



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 3 2024 - 2025

Thank you for your hard work so far this year. Only nine weeks left! TCAP will begin in Mid-April and then the International Festival is May 8. Please continue to strive for excellence in all you do.

Optional Scholars are enrolled in Honors courses which help prepare them for High School and College. Optional Scholars also complete International Studies projects each semester. The first semester expectation was a poster project. For the second semester, Optional scholars will complete a 3-dimensional project with essay. Projects are due April 30, 2025!

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 – South Korea

International Festival is May 8, 2025 – Save the Date!! 😊



Please make sure your 6th and 7th grade Optional Scholar's renewal has been completed in PowerSchool. It is not automatic to remain in the program. A renewal must be done each year. For 8th grade Optional Scholars, a renewal has to be

completed for Craigmont High School but a new application must be done for any other high school program you are considering. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Biniakewitz at 901-416-9913 or biniakewitz@scsk12.org!!

Thank you to those who have completed their renewal. ☺



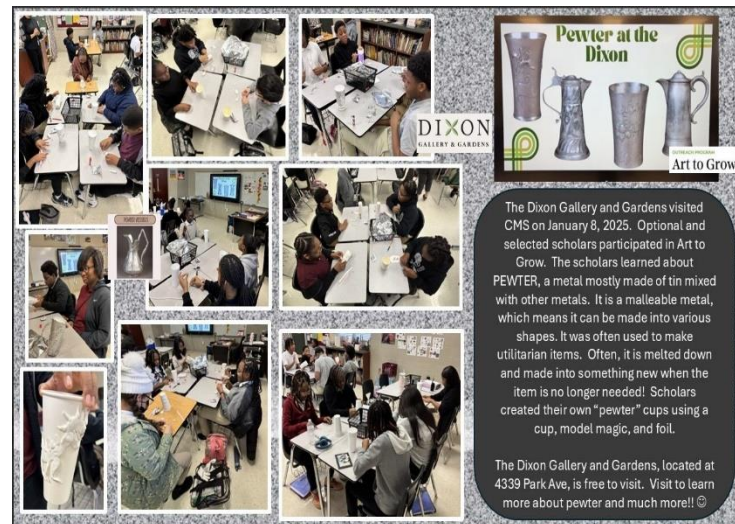
CMS Chiefs are International Learners! Chiefs learn about other places and cultures in their daily lessons. Every Wednesday the school participates in World Wise Wednesday. Volunteers choose a topic to share with their peers over the intercom during morning announcements. A synopsis and images are posted from each World Wise Wednesday in the hall leading to the cafeteria.

Thank you, Quarter 3 volunteers:

Elijah Sharp (7) – Turkmenistan, **Madisyn Blackledge** (8) – Argentina, **Christopher Jones** (8) – Qatar, **Kala Collins** and **Samya Henderson** (7) –



Chinese Lunar New Year, **Aniya Morrow** (7) – Brazil, **Audrianna Bland** (8) – Germany, **Nekeriah Pleas** (8) – Cabo Verde, **Arielle Crawford** and **Dykeria Horton** (6) – Singapore, and **Joshua Richmond** (7) – South Africa.



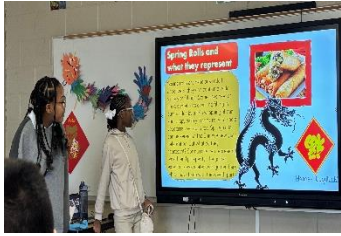
Optional Scholars were invited to participate in an Art to Grow experience with the Dixon Art Gallery and Gardens at the beginning of the 3rd Quarter.

A giant Thank You to **Cherita Ware** (8), **Shuvosree Paul Sree** (7), and **Adrian Perez Najera** (6) who shared with

potential new Optional Scholars about the Optional Program at the Open House in January. If you know someone interested, give them Ms. Bini's information!



Chiefs Believe! Chiefs Achieve!



Kala Collins (7)
and **Samya Henderson (7)**
helped us
welcome in the
Chinese Lunar
New Year at

January's Lunch and Learn. They shared with us the origins and meanings of the Chinese zodiac. This year is the year of the SNAKE. The year of the snake represents wisdom and adaptability.

Scholars tasted spring rolls prepared by *Wang's Mandarin House* at 544 South Highland. They also tried black sugar-coated rice crackers and a variety of green teas. Foods served at Chinese Lunar New Year have meaning and ours represented wealth, luck, and health! Scholars also received a small notebook to help them remember it's the year of the Snake!



K'Miya Conner (7) and **Olivia Johnson (7)** shared with us about the Dominican Republic for **February's** Lunch and Learn. The Dominican Republic is located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea, sharing the island with Haiti. It is remarkable for having the highest peak in the Caribbean, Pico Duarte. It is also known for its beaches with white sand and lush evergreen forests in the highlands. The national sport is baseball. The DR is one of the top producers of cocoa in the world.



Have you ever heard of soursop? Soursop is a fruit that goes by many names, including guanabana, paw-paw, sirsak, and graviola. It's



the fruit of the small evergreen tropical tree native to Central and tropical South America.

Scholars tasted soursop juice and candy made from tamarind (an edible fruit which grows on trees). They also tried Tostones (fried green plantains) which is the most popular side dish in the Dominican Republic. They were prepared by *El Sabor Latino* at 665 Avon Rd.



The tamarind candy was either you liked it or you didn't! 😊



Selected 6th graders visited the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in February.



Selected 7th graders visited the Brooks Museum of Art in March.

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).

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

