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**Contact Information**

- Ms. Anex [trecia\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:trecia_c@hotmail.com)
- Mrs. Baker [jbaker@csmh.org](mailto:jbaker@csmh.org)
- Mr. Cross [dcross@csmh.org](mailto:dcross@csmh.org)
- Ms. Earnshaw [earnshawmath@gmail.com](mailto:earnshawmath@gmail.com)
- Mrs. Funke [kfunke@csmh.org](mailto:kfunke@csmh.org)
- Mrs. Hagiperos [lhagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:lhagiperos@csmh.org)
- Mrs. Mosher [lori\\_mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori_mosher@gmail.com)
- Mr. Ramazzina [bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)
- Mrs. Sanders-Curry [lsanderscurry@csmh.org](mailto:lsanderscurry@csmh.org)  
or by phone at 408-463-7900
- Mr. Schnittman [polydiatonic@verizon.net](mailto:polydiatonic@verizon.net)
- Mrs. Sorenson [ksorenson@csmh.org](mailto:ksorenson@csmh.org)
- Mrs. Storie [astorie@csmh.org](mailto:astorie@csmh.org)
- Mrs. Valella [mvalella@csmh.org](mailto:mvalella@csmh.org)

**Important Dates**

7th Writing Test	Mar 2
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**General Middle School Information**

**Let's Gear Up for Washington DC 2011!**

Although our students have not yet attended the 2010 Science Camp or Washington DC trip, **NOW** is the time to start planning for next years DC trip. The biggest challenge before us is raising money and we have several fundraisers that we need to transfer from our 8th grade parents to current 7th grade parents. These fundraisers are the Spring Exhibition Dinner, the Jamba Juice Sale and Innsbrook Wrap and Gift Sale. If you are interested in leading or co-leading one of these sales, contact Mr. Cross ([dcross@csmh.org](mailto:dcross@csmh.org)) so we can get the ball rolling!

**Relay For Life**

CSMH middle school will have another team at this year's Relay For Life, Morgan Hill's great fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Relay For Life will be held May 15-May 16th at Community Park. It is a chance to come together and share with others in our community how cancer has made an impact in our life. We are looking for about a dozen students that will each raise at least \$100.00 and will join the team that will have walkers on the track for 24 hours. Blakeney Fairey and Claire Lewis will be heading up the CSMH team. If your child is interested or has any questions, please see Claire, Blakeney or Ms. Jordan in Room 17. There is a mandatory meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd at 12:25 in room 17. Bring your lunch!

**6th, 7th, and 8th Graders, you are invited to:**

**A Night at the Oscars:  
a Red Carpet Affair**



**Friday, March 5th  
6:00-9:00pm**

**Dress Semiformal or Movie Star**  
(Must be dress code appropriate)

**\$5 entrance fee**

**Ladies: Bring sweet treats to share  
Gentlemen: Bring savory treats to**

**Washington DC Trip Meeting**

All 8th graders and their parents need to attend our pre-trip meeting at 6:00 pm on March 8th. During this meeting, we will review the itinerary, talk about behavior expectations and consequences, and other important details. Please bring with you the Medical Release Form sent by Educational Tours in your latest statement.

**Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences**

March 5th marks the end of the 2nd Trimester and the end of the reporting period. This brings with it the PST Conferences, which are scheduled for the week of March 15th. This trimester, we are only meeting parents and students on Monday through Wednesday, in one hour shifts, starting at 1:00 and ending at 5:00. Please contact Mr. Cross as soon as possible to schedule your appointment.

**Parent-Student-Teacher Conference**

**FAQ's** (Repeat from November)

Q - When should I arrive for my students conference?

A - Please arrive a few minutes before the hour of the conference.

Q - Does my student need to attend this conference?

A - We believe that students need to be fully involved in their education and that conferences are designed to talk with students and parents about their education, rather than just talking about the student. Please plan on having your student at the conference.

Q - Where do I go when we arrive on campus?

A - Parents and students should stop in the office to pick up the report card, then go to the multi-purpose room to begin meeting with teachers.

Q - Can we finish the conference in less than an hour?

A - Generally, no. With the number of students and parents who need to be seen, and the length of individual meetings with teachers, we have found that most parents

**share**  
**Beverages will be provided for you**

**Look forward to dances, games, & other red carpet surprises and prizes!**

**To the parents of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders:**

Help! We need volunteers to chaperon:  
\*A Night At the Oscars\* on Friday, March 5th, 2010!

Please help the Student Leadership Board make this a fun and safe red carpet affair.

The night will include something for everyone: music, dancing, food, games, glamour shots, and socializing!

The event is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
There are three shifts:  
- The first shift goes from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (to help with set up).  
- The second shift goes from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
- The third shift is from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 (to help with clean up).

Email Ms. Cary @ [acary@csmh.org](mailto:acary@csmh.org) with your preferred chaperon time(s).

Thank you for your support!

This page last updated on 2/26/2010 at 5:00 pm.



and students spend 45 to 50 minutes completing the conference - sometimes longer.

Q - How do I schedule our appointment?  
A - Email Mr. Cross with your desired day and time, plus an alternative just in case that time slot is already full. Please be specific as this makes scheduling easier.

Q - What if I can't make my scheduled appointment?

A - Notify Mr. Cross as soon as possible to try to reschedule your appointment.

Q - What happens if I don't let Mr. Cross know my preferences for a conference time?

