

Cavalier Chronicle

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THE PRINCIPAL'S POINT

As we approach the end of the school year, I want to take the time to reflect on the positive things our students and faculty have been doing. As a school, we have accomplished many CAV missions and worked towards academic growth. We began the school year strong, and I firmly believe we will finish it even stronger. We will continue to be challenged to accomplish our CAV Missions focusing on working diligently in the classroom, committing to extra-curricular activities, and improving relationships with each other. As always, I am so proud of our student body.

This semester includes some of the school year's most anticipated events: the Academic Celebration of Excellence (ACE) and Siegel Sprint. Students will also have the opportunity to demonstrate how much they have learned throughout the school year on the annual state assessment in April. I look forward to working with our faculty, staff, students, and parents of Siegel Middle to finish our best year yet. As always, I appreciate your generous support.

- Principal Kim Stoecker

DATES TO REMEMBER

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mar. 17th | Parent Teacher Conferences |
| Mar. 20th | Fine Arts Night |
| Mar. 30th– Apr. 3rd | Spring Break |
| Apr. 10th | No School – Good Friday |
| Apr. 13th– May 1st | TNReady Testing |
| May 25th - 26th | No School for students |
| May 27th | Last Day, 2 – hour day |

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)

It's been another great school quarter! As we round out the third quarter, there is one thing on everyone's mind- Testing. Many students and parents begin to feel the pressure and nerves going into TNReady. But we are here to help provide some testing tips to help your student feel confident to do his/her very best!

Tips for Parents/Guardians:

1. Stay calm and keep a positive attitude. Your attitude plays a major role in the attitude your student has toward testing.
2. Remember this is not a competition! Encourage your student to do his/her personal best and focus on the learning process. Focus on helping your student identify his/her strengths and opportunities for growth.
3. Create a calm environment where the student doesn't feel pressured or anxious. Keep your bedtime and morning routines the same so students don't feel increased anxiety.
4. Have your student arrive on time for school prepared. Encourage students to lay out their school supplies and clothes the night before to avoid forgetting anything important.

Tips for Students:

1. Start your day off right by getting a good night's sleep and eating a healthy breakfast. This will help you stay focused during your exam.
2. Come prepared with sharpened pencils, good erasers, and a positive attitude! Show up on time for school so you don't begin your day feeling rushed.
3. Listen to and read all directions carefully. If you are unsure about the section, go back and reread the instructions as needed.

FINE ARTS NIGHT

Join us for this year's first Fine Arts Night on March 20th 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Siegel Middle School. Music performances, art displays, theatrical performances, and even dancers will showcase their skills. It is going to be a night to remember!

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

The Lady Cavs worked hard and left everything on the court during each game or practice of the season. They went into the county tournament in 4th place with a winning record of 8-3. Their goal was to reach the county championship and move to the regional tournament. However, they fell just short and were eliminated by their rival, Rock Springs. They had many different qualities as a team overall including being the best defensive team in the county as well as having multiple outside shooters and a very powerful post downlow. It was sad to see them fall short, but we will come back stronger next year. The team is losing eight 8th graders, but they will represent well at the high school. We are very proud of our Lady Cavaliers and look forward to next season!

DRAMA

This spring, the drama club put on a production of *The Outsiders*! Kendan Hokanson played Ponyboy Curtis, Charlie Arkenberg graced the stage again as Johnny Cade, Riley Rodgers was the intense Dallas Winston, and Lily Arkenberg sported red hair as Cherry Valance. All students involved had a great time during the production.

The drama club will be hosting spring auditions for the upcoming fall musical after testing. Students should listen to announcements to know when information will go out. The directors are planning on taking a group of students from this fall musical to JTF, Junior Theatre Festival, that occurs yearly in Atlanta in January. More information to come!

GAMERS

Gamers Incorporated has been rolling into the new year-literally! After working out some scheduling challenges, we've introduced a fan favorite-Dungeons and Dragons! Since the DnD sessions are so long, we have special, extended meetings on designated Thursdays. If you are interested in attending, stop by and ask Mr. Hardin for details. (No experience necessary!) Our regular Wednesday meetings are still open as well, if you are interested in the other offerings we have!

