



DECEMBER 8, 2025



DETROIT EDISON PSA

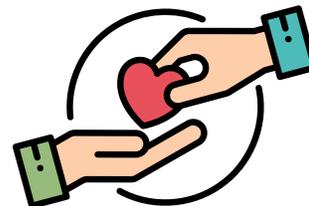
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PIONEER NEWS

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences are an important opportunity for families and teachers to partner together in support of your child's success. Here are a few helpful tips to make the most of your meeting:

- **Come Prepared:** Review your child's recent grades, attendance, and completed assignments. Bring any questions or concerns you have about their progress.
- **Talk About Strengths and Growth Areas:** Ask about the skills your child is excelling in. Discuss the areas where your child may need more practice, support, or focus.
- **Ask for Specific Examples:** Request examples of classwork, behavior, or assessments that show how your child is doing. This helps you better understand what learning looks like day-to-day.
- **Share What You See at Home:** Let the teacher know how your child feels about schoolwork, reading, math, and homework routines. Share any changes or challenges at home that may impact learning.
- **Work Together on Next Steps Ask:** "What can we do at home to help?" Get clear on the strategies the teacher will use at school and how you can reinforce them.
- **Discuss Attendance & Organization:** Consistent attendance and strong organization habits are key to success. Ask how your child manages transitions, materials, and deadlines. Make a Plan to Follow Up. If your child needs additional support, ask when you should check in again. Monitor PowerSchool regularly so there are no surprises.
- **Stay Positive & Solution-Focused:** Conferences are about teamwork. Celebrate progress and set goals to keep your child moving forward.



December						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 12.12 - No School for PreK ONLY, Staff PD
- 12.18 - PTC 4:30-7:30
- 12.18 - Holidays Around the World and JA Winter Concert beginning at 2:30 PM - parent invite for performers only
- 12.19 - ½ day for students
- 12.22 - Winter break begins
- 1.5 Students return to school

January						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Message from Mrs. Garvin, PreK Director

Architecture Study Celebration

Our PreK students have wrapped up their Architecture Study, and we are excited to share the wonderful learning that took place! Each study ends with a special celebration, where children revisit what they learned and reflect on their favorite experiences. Some of the questions we explored included:

- What did we do to build a city?
- What was your favorite part of the study?

Throughout the study, children learned new vocabulary and explored many different types of buildings in our community and around the world. Using pictures and hands-on activities, they were introduced to **apartment buildings, castles, fire stations, mechanic shops, hospitals, houses, schools, stores,** and more.

These experiences helped students build knowledge about how buildings are designed and how architects plan spaces to meet people's needs.

Extend the Learning at Home

You can continue supporting your child's learning with simple everyday activities:

- Point out different buildings as you travel around your neighborhood.
"Look, there's the grocery store!" "Do you notice anything special about that house?"
- Take pictures of interesting buildings you see together.
- Label the photos with building names and keep them in an envelope or small book.
- Review the pictures a few times each week and talk about what your child notices.

Seeing building names in print and hearing adults talk about them helps strengthen **vocabulary, memory, and early literacy skills.**



Thank you for supporting your child's learning, together, we are building a strong foundation for future success!

Pre-K Gallery



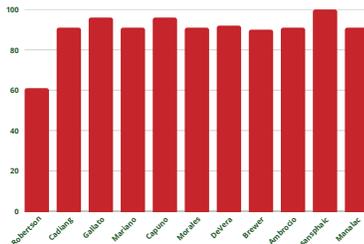


Message from Principal Withers

Happy Monday!!

There is a few more weeks left until winter break. This week we will be preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences and distributing chromebooks. The link for conferences will be sent out this week. If you have any major questions or concerns, please sign up to speak with your scholars teachers. It is very important that we address any issues, big or small. Remember, communication is key and we are all here to help along the way.

One Team, One Mission!



Goal: 95% Weekly Student Attendance

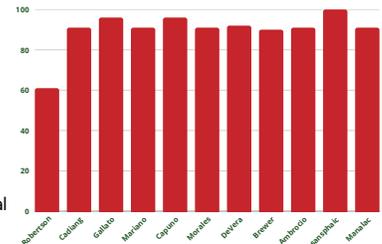
Kindergarten: 90% → 95%

1st Grade: 94% → 89%

2nd Grade: 95% → 88%

Last week, we've seen a drop in 1st & 2nd grade attendance. Lets get back to making sure our scholars are at school and on-time. Our goal is 95%.

WE CAN DO IT!!