A - Mr. Cross will schedule an appointment for you sometime during the conference week. It may be difficult to switch to a different day or time after that.

Q - Can we meet on the half-hour rather than the hour (ie... at 3:30 to 4:30 rather than 3:00 to 4:00)?

A - No. The schedule is difficult enough to manage without trying to juggle in a variety of parent and student arrival and departure times.

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Ms. Earnshaw [earnshawmath@gmail.com](mailto:earnshawmath@gmail.com)

Mrs. Funke [kfunke@csmh.org](mailto:kfunke@csmh.org)

Mrs. Hagiperos

[lhagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:lhagiperos@csmh.org)

Mrs. Mosher

[lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)

Mr. Ramazzina

[bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)

Mrs. Sanders-Curry

[lsanderscurry@csmh.org](mailto:lsanderscurry@csmh.org)

or by phone at

408-463-7900

Mr. Schnittman

[polydiatonic@verizon.net](mailto:polydiatonic@verizon.net)

Mrs. Sorenson

[ksorenson@csmh.org](mailto:ksorenson@csmh.org)

Mrs. Storlie [astorlie@csmh.org](mailto:astorlie@csmh.org)

Mrs. Valella [mvalella@csmh.org](mailto:mvalella@csmh.org)

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**Middle School Science Update: February 26, 2010**

**UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS:**

**Seventh Grade Science Camp**

For 7th Grade Women:

**Final Payment Was Due February 10**

Presentation High School 7th Grade Day  
Wednesday, March 10, 1:00-3:30 PM.

Thank you to those who made this payment on or before the due date! Your "paid in full" has been posted.

Attend mini-classes, enjoy entertainment, delight in a "sweet treat social."

Many, many thanks to those who thoughtfully and generously provided donations for Science Camp scholarships! What a very wonderful idea!

**Find more information on the High School Information Page of this newsletter.**

Many thanks to Ms. Hendricksen, who organized and managed the See's Candy sale, and to the parents who joined in to facilitate this fund-raising activity. As you know, we started promoting Science Camp last year on 6th Grade Move Up Day so that students would have the summer to earn at least part of their tuition. Over the years, we have found that students who work for the privilege of participating in Science Camp have greater respect and enthusiasm for this opportunity. Thank you so much for supporting our students' participation in this program!

**Seventh Grade Science**  
*(The Second Trimester ends next week!)*

In recent weeks, students played several rounds of the Bird Beak Simulation Game and recorded data as populations of birds and prey rose and fell and adaptations appeared and disappeared. This led to a discussion of micro and macro adaptations and the theory of evolution.

If you have yet to make your final payment, your "balance due," which includes See's Candy and Innisbrook credits, is posted on SnapGrades beneath the "final payment" assignment.

This week, students are discussing change and adaptation in the natural world over time. They are also discovering adaptations that they will have to make prior to their departure for Science Camp.

If your family would like to apply for scholarship money for Science Camp, we have to be able to show need and that you made an effort to earn some of the cost of the program. Please come to the office to fill out the qualifying forms immediately.

In March, students will wear their hiking footwear each science class day - all day except for PE. Their footwear should be "waterproofed," a process that was fully discussed in class. On inclement science days, students should bring their rain gear, as soggy Creek Walks are imminent. Eventually, students will wear their rain gear

**Snapshot: Headlands Institute**  
*(Rodeo Beach & Headlands Institute, Marin Headlands, CA)*

and waterproofed hiking boots while carrying their waterproofed day pack and running through the sprinklers on the soccer field. (Encourage your students to wear their rain gear every day it rains. Make sure it works and is comfortable before they wear it for 7 hours of hiking and field science in the Headlands!)



In coming weeks, students will take a closer look at raptors, which will lead to the Owl Pellet Project, a comparative analysis of skeletons, and an investigation of body systems.

[http://www.birding.in/images/Birds/rajiv/barn\\_owl.jpg](http://www.birding.in/images/Birds/rajiv/barn_owl.jpg)



## Free Backpack Parking!

Remember that free parking for your backpack is

available every day in the Backpack Parking Anex, located under the tables in room 7.

If your backpack is parked in either your locker or room 7, it will not be outside a classroom (forbidden zone) and subject to seizure.

If your backpack is seized, it will no longer be taken to Lost & Found. As you may have heard, it will be taken to room 7, where Ms. Anex will require that you work off a "labor levy" to redeem it.

Reminder: If your backpack is found unattended and taken to room 7, you will eat lunch with Ms. Anex and do some recycling in order to get your backpack back.

There is such an easy way to avoid any of this backpack hassle! Just follow the rules that have been in place since August!

- a. Come in at 7:45 (the official Middle School arrival time).
- b. Unload your backpack and put it in either your locker or room 7.



## NEW: Headlands Supply List & Questions Answered Download this attachment (below).



Here is a photo of a Headlands Institute bunkhouse. We will sleep in an army barracks just like this one, found under a

red roof to the left of the lagoon in the aerial view posted above.

The sounds of the waves breaking on Rodeo Beach and the conifers combing the wind may lull you to sleep, but you will wake to smell the salty ocean air and your tasty breakfast cooking in the mess hall!

The attachment "Headlands 2009-10", posted below, includes full details of our Science Camp adventure and photos of former CSMH students participating in this program.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

Patricia Anex at <[trecia\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:trecia_c@hotmail.com)>

## Eighth Grade Science

(The Second Trimester ends next week!)

