



## MS 8th Grade Dean Update

Dear 8th Grade Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restorative break. It is great to be back on campus with the students today.

Students in the 7th and 8th grades have been invited to apply to participate in the Teens for Peace program held every year with Dwight-Englewood and four other schools in Englewood. Five students from each school participate. Information is here: [Teens for Peace Program 2026](#) Students who are interested in applying should fill out the Google form I sent them today.

### Dates of Interest

- **Monday, January 5th -- Spring Musical Audition Workshop.** Students interested in being a part of the middle school main stage play should check their email for the [audition schedule](#). Contact Ms Lynch or Mr. Slee with questions.
- **Wednesday, January 14th**—National History Day presentation. See information from Mr. Akula and Mr. Kuchar
- **Monday, January 19th and Tuesday, January 20th -- NO SCHOOL.** MLK Day holiday and comment writing day
- **Thursday, January 29th -- First Semester's End Narrative Reports.** Narrative reports on student progress throughout the first semester are written by each subject-area teacher and released to students in an extended advisory period. Advisors meet with each student to discuss their reflections and goals. Report cards are released to parent portals shortly thereafter.
- **Tuesday, February 3rd -- PA Book Fair.** Students will be given the opportunity to visit the Book Fair on campus during one period of the day. If they want to purchase books, they will need a credit card or access to Apple Pay. They will be allowed to access their phones at the checkout line if they need access to their Apple Pay.

### Around the Dinner Table...

- **Checklist Reflections.** As part of reflecting on their “report cards”, all students meet with their advisors to confer. Ask your child what goals they have set for themselves after discussing their narratives with their advisor. What are they proud of?

- **Spring Sports** -- Students interested in playing on a DE team in the spring should check their email and indicate their interest on the survey sent by Mr. Vettoso. Tryouts begin in early March. Note that it's complicated to try to participate in both a spring sport and the MS musical since both activities absorb the Tuesday and Thursday activity periods as well as after school times. Students with an interest in participating in both should discuss this potential conflict with Ms Lynch.

Please reach out with any questions.

Best,

Ali