



January 2018



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Volume 6, Issue 4
January 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	2 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	3 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	4 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)	5 Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)
8 Cheese Pizza	9 Chicken Nuggets	10 Taco Salad	11 Turkey Wrap	12 1/2 Day: Dismissal @ 12:00
15 MLK Day (NO SCHOOL)	16 Cheese Pizza	17 Cheese Nachos	18 Hot Dog	19 Spaghetti w/ meat
22 Cheese Pizza	23 Mac & Cheese	24 Sloppy Joe's	25 Chicken or Beef Patty	26 1/2 Day: Dismissal @ 12:00
29 Cheese Pizza	30 Cheese Quesadilla	31 Stuffed Baked Potato		

Mark Your Calendar

January 8: SIP Meeting @ 4:00 p.m.

January 12: 1/2 Day for staff and students

January 15: MLK Day (NO SCHOOL)

January 18: Spanish/English Parent Night @ 4:30-6:00 p.m.

January 19: Arabic/English Parent Night @ 4:30-6:00 p.m.

January 25: 2nd Quarter ends

January 26: 1/2 Day

January 26 – February 2: Scholastic Book Fair

January 31: School Spirit Dress Down Day

February 1: Student Led Conferences

Mission Statement

The Dearborn Academy is a unique charter school serving a multicultural community through individualized, focused instruction allowing each student to achieve academic excellence and exhibit social responsibility.

Vision

We are an Academy dedicated to academic excellence for our young learners. We are innovative, empowering, and absolutely committed to the continuous social development and academic growth of all students. We establish a school learning environment in which our academic goals are articulated with laser sharp clarity and are regularly monitored.

We provide an academic environment where quality learning is fun and enjoyable. We create an atmosphere of trust and support for all learners where diversity is celebrated and honored. We develop actively involved learners who are building self-confidence and a sense of responsibility to be engaged in the global community.

School Hours

7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Buses, student arrival, and breakfast begin at 7:15 a.m. Students are sent to their classrooms at 7:55 a.m. (elementary) and 7:50 (middle school).

Children who are late to school (after 8:05) **MUST** report to the office before going to class. We urge you to make every effort to have your child at school ON TIME each day so that your child has a good beginning to their day. When students are late, it disrupts the class as well as causing the tardy student to miss specific directions for the day.

If you need to pick up your child early, we ask that you call the school office at 313-982-1300 a minimum of **ONE** hour prior to arriving.

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! Here is to hoping you all had a wonderful winter break and were able to relax and spend some quality time with your families. It is so nice to see everyone back. A new year signals a fresh start, a time for looking ahead and setting new goals. Here is to wishing you and yours the best for 2018!

I trust that the transition back to school has been a smooth one for all January is always about fresh beginnings and positive change. I love the promise of the New Year and all the possibilities that exist for our children here at TDA. A new calendar year brings new opportunities and new challenges. Soon, the end of the semester will be upon us, with its flurry of projects, quizzes, tests and exams.

We are all aware that a lot more learning must be achieved before the end of the year. Please assure your child(ren) arrive to school on time each day and please continue having them read and complete homework each night. Be sure to discuss homework and what is being read to help increase comprehension and learning. In addition, research states that a student's academic performance can be negatively impacted by lack of sleep (less than 10 hours) and lack of energy. Your child needs plenty of rest followed by a healthy breakfast (including some protein) each morning to help strengthen the brain for learning.

Reminders

- Please keep the office informed of **ANY** changes in your phone numbers or your address. Medication intake policy: *Parents must leave medication with the prescription in the office*
- School uniform is the SCHOOL shirt and BLUE or BLACK pants/skirt: **NO JEANS**
- Hoodies are to be removed before going into class
- Boots are NOT part of the uniform
- Safety is one of the most important issues for our children at The Dearborn Academy. Please report to the office when you are visiting the school.

The Dearborn Academy Board Meeting

January 25, 2017 @ 4:30. All are invited!



Please collect and send in all box tops to your child's teacher.