In recent weeks, students have been working on the Element Project. Most students were asked to make a better effort to search out, summarize, and communicate interesting information about the "mining," refining, and uses of their assigned element. The last week before the vacation, after each student had made an Element Cube (the written presentation of the research), we began the oral presentations.

The date of each student's element presentation is posted on SnapGrades. As

- c. Carry with you only those things you need for the classes you have between each break. (Visit your locker to change out those things - swap them for new things - at break and lunch.)
- d. Come back at the end of the day to pick up and pack your backpack for the trip home.

This is such a cool system for avoiding back pain and achieving organizational nirvana! Many of your peers already use this system to their great advantage! Join them! Be the master of your stuff! Keep your possessions in your locker or the Backpack Parking Anex, safe from marauding students who would otherwise kick them into the rain, walk on them, or graze through them on their way to the bathroom!

Remember: Free all day to the first 112 students who come in: Backpack Parking in Room 7! Be there in the morning (alternative: park it in your locker) or be there at lunch (recycling to get your backpack back)!



## HelpMeStudy Websites

HelpMeStudy websites are posted on SnapGrades for both 7th and 8th grade science. Use of these websites is not required. They are primarily for students who need to readdress concepts they did not learn, reinforce their understanding, or test their comprehension. No student is expected to use all of the websites. Students are encouraged to read the brief description posted next to each URL and use only those sites that meet their needs.

## EXTRA CREDIT IN SCIENCE

The Steps to Extra Credit

1. Create a poster. NEW: Your poster should be made on a file folder. Open it out to

discussed in class, the most significant requirements for the speech are:

- 1) Do not say anything you do not understand. If you cannot explain it in your own words, do not say it in your speech.
- 2) Do not read your presentation. Speak with ownership of the knowledge.
- 3) Broadly cover the "technical data" from your research handout. What characteristics of a metal, nonmetal, metalloid does your element manifest? What family is it in? Does it manifest the characteristics of that family? Use the data (temperatures, density, etc) and properties information to show that your element belongs in the type, family, and period in which it is located.
- 4) Specifically cover the "mining & refining" and "use" information for your element. Where is it found? How do we "harvest" it? How do we use it? Does it impact our environment?
- 5) Share neat factoids. Is your element amazingly malleable? Highly explosive? Share the cool information, including specific & interesting details.
- 5) Your presentation should have a clear introduction, middle, and conclusion.
- 6) Your classmates will be taking notes and summarizing your presentation. If you catch and hold their interest, and they learn/record something valid, your score will go up.

This week students will conclude their speeches and begin a short overview of radioactivity. This unit will help students to understand a timely topic of interest to users of electricity, terrorists and those who fear them, humans (who are each hit by about half a million cosmic rays every hour), and everyone in between! Learning about radioactivity should also help students to organize, supplement, and implement their knowledge of atomic structure and isotopes, for example.

Students will be building (and eating) marshmallow models of decaying nuclei. (Thank you, Ms. Davis, for the amazing colored marshmallows!) They will study the half-life of the imaginary element Candium (eating the decay products) and learn something about radiocarbon dating in the process.

HelpMeStudy websites have been posted in support of this topic, and many useful reference handouts will be provided. **Students are advised to "bookmark" the websites and save the handouts. Remember, all chemistry information is fair game on all tests and the cumulative final that**

accommodate your products for display on the wall. Mount them so the folder can be refolded. On this poster, mount the following:

2. A photograph of YOU in which you are DOING something interesting at the event.
3. An artifact of your participation, such as a craft you create there, a rubbing of something with an explanation of it, an autograph with an explanation, or an artifact of something else you DO that creates a memory.
4. A one-page summary of your experience. Include an explanation of what you DO and what you enjoy about the overall experience.
5. Tell us about your experience – using your poster – in an informal “Show and Tell” presentation.
6. The credit you earn will depend upon how well you follow these instructions, and how thoughtfully and carefully you create your photograph, artifact, informal presentation to the class, and essay.
7. (You may suggest an alternative to any of the above steps, but it must be approved BEFORE you do it if you wish to receive credit.)
8. PRODUCTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN ONE SCHOOL WEEK AFTER THE EVENT.

concludes this course.



*Middle School Science meets 2-3 times each week, for 100 minutes per class, and alternates with Language Arts. These are the only two Middle School classes sharing time in a block schedule.*

*Science is taught to the California State Standards. Here is where you can find a list and explanation of the concepts we cover:*

*<http://www.cde.ca.gov/BE/ST/SS/documents/sciencstnd.pdf>*

*Select the grade level in the sidebar on the left side of the screen.*

*Thank you for supporting the CSMH Middle School Science program and your student's effort to learn science. -P. Anex*

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  - Mrs. Hagiperos [hagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:hagiperos@csmh.org)
  - Mrs. Mosher [lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)
  - Mr. Ramazzina [bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)
  - Mrs. Sanders-Curry [lsanderscurry@csmh.org](mailto:lsanderscurry@csmh.org)
  - or by phone at 408-463-7900
  - Mr. Schnittman [polydiatonic@verizon.net](mailto:polydiatonic@verizon.net)
  - Mrs. Sorenson [ksorenson@csmh.org](mailto:ksorenson@csmh.org)
  - Mrs. Storlie [astorlie@csmh.org](mailto:astorlie@csmh.org)
  - Mrs. Valella [mvalella@csmh.org](mailto:mvalella@csmh.org)

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## Mathematics

### ALL EARNSHAW'S CLASSES:

**Pre-Algebra:** We are continuing to explore linear functions. Students did very well on the mid Chapter 7 quiz. We averaged 80%! Four students earned 100%: Congratulations to **Ben Gardner, Rachel Corvese, Maddy Boettcher, and Kiely Higgins!** The Chapter 7 test will be coming up soon. I will also be giving a cumulative test soon as a take home test to refresh our memories of all that we have learned so far this year!  
Please keep your binders stocked with Graph Paper. I have been supplying it this week, but cannot continue for much longer. Please use this weekend to make a trip to Staples. It is cheap there!

