

Quarter 4

Thank you for a successful school year! If you have suggestions for how the Optional Program at Craigmont Middle can continue to shine, please email Ms. Bini at biniakewitzee@scs12.org. I welcome and look forward to your input! 😊

Congratulations to our 8th grade Optional Scholars!!
 We celebrate your achievements and wish you all the best
 as you prepare for the challenges and rewards of high
 school. Once a Chief, always a Chief and...

Jiyah Anderson	Kenya Berryhill	Desmond Boyland
Rodrigo Chavez	Coby Coleman	Kala Collins
K'Miya Conner	Robert Davis	Kameron Echols
Giobanni Granados	SaQuan Jean	Chance Johnson
Jayden Johnson	Olivia Johnson	Kingston Luckett
Ruby Mancera	Kaylee Marin	Brinden Martin
Chace Martin	Lavarion Mason	Aniya Morrow
Miguel Najera	Jakylah Payton	
Johnathan Peralta-Castaneda		Brandon Real Arzate
Azaya Rich	Joshua Richmond	Damien Starks
Preston Strong	Kaleb Summerall	L'oreal White
Amari Williams	Jasmine Wise	

KEEP STRIVING,
NEVER STOP

Class of 2030



A group of diverse students in a classroom, smiling and making peace signs. The students are of various ethnicities and ages, all appearing happy and engaged. They are in a classroom setting with educational posters on the wall.



We are...

College and Career Ready
Motivated
Students



Who are...

Collaborative
Helpful
International Learners
Engaged
Focused and
Striving for Success





"International Bites" for Optional Scholars
Optional Scholars receive information "bites" about the highlighted country and taste "bites" from the culture. 😊

In **March**, Optional Scholars "visited" **Italy** with our guide turistiche (tour guides)

Rodrigo Chavez (8) and **Brandon Real Arzate** (8)!



Informational Bites – Milan is a major cultural center in Italy and is one of the world's fashion capitals. It was home to the 2026 Winter Olympics where the United States placed 2nd in the "Medal Count" behind Norway! Ferrari, one of the most famous car brands in the world, is "Italy's Second Religion"! Known for its fast and powerful sports cars, Ferrari is a large part of Italian culture and its Formula 1 racing fans are passionate. Venice is one of the most unique cities in the world. Built on over 100 small islands in a lagoon, the city is connected by more than 400 bridges and narrow pathways. The canals are the "roads", and one can travel them on a vaporetto (waterbus), water taxi, or gondola.

Tasty Bites – Margherita pizza originated in Naples, Italy, evolving from early 19th-century flatbreads. Flatbreads, sold by street vendors and small shops, topped with simple ingredients were a staple for the working-class population. The classic Neapolitan recipe for Italian Margherita Pizza is made with a simple tomato sauce, fresh mozzarella, and fresh basil leaves, the colors stand for the Italian flag. Scholars tasted Margherita Pizza from Rotolo's Craft & Crust at 681 S. White Stations Rd. Scholars also tasted limoncello gelato (found at Sprouts Farmers Market)! The history of limoncello gelato in Italy is



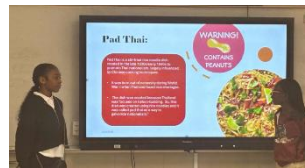
closely tied to the southern regions, particularly Campania and Sicily. It is a dessert that quickly gained popularity not only in Italy but also around the world, thanks to its unique taste and refreshing qualities.



Khady Ndiaye (7) and **Aniya Hamilton** (7) were our ตัวแทนการท่องเที่ยว (travel agents) to **Thailand** in **April**.

Informational Bites – Thailand is the only southeast Asian nation that was NOT colonized by the Europeans! The energy drink Red Bull was created in Thailand. 95% of the Thai population is Buddhist and there are over 30,000 Buddhist temples. Bangkok is the capital of Thailand. It is home to the world's largest China Town known as Yaowarat. In Bangkok, and across Thailand, the Thai National Anthem (Phleng Chat Thai) is played daily at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM in public spaces where people are expected to stand still during it.

Tasty Bites– Pad Thai is a stir-fried rice noodle dish created in the late 1930s/early 1940s to promote Thai nationalism. It was born out of necessity during



World War II when Thailand faced rice shortages. Thai tea (cha-yen) is a popular Southeast Asian drink made from strong-brewed Ceylon or Assam black tea, sweetened condensed milk, and sugar, served hot or cold. Both tastes were supplied by Emerald Thai Restaurant at 8950 US Highway 64.



Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns for your Optional Scholar(s). If you need help with PowerSchool access, please let me know.

Optional Coordinator

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