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

Social media isn't simply a way of life for kids -- it's life itself.

To help kids keep their online interactions safe, productive, and positive, Common Sense Media offers the most up-to-date research and guidance on social media basics.

Learn about the latest apps and websites and get tips on talking to your kids about sharing, posting, and avoiding digital drama at their website, listed below.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>.

PAGEMASTER'S

Challenging themselves to an escape room in February and solving a CLUE mystery in January, Pagemaster's book club has enjoyed delving into different books and activities. Members are excited to attend The Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival at MTSU on March 13th, where they will get their books signed by authors, engage in writing workshops, and immerse themselves in a culture of writing and reading.

BAND

Congratulations to the following Siegel Middle School Band members who were selected for the prestigious Rutherford All-County 7th & 8th Grade Honor Band: Aidan Amphonephong, McKibben Barnett, Riya Hira, Haley Johnson, Jack Lane, Emma Major, Madde Stephenson, and Majka Tester. Musicians from middle and high schools across Rutherford County were selected for the All-County Honor Bands based on their Mid-State Honor Band auditions from November 2019. The All-County Honor Bands rehearsed and performed their concerts on Friday, February 21, 2020, at World Outreach Church.

Congratulations to our Fall 2019 Tri-M Music Honor Society Inductees: Diana Aguayo, Tobias Blair, Addyson Clayton, Joseph Clayton, Adison Creasy, Ella Good, Kaelyn Johnson, and Kalina Patterson. These band and choir students were selected through an application process that demonstrated their outstanding achievement towards meeting the five criteria for Tri-M Membership: musicianship, scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

ELA/ELAB NEWS

6th grade ELA students are busy this quarter reading *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. We LOVE this book! Students are really diving deep into the amazing characterization created by one of our favorite authors, Kate DiCamillo. We are getting to know the characteristics and motivations behind each character's actions. Students are also practicing their critical thinking and oral communication skills by participating in small group discussions, using details from the text to make inferences and find answers to complex, open-ended questions. In addition, students are working hard to analyze the impact of her word choice on the meaning and tone of the text. We will always remember the miraculous journey we've all experienced!

6th grade ELAB has been busy this nine weeks! Students just completed an informative essay about space debris and the problems it can cause. Next, we are investigating the topic of manners-do manners matter? We have been busily formulating claim statements and validating our claims with text based evidence. Interestingly, we have sketched out time to donate free rice to under served countries while expanding our vocabulary.

7th grade ELA is reading *The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. They have researched the setting and time period of The Holocaust and have read numerous informational texts that can be paired with the novel. As they read, they are focusing on standards that involve mood, tone, theme, evidence, plot interaction, and structure.

In **7th grade ELAB**, students spent the quarter focusing on narrative writing skills. They practiced description, setting, characterization, dialogue, and reflection. We tied in to 7th grade ELA's reading of *The Boy Who Dared* by pulling scenes for students to practice writing from different perspectives. We also took informational texts, pulled out key details, and wrote narratives from them. Needless to say, 7th grade ELAB students have had many stories to tell this quarter!

During the third quarter in **8th grade ELA**, students participated in a Holocaust Remembrance unit. Within this unit, students watched a documentary, read multiple informative texts, participated in a gallery walk about Hitler and his army, completed blended learning stations involving Anne Frank, and made some level 1 and level 2 observations and inferences about World War II and pictures from that era. Next, students read the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, which focuses on humanity and celebrating differences that make people unique. Throughout the unit, students focused on tone, inferences, point of view, characterization, and figurative language. As a culmination of all of their hard efforts, students created portfolios that showed their mastery of standards in preparation for upcoming state testing.

This quarter in **8th grade ELAB**, we finished our Bioethics findings and moved into a narrative cold write framed around the Holocaust Unit from ELA. Then, we took our narrative through the editing and revision process. After wrapping up our narratives, we moved into our Propaganda Unit. During this unit students used the elements they learned in class to craft a speech for class president. They presented their speeches to their classmates and voted. Finally, the propaganda unit wrapped up with a CFA and an informative writing task with paired texts that used propaganda elements.