**2nd period Math/Pre-Algebra:** Continue Chapter 7, continue to review basic skills including percents, multiplication, and division.

- Algebra:**  
Congrats to the following 11 students who got an A on their Chapter 7 test! Awesome job!
- Adnan**
  - Christian**
  - Donovan**
  - Geoffrey**
  - Jack**
  - Jennifer**
  - Kevin**
  - Nick**
  - Shea**
  - Taya**
  - Taylor**

Thanks and as always, keep in touch!  
Ms. Earnshaw

### Advanced Algebra Happy New Year!

Advanced Algebra students never cease to amaze me! As hard as it is to get back into the swing of things, Advanced Algebra has been able to conquer a few more solving techniques for quadratic equations. They have been working on completing the square and the famous quadratic formula. Be sure to quiz them on this very important formula! They might even be able to sing it to you as I so skillfully demonstrated in class.

Another reminder: my assignments are posted on **eBoard.com**. This site is updated daily by our own Joshua Toch.

We will be finishing up Chapter 9 next week then taking some time to evaluate our progress. It is my goal that third trimester will be dedicated to learning topics in Geometry.

After a nice long break from school, I feel rejuvenated and refreshed. I am excited to teach this group of students as they are engaged and excited about math. It is a pleasure to come to Charter every day!

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at [mvalella@csmh.org](mailto:mvalella@csmh.org).



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Mrs. Hagiperos

[hagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:hagiperos@csmh.org)

Mrs. Mosher

[lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)

Mr. Ramazzina

[bramazina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazina@csmh.org)

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Mr. Schnittman

[polydiatonic@verizon.net](mailto:polydiatonic@verizon.net)

Mrs. Sorenson

[ksorenson@csmh.org](mailto:ksorenson@csmh.org)

Mrs. Storlie [astorlie@csmh.org](mailto:astorlie@csmh.org)

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## History

### Medieval History

Students continue to work on their Crusade Project. In general, students seem to be enjoying learning to use Google Earth, which does require patience and the use of some html. I have extended the due date until the end of class on Tuesday, March 2nd.

However, students should spend an hour or two working on it this weekend. See the full project description at: [csmhhistory.pbworks.com/Crusades-Project](http://csmhhistory.pbworks.com/Crusades-Project).



The Crusades were a clash between East and West during the Middle Ages.

### Homework Alert!

The following homework has been assigned:

- Crusades Project is due on 3/2

### Important Note

I have had a number of students arrive at class unprepared or late - usually they don't have their text book, Interactive Notebook or pencils and pens. As a result, I will be conducting "spot checks" for these items that will be entered into Snapgrades. Please encourage your student to arrive at class prepared to learn.

This page was last updated on 2/26/10 at 5:30 pm.



### United States History

Our National Convention was a lot of fun. I did record the students singing performance and the speeches. I will be posting this online soon, but need to find a way to minimize the file size. Hopefully in the next newsletter you'll be able to take a look at the kids great work.

We are now moving in to a section on the foreign policy of the young Republic. We will look a few of the challenges that faced Presidents Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, think about possible solutions, and then find out how the President handled the problem. The specific challenges were the Quasi War with France and the associated XYZ Affair; dealing with the Barbary Pirates, the War of 1812 and the new democracies of Latin America. The students will also be performing some mini-drama's associated with these events. They have been given a script and roles. Please ask your student what their roles are and what type of costume parts or props they need to act out this role in a good manner.

### Homework Alert!

The following homework will be assigned for next week:

- Processing Ch 12, probably due around the 9th of March.
- Test on Chapter 11 & 12, probably around the 10th or 11th of March.

### Important Links

I have several web pages that parents and students will find helpful:

- [www.snapgrades.net](http://www.snapgrades.net) - I post all grades and assignments on snapgrades. I recommend you check regularly for assignments and for missing or poorly done assignments.
- [csmhhistory.pbworks.com](http://csmhhistory.pbworks.com) - Home page for the various history projects we will be conducting on line this year.
- [www.digitaldave.us/CSMH/](http://www.digitaldave.us/CSMH/) - I try to put an electronic copy of all handouts for my classes on these pages. There are separate pages for 7th grade history, 8th grade history, technology and the newsletter. Although the newsletter will be on the web, I plan on creating a pdf copy each week to be archived here.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.digitaldave.us">www.digitaldave.us</a> - I have samples of student work on these pages and photos of our Washington DC Trips.</li></ul>
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**Contact Information**

