

Crusader News - April Happenings



APRIL NEWS

Extracurricular Energy... Middle States Spotlight ... Field Trip Update ... Save the Date: 8th Grade Graduation ... Summer Learning ... Picture This ... Important Dates ... and more!

EXTRACURRICULAR ENERGY:

Challenging our students outside the classroom

Forensics. Technology Student Association. Reading Competition. Drama Club and Oklahoma! Ski Club. Athletics.

These are just a few ways we inspire children to explore their individual interests, work together as a team, and many times, venture outside their comfort zone. No matter what activities they choose to pursue, research shows that extracurricular participation helps students improve their academic performance and time management skills, and develop a sense of commitment and responsibility. Not to mention the chance to learn new skills and make new friends. Here's a snapshot of what our students have been up to ...



FORENSICS ... (Public Speaking)

Congratulations to our 6th, 7th and 8th graders who competed in recent Forensics tournaments. Several students moved on to the Diocesan finals on 3/29 and came home tournament winners.

Winners at the Diocesan Finals on March 29, pictured above, include: Persuasive: Lily Newcomer, 1st, Ben Smith, 6th; Prose: Justine Haschak, 1st, Lauren Conrad, 5th; Poetry: Rachel Cameron, 4th, Lily Runkle, 5th, Lauren Crocco: 6th; Drama: Eden Rapp, 2nd, Ella Leitenberger, 3rd; Duo Drama: Kaedan Erret and Brady Dolgas, 6th



TECHNOLOGY ...

Congratulations to Technology Student Association (TSA) members **Ava Mitchell** and **Charlize Amper**, who will join **Eden Rapp, RJ Shayesteh** and several Bishop McCort TSA members at the statewide TSA competition at Seven Springs in April!



THE ARTS ...

These 7th and 8th graders (and a few more who are not pictured here) are featured performers and members of the stage crew for Bishop McCort's upcoming spring musical, *Oklahoma!* Don't miss their performances on **April 11, 12 and 13!**



ATHLETICS ...

In addition to organized sports, our students are active in many other athletic activities. For example, DMCA West 5th grader **Nathanael Bremer** (pictured here with our own **Miss Miller** - who netted a goal!) took to the ice for the recent Sitting Bulls Celebrity Educator hockey game at the War Memorial.

Meanwhile, as our 4th grade girls YMCA basketball team worked together all season to bring home the league championship trophy, members of the DMCA Ski Club sharpened their skills at Hidden Valley throughout the winter.



In the Spotlight

Middle States Accreditation At a Glance

In February 2018, DMCA launched a voluntary self-evaluation process to help us identify our strengths, as well as areas that need to be improved. This evaluation, part of the Middle States Association (MSA) Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools accreditation process, occurs every seven years and is designed to help schools continually grow and improve. Through self-study and assessments by visiting MSA teams that represents top leaders in education, we can ensure we're meeting protocols and standards, and providing an exceptional learning environment for our students.



Recognizing that school improvement requires a comprehensive approach, the MSA evaluates the 'whole school,' not just test scores. Specifically, they're looking at our performance related to mission, governance and leadership, school improvement planning, finances, facilities, school organization and staff, health and safety, educational programs, assessment and evidence of student learning, student services, student life and activities, and information resources.

From April 10-12, MSA visitors will tour our campuses to assess our performance in these 12 areas. Findings will guide our strategic improvement efforts moving forward. We will be sure to keep you updated on their findings and our next steps.

In the meantime, we thank our faculty (members who are pictured above),

administrative team, parents, board members, community and civic leaders, and students for providing honest perspectives on our performance. Dozens of people participated in surveys and discussions over the last 14 months. We are grateful for your time, prayers and support during this process, and and look forward to our next steps.

