



COUGAR NEWS

Combs Middle School

School Newsletter – March 2017

2017-2018 Course Selection Process



The course selection process for the 2017-2018 school year is moving forward. By now, all students should have returned their completed course selection form to CMS. If that has not occurred for your child, please return the form to the middle school right away. If any 8th grade parents have any questions about the courses selected for next year, please contact Steve Miller, High School Assistant Principal, at (480) 882-3559. If any 7th grade parents have any questions about the courses selected for next year, please feel free to contact Leslie Wiberg at (480) 882-3518.

The continued goal of both the middle school and high school staff is to do everything possible to honor the course requests of the students for next year.

Girls' Basketball is Thriving



An important aspect of the Combs Middle School community is the competitive sports program that is being developed. CMS belongs to the Desert Middle School Athletic League. Each quarter, student-athletes compete in a variety of competitive sports programs. For the third quarter, competition within the league is taking place at CMS with girls' basketball. CMS basketball player, Alexa Howland, commented, "I am very proud of the hard work of my teammates and am excited with how successful our season has been." The Lady Cougars are currently in first place in regular season play and are the #1 seed heading into the upcoming end-of-season tournament. Loreen Reaves, CMS Head Girls Basketball Coach, stated, "Our girls are young and inexperienced, but that doesn't take away from their motivating and encouraging attitudes towards themselves and the game of basketball." The first round of the upcoming tournament will take place at 4:30 pm in the CMS gymnasium on Thursday, March 2nd. Let's all make plans to attend and cheer our Lady Cougars on to victory!

Note: The picture is the CMS Girls' Basketball Team going through their team celebration event with cheerleaders and fans.

CMS Spring Book Fair

The Combs Middle School Spring Book Fair is taking place in the CMS library until March 3rd. The fair will be open daily 8:15 am - 4:00 pm. The theme of the fair is *Following the Stars*. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. De Leon at 480-882-3510 (ext. 1412). The library staff is looking forward to you checking out the display and products.

Open Enrollment Procedures

The parents of students who attend Combs Middle School on open enrollment need to complete an open enrollment form for the 2017-2018 school year. Forms must be completed and returned to the administration office by April 15th. Hard copies of the forms are available in the front office. The form is also on line.

Students of the Month

The following Cougars and Lady Cougars earned the distinction as Student of the Month for February:

Middle School "Outstanding Cougars" Program

The Cougars and Lady Cougars recognized for the month of February were:

7th Grade – Troy Wendt and Hailey Lyman

8th Grade – Isaac Nelson and Arielle Graham

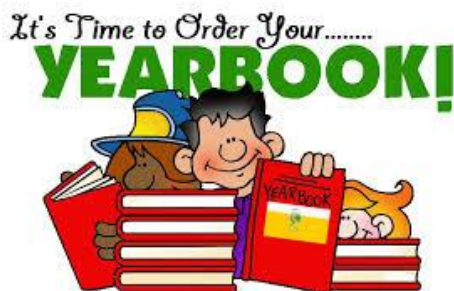
District "Character Counts" Program

Kyli Arnspiger received this recognition at the February board meeting for the pillar of Fairness.

Kiwanis Most Improved Student

Makayla Engelhardt received this recognition at the local Kiwanis for February.

Yearbooks



Ms. Foster and the students in the Yearbook class have been diligently working to produce this year's edition of the middle school yearbook. This year's yearbook is going to be a great edition. Students always enjoy looking at past yearbooks as a way to remember the experiences that took place during their middle school years. The cost of the yearbook is \$40. Please turn in money (cash/check) to the front office or pay online. Feel free to contact Ms. Foster at 480-882-3510 (ext. 1421) if you have any questions about the yearbook.

Pennies for Patients

Since 1994, millions of dollars have been raised in pennies and other spare change by more than 10 million elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the country. The Pennies for Patients campaign began in the Society's North Carolina Chapter in 1995. The funds collected benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Everyone who participates is a winner! Students across the country collect pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters during the Pennies for Patients campaigns benefiting the Society. Prizes such as computers, electronics and sports equipment are awarded to the top schools. The Pennies for Patients campaign began in the Society's North Carolina Chapter in 1995.

Combs Middle School will participate in this event, sponsored by Student Council, during the month of March. Please encourage your child to participate in this school community service project!



Athletic Director's Update

Tryouts for the fourth quarter sports programs of boys' basketball and girls' soccer will take place after spring break. All students interested in participating in these programs are required to have a physical, copy of their insurance card, permission slip, and emergency contact form completed in order to participate.

The \$75 participation fee is paid once the student is chosen for the team. Forms are available on line and in the front office. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Ridge, Athletic Director, at 480-882-3519.

Spring Break

CMS will be on spring break March 13-20. Please remember that there will be no school because teachers will be participating in professional development on Monday, March 20th. Classes will resume for the start of the fourth quarter with buses running and breakfast/lunch served wendton Tuesday, March 21st.

Dress Attire Reminder

“Thank You” for everything parents do to be supportive of the dress code guidelines for school. As spring approaches, students are going to begin making adjustments to their attire at school to correspond with the warmer weather that is returning. Please take a moment to review the dress code with your child.

School Arrival

School staff members are proud that parents/students recognize the direct relationship that exists between academic success and regular school attendance and appreciate that parents/students understand that classroom activity cannot be replicated and class discussion/participation is lost to those students who are regularly absent or tardy to school. To that end, the staff would like to request that parents assure that all students are able to begin their school day on time. To assure that all students are able to begin their day comfortably, a request is being made to have your child arrive on campus by 8:45 am each school day morning. Doing so will assure that every student will be seated on time and ready to begin the first class of their day.

CMS Web Store

CMS has a web store on our website. It is located as one of our quick links on the left side of the front page of our website. Visit it to pay fees on line and to purchase items such as the yearbook.

Calendar

March

- 1-3 Spring Book Fair
- 13-17 Spring Break (no school)
- 20 Professional Development (no school)
- 21 Fourth Quarter Begins
- 23 Spring Pictures
- 27-31 AzMERIT Testing (7th/8th grades – ELA/math)
- 31 Talent Show (6:30-8:30)

April

- 1-13 AzMERIT Testing (7th/8th grades – ELA/math)
- 13 AIMS Testing (8th grade Science)
- 14 Spring Holiday (no school)
- 28 Spring Dance (6-8 pm)

Important Numbers and Information

Main Line: 480-882-3510

Fax: 480-888-8049

Attendance Line: 480-882-3510 ext.1402

Food Service: 480-882-3514

Transportation: 480-987-5309

Health Office: 480-882-3513

Web Address: www.combsms.jocombs.org or www.jocombs.org