- Ms. Anex [recia\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:recia_c@hotmail.com)
- Mrs. Baker [jbaker@csmh.org](mailto:jbaker@csmh.org)
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- Mrs. Hagiperos [hagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:hagiperos@csmh.org)
- Mrs. Mosher [lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)
- Mr. Ramazzina [bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)
- Mrs. Sanders-Curry [lsanderscurry@csmh.org](mailto:lsanderscurry@csmh.org)
- or by phone at 408-463-7900
- Mr. Schnittman [polydiatonic@verizon.net](mailto:polydiatonic@verizon.net)
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**Important Dates**

7th Writing Test	Mar 2
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## Language Arts

### Eighth Grade

*"A word after a word after a word is power."*  
Margaret Atwood

#### Iambic pentameter--what?

This week, students got their first taste of meter. We read and tried blank verse and sonnets. We played with the meter of their names and other familiar words. This is a really strange concept for many of them. Some took to it the challenge right away, while others filed the information away for later use. Either way, they will all be a bit more appreciative when they read formal verse because they will understand how complex and challenging it can be.



This week we read Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, William Carlos Williams, and Etheridge Knight. Students have been finding favorites and arguing whether something is or is not iambic pentameter. It's been fun to watch.



We are two-thirds of the way through with the cafe, which means students should be approximately two-thirds of the way through their project. They should have 6-7 poems complete (or the

### Seventh Grade

#### Homework

Because we will be reading in class, students get a break from logs for the next few weeks. The homework assignments will be posted on snapgrades and I will have students write assignments in their planner.



So far, they have been writing journal entries because the main character in Drums, Girls, And Dangerous Pie must write in a journal for his English class. Three journal entries are due on Tuesday. No late work on these journals will be accepted (except in the case of excused absence, of course).

#### Test

The California State writing test will be administered on Tuesday, March 2, during the regular Language Arts period.

#### Classwork

Seventh graders are writing their last workshop piece for the year. They have all found topics and are somewhere in the drafting process.



We are reading a few chapters of Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie each period. So far, students seem to

equivalent) and four logs done by this weekend. The project is due Monday, February 8.



be enjoying the lively, somewhat snarky humor of this touching novel.

**Goals**

Goals will be due March 2. Students should be working on them. Evidence must come to class that day in order to receive full credit.

**Goals**

Goals are due March 1. Students should be working on them. They should bring their evidence to class with them that day for full credit.

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  - Mrs. Mosher [lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)
  - Mr. Ramazzina [bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)
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## Spanish

This page was last updated Friday, Feb. 26 at 2:15PM.

### New Procedure

I have implemented two new rules for my classroom this week. They are as follows:

1) Any student who does not bring his or her notebook ("cuaderno") to class will receive an extra homework assignment to be completed and returned the very next school day.

2) Any student who brings their backpack into the classroom will be charged \$1 (which will go directly to a special fund for classroom treats). About 10 students or so decided to bring their backpacks to class this week and still owe me \$1.

### General Announcements

I've stated it before, but just as a reminder... a great online resource, including quick dictionary look-up and verb conjugation checker is found at [wordreference.com](http://wordreference.com). Save it to your favorites on your home computer for super-quick reference!

Skits have been graded and entered into Snapgrades. We have begun our "My Family History" unit. Thus far we have looked into professions, the grammatical gender differences and written about the professions of family members.

### Quizzes

A quiz on the professions was given today (2/26). It is being entered today, as well. There will be no further re-takes for second trimester after Friday, Mar. 5.

### Homework

One homework assignment was assigned this week. It is due on Monday. Students should refer to their planners and notebooks for the assignment.

### Procedures Reminder

Homework Procedures-  
Please refer back to the rather lengthy and detailed packet for future reference. This document is also available on Snapgrades.

### Past Notes of Importance

#### A New System

A new system has been implemented regarding absences and general misplacing of things passed out during class. A special binder, placed near the front door in my room, contains all worksheets, homework assignments, and anything else I've passed out throughout the trimester.

#### No-Name Assignments

I've grown steadily weary of no-name papers. After Winter Break, I will begin immediately throwing such papers away. Teachers have now been expecting you to be responsible enough to put your name on assignments for seven to eight years. I want no more part in aiding and abetting this type of lazy behavior. Be ye warned.

#### 'Fundamentos' Quizzes

A new set of quizzes was implemented this week (called "Fundamentos") that will continue throughout the rest of the year. Because there are a variety of learning levels in 7th and 8th grade, it is important to verify that each and every student accrues foundational knowledge of the Spanish language. This type of quiz will occur every other week on Wednesdays, unless otherwise notified. Also, each student will be given a handout from which to study each topic. This Wednesday's quiz covered numbers. If you have any questions on this new addition, please email me!

#### Helpful Hints

Some basic reminders and suggestions for my class, as we continue through the second trimester-

- 1) study vocabulary and worksheets 5-10 mins. per night
- 2) come to class prepared, with all needed supplies
- 3) do your best on and promptly turn in your homework assignments
- 4) do well on quizzes and tests
- 5) re-take flunked tests and quizzes (always on Fridays, unless notified otherwise)

#### Extra Help

Quiz & Test Re-take Procedures-

If a student scores lower than a C- (a D or an F), he or she may take a re-take the following Friday after the original quiz or test. However, students may only score a maximum of 80% (B-) on the quiz or test re-take, regardless of their second score. The idea is to encourage each student to do his or her best on the original assessment. The first quiz re-take is this Friday right after lunch (during recess). Re-take are held on Fridays, immediately after lunch, unless otherwise notified.

