



# Middle School Monthly

Winter Edition – December 2020

“WE DEVELOP CONFIDENT, CONTINUAL LEARNERS WHO ARE CARING COMMUNITY MEMBERS.”

## IMPORTANT DATES

### A Message From The Principal

by Corey Graves



#### Happy Holidays!

This is such a wonderful time of year. Now that Thanksgiving is over it is officially the start of the holiday season. Decorations are sprouting up everywhere, shopping has begun, and holiday plans are well under way. Many of our evenings and weekends will be spent getting ready for holiday celebrations. With visions of snowmen, reindeer and hot chocolate on our children’s minds, they still need to think about math facts, essays, and science experiments as well. Each marking period is an opportunity for a fresh start. Now that the 1st marking period is over, we can now turn our attention to the next ten weeks. Please help us encourage our students to stay as focused as possible and include homework and study time in your holiday plans.... at least until December 23rd!

Here are some easy tips that can make a big difference on remote learning days for our students:

- Set up a designated work space
- Follow the same schedule at home as you would when they are in school
- Regularly attend teachers office hours for additional support
- Reduce distractions

Although we’ve had a relatively warm fall, I fear that the snow and ice are just around the corner. The Solvay School District will notify all families in the event of a school closure or delay via ParentSquare and local media outlets. We have included both the 1 hour and 2 hour delay schedule for your reference.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Sincerely,  
SMS Principal  
Mr.Graves

### Spotlight

This month, our Spotlight Students are Mika Ferguson, and Vincent Fragola. Learn more about them below!

#### What is your favorite part of winter?

**Mika:** Snow, Christmas presents, and spending time with family.

**Vincent:** Spending time with my family.

#### Do you prefer the sun or the snow?

**Mika:** The snow. There’s a sled hill in my backyard.

**Vincent:** The snow. I love to play with my brother.

#### Do you have big plans over the holiday break?

**Mika:** To go to my grandma’s house to watch football.

**Vincent:** I will be seeing my grandparents from a distance and eating turkey!

#### What is your favorite dessert for the holidays?

**Mika:** Pumpkin or chocolate cream pie!

**Vincent:** Apple pie!

#### What is your favorite book?

**Mika:** Refugee by Alan Gratz

**Vincent:** Percy Jackson (the series) by Rick Riordan



## CALENDAR

### CALENDAR

12/01 – SMS PTO Meeting – 7:00PM

12/14-12/18 – Christmas Store Open

12/23-12/30 – SMS Virtual Variety Showcase

12/24-1/01 – No School – Holiday Recess

### GRADES

12/18 – 15 Week Marking Period Ends

12/28 – 15 Week Grades Available to View Online

### One Hour Delay Schedule

Period 1	8:55 – 9:29
Period 2	9:32 – 10:03
Period 3	10:06 – 10:37
Period 4	10:40 – 11:11
Period 5	11:14 – 11:45
Period 6	11:48 – 12:19
Period 7	12:22 – 12:53
Period 8	12:56 – 1:27
Period 9	1:30 – 2:01
Period 10	2:04 – 2:37

### Two Hour Delay Schedule

Period 1	9:55 – 10:20
Period 2	10:23 – 10:45
Period 3	10:48 – 11:10
Period 4	11:13 – 11:43
Period 6	11:46 – 12:16
Period 7	12:19 – 12:49
Period 8	12:52 – 1:22
Period 9	1:25 – 1:47
Period 10	1:50 – 2:12
Period 5	2:15 – 2:37

# GRADE LEVEL TEAMS

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

In 5th grade Science, students are examining models to gather evidence for the claim that the Earth is spherical. Smithsonian Science kits are rich in discovery and hand-on learning. Students in Mrs. Altman's class had fun using their estimation and measurement skills with pumpkins during a Halloween math lesson.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Students in Mrs. Mercer's 6th grade math class took advantage of the extra nice fall weather and worked on surface area problems outdoors!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

A glance into our 7th grade classrooms!

- Math students will be learning how to calculate sales tax, tips, and discounts.
- ELA students are going to be completing a research project on holidays and traditions from around the world.
- Social Studies classes are on the road to the American Revolution.
- Science classes will be studying cells and microscopes.



