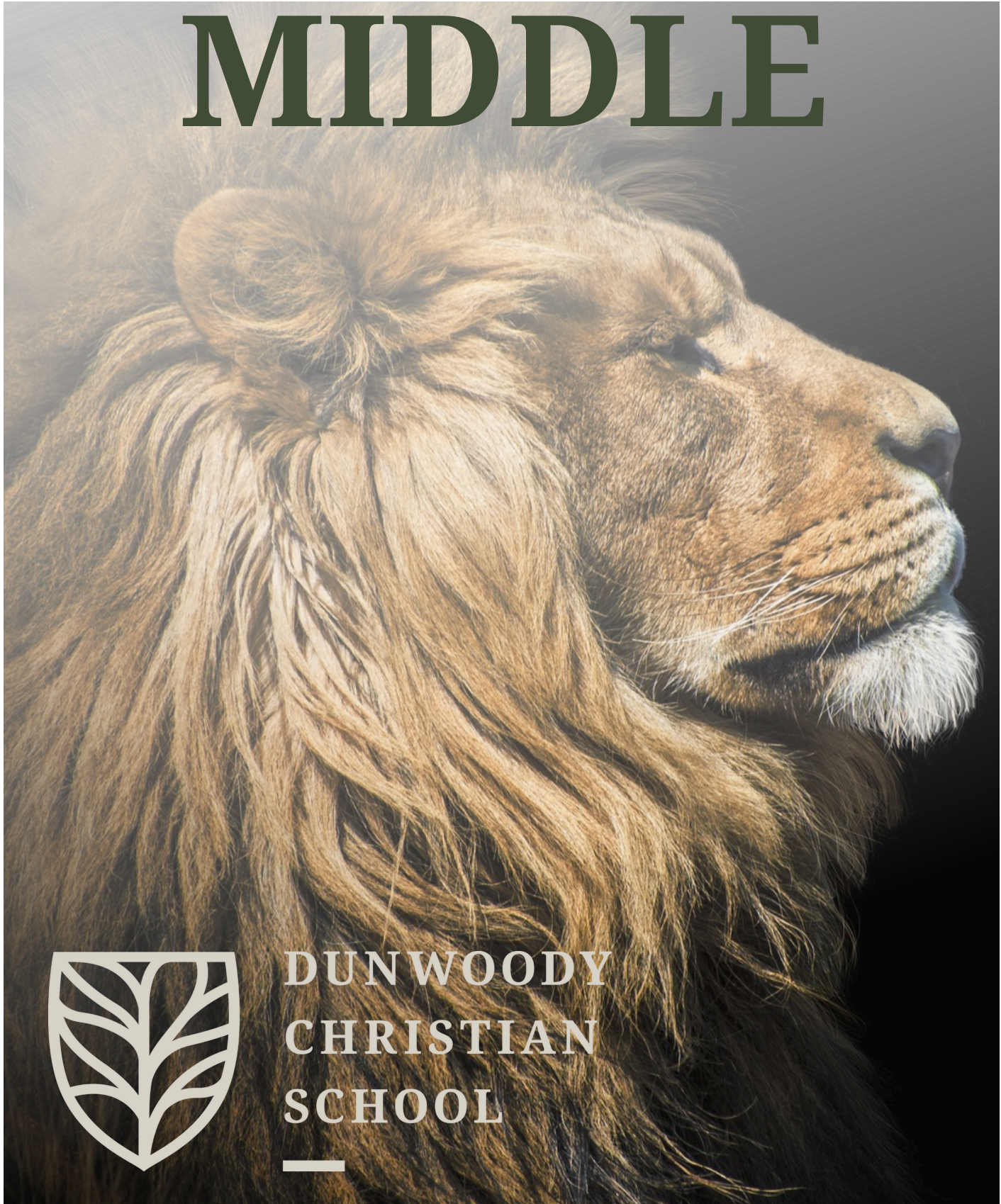


DCS SERVES LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS WITH OUR VOICES
AT BRIGHTON GARDENS SENIOR LIVING



In the
MIDDLE



DUNWOODY
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. ~ Luke 8:15

In today’s culture, waiting is not a part of our everyday experience. Whether it is the express checkout lane at the grocery store, our expectations for a lightning response to a text we just sent a second ago, or the relief of receiving a much “needed” item from Amazon on the same day, we have conditioned our minds and sadly, our hearts, to eliminate the idea of waiting in our lives. Thankfully, we serve a King that sits on the throne of an upside-down kingdom that teaches us timeless truths that build our faith, our character, and ultimately, our trust in Him. One of the ways that God does this is by teaching us to *wait*.

