

# THE TRAILBLAZER

Collinsville Middle School's Newsletter



## From the Principal's Desk

CMS Families,

Happy New Year from the Collinsville Middle School staff! We are extremely excited about all of the new adventures that 2020 has for our students. As we move forward with the 3rd quarter, I would like to encourage each of you to continue to monitor your student's progress via Skyward and communication with their teachers to keep open and ongoing discussion with them about their grades. The deeper we get into the school year, the harder it is for students to maintain the momentum that they had when they started the year. I equate it to an athlete in the later parts of a game or race where the perseverance to push through to the end takes some extra commitment and encouragement. This kind of commitment is not always natural or easy; it takes all of us to help our students learn how to endure and make it to the end with quality effort and pride. Thank you in advance for your partnership in this push!

I always stress that being a teenager is one of the hardest stages that we have to figure out in life. There are so many new situations and decisions that unfold during this time of life which also creates both a wealth of opportunities as well as a minefield of possible disasters. We are working to ensure that we handle our responsibilities towards the social and emotional growth of our kids just as serious as we do their academic growth and success. As we continue to move through the year, please continue to partner with us as part of the village for your child. If your child or your family is in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. Although we may not directly have the resources you need, we have a phenomenal team with a wealth of knowledge that may help direct you towards the right path. We look forward to continued partnership in this journey and as always thank you for trusting us with the education of your child!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jackson

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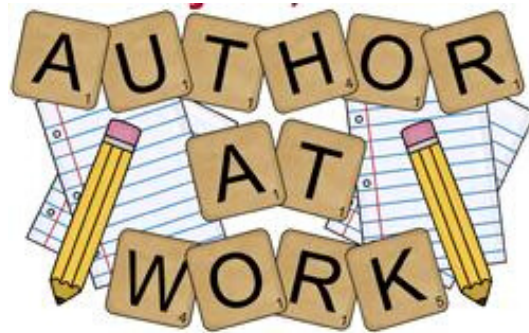
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## ITEMS TO NOTE AT CMS



- Yearbooks must be purchased by March. See the link on the school's website.
- The English Department encourages students to enter the YOUNG AUTHORS' CONTEST and their quarterly writing contests. See your English teacher for details.
- It's ELL state assessment time! The schedule has been sent out. Please take a look at it, save it, and print it. We start testing January 15th!
- Every year the HOOLOOs adopt a family and raise money to help provide the family with Christmas presents. This year, we adopted two families and raised over \$1000. Presents were bought and the students wrapped all of the gifts. The presents along with a gift certificate to help with Christmas dinner were then delivered to the families right before winter break. Great Job HOOLOOs!
- Collinsville Middle School will be going to DC again in May of 2021. There will be a Parent Information meeting at Collinsville Middle School on January 22, 2020. It will take place in the Health rooms (A132 and A133) at 6:00p.m. You can park in the main parking lot and enter through the gym doors. Follow the signs to the Health Room. The meeting will only take approximately 30 minutes. Information packets will be coming home the first week of January. Keep a look out for them.
- Our current Million Word Readers: Brayden Patterson, Hayden Barrera-Kite, Logan Branstetter, Elliott Schusky, Isabel Perez, Alanah McHone, Madeline Mueller, Jim Kruta, Alexis Clair, Kendrick Davis, Priscila Solano-Cenovio, Aidan James, Dominic Horras, Kimberly McQuay, Hayden Myers, Brian Slesinski, and Livia Montgomery.





Mrs. Swift's class (pictured above) scored 11 points higher on the MAP assessment test from the previous test given at the beginning of the year!

Other classes that had significant growth were Mrs. Hogue's 3rd hour Math class and Mrs. Beaty's 6th hour English class. Mr. Dettmer's 5th hour advanced English class scored 22 points higher than the national average.

We are so proud of these students! #trailblazerpride

**Collinsville Middle School Seeking Community's Votes  
as Part of \$200,000 National Education Contest  
Schools Receiving Most People's Choice Votes Will Win \$5,000 USD Each**

Collinsville Middle School has entered a \$200,000 USD national education contest hoping for a chance at one of the 19 prizes that will be awarded to recognize the most unique and inventive K-12 program. In addition to completing an online application for the annual Follett Challenge, Collinsville Middle School also submitted a short video to promote its program that teaches students the 21st century skills they need to be prepared for life.

