



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 1 2024 - 2025

All Optional Scholars are enrolled in Honors courses which help prepare them for High School and College. An expectation of an Honors course is completion of at least one honors project a semester. Scholars have projects in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Please check with your scholar to ensure they are working on their honors projects.

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

6th grade – Morocco

7th grade – Honduras

8th grade – United Arab Emirates

Memphis in May 2025 – to be announced



Optional Scholars International Projects for First Semester will be shared in November. 😊

This year, we have **145** scholars being acknowledged for their accomplishments on the Spring 2024 TCAP Assessment. Scholars who Meet or Exceed Expectations on one/more than one section of the test have a “shout out” on the Brag Board! Way to go and continue to strive for excellence in all you do!



Ms. Biniakewitz visited Ireland in July and chose to share a little of what she learned for **August's** Lunch and Learn!

Approximately 25% of America's population is of Irish descent (Ms. Bini included). Many Irish came to America to escape “The Great Hunger”, as the Irish call it, which occurred from 1845 –



1849. One iconic landmark is the Cliffs of Moher (featured in Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince). It is located on the Atlantic Coast and is part of the Wild Atlantic Way which is a scenic drive that stretches 1,553 miles.



Scholars tasted corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, and carrots. They also tasted an Irish caramel along with a popular Irish Cherry Limeade soft drink. Thank you to **Brookelynn Thomas** (8) who volunteered to help with Lunch and Learn on that day 😊.



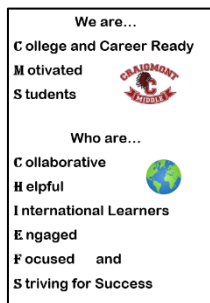
Hispanic Heritage Month



September 15 – October 15 is the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. During the month, our nation celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of Americans with Hispanic heritage. Countries considered Hispanic are Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela – which means Spanish is the primary language spoken there.

CMS celebrated the month with a hall display sharing information about the month and a few famous Hispanic Americans. Thank you to **Noah McCumber** (7), **Elijah Sharp** (7), **Carlita Davis** (8), **Audrianna Bland** (8), **Jeshua Marin** (8), and **Allisson Lugo** (6) who researched and shared with all Chiefs more about what Hispanic Heritage Month means or about the countries whose origins are Hispanic during morning announcements!





CMS Chiefs are International Learners! Chiefs learn about other places and cultures in their daily lessons and every Wednesday the school participates in World Wise Wednesday. Volunteers choose a topic to share with their peers over the intercom during morning announcements.

Thank you, Quarter 1 volunteers:



Cherrita Ware (8) – started the year by sharing information about the focus countries for the 24-25 school year, **Azaya Rich** (7) – France, **Christopher Jones** (8) – Japan, and **Kallie Downey** (8) – Taiwan.

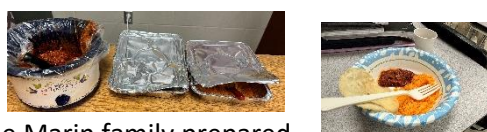
A synopsis and images are posted from each World Wise Wednesday in the hall leading to the cafeteria.



September's Lunch and Learn was led by **Jeshua Marin** (8) and **Kaylee Marin** (7).



Their parents are from Mexico and they shared information about their parent's home cities and state! Yes, Mexico has 32 states and is officially known as the Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States). Their parents are from the state of Queretaro. They have both visited the cities of their parents and shared a little about each with us. Dad is from the city, Jalpan de Serra. Kaylee and Jeshua shared it is a very colorful and artistic city. They shared information about the architecture, the church, a cemetery, and the river they visited. Mom is from Santa Ines. Her family owns a ranch. They shared information about the ranch, the church, the community school, and what it is like to visit Queretaro in the summer.



The Marin family prepared chicken mole and rice with tortillas. We also had hibiscus aguas frescas to drink. Mole (pronounced moh-lay) means sauce. It usually contains dried chilies such as ancho, guajillo, and chipotle peppers. Mole also contains a variety of spices. It can also contain chocolate and/or nuts to make the flavor smoother. It is normally eaten over chicken or pork, with a side of rice and eaten with corn tortillas. Deliciosa!!

CMS Optional Scholars appreciate Kaylee and Jeshua sharing about their family and experiences in Mexico and we appreciate the wonderful tastes provided by the Marin family.



Chiefs Believe! Chiefs Achieve!



CMS Website
Are you in the know?

Our website is a great place to keep up with events at Craigmont Middle School.
<https://schools.scsk12.org/craigmont-ms>

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns for your Optional Scholar(s). If you need help with PowerSchool access, please let me know.

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