As parents and educators of middle school students, waiting is a concept that we are quite familiar with. We often *wait* for our children to get out of bed; we *wait* for them to stop talking, or we *wait* for them to complete the task that should have been done two hours ago. Waiting seems to be a necessary part in our own sanctification as we trust and *wait* on the Lord to grow our students’ faith in Him.

As we close out this inaugural school year at FBA, I am grateful to our teachers who have partnered with parents to provide opportunities to nourish the soil of our students’ hearts in the hopes that the seed of God’s Word would fall on good soil that will bear fruit. Sometimes we have to remind ourselves that we must be patient to see that fruit in the lives of our students as Jesus told us in Luke 8:15. And in some cases, that fruit may not come until long after they leave us. The Lord also reminds us in 1 Corinthians 4:7 that “neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

Therefore, we practice waiting and we faithfully continue to plant the seeds of God’s Word and water the soil with prayers for our students, trusting that He will use it all to grow them into faithful followers of Jesus. As our 8th grade students move on from DCS, and our 6th and 7th grade students leave for the summer, it is my continued prayer that they will bear fruit for others to “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8).

*In His Love,
Mei Fan*

Middle School Principal
Associate Head of School



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Middle school students perform Matt Maher's, "The Lord's Prayer," in Family Chapel in March to teach others the importance of prayer as Jesus models it in The Gospels of Matthew and Luke.



6th This second semester the 6th grade has been focused in the New Testament. Much of their work has been concentrated in class discussions as we discover that the timeless message of the Word of God speaks to our situations today. The students have seen in the Pauline Epistles that the same Jesus who is our Savior and Lord is the Almighty King of the Universe and the Lord of all Creation!

The students have come to a better appreciation that the Alpha and the Omega seeks to have a personal relationship with us; not only for salvation but the journey that is this Christian Walk. I have been amazed at the depth of the questions the students ask, and the tenderness of their hearts as they lift up one another in prayer. It's going to be exciting to see how they continue to grow and mature in the Faith as they continue this part of their spiritual journey here at DCS!

Dr. Colangelo talks about the commonality of the letter "I" in the words "pride" and "sin" to help students understand how we are each marred by The Fall, demonstrating each person's need of Jesus' saving grace.



BIBLE

from the desk of Dr. Colangelo

Middle school students dress in their Sunday Best to perform an angelic rendition of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" for the Christmas program.



7th and 8th We have spent most of this semester in the Book of Romans and selected passages from Proverbs. We have engaged in deep discussions about many relevant topics such as the existence of evil, the "seeming" prosperity of the wicked, the goodness of God, and an in-depth look at Romans 8. Several of our students have experienced deep personal losses in their lives this year and watching their classmates rally around them, lifting them up in prayer, having a shoulder to cry on or just having a listening ear has been the most gratifying part of teaching here at DCS. Seeing the students put into real practice what they have learned from the Word of God is what it's all about- being an "effectual doer" instead of just a hearer of the Word (James 1:25). It is with a bittersweetness that we say goodbye to this class as they move onto high school, but it is my sincere prayer that we have given them the unfailing Word of God and the Love of Christ as they begin the first steps of this new chapter in their lives.



Dr. Colangelo and select 7th and 8th grade girls lead middle school chapel in praise and worship. They have worked hard this semester to blend their melodies and harmonies, making a joyful noise to the Lord.

