



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 3 2023 - 24

Spring has Sprung and with that means TCAP testing and the International Festival will be here soon. Please strive for excellence in all you do!



Optional Scholars are expected to complete International Studies projects each semester. The first semester project was

a poster. This semester, scholars will complete a 3 dimensional project/short essay about a chosen topic in their grade's country of focus. I will email parents when the assignment has been given. Please check with your scholar to see if they need help completing their Optional 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 – China
 7th grade – Canada
 8th grade – New Zealand

Details for International Projects for 2nd semester will be shared by April 4, 2024



Craigmont Middle School hosted its Optional Program Information Session on January 25, 2024. Shout out © to Marilyn Razura Fajardo, Carlita Davis, Cherita Ware, and Treeny Suggs who shared with potential parents and Chiefs about the Optional Program and why they enjoy being Optional scholars.

Thank you so much!

We are...
College and Career Ready
Motivated
Students

Who are...
Collaborative
Helpful
International Learners
Engaged
Focused and
Striving for Success

Scholars 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 3 volunteers:

- Anrico Vaughn** (7) – Botswana, **Derrion Ward** (6) – Fiji, **Nekeriah Pleas** (7) – Kenya, **Madisyn Blackledge** (7) – origins of Groundhog Day, **J'Den Bowen** (7) – Vatican City, **L'oreal White** (6) – Lunar New Year, **Christopher Jones** (7) – Italy, **Chloe Coleman** (7) – History of Valentine's Day, **Kyron Covington** (7) – info on Leap Year, and **Jeshua Marin** (7) – Tajikistan

A synopsis and images are posted from each World Wise Wednesday in the hall leading to the cafeteria. CMS Chiefs are International Learners!

January's Lunch and Learn focused on **Japan**. **Marilyn Razura Fajardo** (6) and **K'Miya Conner**



(6) shared that Tokyo has a population of 13.5 million making it one of the most populated cities in the world! The Meiji Shrine is a Shinto shrine in Shibuya, Tokyo. Shintoism is an ancient religion of Japan that has been practiced since 1000 BCE. Shintoism is part of the curriculum studied in 7th grade Social Studies.

To taste, scholars tried Mochi - a healthy snack made from rice flour, chicken yakisoba – prepared by Saito Restaurant 6600 Stage



Rd # 101 in Bartlett, and Ramune – also known as marble soda.





Itiya Allison (8) led **February's** Lunch and Learn. Itiya's parents are from **Liberia** and she shared with the Optional scholars a little of their culture. Liberia's name comes from the Latin word "liber" meaning "free". Liberia was founded in 1822 as an outpost for returning freed slaves from the Americas. It grew into a colony, eventually became a commonwealth, and then achieved independence in 1847. We also learned that a common fresh-water aquarium fish is from Liberia. The Liberian killifish is popular among aquarium enthusiasts because of their colorful, striking appearance and interesting behavior.



The Allison family prepared tradition Liberian dishes to share with us. Chuck Rice and Gravy (2 types of rice and 2 types of gravy), rice bread, milk candies, and Vimto drink! We were spoiled. 😊 Thank you, Itiya and the Allison family, for sharing a little of Liberia's culture with us.



**Chiefs Believe!
Chiefs Achieve!**



Karma Hughes (8) was the MC for the Semester One Honors Program. Congratulations to all that were celebrated!



The CMS Optional Program was chosen to be spotlighted at the board! There is a bulletin board showcasing information about our program and school. 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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