

The Squire

◆ Parent/Teacher Conference Day



Schools will be closed on **Monday, February 6th** for Parent/Teacher Conference Day. Conference Day will begin at noon and continue until 7:00 p.m.

Beginning on **Monday, January 30th**, parents may call Kim Lescure in our guidance office (772-7560) to schedule conferences with teachers.

◆ Parent Meeting for Registration Orientation

Parents are invited to attend our annual registration meeting on **Thursday, January 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the Hidden Valley Middle School cafeteria.** Administrators, counselors, and teachers will provide important information concerning student registration for classes for the 2012 – 2013 school year. Students and parents will have an excellent opportunity to ask questions and learn about academic and elective courses and placement. **THIS MEETING IS FOR PARENTS WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE RISING 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADERS FOR THE 2012 – 2013 SCHOOL YEAR.** Please plan to attend.

◆ Change in Final Exam Policy

Effective with this school year, Roanoke County Schools will be replacing final exams with **“final assessments”** to be given at the end of the school year for full-year credit bearing courses. The final assessments may be a project, test, etc. and delegated as a percentage of the fourth nine weeks average as determined by the teacher.

Students in full-year credit bearing courses (algebra, geometry, Spanish, French, Latin at the middle school level) can still qualify for exemption from the final assessment if they meet the following criteria:

- maintain an A or B average during second semester at the time exemptions are declared;
- miss no more than 5 days of school during the second semester in courses that meet daily (algebra and geometry);
- miss no more than 3 days of school during the second semester in courses that meet every other day on the A/B schedule (Spanish, French, Latin)

- must pass the end-of-year SOL test if applicable (if the score has not been received at the time exemptions are declared, then it will be assumed for exemption purposes that the student passed the SOL test).

(Exceptions to the attendance policy will include absences for school-sponsored activities and nationally recognized religious holidays. There are no other exceptions and there is no appeals process.)

Students with incompletes will not be eligible for exemption from final assessments. All students, including those being considered for exemption status, must attend all review sessions held for a course. (Students are still responsible for all work and must maintain an average of A or B status through the review sessions.)



◆ Calendar of Events

All CSMS calendar events are listed on our school website. Click on “Calendar of Events and Sports Info”. We have additions, deletions, and changes to our calendar regularly. Please check our website frequently.

JANUARY

24	Girls' Soccer Open Gym – at Bogle Stadium – 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.
25	Wrestling vs Hidden Valley – at HVMS gym – 5:00 p.m.
26	Girls' Soccer Open Gym – at Bogle Stadium – 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.
26	CSMS Parent Registration Meeting – at HVMS cafeteria – 7:00 p.m.
27-28	Middle School All-District Band – at CSHS

FEBRUARY

2	Girls' Soccer Open Gym – at Bogle Stadium – 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.
6	Schools Closed\
6	Parent Teacher Conference Day – noon – 7:00 p.m.
7	Girls' Soccer Open Gym – at Bogle Stadium – 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.
9	CSMS Fall/Winter Sports Recognition Program – at CSHS auditorium – - 7:00 p.m.
15	Interim Midpoint for 3 rd Nine Weeks
15	Early Dismissal at 1:25 p.m. – Teacher Inservice
16	Girls' Soccer Open Gym – at Bogle Stadium – 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.
20	Baseball Tryouts – at Starkey Field #3 – 4:15 – 6:15 p.m.
20	Softball Tryouts – at Clearbrook Elementary – 4:15 – 6:15 p.m.
20	Girls' Soccer Tryouts – at Bogle Stadium – 4:15 – 6:15 p.m.
20	Boys' Soccer Tryouts – at Bogle Stadium – 4:15 – 6:15 p.m.
22	Interim Reports Mailed Home for Students with D/F Averages
28	CSMS and CSHS Jazz Café – at St. John's Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Parent Registration/Orientation Meeting

for parents of rising 6th, 7th & 8th graders for the 2012/13 school year

Thursday, January 26th, 7:00 p.m.

Hidden Valley Middle School cafeteria

Principals, counselors and teachers will discuss the registration process, present information about course offerings and placement, and give parents an opportunity to ask questions in a round-robin session. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting. Central Office personnel will be available to answer any questions concerning curriculum.