PK News

Happy January! A reminder that we love outside play and like to go out twice a day! Please send your child with appropriate outside clothing. Outside play is very important! This month, we are going to focus on supporting the children working out conflicts on their own. It is important for children to learn how to express their feelings and solve conflicts, with adult support, on their own. We will be using our 6 Step Conflict Resolution process to do this. If you would like to know more about this process, please see one of us and we will provide you with materials to help support this at home!

KG News

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a nice and relaxing break! During the month of January, we will continue to work on identifying our upper/lowercase letters and the sounds these letters make. We will continue to sound out and write simple words like *cat*, *sun*, and *dog*. Learning how to do this will be an important part of starting to read! We will begin *Writer's Workshop*, where students will learn different styles of writing and will be able to write their own stories. We will also begin spelling tests. Students will be given a list of words. Students are to study those words, how to spell and read them. They will have two weeks to study the list, then will be given a test on Friday. The student must pass the test before moving on to the next list. In math, we will continue to work on counting pennies, telling time to the hour, and identifying the numbers. We will be starting to learn how to write and identify numbers 11-20.

We will begin our social studies unit, "Long Ago." The students will be learning about the past, present, and future. They will be able to identify the differences and similarities amongst all three such as the food people ate, clothes they wore, houses, way of life, etc.

It has been very exciting to see the progress students are making! We continue to ask for support at home with letter sounds, and number writing/recognition. As a reminder, homework packets go home on Monday and are due back on Friday. Be on the lookout for the word list, which will be sent home on Monday's. The test will be given every other Friday.

1st Grade News

Happy New Year and welcome back! We are excited to be starting another integrated unit in the new year. This unit is all about habitats. First graders will explore different habitats across the world and compare and contrast what makes them each unique. This integrated unit will incorporate science, social studies, reading and writing standards. Please remember students will have math homework every night except for test days and it needs to be completed and turned in the next school day.



2nd Grade News

This month in second grade, the students have been working on mapping skills in Social Studies, locating, and plotting things on a map. In Science, students have been studying seeds and the parts of a flower. In math, students have been learning about fractions and measurement. Students continue to work on phonemic awareness in Language Arts, as well as story structure, and author's purpose. In the upcoming month students will explore landforms in social studies, different types of plants in Science, and continue to hone skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.

3rd Grade News

Happy New Year and welcome back! We are so proud of the hard work shown by all of our students so far this school year! We love seeing them reach and exceed their goals! In math, we will be focusing on our multiplication facts from 0 to 10. Please take time to practice these facts every night with your child. In reading, we will continue working on our weekly stories and reading strategies along with book clubs during small group time. It is essential that students are reading every night. In science, students will be learning about animals and their habitats and in social studies they will be learning about Michigan history. All students and parents have now been given information on how to access Prodigy (math online) and Raz-Kids (reading online) from home. Students should be logging onto these websites at least 3 times a week at home. Remember, each week your child's teacher receives feedback on each student's progress on Prodigy and Raz-Kids. As the cold weather moves in, please make sure your child is coming dressed appropriately for the weather. Students need to have a winter coat, hats, and gloves; depending on the weather, they will continue going out for outdoor recess. Student-led conferences are February 1st. This is an important time for students to inform you about their progress so far in third grade and share with you what they have been working on. We look forward to seeing you all on February 1st!

4th Grade News

Welcome back to school! We hope you enjoyed your Winter Recess! Now that we are getting back into the swing of things, students will continue to work on division in math.

We will learn long division and what to do when you have a remainder in a problem. Along with division, we will be working on word problems. It is important for children to be highlighting information to help them understand what skill to use to solve the problem. Also, please keep practicing multiplication and division facts at home with your child! This will help them succeed.

In reading we are learning many Greek and Latin words and word parts to help children find the meaning of words. This skill helps children figure out words they do not know. We will also continue to work on the story elements within a story. Please make sure your child is reading at least 20 minutes at home a day. Reading is a life skill!

During science children are learning about rocks, the rock cycle, and how the Earth was formed. Feel free to ask your child about the rock cycle. Social studies flows nicely with science. In social studies we are working on the seven continents within our world. Along with that, children will be learning the bodies of water.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us!