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

What a great 3rd quarter in **6th grade social studies**! We've learned about the beginning of Judaism, the Exodus from Egypt, and the first three kings of ancient Israel. We also began our unit on ancient Greece. 6C had a three-day competition between Athens and Sparta, and the 6C Spartans declared Nike! We're excited about Myth Madness around the corner so we can determine which Greek or Roman god or goddess is the most powerful!

7th grade social studies wrapped up our third quarter by examining Japan and the Americas in the Middle Ages. We also studied the expanding education and culture of the Renaissance and the groundbreaking invention of the printing press. Along with these, we investigated the Reformation and the formation of Protestant churches. During our final quarter, we will find out how all of this led to the Age of Exploration and discovery of the Americas, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment.

8th grade social studies has been busy this nine weeks learning about Westward expansion and the idea of Manifest Destiny. Students have also been learning how Texas gained its independence and about how gold being discovered in California increased the desire for Americans to go west. We also discussed how slavery played a major role in westward expansion and how these events led to the Civil War. The students are beginning to see how it all fits together! We are looking forward to the next nine weeks.

MATH NEWS

6th grade math students started out the second semester learning about solving exponential expressions using order of operations. Then, we learned how to write and solve algebraic expressions. Next, we applied the commutative, associate, and distributive properties to determine which algebraic expressions are equivalent to each other. After studying algebraic expressions, we learned how to solve algebraic equations and inequalities. We discussed the difference between an equation having one solution and an inequality having infinite solutions. This was followed by writing equations with independent and dependent variables and how they relate to tables and graphs. We finished the third quarter studying geometry.

7th grade math jumped head first into the new semester with Algebra concepts. Students have gone from combining like terms to finding equivalent expressions to writing equations that relate to real-world contexts. Teachers received results from the district CFA and have been reteaching standards from areas of challenge during CAV time. Students are encouraged to continue working in iReady (the challenge is to master two lessons a week). An incentive will await students that work in iReady after state testing. After the Algebra unit, students will begin Geometry standards. We are less than four weeks from our state test, and math teachers are proud of the perseverance and growth mindsets of our students.

This 3rd nine weeks, **8th grade math** students have learned how to solve a system of equations. We have looked at two equations and determined both graphically and algebraically how many solutions the equations have. Students can identify by the variable term and y-intercept if two equations have one solution, no solution, or infinitely many solutions. Students can identify the legs and the hypotenuse of a right triangle as well as finding the missing side, both on a figure and in a real world scenario. We finished this nine weeks with transformations. We have graphed figures on a coordinate plane and translated (slide), rotated (turn), reflected (flipped), and dilated (enlarged) two dimensional figures. Students can look at two figures and determine the transformations that have taken place.

SCIENCE NEWS

For this nine weeks, **6th grade science** has spent our time immersed in the world of ecology!! We have explored biomes and gained appreciation for biodiversity in ecosystems, while understanding the threats that invasive species can pose. In our studies, we explored some higher-level concepts, such as carrying capacity and limiting factors that keep ecosystems in balance. We have also looked at organism adaptations and learned how animals communicate in many ways without ever saying a word. By gaining an understanding and appreciation for the world around us, we are better prepared to take care of it!

In the third quarter, **7th grade science** spent time talking about variation of traits and genetic probability. Students discovered how our traits are passed down from our parents. Students learned how to use a Punnett square to complete a mono-hybrid cross of two parent genotypes. They then used this information to predict the probability that a certain trait would show up in the offspring. They were able to apply this to their own traits that they show compared to their parents. Students became very curious as to how they showed certain traits, but their parents didn't - It's all because the parents passed down a recessive trait!

During the third quarter, **8th grade students** continued to learn about plate tectonic activity and the effects of plate movement on Earth's landscape. Students specifically studied earthquakes and volcanoes and determined the specific plate interactions that were responsible for eruptions and seismic activity. Students were then introduced to the Rock Cycle and how Earth continuously recycles sediment into rock, magma and back to sediment. Soon, students will learn about the fossil record and how scientists use the fossil record to study prehistoric life and how it relates to modern day flora and fauna. Finally, before we leave for Spring Break, students will take a trip on the HMS Beagle with Charles Darwin as we introduce the concept of Natural Selection.

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 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.