MATH

from the desks of Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Coates

6th

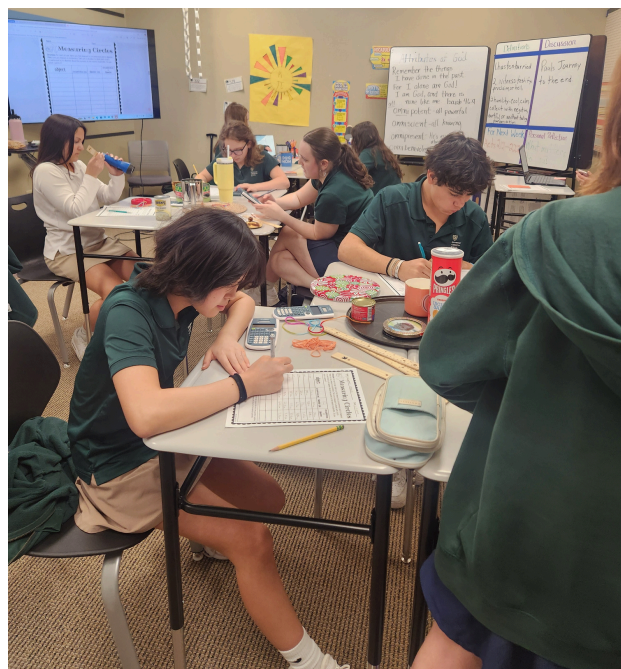
Mrs. Gibson 6th graders have been working on equations and algebraic concepts, including word problems. We have learned vocabulary words while creating foldables using these words. Many new concepts have been introduced to the 6th graders and they have done a terrific job mastering those skills needed for the next grade level..

The unit on ratio and proportions led us into percentages and students discovered real life uses for this. We will finish up our school year with geometry and will participate in some mini projects with this unit.



The Marvelous Mathletes of 6th grade!

(below) 8th grade math students work together to take measurements of circles in order to calculate ratios for Pi Day.



7th and 8th

Mrs. Coates In Pre-Algebra this second semester, we have continued to work on mastering the concepts and skills that will be necessary for success in Algebra 1 next year. We started off with a rigorous study of functions. Not only did they learn the basic characteristics of functions, but they also learned how to evaluate and graph them in the context of real world scenarios. Building on this knowledge of functions, we moved right into our study of slope and the rate of change. This is a concept that will be studied in more detail in Algebra 1. Next, we studied the Pythagorean Theorem, and along with that came a refresher of the relationship that exists between square numbers and square roots. Afterwards, we moved on to how to identify angle relationships, how to find missing angle measures algebraically, and how to distinguish between similar and congruent figures. One of the highlights of the semester was celebrating Pi Day on March 14th. By measuring a variety of circular objects and comparing their measurements, students were able to discover a portion of the infinite number Pi. This was a meaningful activity that also served as a reminder of our finite limitations as compared to God's infinite knowledge and wisdom and love for us. Overall, students in Pre-Algebra have worked hard and should be proud of what they have achieved!

In Algebra, students have worked so hard the second half of this school year! Our focus on linear functions in the first semester laid the groundwork for our study of quadratic and exponential functions this second semester. Not only have we learned how to solve these different types of functions, but with the help of our graphing calculators, it has been possible to compare the characteristics and graphs of each of these functions as well. In addition, the students have become proficient in working with polynomials and in performing operations with them. In our exponent unit, the Algebra students learned about the relationship between square numbers and square roots. They learned how to simplify radicals which is a critical concept to understand for higher level math classes. One of the highlights of second semester was getting to celebrate Pi Day on March 14th. By measuring a variety of circular objects and comparing their measurements, students were able to discover a portion of the infinite number Pi. This was a meaningful activity that reminded us of our finite minds as compared to God's infinite knowledge and wisdom and love for us. Overall, the students have worked so hard and should be very proud of all we have accomplished together this year!

6th

Spring semester of 6th grade brought poetry, the research essay, and Turkish delight! Students enjoyed a day outside to reflect on their inner poet and produce their own poems that incorporated sound and literary devices learned in class. They also worked diligently on a research project over ancient Biblical civilizations, and lastly, finished the school year with *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* where they explored the allegory of Christ's sacrifice and the victory won for us through metaphor and symbolism. I am so proud of how engaged this class has been in the work! A student even brought in some Turkish delight to share with her classmates after Edmund's foolish decision to give up his family for the Witch's false promises (or as we know, the foolish decisions we make for the false promises of sin). I am so excited for what the next 2 years hold in store for these middle school students as they explore these important themes in literature and in their own lives!



5th graders join the 6th graders for a poetry activity



6th graders Morgan, Madi, and Liah enjoy a class outside to write original poetry.

