



5th

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8th

A Note From Ms. Renner Middle School Principal

Greetings from the Middle School!

Days are getting longer; we saw sunshine at least briefly last week and the weather has been cooperating so we have had many students participating in outdoor recess. This is the toughest time of the school year on students and staff for illness, being tired of Minnesota winter and we have been in school for over half the year. It's easy to see why a "pep talk" may be needed to keep your student working hard. We appreciate the efforts that you make to help support your child staying on track and engaged during the next five weeks of Quarter 3.

All-School Service Day to be held on April 9th: We have typically held our All-School Service Day in February. This year, the date has been moved to April 9th to allow more planning time for projects. The upper school National Honor Society will again be sponsoring and leading activities for K-12 students. We also have a committee working on ideas for specific middle school only service projects. Stay tuned for more information as we finalize plans in the upcoming weeks.

Presidents Day Holiday - No School February 17th: School will not be in session on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's day. School will resume on Tuesday, February 18th.

Mid-Quarter 3 February 21st: Teachers will hand out Progress Reports to each student in their Period 1 class on Tuesday, February 25th. We ask parents to review the progress reports with your student, sign and return the form to Period 1 teachers by Thursday, February 27th. You can also view student grades electronically through ParentVUE. The end of the quarter is Thursday, March 27th.

Please contact individual teachers with any concerns or questions regarding class progress. Study halls, Math Lab, and Reading/Writing Lab are available every day during the second half of lunch. Peer tutors from Upper School National Honor Society are also available. The form for sign up is available on the website or by clicking [here](#).

February 2020

Upcoming Dates

- **February 17th -**
- NO School
- **February 21st -**
- Mid-Quarter of Qtr. 3
- **February 25th -**
- Progress Reports sent home
- **February 27th -**
- Progress Reports due
- **March 2nd -**
- 7/8 Orchestra concert at 5pm
- **March 3rd -**
- 5th grade music groups concert at 5pm
- 6th grade music groups concert at 6:15
- **March 6th -**
- Non-Uniform Day
- **March 9th–13th**
- Spring Break



MCA TESTs begin on April 21st: Please see the chart below and mark you calendar with the appropriate dates for your student. **It is very important for students to be in attendance the entire day during their scheduled test days.**

5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Reading — 04/21/20	Reading — 04/21/20	Reading — 04/21/20	Reading — 04/21/20
Math — 04/23/20	Math — 04/23/20	Math — 04/23/20	Math — 04/23/20
Science — 04/24/20	Science — N/A	Science — N/A	Science — 04/24/20

Why Do We Give the MCA's?

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA's) are the state tests designed to help schools measure a student's progress toward meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards in the content areas of reading, math and science. We are mandated to tests students in grades 3-10 to meet federal and state legislative requirements. Minnesota uses the combined test scores from Minnesota students to report to the public and the U.S. Department of Education how Minnesota students are performing in school.

What Does the Score Mean For Your Child?

Your child is able to compare their individual student performance against the Minnesota benchmark standards that specify what a student in a particular grade should know and be able to do in that subject area. The Individual Test Score Report you receive next fall also show the child's progress from year to year starting in Grade 3. The individual scores help us identify your child's strengths or needs in reading, math and science. Graphs provide a comparison of your child's performance compared to the other students at SCPA and the MN average scale score.

How Do We Prepare for the Test?

Standards curriculum is covered in regular class content and teachers review curriculum when necessary in areas like science where students are expected to remember content from two previous years on the fifth and eighth grade tests. Schools are required to help students understand the types of question formats and technology tools used on the MCA's through the student tutorial videos and items samplers provided by the Minnesota Department of Education. Students will receive points for homework completion on MCA practice assignments as assigned by content teachers. Teachers spend time helping students learn strategies for taking the MCA test as it is a different style and longer test than students normally take in regular classes. Learning how to take standardized tests well helps prepare students for the many tests they will take in high school such as Advanced Placement Tests and college entrance exams like the ACT.

The MCA tests are online adaptive tests in mathematics and reading. Adaptive tests do not follow a strict, set sequence of questions. The content of the test is selected based on how the individual student performs on previous questions.