Con gratitud,  
Sr. Ramazzina

Whenever you feel you need help in Spanish, please come see me. Don't let it build up until it becomes absolutely overwhelming or until the end of the next trimester, when all of a sudden the world is going to end if you don't immediately raise your grade. Remember that if you are feeling this way, it is your responsibility to come ask me.

**Parent Volunteers**

Parents: if you would still like to volunteer time either inside or outside my classroom, please email me. You needn't be fluent or even that good at speaking Spanish to volunteer.

**Online Translators**

Online translators are banned from use. This is for at least two primary reasons:

- 1) they are not accurate
- 2) they do not help you learn Spanish

Please refrain from using them. And if you need more incentive for keeping your distance, know that I can tell when you use them.

**Additional Resources**

Booksmart has the dictionaries I mentioned several weeks ago. If/when more dictionaries are needed, Booksmart will re-order. Again, this is not required, but **I highly recommend it**. The price is right at \$4. Even if you already have a dictionary, I highly recommend getting this one as well to keep in your binders (it's hole punched and has a nice reference guide in the back).

Also available at Booksmart are four laminated and hole-punched reference guides. There is one for Conversation, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Verbs. The Conversation and Grammar editions are being sold for \$4.95 each. Vocabulary and Verbs are \$5.95 each. Again, if/when more reference guides are needed, Booksmart will re-order.

**000001**

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**Contact Information**

Ms. Anex [treacia\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:treacia_c@hotmail.com)

Mrs. Baker [jbaker@csmh.org](mailto:jbaker@csmh.org)

Mr. Cross [dcross@csmh.org](mailto:dcross@csmh.org)

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[hagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:hagiperos@csmh.org)

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[lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)

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[bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)

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[polydiatonic@verizon.net](mailto:polydiatonic@verizon.net)

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## Electives

### Technology (Cross, 2/26)

Students are now blazing away at learning to create a web page. We are using Adobe Dreamweaver as the tool to create our web page, but students will also be learning a small amount of html - probably just enough to be dangerous!. We are learning some basics of web design and layout. We will also be using Adobe Fireworks to create a nice rollover photo page. I expect that we will work on this until the Washington DC and Science Camp trips.

### Life Skills (Anex, 02/26)

*In this section of Life Skills, students help to direct the course of the class based on their own needs and interests as maturing adolescents. Topics they definitely cover include social and academic survival skills; drug, alcohol, and gang avoidance; and puberty and healthy relationships.*

Students in this section of Life Skills are currently discussing principles and the concept of a "principle centered" life. They are planning recycling presentations and activities for a "community service" project designed to increase recycling on campus. They are also looking at possible activities they can undertake in fulfillment of their Hero Project obligations. Last semester, students in this project had great experiences, learned new skills, provided valuable public service, and did a lot to advance the positive reputation of young people in our community. I look forward to the Hero Project accomplishments of students this term.



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**Contact Information**

Ms. Anex [tracia\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:tracia_c@hotmail.com)

Mrs. Baker [jbaker@csmh.org](mailto:jbaker@csmh.org)

Mr. Cross [dcross@csmh.org](mailto:dcross@csmh.org)

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Mrs. Hagiperos

[hagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:hagiperos@csmh.org)

Mrs. Mosher

[lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)

Mr. Ramazzina

[bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)

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## Cheetah Athletics: Game Change

# Cheetah Athletics Update

Athletic Director: Mrs. Hagiperos 463-7902



It's ALL about the TEAM!

All Team Jerseys are due back to the Athletic Director.  
Don't get stuck with a \$60.00 replacement charge!!

Soccer Game Date Change!!!!

The game scheduled for Monday, 2/1 has been moved to  
Tuesday, 2/2. We will play Sacred Heart at the MH Soccer  
Complex at 4 pm!

Come out and support our Girls!

## SBAL Game Schedule

Boy's Basketball

6th grade @ 4 pm, 7th grade @ 5 pm and 8th grade @ 6pm  
Home games are played at the Crossroads Christian School Gym  
Please arrive 30 minutes before game time

Game Schedule

1/26 @ Spring Grove  
1/28 @ Aromas  
2/1 Home vs Gabilan Hills  
2/2 Home vs Tres Pinos  
2/9 @ Oakwood  
2/11 Home vs Southside  
Winter Break  
2/23 Home vs Pacific West  
3/1 Home vs San Juan  
3/11 Home vs Sacred Heart

Girl's Soccer

All Home games are played at the Morgan Hill Soccer Complex  
Game time is 4 pm. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to game time.

**Rain out hot line: 463-7902**

1/26 @ Spring Grove  
1/27 Home vs Gabilan Hills  
**2/2 Home vs Scared Heart**  
2/4 Home vs Tres Pinos  
2/11 Home vs Aromas  
Winter Break  
2/24 @ Oakwood  
3/2 Home vs Crossroads  
3/4 @ Southside

Look to the coaches for practice times and locations.

8th Grade Boy's Basketball: Coaches Martha Baughman and Marc Northcott

7th grade Basketball: Coaches Bill Gardner and Chris Schilling

6th Grade Basketball: Coach Joe Locsin

Girl's Soccer: Coaches: Christine Swanbeck and Mauricio Quijano

**New Academic Requirement**

Because academic performance is the foundation to athletic achievement, players will be placed on team rosters based upon their academic achievement in the classroom. Athletes with a 2.5 GPA or higher will receive priority play time. All Athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA to be considered for participation in our Athletic Program. Students must demonstrate that they can achieve this academic goal throughout the season. Grades will be checked each week to ensure each athlete's eligibility.

