



Another Quarter completed! Spring is here and the TNReady TCAP comprehensive Assessment is here!

Chiefs Believe, Chiefs Achieve!

Save the Dates: TNReady TCAP will begin the week of April 18. As with any test, remind your scholar to get a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and do their BEST!! Thank you for all you do to encourage your scholar.

Spring sports has begun! We look forward to seeing what our track, softball, and baseball teams accomplish this year.

Optional Scholars participate in International Studies, learning about the cultures of others in our world. Our focus countries for the year are:

6th grade – Tanzania

7th grade – Saudi Arabia

8th grade – Netherlands

Be on the lookout for information about our International Festival in May.

Optional scholars have received information about their second semester International Studies projects. The projects are due May 2. Please check with scholar to see if their topic has been approved and if they need support as they work to complete their project.



2021 – 2022

Quarter 3 Highlights Optional Scholar Newsletter

We started the new year (January) with a Lunch and Learn led by **Elhadj Fallou Ndiaye** (8). He shared with us about his family's home of Senegal, Africa.



Scholars tasted Jollof rice, or ceebu jen as it's known in Senegal. It is perhaps the best-known West African dish because it's delicious, colorful, and easy to prepare. (Many of our scholars really enjoyed and wanted more!) The rice is from a local African restaurant, **Bala's Bistro**.

Fallou's family made us Bissap, also known as hibiscus tea. It is a drink made from the dried flowers of the Roselle plant, a variety of Hibiscus. Thank you to the Ndiaye family for sharing your culture with us!



Fallou also shared the game **Yoté** with the Optional scholars. Yoté is a strategy board game popular due to its fast pace and surprising turnarounds. A player wins by capturing all their opponent's pieces. Thank you, Fallou, for sharing with us about your family's culture. You did a "magnifique" job!! (magnificent in French)

International Studies posters were due in January. 8th grade's country of focus is the Netherlands.

Daniela Mascote (8) chose to learn about stroopwafel, a popular Dutch treat. She was also able to purchase some in Memphis and brought them to share with the scholars! "Bedankt", Daniela, for thinking of us and sharing what you learned. (thank you in Dutch)



February is African American History Month. Many of our Craigmont scholars created slides that are posted in the hall on the way to the cafeteria.



In honor of this month, February's Lunch and Learn celebrated Ghana. Ghana is also the Memphis in May country of focus this year!

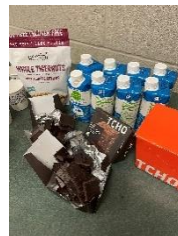
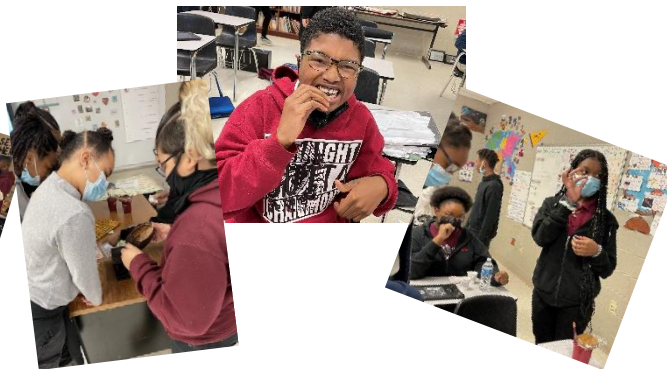
Scholars learned about the history of Ghana. (Its history is also a small part of their Seventh grade



Social Studies curriculum!) Scholars learned about its natural resources of gold and salt which made it a center of trade in its beginnings. Scholars also learned about the "door of no return" where many Africans left on slave ships from Ghana. Finally, scholars learned about one of its main exports today, the cocoa bean used for making chocolate!



The Memphis in May crate with artifacts from Ghana arrived the week we had our Lunch and Learn! Scholars also got to learn more by interacting with the items in the crate.



To taste, scholars tried chocolate from Ghana. They also tasted tiger nuts which are used in many dishes throughout the region. Surprisingly, tiger nuts are not actually nuts, but rather edible tubers. They are the size of a

chickpea but wrinkly with a chewy texture and sweet nutty flavor. Coconut water was tried as well. Coconut water is used as a drink and in many of the Ghanaian recipes.



Scholars also watched the music video **Bibia Be Ye Ye** by Ed Sheron. The video was filmed in Ghana and shows much of its beauty and heritage. Bibia Be Ye Ye means "all will be well" in one of Ghana's many native languages, Twi.



Craigmont is proud of our scholars that were recognized for Honor Roll, Citizenship, and Attendance. The Quarter 2 Honorees celebrated their accomplishments at Main Event.

Renewal in the Optional Program is not automatic!! The renewal application is available through your PowerSchool portal. The renewal is available for Craigmont Middle and Craigmont High School only. If you have not submitted your scholar's renewal and need assistance, please reach out to Ms. Biniakewitz at biniakewitzee@scsk12.org.

Our Website is a great place to keep up with events at Craigmont Middle School.

<https://schools.scsk12.org/craigmont-ms>

Teacher's email addresses can also be found under "Our staff". They are also available when you check grades in PowerSchool. If you need help with PowerSchool access, please let me know.

Ms. Biniakewitz 😊 Optional Coordinator
office 901-416-9913
biniakewitzee@scsk12.org