For reading, the test adjusts at the passage level, so a student's responses to a set of questions for a passage or group of passages determines the next passage and questions the students receive. For mathematics, every time a student answers a question, the individual student response helps determine the next question the student will receive. Science MCA's are not adaptive and follow a set progression of questions. Each student's test contains the same number of questions for a subject, regardless of how the student performs.

Adaptive MCA tests adjust based on the student's ability and allow students to spend less time on questions that are either too challenging or not challenging enough. For this reason, the tests offer a more precise measurement of a student's skills and abilities.

For more information on MCA tests, follow this link to the Minnesota Department of Education:

<http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/fam/tests/>

How Do We Use the Scores?

Schools use the MCA scores to improve our curriculum, classroom teaching, and student learning. As a charter school, we are required to submit our scores to our authorizer, Friends of Education, each year to demonstrate that we are being effective in helping students learn and grow in each grade. Teachers in each of the content areas look at which areas we did well in so that we can reflect on what we did effectively in teaching those concepts and also at areas that need improvement so we can increase instructional time, modify how we are teaching that topic or change our curriculum to better address those needs.

We also use students' scores as part of the decision-making process regarding individual schedules and which courses students are placed into for the upcoming year in reading/language arts and math. Test history is part of the student's permanent educational record and scores do get included on transcripts in Upper School at SCPA. Scores that are at the Meets Grade Level or Exceeds Grade Level expectations help to demonstrate College and Career Readiness for individual students.

Watch for more information in the March and April newsletter with specific testing details for middle school. Please contact us if you have additional questions.

Music Concerts: Upcoming winter concerts include 7th and 8th grade Orchestra's on Monday, March 2nd at 5:00 p.m. The 5th Grade Music groups concert will be held at 5:00 p.m. and 6th Grade Music groups concert will be at 6 :15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3rd. All concerts will be held in the PAC. There will be a pizza dinner available on Tuesday, March 3rd. See the flyer in the newsletter for more information on signing up for pizza.

Spring Break - March 9-13th: SCPA is scheduled to be out for spring break during this time. The offices and building are closed. School will resume for students on Monday, March 16th.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we transition into the final months of the school year in middle school.



Wanda Renner
Middle School Principal
wrenner@stcroixprep.org

5th

6th

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8th

Middle School Homework Calendar Peer Tutoring, & Lunch Study Hall

Middle School Homework Calendar 2019-20

<https://www.stcroixprep.org/middle-school/calendars/>

Qtr. 3 Quiet Lunch Study Hall Teachers - Mr. Goebel and Ms. Schutte
Math Lab — Mr. Vallin and Reading/Writing Lab — Ms. Bukowski
Sign up for Peer Tutoring [here](#)

Yearbook 2019-20

This year, SCPA Middle School will have a hardcover, 48 page, top quality yearbook. It's great for collecting friends'

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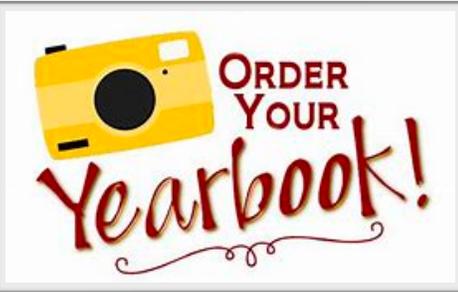
autographs too! Your Yearbook

Team is hard at work preparing this year's book, which will be delivered in the spring – but the time to order is now!

You can order online at www.balfour.com - be sure to select the Middle School yearbook.

The price is \$42 if you order before March 31.

Questions? Please contact [Mrs. Schumacher](#) or [Mrs. Reichow](#).



It's all about memories. Memories of special friends, special teachers, and special days. Order a yearbook to remember those fun-filled times

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Middle School Quiz Bowl



The Middle School quiz bowl team sent two teams to represent SCPA at the 2020 NAQT GEMSTONE tournament this past weekend. Both teams had lots of fun meeting and competing against other quiz bowl teams from across the state. Both teams performed well and made it to the quarter-final round. One member of the team, 7th grade Vikram Sharma, was the top individual scorer at the tournament. Vikram will be competing in the Individual Player National Championship held in Chicago on April 14th.