ELA

*from the desk
of Ms. Joseph*



8th graders rotate through stations including an autopsy report, an audio link, and testimony accounts to determine the real motives behind Julius Caesar's death.

7th and 8th

"All roads lead to Rome" in the spring semester of 8th grade ELA. After our poetry unit in January, where students read a variety of poems, studied sound and literary

devices, and incorporated them into their own poetry, students embarked on the research project into Ancient Rome. Students were given a subcategory to research that provided background historical context for Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*. Afterwards, students engaged in a station activity where they read articles, interpreted an autopsy report, and considered witness testimonies of the events leading up to Caesar's demise to determine the real motives behind his death. During the reading of the play, the students have explored themes like honor, duty, persuasion, and internal conflict in close readings of the famous monologues and soliloquies. I am so excited to see these students graduate 8th grade and embark on their high school careers with an exposure to these important literary works and themes told from a Christian worldview.



Bella (8th grade) verbally presents the topic of her research paper over Pompey the Great to class during our celebration of submitting the essay.

SOCIAL STUDIES

from the desk of Mrs. Sells

6th Sixth grade has grown in every way this last semester. They have grown in knowledge, size and most notably stature. They navigated the geography, economics and governments of Canada and Australia, learning the distinctions of each and their commonality - such as the English language! Great Britain had at one time appeared unconquerable, being the world's largest empire through its colonization of Canada, Australia and many other countries, but it was its formidable navy, innovative leadership and search for resources that led to global expansion, communication and trade. So, why is it among the smallest today? This question, in light of historical reality, has brought the sovereignty of God to the forefront of their thinking and class discussion - considering the purposes and hand of God in each country's development and man's responsibility.



6th graders: Madi and Liah make maps of Canada's regions and physical features.



Students in 6th grade create travel brochures for the countries studied.



(left) The House: Will, Mackenzie, Bella, Ria and Anna vote on SB:588627 presented by the Senate: Avery, Luis, Summer, Vivienne and Lacey

7th and 8th

This semester 8th grade students learned about Georgia's role in The Civil War by being rivals - the Johnny Rebs and The Patriots -and writing their own Bill of Rights for the U.S. Constitution. They saw the New South was slow to conform socially, but gradually learned from leaders like Martin Luther King how exhibiting godly character and peaceful protests make lasting impact rather than temporary victories. They participated in Georgia's economy by writing their own business proposals to bring the Olympics BACK to Atlanta by showcasing its benefits. Lastly, each student has gotten to serve in the Georgia Senate or Georgia House by proposing a bill they want to see become law. What do you think? SB #588627, Should school hours be changed from 8 AM - 3 PM to 9 AM - 4 PM? HB #00001. Should there be a 75% tax increase on cigarettes making them less affordable for the people's good? The Assembly is still in session ask an 8th grader to learn if their bill was amended, killed, vetoed or became a law!



Avery, Vivienne, Bella, Summer and Anna won their bid to bring the Olympics to Atlanta!

SCIENCE

from the desk of Dr. Colangelo and Mrs. Weihe



(left) Declan and Ozzie demonstrate the movement of tectonic plates.



(right) 8th graders watch a demonstration on exothermic reactions.

This year's Science classes have seen the sixth grade continue to explore the majesty of our planet through the eyes of the Creator.

6th

Whether it's discovering the different climates that make up our planet in Earth Science, or discovering electromagnetism through Tesla coils in Physical Science, we see the hand of God in all of it.

In 6th Grade Earth Science, the students especially enjoyed seeing the connection between geology and geography of the Earth and how those things shape the variety of life on this planet. They are seeing how God has allowed plants and animals to reside in areas that are perfect for their survival, but inhospitable to other creatures. We discovered that the world beneath the surface of the oceans is just as marvelous as the surface and that more creatures exist in the oceans than on land.

We have also explored through indirect evidence the interior of the Earth and how that magnetic field that shields us from the harmful radiation of the sun is direct evidence for the Creator. We discussed how the characteristics of the magnetic field may support the theory of a young Earth of only thousands of years old.