Ten of the prizes, valued at \$5,000 each, to be given away are from the People's Choice category and will solely be based on how many votes applicants have received for their videos from the public. Video voting begins January 20, 2020 Collinsville Middle School's video is now posted on the Follett Challenge website at the following link:

<https://follettchallenge.com/videos/1377>

After registering, users can cast one vote per day through January 24, 2020, when voting ends.

Not only are the public's votes significant in the video-voting portion of the contest, but they also will play a role in the overall rubric as twenty-percent of each school's final score is based on the number of votes generated for their video.

"We hope our community will support us by viewing our video and voting for our submission," said Michael Hayman, Library/Media Specialist. "Participating in the Follett Challenge recognizes our educators for the great job they are doing with the limited resources they have and, should we win, reward them with resources to do more. It also will give our educators here a platform to share their innovation with other schools across the country and throughout the world."

With a total prize value of \$200,000 USD in products and services from Follett – a global education solutions leader – the overall winner will earn a \$30,000 USD prize. Each of the other eight Semi-Finalists will earn \$15,000 USD prizes. The 10 People's Choice awards are worth \$5,000 each in products and services. This year's Follett Challenge will honor a total of nine Semi-Finalist winners, three winners in each of the following categories: elementary, middle and high school.

The judges will be seeking applications that illustrate critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration between students and among teachers and other members of the school staff. The winners of the 2020 Follett Challenge, including the Grand-Prize winner will be announced March 23, 2020.

Please vote, and vote often. We can vote every day for a week.

Video voting begins January 20, 2020 Collinsville Middle School's video is now posted on the Follett Challenge website at the following link: <https://follettchallenge.com/videos/1377>

## ***LET'S TALK PBIS!***

### **What Is PBIS?**

PBIS is an approach schools can use to improve school safety and promote positive behavior. It also helps schools decide how to respond to a child who misbehaves.

At its heart, PBIS calls on schools to teach kids about behavior, just as they would teach about any other subject—like reading or math. PBIS recognizes that kids can only meet behavior expectations if they know what the expectations are. A hallmark of a school using PBIS is that everyone knows what's appropriate behavior. Throughout the school day—in class, at lunch and on the bus—kids understand what's expected of them.

PBIS has a few important guiding principles:

- Every child can learn proper behavior.
- Stepping in early can prevent more serious behavior problems.
- Each child is different and schools need to provide many kinds of behavior support.
- How schools teach behavior should be based on research and science.
- Following a child's behavioral progress is important.
- Schools must gather and use data to make decisions about behavior problems.

More information to come as we implement PBIS.

## ***January Snapshot***

1/6- Welcome Back/Start of 3rd Qtr.  
 1/7 - Wrestling @ Rochester Quad  
 1/9 - Wrestling @ Millstadt  
 NJHS Morning Meeting  
 1/11 - Wrestling @ Jacksonville (Invite)  
 1/13 - Girls Basketball @ Highland  
 1/14 - Girls Basketball @ Fulton  
 (Regionals)  
 1/15 - Boys Basketball @ Edwardsville  
 1/16 - Wrestling @ Wolf Branch  
 1/17- No School: Institute Day  
 1/18 - Wrestling @ Granite City HS  
 (Duals)  
 1/20- No School: MLK Jr. Day  
 1/21- Boys Basketball @ Highland  
 1/22- Boys Basketball @ Highland  
 DC Parent Info. Meeting @ CMS- 6 p.m.  
 1/23- Boys Basketball @ Highland  
 NJHS Study Hall Meeting  
 1/24- Boys Basketball @ Highland  
 1/25- Wrestling @ Granite City HS  
 (Tournament)  
 Boys Basketball @ Edwardsville (Invite)  
 Boys Basketball @ Alton (Invite)  
 1/27- Boys Basketball @ O'Fallon  
 1/28- Boys Basketball @ O'Fallon  
 1/29- Boys Basketball @ O'Fallon  
 Wrestling @ Roxana



# Tote Me Home

In collaboration with the Collinsville Food Pantry, CMS is happy to offer families with the Tote Me Home program. Tote Me Home provides families with additional grocery assistance over the weekend. Students involved in the program are given a bag of groceries to take home on Fridays.



For more information please contact our CMS social workers.

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Life's **most**  
**persistent**  
and **urgent** question:  
**What are YOU**  
doing for others?

*- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