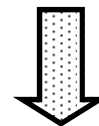


Registration for 2012/13

CSMS Guidance Counselors were in the 6th & 7th grade English classes to discuss next year's course selections - for 6th graders on Wednesday, 1/18/12, and for 7th graders on Thursday, 1/19/12. Please review with your students their course requirements, levels of classes, and elective choices for the upcoming year. This is an extremely important process. Your child will be bringing home a registration form for your review and for parent signature. Teachers will be reviewing placement recommendations for next year with students. During the first week of February, Mr. Reynolds and Mrs. Farley will meet with each student to review their registration form. Plan to attend our Parent Orientation for Registration meeting on January 26th for additional information.

Please note: all contracts must be signed & returned no later than Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, 2012. After this date (2/22/12), availability for Pre-AP classes and electives will be determined at the end of summer, based on available space. Questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Farley or Mr. Reynolds in Guidance.

Student Request Verification forms (SRV's) for 2012/13 will be given to rising 6th, 7th & 8th grade students on Thursday, 2/16/12. This is not a specific order of classes - only a listing of classes requested. Please review information on the form and return any corrections to the guidance office by Wednesday, Feb. 22nd. **Note that all Pre-AP contracts must be signed and returned no later than February 22nd, 2012.**



CSHS Registration for Rising 9th Graders.....

Current 8th grade students received registration information in English class on Wednesday, Jan. 18th. At that time, CSHS counselors talked about how our rising 9th graders will be registered for next year and discussed elective choices for the 2012/13 school year.

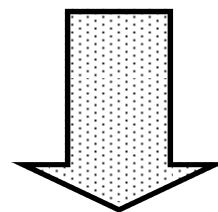
Rising freshmen will register with CSHS by appointment February 6-10th. Parents will receive an appointment time to meet.

8th Grade Career Information

Early December, 8th graders participated in a Career Unit. Students completed an interest and skills inventory to determine their preferred career cluster. On the second day of the unit, students completed a high school course plan related to their career pathway. CSMS Guidance would like to encourage all parents to have conversations with their child in preparation for registration to Cave Spring High School.



A BIG Thank You to the PTA for the holiday gifts for our families during the holiday season. Many families in our school community enjoyed a much brighter holiday due to the efforts of our PTA. We appreciate the strong support from our PTA, as well as our generous faculty, parents & community.



SOL TESTING TENTATIVE DATES FOR SPRING 2012

Tuesday, March 6th:

8th Grade Writing Multiple Choice

Wednesday, March 7th:

8th Grade Writing Prompt

Note:

Non Writing SOL's:

Testing Dates May 14-June 1.

Kroger & Dr. Wheelock---

Thank you for the food donation of turkeys, potatoes, pies & green beans to our families during the holiday season.

We appreciate your generosity!



The conversation starts here.

A message from *Time to Talk* and the Student Assistance Program

A New Year's Resolution for Every Parent: Talk With Your Kids about Drugs and Alcohol

Resolving to talk more often with your child about healthy decisions & choices is a great idea for the New Year. TimeToTalk.org celebrates the positive influence of parents and can help you start the New Year with "10 Resolutions That Show Your Kids You Care."

10 Resolutions That Show Your Kids You Care:

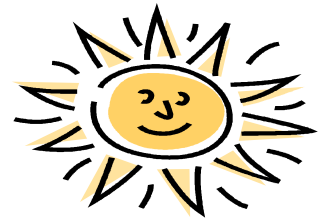
- 1. Teach your children to trust you by seeing you as a role model.**
- 2. Be patient, not just tolerant. Apologize when you make a mistake or do something you regret.**
- 3. Ask teens what they need from you – and do whatever you can to meet those needs.**
- 4. Listen to your teens, a lot. Avoid interrupting.**
- 5. Teach your children about ethics, values and principles they can apply in choices and decision making.**
- 6. Help them discover the feeling of gratitude, not just to say thank you.**
- 7. Keep the promises you make. If you do not keep your word, acknowledge that. Help your teen understand the circumstances or choices that precipitated the change in your plans.**
- 8. Answer your teen's questions and be consistent. When you notice behavioral changes in them, make yourself available and encourage them to talk about what is going on in their life.**
- 9. Be understanding when they have a difficult time and let them know you will love them no matter what.**
- 10. Be diligent. Have ongoing conversations with your kids about the risks of drugs and alcohol.**

For more information contact Joan Farley, Guidance Coordinator.