General Reminders:

- Check Google Classroom every day and complete all assignments.
- Check-in with teachers often and use office hours for extra help.
- Contact teachers using Google Hangouts, Gmail, or ParentSquare if you need help.
- Charge Chromebooks the night before you come to school!
- Read a little bit every day!

The 7th Grade Team would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Over the last month, the 8th graders have been working on some projects in their classes! In social studies, the students learned about the Industrial Revolution and immigration to the U.S. They then completed a project of their choice (journal, song or storyboard) to show the life of an immigrant in the U.S. in the 1800's! Math 8 students have been working on a Dream Home Mortgage project using linear and exponential equations. In ELA, students just completed a research project about various planets, and wrote creative pieces related to their planet and "All Summer in a Day". Science 8 students are exploring matter using online particle simulators, and Biology students are modeling cellular respiration using atom manipulatives.



Please reinforce with your child that they need to be utilizing the Google Classroom Classwork Tab for work, and the Stream for announcements. Students should not be relying solely on the "To-Do List"

The 8th Grade would like to wish all of our students and families a happy and safe holiday season!



# BEST PROGRAM

Block 2 of the BEST Programs began November 30th. We have some fun new programs being offered: Auto Racing, String Crafts, Christmas Baking and Holiday Decorations, Volleyball, and Historical Movies. If your child has not tried some of our favorites, here is the list to choose from: Minecraft, Ski Club, Harry Potter, Stranger Things, Braveheart, Yoga, 8th Grade Math and Algebra, and Dungeons and Dragons. Some of these are virtual programs and can be attended right at home. Now is the time to get involved. Space is limited in each program due to COVID.

We also had some wonderful weekend field trip with our hike at Green Lakes on Nov. 28th, Upcoming trips include the Holiday Festival on December 5th, Lights on the Lake on December 11th, and Hiking or Snowshoeing at Lime Hollow on December 12th. More field trips will follow after the Christmas Break.

All flyers associated with the programs are on the SMS website under the BEST Programs for Block 2 if you need further information. Last Block we tried something new and piloted an Academic Support Program for each grade level. Our goal was to target kids who were struggling and missing work. Parents were called and many students stayed after school to focus on making up assignments. We plan to offer this again right after the Christmas Break. If you are interested in having your child attend, please call the Main Office and ask for your child to be placed on the Academic Support Program.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### How to Email Your Teacher

To: [cbrooks@solvayschools.org](mailto:cbrooks@solvayschools.org)

(First initial, last name @solvayschools.org)

**Subject:** (Reason for email) Math Help

**Body:** (The body of your email should be short and sweet! No CAPS!)

Mr. Brooks,

I am struggling with my Math work. I need some help on exponents. When are your office hours?

Thanks,

Cory Brooks

### 10 Tips for your Teen on Netiquette

1. Professional Language is cool.
2. A post can make or break you.
3. Keep it Simple
4. Uppercase=yelling
5. Know your audience well to connect with them.
6. Your signature is you; on paper
7. Good manners make a good impression
8. Acronyms are always casual
9. User-Friendly does not mean secure and foolproof
10. Good Grammar is like personal hygiene

## FINE ARTS

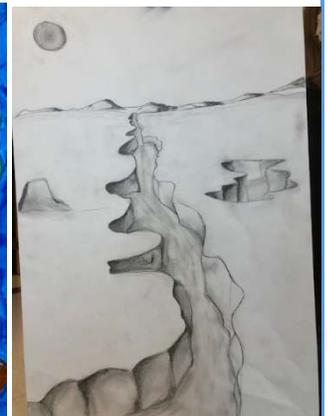
See some great work done by this month's featured artists!



5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Featured Artist  
Ashlynn Oliver



6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Featured Artist  
Connor Butler



7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Featured Artist  
Rachel Willsey

We would like to congratulate Jamison Sass, eighth grade, who has been selected to represent Solvay as member of this year's NYS Band Directors Association Middle School Honor Band. Jamison, a clarinetist, was selected out of candidates from across the state to be included in this prestigious ensemble. This year will consist of a virtual experience, including work with a renowned conductor, collegiate professors, and audio technicians to produce a high-quality digital band performance. We look forward to sharing the performance's release in March with the whole Solvay community.