5th Grade News

It is hard to believe that it is already January and a new year! We hope all of you had a fun, safe, and relaxing break. As we start to work our way through the second half of the year it is important to remember to keep pushing your students to stay on top of everything. Sometimes students start to feel comfortable during the middle of the school year and study habits, homework, and reading start to slide. Please remind them to keep up their hard work! You should be checking your student's planner every night and reminding them to read! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your student's teacher.



World Language News

Arabic Low Elementary: During the weeks of January, Students will be introduced to the letters T-aa, D-aal- A-ain, Gh-ain, Seen, Sheen. They will recognize words that starts with these letters. They will work on their Numbers practice book. They will learn *Khitati Alsagira* song. 3rd graders are practicing connecting 2-3 letters to make words

Arabic High Intermediate and MS: During the weeks of January, students will practice writing sentences using their weekly words. They will recognize family members and will complete a family tree. They will learn terms that will help them describe the weather.

Arabic KG: During January, KG will be introduced to letters: "SEEN", "SHEEN". We will practice activities and work sheets related to SEEN, and SHEEN, in addition to tracing and writing them correctly.

Spanish Low Elementary: During the weeks of January, students will begin learning about "gender" nouns and will practice pairing them with the proper prefix "La, EL, Los, Las". Each student will also practice connecting words together to create small meaningful sentences in Spanish.

Spanish High Intermediate and MS: During the weeks of January, students will practice answering and asking questions about the family. In small groups, student will be able to ask and answer simple questions in Spanish. They will also learn terms that will help them describe how they are feeling.

Spanish KG: During the weeks of January, students will be introduced to the days of the week. A new song will be introduced in order to help students memorize the days of the week in a fun and interactive way. Our "new word of the week" will continue to be added to our ongoing list.

PE News

Students are starting to prepare for the TDA Winter Olympic games. The events include: speed skating, curling, hockey, bobsleigh, and the biathlon. Please note that the 2018 Winter Olympics is scheduled to begin in February.

Middle School News

Math: Sixth grade will be moving from ratios in the real world to units rates. They will use their knowledge of unit rates to find the better buy on purchasing an item in their everyday life.

Eighth grade will be moving from multi-step equations to linear functions. They will be able to graph a linear function on the coordinate plane, create scenarios from linear functions that are already graphed and find the unit rate of the functions.

Social Studies: Social Studies is always mixing the creativity of students to whatever subject they are studying. Eighth grade recently finished analyzing the American Revolution. This means that they have moved on to how the creation of the United States government had failed until the forging of the constitution that we have today. But instead of just analyzing the impact of government, the students have moved on to evaluating the purpose and its positive/negative effects. The 7th graders on the other hand, have just read about the first empires of the Middle East (Mesopotamia) and China. But it is now for the other two ancient Empires of Egypt and India. Students have begun their exploration of the Old Kingdom and will be building their own pyramids, sarcophagi, and even mummifying a chicken! It is always interesting to dive into history that very few have gotten the chance to study like India and its Harappan and Vedic Empires. The 6th Graders have are moving onto the curious subject of culture that is by far the most interesting with such a strongly diverse group. Students will see how culture spreads, examples of the strengths of their own cultures and how influential they make us think. Social Studies has once again won the day as engaging because we are the best subject!

Science: All grades will be completing the third of five units this month! This year is flying by in the science room! 8th grade will continue learning about Earth's cycles. They will be exploring how water, gases, minerals, rocks, and other Earth materials recycle throughout time. We will be working on making 3-D models of these cycles! 7th graders will be digging into cells, organelles, and the body! They have been studying chemistry, and will soon learn that humans are made of elements. They will be required to make a model of the cell and will need to bring their own materials into class, be sure to ask them what they need. 6th graders will be taking a close look at DNA and mutations. We will be making a model of a DNA helicase and will see how inserting a mutation into our model changes the structure of our DNA.

ELA:

6A/B: This month the 6th graders will continue to explore informative texts using active reading strategies. They will also add to their word banks new middle school vocabulary that they will use when writing their narrative essays.

8B: Students will continue to read and summarize informative texts using active reading strategies. They will be writing argumentative essays using their daily vocabulary lists, figurative language and the language structures they learn in class.

7A/B & 8A: This month, students will complete an argumentative essay, and move on to a unit about personal stories.

