



## #bestschoolyear ever

Coming up in December...

**3rd-8th** Computer Science Education Week

**5th** Interim Reports Issued

**6th** Winter Chorus Concert at CCHS 6:00

**10th** Aims Web Testing

**11th** Band Concert at CCHS 6:00

**13th** Student of the Month Luncheon

**17th** SMK8 SIC Meeting-5:30

**19th** Last Day before Winter Break

**20th** Winter Break Begins

**25th** Christmas Day

**January 1, 2019** *Happy New Year*

**January 2nd** – Last Day of Winter Break

**January 3rd** – School Reopens



### December Character Trait Kindness

### Writers' Wall of Fame



SMK8 strives to provide opportunities to help develop effective readers, communicators, and writers and deepen content understanding. We foster this by engaging our students in learning experiences to write to learn, write to demonstrate-learning strategies to make sense of their reading and learning experiences, and write with a specific authentic purpose and audience as they write for publication. St. Matthews K-8's first school-wide writing initiative on Narrative Writing was held on Thursday, October 23, 2018. Our top writers are featured on our schools' "Writers' Wall of Fame" and they all enjoyed a celebration with our administrators. At SMK8, it is our goal to strive for excellence in all efforts to **EMPOWER. COMPETE & SUCCEED.**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM OUR SMK8 FAMILY  
TO YOURS**



### SMK8 Students Spread Christmas Cheer

We would like to congratulate the following middle school students: Ladaysha Hamilton, Kemyriah Haynes, DeMondre Turkvan, Angel Tucker, Shamari Brown, Jayden Wallace, and Keavia Haynes, for proudly representing SMK8 at Brown Chapel's Christmas Oddesy on Saturday, December 1, 2018. This group of students were brave enough to volunteer and committed to the practices that were held to prepare for this event. They enlightened us with 2 beautiful musical selections along with musician De'Marius Frederick. Thanks for being a great example to others and a job well done. We would also like to extend thanks to Ms. Keith, Mrs. Murdaugh, Mr. Tullock, Ms. Mack, Ms. Snider, and our parents for their continued support.



**Back row left to right:** Dr. Wanda Green-Adams, Jason Tirado, Caleb Smith, Anna Bledsoe, Yaneekwah Hart, Emily Westberry, Ms. G. Felder-Way. **Front row left to right:** Kennedy Fordham, JamyaCarson, Trinity Keitt, Aiden Byrd

# Classroom Happenings...



## Kindergarten

K5 students have almost finished studying the entire alphabet! Things really get exciting as we begin to put letters and sounds together to make words and sentences! Parents, please help your students continue to practice sight words at home! We are growing READERS IN K5! Students are also learning to write from 1 to 100 using 100 charts and counters. Happy Holidays and remember to **READ!**



## First Grade

The first grade classes had a blast comparing and contrasting Thanksgiving long ago and today. They learned about the kinds of foods the pilgrims grew with the help of the Wampanoag Indians using the lessons from their Scholastic Newspaper, Brainpop videos and You-tube First Thanksgiving video. The classes culminated the theme with their very own feast which consisted of pilgrim and Indian head dress, with a variety of snacks and punch. They are gearing up to learn about Christmas traditions from around the world.

## Second Grade

Second grade teachers are focusing on three pillars of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading comprehension. Students are also taught to become productive writers through daily practice. Second grade focus writing topic this nine weeks: **EXPOSITORY WRITING** is defined as presenting reasons, explanations, or steps in a process. Logical order should be used with appropriate sequencing of ideas or steps in a process. Effective **expository writing** should contain a main idea, supporting details, and a conclusion. Working together will help our students gain a future of successful reading and writing!



## Third Grade

Third graders are preparing for winter by showcasing what they've learned thus far. Students should be reminded to read carefully, go back in the passage to find their answers in reading, double-check their answers on their math assessments, think as they work, and to ask questions during instruction if they do not understand. Also, don't forget to review basic math facts and read daily. Improvement comes with practice.



## Fourth Grade

Happy holiday's! The fourth grade teachers are thankful for your support and would like to continue to work together to make sure your child succeeds. Please make sure your child reads daily, study the science facts, and practice their math facts daily. Take time out to read with your child. Allow them time to share the central idea and or theme of what they are reading. During the break please have your child to practice on studyisland.com for each subject. Merry Christmas to you and be safe!

## SMK8 Family Literacy Night

By: Dr. Wanda L. Green-Adams

*Family Literacy Night was a grand event held on Thursday, Nov. 15th from 5:00 -7:30 p.m. This event was spearheaded by our Literacy coach, Dr. Wanda L. Green-Adams, our Literacy Team, and Department Chairs. In support of the SC Department of Education Read To Succeed Initiative, the purpose of Family Literacy Night was to promote literacy and learning across the curriculum, build family-school connections, and to build community support with local churches, businesses, community organizations, and classroom teachers. Everyone enjoyed learning across the curriculum through authentic and creative learning activities. SMK8 TEAMWORK exemplifies the epitome of excellence.*

## Fifth Grade

'Tis the season to be learning! In math, fifth grade are studying **Numerical Expressions, Patterns, and Relationships**. Students are expected to complete homework daily. Continue to encourage your child to practice their multiplication facts and READ! In Social Studies students are still in the West during the Westward Expansion Era. Our Science class is filled with food webs. We are true consumers of learning.

## Sixth Grade

The 6th Grade Team are hard at work as we approach the half way mark of the second nine weeks. We encourage all parents to ask probing questions about their academic day. Asking them to explain a concept being explored is a great way to review essential skills. Please ensure that students are completing assignments using details and TDA strategies. This month, read with and discuss an AR book with your 6th grader. Remember, together, we achieve more! In Math students are dissecting equations and inequalities. In Science students are wrapping up Climate and Weather and heading into the Energy Unit. Do you know the 3 ways heat is transferred? In ELA students are exploring Text Structures and in Social Studies they are traveling through the Greek World. If you are not signed up to receive messages from the team using Remind, please join using the link: <https://www.remind.com/joinfg383h>



## Seventh Grade

Seventh grade students are working on characterization. We are focusing on examining characters and their traits from the novel "**Money Hungry**" and deciding if the individual is either the central character, antagonist or protagonist. With a partner activity, students recorded their information in a graphic organizer and determined if the character is major, minor, static, dynamic, round or flat. Graphic organizers were mounted on silhouettes that represent the characters from the story. Students also did an oral presentation on the character. This was an awesome adventure for character sketches.