A Note From The School Nurse

6th

If you have a 6th grader there are required immunizations to start 7th grade (or a notarized conscientious objection). The 7th grade required immunizations, as long as student is up-to-date, are Tdap and Meningococcal. If your student has already received these immunizations because they have had their physical please turn them in to the health office. We also appreciate that as you have physicals done during the school year you turn in the clinic print out for immunizations received, we request you turn them in prior to August 1, 2020 so we have time to enter them all. Students need to have the immunizations in order to attend school the first day in August. Since the Tdap and Meningococcal have not been previously given we need an updated medical exemption signed by the doctor or a notarized conscientious objection if your student will not receive the vaccine. The form for medical exemption and conscientious objection can be found [here](#)



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8th

Students of the Month December 2019

~ Students are chosen for their Outstanding Academics, Character & Leadership ~



Naomi Daniel (5th)



Eleanor Furstenberg (6th)



Ben Myers (7th)



Tad Nelson (8th)



CONGRATULATIONS Students!!!

5th 6th 7th 8th

Students of the Month

January 2020

~ Students are chosen for their Outstanding Academics, Character & Leadership ~



Henry Nelson (5th)



William Kertz (6th)



Giulia Moggia (7th)



Sana Malik (8th)



CONGRATULATIONS Students!!!

Enjoy! Photos of the SCPA Pep Band



Art News

2020 Da Vinci Winners

The Annual Da Vinci Fest celebrates the arts in the St. Croix Valley. Congratulations!

Painting, Junior High Division: 1st Place, Alaina Biebl (6th)

Photography, Junior High Division: 1st Place, Amelia Smith (7th)

Sculpture, Junior High Division: 1st Place, Garret Stanislaw (7th)

2020 Scholastic Art Awards

Hannah Duffee -Honorable Mention Award Sculpture Category

Alexandriana Davis -Silver Key Award Sculpture Category

Garret Stanislaw- Silver Key Award Sculpture Category

7/8th Grade Students Making Figure Sculptures



5th Grade Students Making Watercolor Paintings



6th Grade Students Making Their Abstract Self Portraits



Pizza Dinner Before the Concert!

Tuesday, March 3 before the
5th/6th Grade Band/Choir/Orchestra concerts

\$5 Dinner Includes:

2 slices Pizza

Drink

Cookie

*Cheese and Pepperoni Pizza

selection based on availability

**MONEY DUE
THE DAY BEFORE
CONCERT DATE**



Checks (made out to SCPA) or cash should be turned in to the main office or you may pay online through SchoolPay.

Tue, Mar 3

5:00 pm — 5th Grade
Band/Choir/Orchestra
Concert

6:15 pm — 6th Grade
Band/Choir/Orchestra
Concert

Money must be turned in by
NOON of day before the
concert date.

**Pizza served immediately after
school at 4pm in the cafeteria.**

Proceeds to benefit 8th grade travel to Washington D.C.

Enjoy! Photos of the Augustana (South Dakota), Concert Band, & Middle/Upper School Students in the audience!





WOLF RIDGESM

Who: Current 5th-7th graders (35- 40 students)

When: Wednesday, June 5th- Friday, June 7th

Depart from St Croix Preparatory Academy on June 5th approx. 7:00 A.M.

Return back to St Croix Preparatory Academy on June 7th (approx. 5:30-6:00)



Where: Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

6282 Cranberry Road

Finland, MN 55603

Cost: \$250 *Scrip Cards can be used to help pay for the trip*

Due Date: Intent to attend field trip forms are due Friday, March 20th. Payment is due by Friday, April 10th.

Currently, we have 40 open spots for this trip. Please send the field trip form into Mrs. Schutte as soon as possible so I can reserve your spot.

Questions: Email Lindsey Schutte (lschutte@stcroixprep.org)

Wolf Ridge Website: www.wolf-ridge.org