



Optional Scholars Newsletter

Quarter 4 2024 - 2025

Another school year has been completed! Thank you ALL for your efforts this school year, and you are encouraged to strive for excellence as you continue your education journey. Chiefs Believe! Chiefs Achieve!



Congratulations to the CMS 8th grade Optional Scholars!! Best wishes as you move forward. 😊

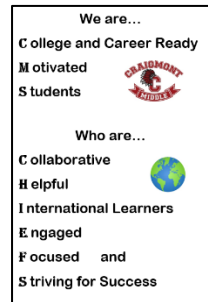
Madisyn Blackledge
K'Den Bowen
Kaci Dabney
Kallie Downey
Leanora Hulett
Jacoby Johnson
Alonso Limones Venegas
Jeshua Marin
Nekeriah Pleas
Shaniya Urquhart
Haleigh Wells
Kiran White

J'Den Bowen
Kyron Covington
Carlita Davis
Nakiah Green
Kimberly Jimenez
Maliha Lewis
Jacob Lloyd
Christopher Moore
Brookelynn Thomas
Cherita Ware
Nakiya Westbrook
J'Miracle Wilhite



Thank you to those who have completed their renewal. 😊 Please make sure your 6th and 7th grade Optional Scholar's renewal has been completed in PowerSchool. It is not automatic to remain in the program. Renewals must be made each year. For 8th grade Optional Scholars, a renewal must be completed for Craigmont High School, but a new application must be completed for any other high school program you are considering. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms.

Biniakewitz at 901-416-9913 or
biniakewitzee@scsk12.org!!



CMS Chiefs are International Learners! Chiefs learn about other places and cultures in their daily lessons. Every Wednesday the school participates in World Wise Wednesday. Volunteers choose a topic to share with their peers over the intercom during morning announcements. A synopsis and images are posted from each World Wise Wednesday in the hall leading to the cafeteria.



CMS hosted our International Festival on Thursday, May 8, 2025. Thank you to everyone who supported our scholars both as they worked on their projects and for being a part of the celebration on the 8th. The celebrated countries were Morocco, Honduras, the United Arab Emirates, Portugal, and South Korea. There were also exhibits on Mathematicians from around the world and Heritage Projects from our Multilingual Scholars.

<https://schools.scsk12.org/craigmont-ms>



Kingston Luckett (7) and **Kameron Echols (7)** transported us to Jamaica at **March's Lunch and Learn**.

Jamaica is the birthplace of Bob Marley, a famous Reggae singer, and Usain Bolt, one of the fastest men on Earth. Jerk chicken is a traditional Jamaican food. We also learned about Jamaican money and flag.



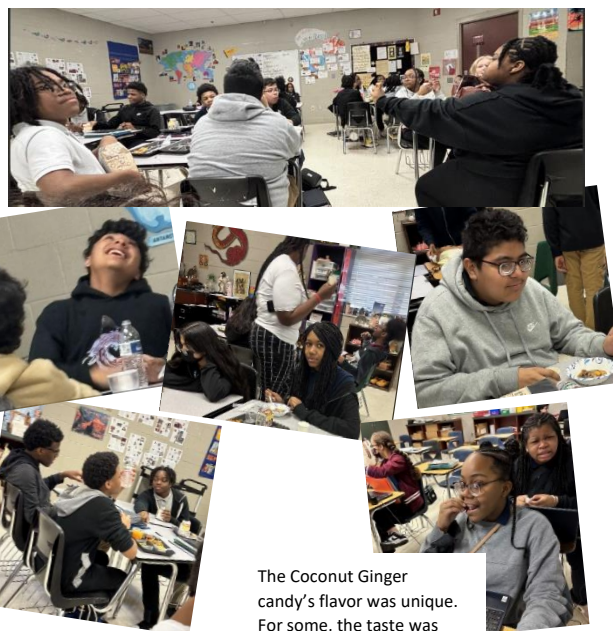
Kingston and Ms. Morton prepared Oxtail stew with rice and beans. Jamaican oxtail's history is rooted in the colonial



era, where enslaved Africans on plantations often had to make do with less desirable cuts of meat, transforming oxtail into a flavorful dish through ingenuity and slow



cooking, ultimately becoming a celebrated delicacy. It was delicious! Scholars also tried D&G Jamaican Pineapple soda as well as Coconut Ginger



The Coconut Ginger candy's flavor was unique. For some, the taste was overpowering! 😊

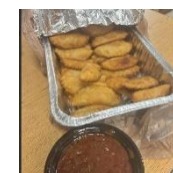
April's Lunch and Learn was led by **Khady Ndiaye (6)** who shared with us about Senegal, her family's



homeland. Senegal is located on Africa's west coast. Khady has visited Senegal and one place she visited was Goree Island also known as Ile de Goree. It is an island located off the coast of Dakar. Dakar is the capital city of Senegal. Today, Goree Island is an attraction that people visit because of its history. In the past, and even today, it is known as Slave Island. Slaves that were captured in Senegal would be held here until they were shipped to the "New World." That's a sad part of history. From the 15th – 19th century, this island was the largest slave trading center on the African coast. But on a good note, there were also many slaves that were able to escape the island and return to freedom.



She also shared with us about the beaches and some traditional foods



Khady's family provided Fataya for us to taste. Fataya is a popular street dish. It is a deep-fried pastry often filled with meat – usually fish, onions, herbs, and spices. It is considered a national dish and can be found at street food stalls.

They also made Bissap, a popular drink in west Africa particularly in Senegal.

It is made from dried flowers of the hibiscus sabdariffa which is native to west Africa and parts of Asia. The CMS

Optional scholars appreciate the wonderful tastes provided by the Ndiaye family!



Chiefs Believe! Chiefs Achieve!

CMS Website - Are you in the know?

Our website is a great place to keep up with events at Craigmont Middle School.

<https://schools.scsk12.org/craigmont-ms>

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns for your Optional Scholar(s).

Ms. Biniakewitz (Ms. Bini) 😊 Optional Coordinator
office 901-416-9913
biniakewitzee@scsk12.org