**Come out and support your teams!!!  
Go Cheetahs!!**

**Congratulations!!!**

**Toma Clare won Most Valuable Player @ the 2010  
Cougar Classic Girl's Basketball Tournament!!**

**Voted by the tournament organizers, coaches and  
officials, Toma played with heart, sportsmanship and  
skill! You Rock!!**

## **8th Grade Girl's Take 3rd Place!!!**

**Congratulations to our 8th grade girl's team who took 3rd Place in the Cougar Classic Basketball Tournament!!**

**Our girl's team saved the best basketball for last coming within one basket of a first round upset against Saint Christopher. Thank you to Coach Steffani for leading this incredible group of athletes!!**

## Middle School PE

New semester classes start on Tuesday!

It will be raining all week, but we will still be exercising.

Remember to wear appropriate clothes and athletic footwear.

New Mile times will be posted in the MPR. Come see how you measure up!

Earn extra credit by volunteering as a score keeper at all home basketball games!

On Sale Now while supplies last

PE Hoodie, PE logo shorts, PE logo sweat pants and PE Logo Cinch Bags!!

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**High School Information: February 26, 2010**



**Considering a private high school? Here are steps in "the application process," starting in the Fall Trimester of 8th Grade:**

1. Check out the **website** of the school that interests you. Take a look at the online school newsletter, Student Handbook, virtual campus tour, and other features to help you know what the school is like.
2. Read over the Registration information on the website and download or request the **Registration Packet**.
3. If you are interested in more than one Catholic HS, determine if your favorite school prefers to have you take the **admission test** there. If your favorite school cares, sign up to take the test there. (Your test scores will be sent to all the Catholic schools to which you apply.)
4. Submit the initial page(s) of the Registration Packet and the fee required for registration, reserving a test date for the admission test. Do NOT sign up for the first Saturday, the one that comes right after the holidays.
5. Start brainstorming **two lists** with your parents:
  - a. People we know who would write a useful **Letter of Recommendation** for me, and
  - b. **Things I have done** that make me a good

For 7th Grade Women:

**Presentation High School 7th Grade Day  
Wednesday, March 10, 1:00-3:30 PM.  
Attend mini-classes, enjoy entertainment,  
delight in a "sweet treat social."**

Seventh Grade Day is a special afternoon program held each year for 7th grade girls. Students are provided with a brief overview of Presentation High School, including academic, extra-curricular, and social programs

The 7th grade students are welcomed to campus with a dessert social hosted by Presentation faculty and students. During the afternoon, 7th graders attend two mini-classes and meet current Presentation students while prospective parents and junior-high school teachers are given a tour of the campus. Concluding the day, students and parents are treated to an assembly that features entertainment and presentations about Presentation's extensive extracurricular programs.

**Sign up now (by March 3) with Ms. Anex.**

**Presentation High School**

(all-girls, Catholic, San Jose)  
<http://www.pres-net.com/admissions/index.html>  
**Open House: Was Nov. 8**  
Shadow Days: [www.pres-net.com/admissions/ShadowRequest-Form.htm](http://www.pres-net.com/admissions/ShadowRequest-Form.htm)

**Notre Dame**

(all-girls, Catholic, San Jose)  
<http://www.ndsj.org/admissions/dates.html>  
**Open House: Was Oct. 24**  
Shadow Days: through Jan 27, but fully booked as of 10/30  
Contact: [jbarganski@ndsj.org](mailto:jbarganski@ndsj.org)

**Bellarmino College Preparatory**

(all-boys, Catholic, San Jose)

candidate for admission [ex: involvement in my church community, sports, music lessons, philanthropic activities, Scouts, 4-H, travel, foreign language, diverse cultural experience(s), educational experiences, involvement in my school community, Conflict Resolution team, Student Council, personal accomplishments (ex: hiked the Pacific Rim trail, Black Belt, starting quarterback, published poet, active in a political party or campaign, volunteer at Coe, altar-server, can hunt, field dress, and cook venison, Hero Project, etc.)]

6. Sign up to shadow at the schools that interest you. **Please pre-register to shadow on CSMH MINIMUM DAY WEDNESDAYS, or days that CSMH is NOT in session.**

7. Write a letter requesting a **Letter of Recommendation**. Write one on your computer. Include information about your accomplishments and goals. Fill in personalized addressee information, and send - WITH A STAMPED ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE SCHOOL TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING - to each person from whom you are requesting a letter.

8. Submit your requests for transcripts to Nancy.

9. Submit your request for a Teacher Evaluation to each teacher from whom you would like to receive one. Teachers should be asked to give the form to the office for inclusion in the packet that will be sent to the school to which you are applying.

**NOTE:** The sooner you do these things, the more attention your requests are given. Better letters and recommendations are usually written for those whose applications are received first, before the writer is burdened by many requests.

## Private High Schools

### The Zacchaeus Program

St. Lawrence Academy is home to **The Zacchaeus Program, a college preparatory program designed for high functioning students with documented learning disabilities**. Recognizing that stu-



dents with learning disabilities are often excluded from parochial schools, the Zacchaeus Program helps students to understand and address their special learning needs in order to fulfill their academic, physical, artistic, social and emotional potential. It employs a faculty team approach, small classes, multi-sensory methods that include technological academic

[http://www.bcp.org/about\\_us/index.aspx](http://www.bcp.org/about_us/index.aspx)

**Open House: Was Oct. 25**

Shadow Days: Tues-Wed-Thurs through Dec. 10.