Reading Trends

Kindergarten: 95% → 83%

1st Grade: 95% → 94%

2nd Grade: 95% → 94%

Math Trends

Kindergarten: 95% → 83%

1st Grade: 95% → 94%

2nd Grade: 95% → 94%

COOPERATIVE CHALLENGE

Monday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use the Peace Path. The Peace Path helps us solve conflicts peacefully by using our words. Locate the Peace Path Poster in your classroom today.

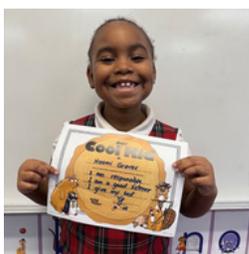
Tuesday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use the Peace Path. The first step of Peace Path is to tell the problem. Try having Partner A say: "I feel ___ because." Then Partner B can say: "You feel ___ because."

Wednesday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use the Peace Path. Step 2 of the peace is to brainstorm solutions to the problem. Partner A can suggest a conflict solver. Then Partner B can suggest a conflict solver.

Thursday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use the Peace Path. Step 3 is to solve the problem. Now it's time to discuss and and agree on a win-win solution to try.

Friday: This week our school-wide cooperative challenge is to use the Peace Path. Remember with step one of the Peace Path it is important that both people get the opportunity to give an "I Message" so both people can communicate their feelings. This way we don't misinterpret someone and we know exactly how they feel.

I AM THE COOL KID





Message from Principal Dr. Peart

Attendance Matters Now More Than Ever

Currently, 23% of students are chronically absent and 31% are chronically tardy. This is unacceptable, as consistent attendance is essential for academic success. We understand that weather and circumstances may change, but it is critical that your child is in school every day and on time.

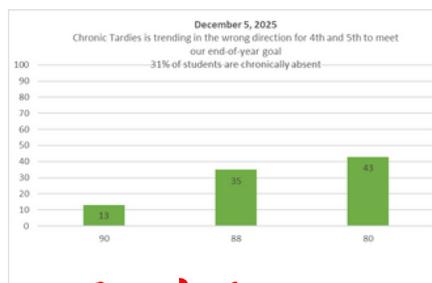
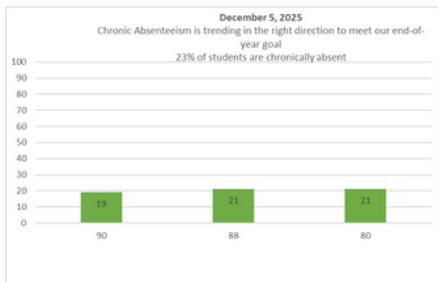
We are reinforcing our Strive for 10 initiative:

- 10 days present in a row, and
- 10 days on time
- Students who meet this goal will earn a prize and be recognized for their commitment.

Your partnership makes a powerful difference. To support strong attendance at home, please:

- Communicate regularly with your child's teacher
- Review the DeansList Weekly Report
- Check your child's book bag and folders daily
- Maintain a consistent homework, bedtime, and morning routine

Thank you for working with us to help your child return strong and stay on track. Together, we can ensure every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed



Cool Kids



Teacher of the Month Class with the highest # of students who answered 50% of questions correctly on ANET

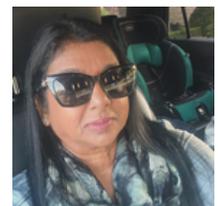
Dr. Balyout



Ms. Bartolome



Ms. Mathis



HOMEWORK

Monday 12/7

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Tuesday 12/8

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Wednesday 12/9

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Thursday 12/10

Read & Response, C3 Homework

Friday 12/11

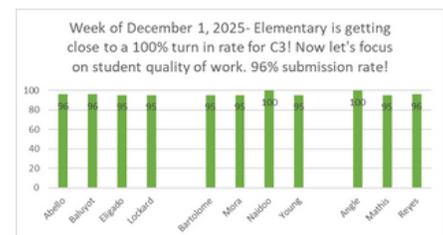
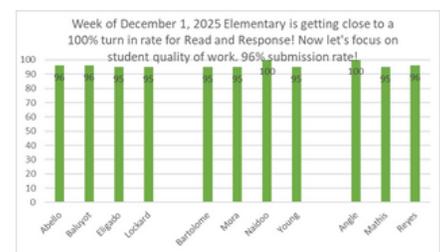
C3 & RR Due

Students are expected to complete homework by their classroom teacher along with their Reading (Read and Response and C3). Homework is due daily.

The goal is for each class to attain a 95% return rate on homework at the end of the week.