Field Trips Take Learning Beyond Classroom Walls

When spring comes calling, you know field trips aren't far behind. This year, DMCA students are going back in time, exploring animal habitats, delving into science workshops, visiting colleges, sparking their creativity, and even celebrating their DMCA experience at some of Pennsylvania's most iconic amusement parks. Here's a look at where our students' out-of-the-classroom experiences are taking them:



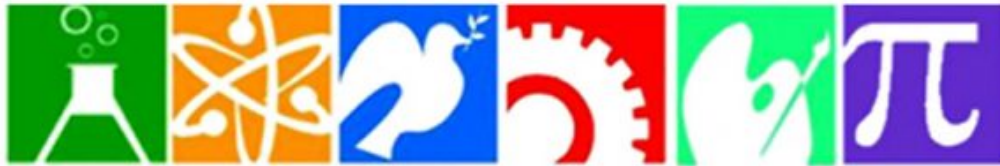
- PreK** - ACRP visit, 5/6
- K** - JAHA Children's Museum, 5/7
- 1st** - Somerset Historical Society, 5/8
- 2nd** - Pittsburgh Zoo, 5/8
- 3rd** - Pittsburgh Children's Museum, 5/14
- 4th** - Carnegie Science Center, 5/14
- 5th** - Pittsburgh Inventionland, 5/15
- 6th** - Kennywood, 5/15
- 7th** - Gettysburg, 5/21
- 8th** - Hershey Park, 5/24

Interested in chaperoning? Sign up [here!](#) Many thanks for your interest and support.

ACE students (left) recently visited Saint Francis University to learn more about what it means to go to college.



PICTURE THIS *Capturing the everyday spirit of DMCA*



STREAM Science, Technology, Religion
Engineering, Art, Mathematics

*Left: PreK students **Elin Trimbath, Ryker Ott** and **Madilyn Gindlesperger** at East Campus take a moment from Mardi Gras activities to snap a photo; the 6th graders hosted the Fat Tuesday event for all grades; Right: 2nd grader **Allison LaBar** shows her father and grandmother what she's learning during Family Day on the West campus. East Campus will host Family Day for PreK, K and 1 on 4/17. And check out our **STREAM** video and the new [St. Francis Sustainable Energy website](#) that highlights everything you need to know about this innovative partnership.*



SAVE the DATE!

8th Grade Graduation: Friday, May 31
 St. John Gualbert Cathedral, Downtown
 4:30 pm: Photos, 6 pm: Mass

Dance and festivities to follow in St. John's Activity Center. More info to come!



From April 1-8, students in grades 2-8 will complete the annual IOWA skills tests during morning class hours. There are important assessments. With this in mind, please be sure your child has a healthy breakfast and a good night's rest each evening, and arrange any doctor appointments or other dismissals for the afternoon. Many thanks for your help.

4/1-4/8 - IOWA testing

4/3 - Student Penance Service (West)

4/3 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm, BMCHS

4/5 - Dress Down Day (East/West)

4/6 - Basket Party Set-Up: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

4/7 - Basket Party, St. Andrew Church Hall, Noon

4/10-4/12 - Middle States Visit

4/10-4/13 - TSA State Conference, Seven Springs

4/11-4/13 - *Oklahoma!*, BMCHS Guzzi Auditorium

4/12 - Noon Dismissal (All campuses - Middle States)

4/15 - Tax returns due for financial aid consideration

4/17 - PreK, K, 1st Grade Family Visit/Lunch (East)

4/17 - Noon Dismissal - Easter Holiday

4/23 - School resumes (Snow Make-Up Day)

Be sure to check out the [DMCA Google calendar](#) for school-wide events and specific happenings at each campus. Our 7th and 8th graders should also review the [Bishop McCort calendar](#) for important dates throughout the year.

The mission of Divine Mercy Catholic Academy is to empower our students through Christ-centered academic excellence within a safe and secure environment that will create a solid foundation of values, leadership, and commitment to self and community.

Copyright © 2018 Divine Mercy Catholic Academy All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?. You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Do you know someone who wants to stay updated on DMCA happenings? Tell us! We would be happy to include them!

Divine Mercy Catholic Academy · 2306 Bedford Street · Johnstown, PA 15904 · USA
East Campus: 814-266-3837 · West Campus: 814-539-5315 · Middle School:
814-536-8991
Questions? Comments? Please contact us [here](#).