



December 15, 2023

# Mill Creek Newsletter

Home Of The Mustangs!

*Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve*

## Reminders

- Doors Open at 7:30 am.

School Hours - 7:50 to 3:00 pm.

- **Cell phones & backpacks are kept in lockers.**
- If you need to get a message to your child, please call the office 913.667.3512

## Important Links

- [Mill Creek Website](#)
- Follow us on Twitter - [@TheCreekMCMS](#)
- Need to Report an Absence? Click [HERE](#)
- [Black and Gold Calendar](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

## Upcoming Events

Dec 21 - Early Dismissal at 11:12 am

Dec 22 - Jan 7th NO SCHOOL

Jan 8 - 3rd Qtr starts \*GOLD DAY\*

# SKATE

**Mill Creek Middle  
School Skate Party**

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**6:00PM-8:00PM**

**To Skate: \$7.00**

Regular Skate Rental: \$2.00

Dinner Special \$5.50

Nachos and ICEE combo



9800 W. 62nd Terrace  
Merriam, KS 66203

913-262-0711

[www.skatecitykansas.com](http://www.skatecitykansas.com)

## Message from Mr. Legler

As we head into our last days of school in 2023 it is hard to believe it is nearly time to flip the calendar to 2024. During these next few weeks I hope you all have a chance to connect with family & friends and check off some of those items on your bucket list, even if they're just the items on your Netflix watchlist. On behalf of the entire Mill Creek staff, we wish you a happy holidays and Happy New Year!

Go Mustangs!  
-Andrew Legler

**Mr. Legler**  
**Principal**



# Athletics/Activities

## Mill Creek Middle School **DODGEBALL** TOURNAMENT

Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

6 - 9 pm, Mill Creek Gymnasium

**Packets available January 9<sup>th</sup>!**

**\$10 per player**

Teams of 10 – 12 students + 1 parent coach

**\*Only accepting the first 13 teams!\***

Proceeds benefit MCMS PTA  
& STUCO

*No team? Come out and watch  
your friends and teachers play!*

- Admission: \$3 Adult & \$1 Child
- DJ
- Food & Drink available for purchase

Pick up a registration packet  
from Mrs. Legore Seawood  
in January!



5 D's of Dodgeball: Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive, and.....DODGE!

## More Information

### *From The Library:*

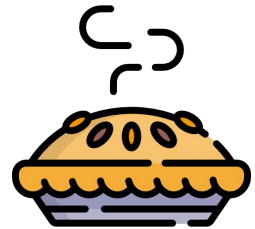
The second Quarter Book Club Discussion will take place on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 p.m. We are discussing the book *Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden.

Graphic Novel Book Club Discussion on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3-4 p.m. We are discussing *The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones* by Rick Riordan and Ethan Young.



If you need to pick up your child for an appointment, please be sure to plan ahead and arrive 5-10 minutes early. Lockers take extra time!

**PTA Needs YOUR Help!**



Please help us celebrate the MCMS Staff by donating pies or chocolates. Please click [HERE](#) to sign up and assist us!



MCMS is full of great educators who make a difference.  
Nominate one of our staff members today!



# THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT AUDITIONS

**JOIN US MONDAY, DEC. 18**  
**Between 3:00-6:00pm**

Sign up for a 30 minute time slot  
on the list outside Mr. Villaca's  
door. You must stay for the entire  
30 minute audition window.

MUSICAL PRACTICES WILL BE IN JANUARY  
AND FEBRUARY. MUSICAL  
PERFORMANCES ARE MARCH 1 & 2

6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH  
GRADERS MAY  
TRY OUT AND  
PARTICIPATE!



## THINGS TO KNOW:

- Music for the audition was handed out at the info meeting on Thursday
- Students should look at the practice schedule to make sure a commitment can be made and practices will not be missed
- Look through the info packet and review all sections, including the character list
- Bring your completed Student Information Sheet and the Audition Sheet to your tryout on Monday
- Grade checks will take place, as cast and crew members must be in good academic standing to participate
- Selection of crew will take place at the beginning of January

**CALLBACKS- WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20**  
**CAST LIST POSTED BY THURSDAY, DEC. 21**

# **De Soto USD 232 KANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM**

## **TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS:**

USD 232 has been an important and strong participant in the Kansas Teacher of the Year Program for many years. De Soto has had fifteen state finalists and twelve semi-finalists represented in the program since 2000.

