

CORE Cougar Corner

February/March 2019



CORE Academy part of ... **THE MENTA GROUP®**

Supports for Success - Our staff understands that education requires a focus on the whole child and not on academic achievement alone. The programs implement a comprehensive system of learning supports that address social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development along a continuum of services.

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Reminder: We have rescheduled our cancelled school days. We will have school on the following days: March 4th, April 19th, April 22nd and June 14th.

Speech / Debate Competition



Both the middle school and high school sent teams to the Menta Group school speech /debate competitions. Our own Middle Schooler Derrick B. finished 3rd in the competition. Congrats Derrick!.

Math Bowl



The Menta Group held its annual Math Bowl competition in early February at Menta Academy Hillside. While the middle school and high school teams did not medal, they did deliver a strong and impressive performance.

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Black History Month - February

All month long the students have been celebrating and learning about Black History.



Curriculum Team Updates



Testing

CORE Academy complies with state law and proctors all necessary state testing for all of our students.

Our Curriculum Coordinator, Tina Fewer, sets up and organizes all of our testing. In February, we conducted and completed our ACCESS Testing as well as the Alternate ACCESS testing. The ACCESS test is for English Language Learners (ELL) designed to test a student's capacity in Reading, Writing Listening and Speaking. Coming up for March is the Illinois Assessment for Readiness (IAR) Testing (grades 3-8). The IAR is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district and assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Also in March is the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) for students in grades 5 and 8 plus kids in high school biology. The high school assessment (online) utilizes a course-based model with content aligned to Biology I. In April the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Suite of Assessments and the Preliminary SAT Suite of Assessments will be given. The SAT is a standardized test widely used for college admissions in the United States. The DLM (Dynamic Learning Map) is given to students who are not eligible for the IAR and SAT.

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Testing Continued:



STM: Current - Access testing and Alternative Access testing. Upcoming - DLM.

Elementary: Current - Access testing and Alternative Access testing. Upcoming - IAR and ISA.

Middle School: Current - Access testing and Alternative Access testing. Upcoming - IAR, ISA and PSAT.

High School: Current - Access testing and Alternative Access testing. Upcoming - ISA, PSAT and SAT.

Supported High School: Current - Access testing and Alternative Access testing. Upcoming - ISA, PSAT, SAT and DLM.



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PBIS



For February our Cool Tool was “It’s Cool to be Kind.” The Cougar Cart purchase was Walking Tacos (taco meat and nacho cheese in a Doritos bag). March’s Cool Tool of the month is “March in the Right Direction.”



The culminating activity for February was **Kindness Bingo!!!** Every class participated in a Bingo game and had to complete three activities as a class in a row on the board to get a Bingo. Activities include researching what kindness is, making a Valentine, writing a letter, drawing a picture, writing a poem and other creative ways to be kind. Classes that got Bingo will get an ice cream sandwich treat on March 4th.

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CORE Activities

The CORE Academy Cougars have participated in the following activities this month:

Field trips: Bowling, Shopping for STM and HS Supported.

School sponsored events: Speech Competition, Math Bowl, School Store

Athletics

Middle School Basketball: (Coach Pruitte, Coach Wells) The Middle School Team is currently 3-2 and hoping to finish the regular season on a strong note.

High School Basketball: (Coach Darius, Coach Khara) The High School Team is currently 6-0. The undefeated team is working hard on and off the court.



Upcoming Events

CORE Academy Makeup Days: March 4th (Monday), April 19th (Friday), April 22nd (Monday), June 14th (Friday - Last day of school)

High School and Middle School basketball continues into March

Science Fair Competition - March 14th

Spring Break: March 25th through March 29th