, students worked in small groups to build roller coasters to explain potential and kinetic energies. Meanwhile, students in seventh grade spent their time learning how diseases and disabilities affect the functions of body systems. Each student came up with different ways that allowed children to improve their fine motor skills. They then presented original research over a specific body system and sculptures for a visual demonstration. Finally, the eighth graders designed zoo enclosures for animals that are currently in the Nashville Zoo. Preparations for next semester's STEM Expo competition are also underway. Students will design a solution to fix a real world problem and will be prepared to present their ideas to the expo judges in the spring.

VOLLEYBALL

Siegel Middle's volleyball team has excelled this season. The varsity girls earned 23 wins and only one loss, but no losses within the county. Their strong season landed both the JV and varsity teams a spot in the county tournaments. On the JV team, Ava York, Maggie McNeal, and Elisa Fries were named All Tournament, with Fries earning the title of MVP. On the varsity team, Maci Smotherman, Ensley Baird, and Maggie Brewer were named All Tournament.

ELA/ELAB NEWS

In sixth grade ELA, students completed a study on theme and perspective in narrative as they read the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. They said goodbye to the "one word theme" and hello to "sentence theme." Students also practiced their inferencing skills and analyzed the author's purpose with team "purpose posters" on why R.J. Palacio included Summer's perspective in *Wonder*. In ELAB, students practiced the A.C.E.S. writing format to answer writing prompts. They also created "stealth savage sentences" and shared their work with peers to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their writing.

Seventh grade ELA students began the year learning to read closely by annotating the text. They also practiced writing and citing evidence in response to literature, skills which will be refined throughout the school year. Students read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and analyzed writing techniques such as flashback, allusions, and characterization. Students also read various non-fiction texts of the week to practice identifying central ideas, connections, context clues, and text-based questions. In ELAB, students covered the basics of narrative and essay writing. After creating a hand drawn "Story Map" at the beginning of the nine weeks, they crafted a personal memoir, incorporating various elements of narrative writing such as dialogue, figurative language, sensory imagery, and characterization. In conjunction with their reading of *The Outsiders*, students delved into a unit on the psychology of social groups, stereotypes, and friendships among adolescents. With this in mind, students practiced annotating multiple articles, followed by an assessment on identifying central ideas in the texts, details from the text to support this conclusion, and how to understand the meaning of words and phrases in context. Students used these sources to write an informational essay that develops these ideas in a highly organized manner, while mastering their use of sentence variety and grammar.

In eighth grade ELA, students worked diligently to finish the reading and study of the novel, *The Wednesday Wars*, by Gary D. Schmidt. During the reading, students were assessed on the standards taught and participated in several discussions and activities to aid in the success of the novel unit. Students analyzed various scenes from Shakespeare plays and critiqued their interpretations of the characters. The students used the three levels of thinking throughout the novel and practiced identifying theme, characterization, allusions, central idea, and tone. ELAB students learned to write according to the Express and Reflect purpose through a "So What" paper, which offered an insightful journey back to a moment from their lives that changed their worldviews forever. They also worked alongside ELA as they read *The Wednesday Wars* by learning more about the 1960s in the United States with a "Six Things You Should Know About the 1960s" informational assignment. Finally, students practiced their argumentative writing chops by creating and defending claims.

MATH NEWS

Sixth grade math began the year working with the number system. Students mastered the concepts of division of multi-digit numbers and fractions, as well as solving operations with decimals. They also worked with finding greatest common factors and least common multiples before moving on to working with positive and negative integers. In the next quarter, students will begin working with ratios.

Seventh grade math started 2018 by working with operations of integers, including how to manipulate integer chips to create rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive and negative numbers. At the end of the quarter, students combined their prior knowledge of decimals and fractions with integers. We encourage students to practice their math skills at home. Two online resources to help with mastering the content are www.learnzillion.com and www.khanacademy.com.

Eighth grade math started the year by exploring rational and irrational numbers. Using manipulatives, students built perfect squares and perfect cubes to gain an understanding of how those relate to both area and volume. From there, students progressed to solving equations involving square and cube roots, as well as approximating non-perfect squares and cubes. Next, students analyzed the properties of integer exponents and applied them to problem solving and operations with numbers expressed in scientific notation. The nine weeks was concluded with an introduction to functions.

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

During the first quarter, students in sixth grade social studies began the year by studying calendar dating and abbreviations such as B.C. and A.D. After this, they learned about the Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic Ages, otherwise collectively referred to as the Stone Age. Students then moved on to the subject of early man, hunter-gatherers, and how the earliest humans were nomadic. Then, they learned about the very beginnings of agriculture in the Fertile Crescent, followed by “Map Day” in which students studied Mesopotamia, or modern day Iraq.

Seventh grade social studies picked up where sixth grade left off with the fall of the Roman Empire. So far this quarter, students have reviewed the end of the Roman Empire as well as completed a project on their many legacies that still influence us today. They also learned about the Byzantine Empire and the Dark Ages of Western Europe.

In eighth grade social studies, students learned about the original 13 American colonies, including their economies, governments, and controversies that surrounded them. Students studied government with a “March Madness” twist, in which they filled out a “Seeds of Democracy” bracket, and then debated which of the original colonial documents has the most impact our democracy today. Next, students learned about economics through a classroom simulation, in which they competed through the classroom to claim as many colonies as possible only to have the teacher (a.k.a. "mother country") take their profits. Finally, students completed investigations into primary sources, followed by scavenger hunts, and much more to understand the differences in the regions and each colony's individual story.

SCIENCE NEWS

There are exciting things in store for sixth grade science with the implementation of new state science standards this year! Students are now becoming hands-on learners who attempt to think like real world scientists by *experiencing* science in the classroom. They are now using a three-dimensional approach, which addresses what students do, what they know, and how they think. At this point, students have learned the various ways that energy is transferred around us.

Seventh grade science is also off to a great start this school year! Students are excited to be implementing our new standards and using three-dimensional learning to enhance their learning. They are developing the skills needed to succeed in the fields of science and engineering. This nine weeks, students focused on learning how to develop scientific questions and even planned and carried out their investigations. They have also built a strong foundation in physical science by learning how atoms are structured, how to read a periodic table, as well as how matter changes state. Students wrapped up the first quarter by reviewing the types of cells so that they can learn about the organization of living things in the next quarter.

In the first quarter of eighth grade science, students have worked in groups to research and collaborate with classmates on various subjects. In a unit on natural selection, students learned all about Charles Darwin's trip to the Galapagos Islands and researched different ways that plants and animals use adaptations to survive. Students also researched how organisms pass down favorable traits to their offspring, while unfavorable traits are usually removed from the environment. They used various tools and cutlery to simulate bird beaks as they eat, counted beans as a way of showing inheritable traits in bunny rabbits, and even pretended to be imaginary birds called GeekFeazels to understand natural selection. At the end of the quarter, students began a unit on Earth science by looking at fossils and how geological processes of the Earth change the landscape.

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 Andrea Anthony, 2240 Southpark Dr., 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.