



January 2024

PREP ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

IS IT SINK OR SWIM AT 20TH ANNUAL BOAT RACES?

It's one of the highlights of the year! Boat Races! Held December 19 and 20, the event challenged student team of six to design, build and race boats made from three sheets of cardboard and two rolls of duct tape in an hour and a half. The student captain of each cardboard creation then had to navigate the length pool, staying afloat. Three of the 15 boats proved sea-worthy with Team Lazy Lakers taking the top prize in the final heat.

Throughout the event, students practiced teamwork, creative problem-solving, and perseverance. Skills that will serve them well on their Prep Academy journey.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Friday, 1/12/24 - Last day of 1st semester

Monday 1/15/24 - MLK Day NO SCHOOL

Tuesday 1/16/24 - Teacher Professional Development - NO SCHOOL

Wednesday 1/17/24 - Teacher Professional Development - NO SCHOOL

Thursday 1/18/24 - 2nd semester begins

NEW SEMESTER - NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Friday, January 12, marked the halfway point of the year. By now, students know the Academy routine and what it takes to be successful. If you feel good about your progress, keep doing what you do! If not, second semester is a fresh start, so take the lessons learned from first semester (staying current with assignments, practicing new skills) and chart a new course for yourself. Thursday, January 18th is DAY ONE all over again! Make the best of it! We know you can do it!

WHAT'S NEXT AT PREP?

- First semester is complete and grades will be available soon. Second semester is a fresh start.
- Math: Students will be competing in the American Mathematics Competition *AMC)8. The AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute, multiple-choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills.
- English - The First assignment of the new semester will be a mini-writing task to review writing conventions.
- It's almost time for the Prep Rally!

BRAINOLOGY

For a half hour on Wednesdays, Prep students participate in Brainology. The goal of these workshop style sessions is to help students develop a growth mindset and to think of their intelligence as something they can develop through learning and study instead of something that is fixed and unchangeable. Cultivating a growth mindset can help increase a student's sense of self-efficacy and motivation to learn. The workshops teach students how the brain functions, learns and remembers, and how it changes physically when they exercise it through new learning. The sessions also provide a practical set of skills for tackling academic challenges.

REMINDERS

Parent Portal and New Attendance Email:

Please use the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to report your student's absences. By using the Parent Portal to report your student absent it will be reported to ALL of the buildings they attend, i.e. Central Academy, Central Campus, and Home Schools. Please see the directions for the Parent Portal below.

[Parent Portal Absence Request Directions-2024.docx](#)

Infinite Campus:

Infinite Campus is where teachers record information about your student's individual progress. This includes grades given on assignments, what assignments might be missing and as time progresses, topic scores. For more information on the use of infinite campus, visit [HTTPS://www.dmschools.org/infinite-campus-studentparent-portal/](https://www.dmschools.org/infinite-campus-studentparent-portal/)

Contacts

Prep Academy Support Staff

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Class specific questions please contact the teacher directly.

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