STEPPING STONES

Stepping Stones is a monthly support group for children who have suffered the loss of a parent or guardian. Meetings take place the second Thursday of every month, from September through May, but a child may join at any time. Registration is needed by the Tuesday prior to the meeting. If you would like further information, please see someone in the guidance office.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES



Virginia PTA-2012 Citizenship Essay Project

Open to students in grades 6-12. The focus of this 500 word essay is 'Community Responsibility'. The deadline for this project is February 1, 2012 and due to the District Director.

UVA Saturday and Summer Enrichment Program

Open to rising Fifth through rising Eleventh grade students. Deadline of March 1, 2012 to applicants.

Phillips Academy in Andover

This summer session for 2012 has a deadline of February 15th, 2012.



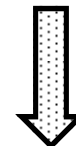
Go Squires!

Your PTA

Happy New Year from the CSMS PTA!!!

Please be aware of the following announcements from our PTA:

- ◆ **“Hidden Springs Hidden Talents”** is slated for **Tuesday, April 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the Hidden Valley Middle School gymnasium.** Auditions will be held on **Tuesday, March 6th from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the HVMS Forum.** This is an opportunity for the students of CSMS and HVMS to showcase their talents through our talent show. All talents are welcome, including singing, dancing, acting, and instrumental music. Acts may be performed by individuals or groups. There will also be display opportunities for arts and crafts and written pieces on the night of the performance. Entry forms can be found on the CSMS website. Please take a completed registration form, release form, and lyrics to music to be used for the performance to the audition on March 6th. If you are unable to make the audition date but would like to be a part of the show, please contact Melissa Puckett, HVMS PTA President at 776-0456 to make other arrangements.
- ◆ **Congratulations to Ms. E. Long’s 6th grade class** for highest number of PTA memberships. Each student received a gift certificate to Frogurt’s and Ms. Long received a \$50 VISA gift card. If you are a CSMS PTA member in good standing, you should have received your copy of this year’s student directory. They were sent home with your student the week before holiday break. If you have not seen it, please check with your student.
- ◆ **Congratulations to CSMS and HVMS in winning RAYSAC’s Red Ribbon Week Contest** this year! They split a \$250 award and each school will receive a plaque. Ms. E. Long’s 3rd block, Mrs. Mihalo’s 4th block, and Ms. Decosta’s 2nd block classes won the door decorating contest at Hidden Valley and Ms. Lucki’s eighth grade 4th block class won the door decorating contest at Cave Spring High. These classes received a pizza party for their efforts and the teachers were presented with gift cards.
- ◆ **Congratulations to our “Diversity Means...” PTA Reflections Contest Winners.**
 - 1st place Musical Composition – Roshni Sen
 - 1st place Literature – Audrey Kidd
 - 2nd place Literature – Annie Fentress
 - 3rd place Literature – Jonathan Plunkett
 - 1st place Film Production – Thomas Conroy



Your PTA

1st place Visual Arts – Brook Ludy

2nd place Visual Arts – Lina Habazi

3rd place Visual Arts – Roshni Sen

Honorable Mention Visual Arts – Ashley Fimbel

PTA Reflections Contest theme for next year is “The magic of a moment...”

- ◆ **We are still actively collecting Box Tops for Education.** Our next submittal will take place this spring. Keep clipping those box tops and send them in with your students to the CSMS offices at HVMS and CSHS. You can also sign up at www.boxtops4education.com to receive coupons and to earn eBoxtops rewards for your online shopping. Our first earnings check for 2011-12 from Boxtops For Education was for \$518. Thank you for earning free money for CSMS!!!
- ◆ **A Bellacino’s Family event is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th.** Bellacino’s will donate 10% of their total day’s proceeds to our PTA. So, take your family and friends to lunch or dinner – it’s an easy way to support CSMS!!!
- ◆ **Our Helping Hands program** was active during the holiday season and we’d like to thank everyone who contributed time, money and gifts for the Secret Elves program. Your support enabled the PTA to assist over 50 children from 18 CSMS families by putting something special under their tree! A special thanks goes to Mrs. Steffen’s 1st block eighth grade class for working together to provide donations for an entire family. We’d also like to thank Dr. Wheelock’s office and Kroger for providing Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for these families. We’re very grateful for the support of Mrs. Farley and Mrs. Lescure whose help made the Secret Elves program possible.
- ◆ If you’ve been considering a donation to CSMS via **Squire Support**, it’s never too late. Please see the donation form on the CSMS website or contact Trina Jarema at trina.jarema@cox.net for more information.

Marcy Todd-Hollins
CSMS PTA President