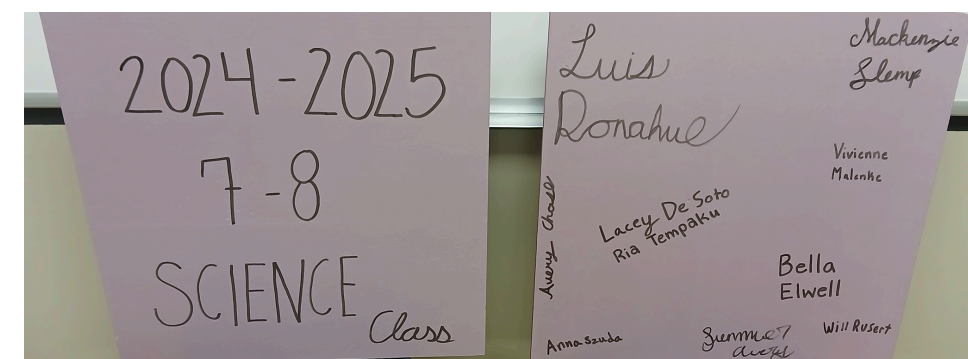
7th

This semester in middle school Life Science, 7th graders explored living systems and genetics through hands-on labs and investigations. We began with culturing bacteria to study microbes and their role in health and the environment. In the strawberry DNA lab, students saw DNA firsthand, linking molecular biology to real life.

We also studied human body systems and how they work together to support life. In our genetics unit, we used Punnett squares, examined inherited traits, and learned about genetic mutations and technologies like CRISPR. Through labs, models, and real-world connections, students gained a deeper understanding of life science.



(above) Avery (7th grade) shows off her strawberry DNA test tubes.



(left) Speakers made out of foam board insulation by the 8th grade science class.

8th

In the second semester, 8th grade shifted to topics in Physical Science. We built working speakers from audio exciters and foam board, explored sound with can "phones," studied light and color with prisms and lasers, and even transmitted electricity through the air using Tesla coils. We wrapped up with a popsicle stick bridge contest, testing strength and design.

From Newton's laws to the Doppler effect and gravity, our students have grown in their understanding of the physical laws God has set in motion — a reflection of His power and divine nature (Romans 1:20).

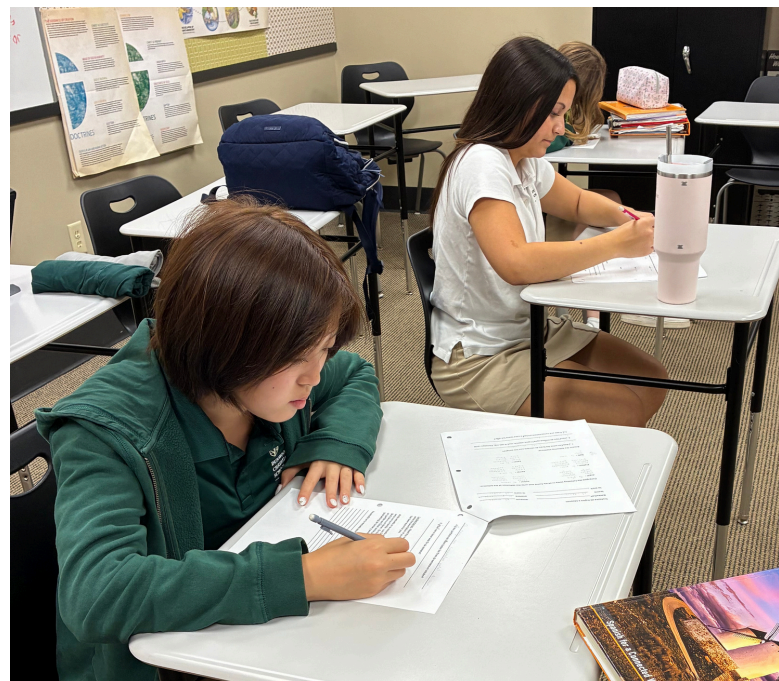
It has been a fantastic year! I look forward to seeing the 8th grade students blossom as they head into high school.

Middle School Spanish has been fantastico this semester! Mis estudiantes have learned so much this year, and are able to incorporate their Spanish into each lesson with gusto and facilidad! I am so proud of how proficient they sound as they recite their prayers in Spanish, what self-starters they are as they sit down at the start of class to write out their headings and "tapitas" ("starters") in Spanish, and how they demonstrate mature classroom etiquette by raising their hands to participate, listening to their classmates' insight, and collaborating on group work.