### St. Francis High School

(coeducational, Catholic, Mountain View)

<http://www.sfhs.com/>

**Open House: Was Nov. 1**

**Shadow Program:**

[http://www.sfhs.com/admissions/visit\\_shadow.aspx](http://www.sfhs.com/admissions/visit_shadow.aspx)

### Valley Christian High School

(coeducational, Christian, South San Jose)

<http://www.vcs.net/high-school/index.aspx>

**Open House: Was Nov. 7**

Shadowing:

<http://www.vcs.net/admissions/high-school/index.aspx>

### St. Lawrence Academy

(coeducational, Catholic, Santa Clara)

<http://saintlawrenceacademy.com/>

**Open House: Was Nov. 15**

Shadowing: Tues-Thurs, Oct-Feb

### St. Francis Central Coast Catholic High School

(coeducational, Watsonville; on Hwy. 152, just down the road from the Sta. Cruz County Fairgrounds)

<http://www.stfranchishigh.net/index.html>

**Open House: Was Nov. 22**

Shadowing: <http://www.stfranchishigh.net/admissions.html>

"Shadow a Shark" Days: Jan. 12, 20, 26; Feb. 2, 3, 9, 23; March 2, 9, 10, 23, 24, 30

### Archbishop Mitty High School

(coeducational, Catholic, Santa Clara County)

[http://www.mitty.com/admission/01\\_visitmitty.php](http://www.mitty.com/admission/01_visitmitty.php)

Open House: Was Nov. 22

### Mount Madonna School

<http://www.mountmadonnaschool.org/admissions/>

**Open House: Was Nov. 15**

MMS has been offering a coeducational, college preparatory education for over 30 years. They are located on Summit Road in the redwoods on the top of Mt. Madonna, with a bus to Morgan Hill and Gilroy. (The Upper School year starts with a 4-day white-water rafting/camping trip.)

### Oakwood

(co-educational, Morgan Hill)

<http://www.oakwoodweb.org>

**Open House: Was Jan. 30**

Shadow Days: Contact them to schedule

Contact: Brenda Black at 408-782-7177 x104

Scholarship Info: See Nancy DePalma in the CSMH Office

### Monte Vista Christian School

(coeducational, Watsonville, with a bus to Morgan Hill)

<http://www.mvcs.org/217946.ihtml>

**Open House: Was February 21.**

Shadowing: Tues-Wed, 01/12 through 03/31. See

website for details: <http://www.mvcs.org/236205.ihtml>

accommodations, and individual attention. Coursework within the Zacchaeus Program meets the University of California A-G requirements.

Students in the Zacchaeus Program have some sheltered courses where they are in smaller classes only with other Zacchaeus students. Zacchaeus courses are offered for four years in English, three years in Social Science, and two years in Science. The rest of the day Zacchaeus students are mainstreamed with the rest of the student body. Graduating students meet all of the requirements to attend a four-year college or university.

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**Contact Information**

Ms. Anex [trecia\\_c@hotmail.com](mailto:trecia_c@hotmail.com)  
 Mrs. Baker [jbaker@csmh.org](mailto:jbaker@csmh.org)  
 Mr. Cross [dcross@csmh.org](mailto:dcross@csmh.org)  
 Ms. Earnshaw  
[earnshawmath@gmail.com](mailto:earnshawmath@gmail.com)  
 Mrs. Funke [kfunke@csmh.org](mailto:kfunke@csmh.org)  
 Mrs. Hagiperos  
[hagiperos@csmh.org](mailto:hagiperos@csmh.org)  
 Mrs. Mosher  
[lori.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:lori.mosher@gmail.com)  
 Mr. Ramazzina  
[bramazzina@csmh.org](mailto:bramazzina@csmh.org)  
 Mrs. Sanders-Curry  
[lsanderscurry@csmh.org](mailto:lsanderscurry@csmh.org)  
 or by phone at  
 408-463-7900  
 Mr. Schnittman  
[polydiatonic@verizon.net](mailto:polydiatonic@verizon.net)  
 Mrs. Sorenson  
[ksorenson@csmh.org](mailto:ksorenson@csmh.org)  
 Mrs. Storlie [astorlie@csmh.org](mailto:astorlie@csmh.org)  
 Mrs. Valella [mvalella@csmh.org](mailto:mvalella@csmh.org)

**Important Dates**

7th Writing Test	Mar 2
End of 2nd Trimester	Mar 5
MS Dance	Mar 5
DC Meeting for all	Mar 8
P-S-T Conferences Minimum Days	Mar 15 - 19

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**P-S-T Conferences**

Monday March 15	Tuesday March 16	Wednesday March 17	Thursday March 18
1:00 Claire T Brendan S Damian P Emily C	1:00 Ben G Auggie E Mariah F	1:00 Shea C Justin L Jared G Alexandra J	1:00 Riley Be
2:00 Mitchel M Kyle H	2:00 Gracie G	2:00	2:00 Natalie D
3:00 Matt B	3:00	3:00 Rachel M	3:00
4:00	4:00 Madeline B Chiara M Chris L	4:00	4:00

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