Homework will be checked EVERY DAY- thank you for helping your child build their work ethic by completing their homework every night.

Shout of to the following classes who received 95% of higher submission rate: Ms. Abello, Ms. Baluyot, Ms. Eligado, Ms. Lockard, Ms. Bartolome, Ms. Mora, Ms. Naidoo, Ms. Young, Ms. Angle, Ms. Mathis, and Dr. Reyes





Message from Principal Collins

Dear DEPSA JA Families,

As students grow academically and socially, organization becomes one of the most important skills for success in middle school. Staying organized helps students manage their workload, reduce stress, and build the independence they need for high school and beyond.

Why Organization Matters:

- Improves Academic Performance: Students who keep track of assignments, due dates, and materials are more likely to complete quality work on time.
- Builds Responsibility: Organization teaches students how to plan, prioritize, and make responsible decisions.
- Reduces Anxiety: Knowing what to expect and when assignments are due helps students feel more confident and in control.
- Supports Classroom Learning: When students have their notebooks, materials, and completed assignments ready, they can fully participate in class.
- Strengthens Life Skills: Time management, planning, and personal responsibility are skills students will use throughout their lives.

How Families Can Support Organization at Home:

- Review your child’s planner, Google Classroom, or homework log together.
- Help them create a simple routine—checking materials at night, packing their backpack, and setting reminders.
- Encourage them to clean out their folders and binders weekly.
- Discuss upcoming tests, projects, and deadlines to help them plan ahead.
- Celebrate progress—organization takes practice!

Read & Respond



6 7 8

QUARTER 2

DEPSA is an International Baccalaureate School

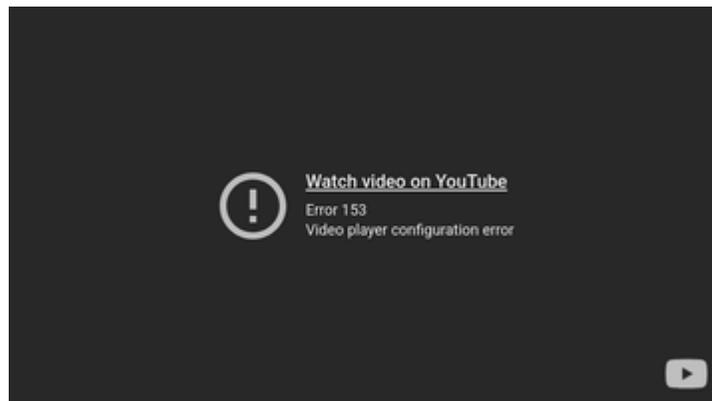


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IB trait: Inquirer

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

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READING FOR
6 MINUTES A DAY
REDUCES STRESS
BY 68%.

Read **20 minutes** a day and you'll read 1,800,000 words per year.



DEPSA HIGH SCHOOL MISSION BRIEFING

PARENT AND FAMILY NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM MR. BLACKBURN

Hello DEPSA Families,

I hope you enjoyed a restful and well-deserved Thanksgiving break. As we return, let's refocus our efforts and finish 2025 strong by ensuring our students are present and engaged every single day. Attendance continues to be one of the most important drivers of academic success! Every day matters, and every class counts.

We are excited to share that our annual Holidays Around the World celebration will take place on December 18. This is always a meaningful tradition for our school community, and more information will be shared soon. Please keep an eye out for updates.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our scholars. Together, we will keep pushing toward our goals of 100% graduation, 100% college acceptance, and 95% attendance.

One Team. One Mission.

UPDATES

- **DECEMBER 18 - PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES FROM 4:30- 7:30**
- **WINTER BREAK DEC 22 - JAN 5**

EVENTS

- **12.19 - ½ DAY FOR STUDENTS**
- **12.22- WINTER BREAK BEGINS**
- **1.5 STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL**

UPCOMING GAMES/EVENTS

- **WINTER SPORTS - BASKETBALL SEASON**

SENIORS NUMBERS

- **OCTOBER FAFSA NUMBERS:**
 - 86% OF SENIORS HAVE COMPLETED THE FAFSA
- **SCHOLARSHIP TOTAL**
 - \$3,582,040 AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS.
- **APPLY FOR THE DETROIT PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP! DETROIT PROMISE PROVIDES FREE COLLEGE TUITION FOR ELIGIBLE DETROIT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES. DON'T MISS THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND COLLEGE DEBT-FREE!**
 - **APPLY AT DETROITPROMISE.COM TODAY.**

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We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE FULL HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER](#)