SPANISH

from the desk of Señora Donahue

How amargo-dulce ("bittersweet") it will be on el 21 de mayo (May 21), el dia de la graduacion to bid hasta luego ("see you later") to my 8th grade estudiantes as they embark on their journey into high school, and of course, into their high school Spanish classes! I hope they all keep in touch and I cannot wait to see



Anna, Bella, and Ria point to one of the Spanish speaking countries they are studying in Spanish I.



what their futuros hold...study abroad, traveling in Spanish-speaking countries, putting all of their language learning to use in nuestro mundo lleno de aventura ("our world full of adventure")

To the wonderful 8th grade class: Felicidades por este nuevo comienzo! ("Good luck on this new beginning!") El mundo te espera...the world awaits you!

Students in Spanish I demonstrate their proficiency of the language in writing.

ATHLETICS

from the desk of Coach Sarah Newton

DCS's athletics programming was full this semester! Our swim team had an amazing season. The athletes posted personal bests week after week showing off their hard work at practice. All of our athletes qualified in at least one event for the GAPPS state meet which was held on February 1. Top finishers at state were Josh Newton placing 5th in the 50 Butterfly and Luis Donahue placing 3rd in the 50 Breaststroke and 6th in the 100 freestyle.



Josh and Luis show off their swim medals

In March, we participated in our first Middle School track and field meet. Everyone showed grit and determination in their individual events. Avery Chase placed 7th in the Long Jump. Luis Donahue placed 3rd in the Long Jump and 6th in the 400. Lawson Norman placed 4th in the 3200.

This spring we were able to offer 2 new athletic clubs, Rock Climbing and Tennis. Partnering with Central Rock climbing gym, our students were able to practice climbing with auto belays, traditional belays, and bouldering. It was fun to see them challenge themselves on different routes with varying levels of difficulty. For tennis, we were able to practice at the Sandy Springs Racquet Club. Our coach lead the athletes in a variety of drills to work specifically on certain skills. They especially enjoyed bettering their serve and playing King of the Court.

It was a great semester of athletics and we look forward to next year! Go Lions!



Rock Climbing Club

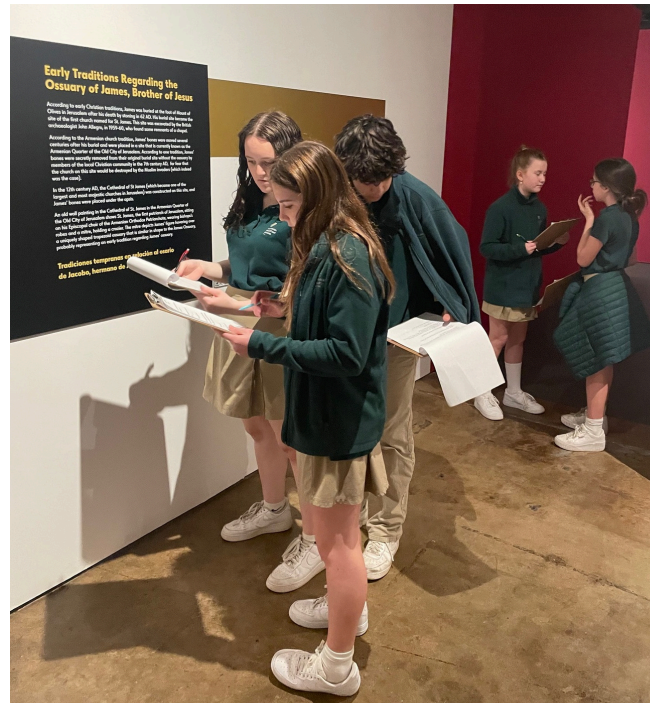


Avery placing 7th in the Long Jump



Ozzie aicing a tennis swing

DISCOVERING JESUS EXHIBIT *in* ATLANTA



Middle school students traveled to the Discovering Jesus Exhibit to look at artifacts from Jesus' time that came straight from Israel.



Bella's baptism- one of the highlights of our school year!



DCS COMMUNITY OUTSIDE *the* CLASSROOM



Middle school students gathered in their Dens one Tuesday to play a friendly, but competitive game of flag football to earn points for their dens. Den Galilee won this semester!