We would like for you to nominate any teacher whom you consider to be an outstanding and effective educator. This person must have completed 5 years of teaching with at least 2 of them having been in USD 232. If there is a USD 232 educator whom you believe to be outstanding and deserving of special recognition, please fill out the nomination form at [www.usd232.org/ktoy](http://www.usd232.org/ktoy) . This form needs to be completed by 4:00 PM on **January 19, 2024.**

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Meet Ms. Keith - 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> A-L Counselor

Hello Everyone!

My name is Ms. Shannon Keith and I wanted to introduce myself to my 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade A - L families. Ms. Olivia Higgins sent out an email roughly a week and a half ago stating that she was going on maternity leave. While she is enjoying this time with her family, I am stepping in as the long-term substitute counselor until her return. One difference compared to other long term substitute positions is that I will be staying through the end of the school year for graduate hours as well.



A little history about me is that I am originally from Central Kansas, graduated from Kansas State University in 2018, and started working in an array of schools in the Kansas City, Missouri urban area. Through my experiences, I decided that School Counseling was the place my professional career would take me. I am currently going into my last semester of graduate school for school counseling and will complete my required hours at Mill Creek Middle School. I know change is hard so please know that the individuals here are supporting, supervising, and advising me throughout this process.

If by chance your student needs support from the counseling office, please reach out to my email, [skeith@usd232.org](mailto:skeith@usd232.org) or have your student fill out this [google form](#) to request a visit.

I look forward to meeting you and your student during this upcoming year.





[Ed. Foundation 12 Days of Giving: MCMS](#)

## **The Impact of Peers in Learning at MCMS**

Today, as part of the 12 Days of Giving, we shine a spotlight on a special program that is making a profound impact on the lives of Mill Creek Middle School students: Peers in Learning.

Peers in Learning serves as a two-way bridge, fostering connections that resonate through the halls of MCMS. At day's end, carefully selected Peers, chosen for their exemplary character and responsibility through a rigorous application process, converge in the Connections Special Education Classroom. Here, bonds are formed, and friendships are forged, rooted in shared experiences, genuine laughter, and acts of kindness.

Picture a typical day in the program—MCMS Peers and Connections students working together to complete tasks around the school, fostering a sense of responsibility and teamwork. Laundry and plant watering become more than chores; they become opportunities for growth and collaboration. Pairs participate in other daily activities like playing games, taking a walk, and working together to pack up for the day.

Peers become positive role models, leaving a notable mark on the lives of Connections students. And the reciprocity is evident—as much as the Peers give, they receive in abundance from shared laughter and camaraderie, while gaining a deeper understanding of individuals with exceptionalities and learning from their unique, authentic perspective.

Join the USD 232 Education Foundation in fostering a community where everyone, regardless of their abilities or school of attendance, is not just included but celebrated. Together, let's make a lasting impact on the lives of each USD 232 student, just as the Peers in Learning students have done at MCMS.

By investing in a future where empathy, understanding, and acceptance flourish, your donation goes beyond the surface, reaching the very core of our community and shaping the perspectives of the young minds involved.

# From Your 6th Grade Pathways Teachers:

Parents,

This first semester in Pathways class we have spent a lot of time discussing and discovering our personal strengths and interests, as well as our learning styles and goals we have for the future. Second semester we will begin to apply these insights toward our career research. We will be utilizing a program called Xello to research and gain insight into the careers students are both interested in, and careers they may not have considered before.

In addition to the career research we do online, we like to have guest speakers of various career fields speak to our classes. We would love to have people from right here in our community speak to us about just how they found their career. What were their interests, what you like about your job, and what you had to do to get there. In short-your Pathway. The ultimate goal is for students to learn about some of the great careers we have right here in our area.

These visits can be done in person at school, or via Zoom. If you are able to speak to our students about your career, we would only need you to Zoom or visit for one class and we would record your visit to share with other Pathways classes throughout the day. Your experience and insights would be invaluable to the students and we look forward to learning about your careers.

If you would like to share, please contact your student's Pathways teacher so we can set up a date and time.

Thank you!!!

Andrew Elliott- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Black Hall Pathways Teacher

[aelliott@usd232.org](mailto:aelliott@usd232.org)

Brian Tadlock- 6th Grade Gold Hall Teacher [btadlock@usd232.org](mailto:btadlock@usd232.org)