



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 3

One more Quarter to go. Spring is in the air and that also means TCAP Testing will soon be here. Testing begins April 17! Stay ready!

Continue to strive for excellence in all you do!



Optional Scholars participate in International Studies, learning about the cultures of others in our world. Our focus countries for the year are:
6th grade – Greece
7th grade – South Korea
8th grade – Equatorial Guinea
Memphis in May 2023 - Malaysia
2nd semester Optional International Studies Project information has been shared. They are due April 21, 2023.



Ty'neria Austin (8), **Trenity Suggs** (7), and **Carlita Davis** (6) started the new year by sharing with interested

Optional

scholars and their parents about why they enjoy being Optional scholars at Craigmont Middle School. They did a wonderful job of sharing about their experiences as CMS Chiefs. If you know anyone interested in our Optional Program, please let Ms.

Biniakewitz know or give them her contact information.



Jazmyne Bowen (8) and **Alana Smith** (8) were not in the Optional Program in 6th grade when the 6th

grade country of focus was **Turkey**. They decided they wanted to learn about the culture of Turkey as well and lead the **January Lunch & Learn**. They used the slides their peers created as 6th graders to create the PowerPoint that would be shared with all current Optional Scholars. The 8th graders whose slides were shared

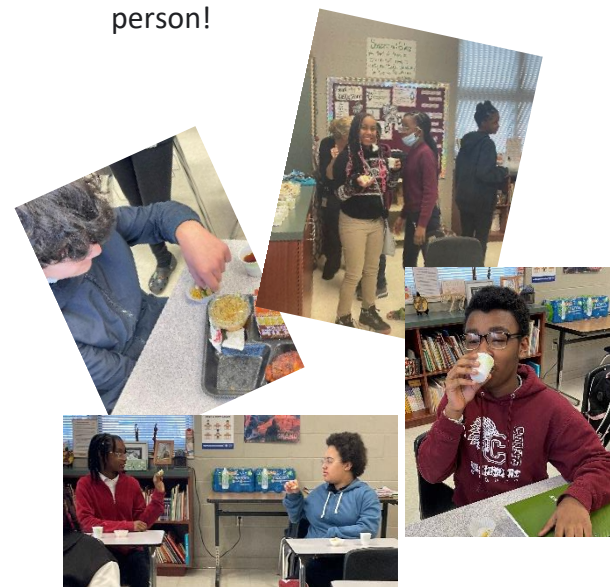


enjoyed the flashback to their first year in the program when COVID prevented us being in person most of the year. While learning, scholars made comparisons to Saudi Arabian and Greek culture and noticed ways their cultures have become part of American culture as well.



For our taste, grilled pitas were ordered from *Café Med* (1817 Kirby Pkwy #7, Germantown, TN 38138 901-755-9710). The Chicken Tuscano and Grilled Cheese

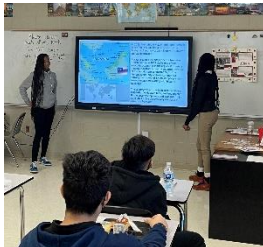
Pita were the two tasted by the scholars. Scholars also tasted Turkish tea. Did you know... Turkey consumes the highest amount of tea in the world with an annual total consumption of close to 7 pounds per person!





Malaysia is the Memphis in May country for 2023. It is a country that will be celebrated at

our International Festival in May. **Jamayah Tate** (8) and **Addisyn Gool** (8) decided it should be the focus for **February's** Lunch & Learn. Scholars learned Malaysia gained its independence from the British empire in 1963 and is one of the wealthiest countries in the region. It boasts a thriving industrial economy and produces 13% of the world's semiconductor chips. The famous capital city of Kuala Lumpur is a thriving metropolis of 3.4 million people with iconic skyscrapers existing with historic buildings.



To taste, scholars had a variety of snacks from Malaysia. Everyone chose their own and were allowed to share with their peers to taste a variety of flavors. Scholars also tasted grape juice and kiwi juice (with pulp) from Malaysia.

Josiah Lloyd shared, "I was surprised that they all tasted good. I had not heard of most of the flavors. It was a good opportunity to learn something new!"



World Wise Wednesdays continued in Quarter 3! Scholars volunteer and



choose a culture to research and share about anything they find interesting with the entire CMS family through morning announcements. CMS Chiefs are International Learners. We appreciate all who participate in us being global citizens.

Volunteers for Quarter 3:		

Carlita Davis (6) – North Korea,
Christopher Jones (6) – China,
Haleigh Wells (6) – Poland,
Aniya King (8) – South Korea,
Londyn Williams (6) -
 Cameroon, **Moriah Houston**
 (8) – Solomon Islands, **Cherita**
Ware (6) – origins of
 Valentine's Day, **Malik Murphy**
 (7) – Australia, **Aniya King** (8) –
 France, and **Madisyn**
Blackledge (6) – Zimbabwe.

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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