



MIDDLE MATTERS

Titusville Middle School



March/ April Recap 2026



Titusville Middle School



Titusville, PA

MVT March



Titusville Middle School is proud to recognize Ms. Jessie Pyle, a 7th-grade Science teacher, as the TMS Most Valuable Teacher. Ms. Pyle is an outstanding teacher at TMS who puts her whole self into her position at TMS. Ms. Pyle has only been part of the TMS team for two years. However, in that time, she has fully integrated herself into the school community in a way that seems as if she's always been a part of the school. Ms. Pyle is a fantastic science teacher, allowing her students to learn through doing. A trip into her room on any given day will find students up at lab stations conducting hands-on experiments as they collaborate with peers. In addition to her science classes, Ms. Pyle is also the student council advisor. She has embraced this role as she leads the student council through various initiatives to make the school a great experience for students. Ms. Pyle is also a tremendous team player within the 7th-grade team. She works extremely well with her colleagues, and many have stated how selfless and dedicated she is. Finally, the positive energy that Ms. Pyle brings into her classroom and the school is perhaps the most impressive and important aspect of her teaching. It would be hard to find a time when she is not smiling or saying something positive. Ms. Pyle is a selfless educator who shows her dedication to students and the school through daily actions.

Renaissance Faire Returns TMS!

Reminders from the Main Office

After a three-year hiatus, the Renaissance Faire returned to Titusville Middle School on March 31, 2026. The event gave 8th-grade students the opportunity to step back in time and experience life during the Renaissance through a variety of hands-on activities and challenges.

Throughout the day, students participated in engaging experiences connected to history, science, and math. Activities included a lively game of human chess, a plague simulation that helped students understand how disease spread during the time period, and the creation of flying machine designs inspired by Renaissance inventors. Students also put their math skills to work by mapping out an ideal castle, combining creativity with geometry and planning.

Later in the day, the Guild Faire moved to the cafeteria where students showcased projects and creations they developed during the unit.

✨ Important Dates ✨

- Mission Trip 3 – 4/13
- 8th Grade Allegheny Trip- 4/14
- Spring Dance- 4/17
- PSSA's - 4/21
- Popcorn Day- 4/24
- No School - 5/1



Renaissance Faire Returns to TMS!



Guilds Hard at Work for the TMS Renaissance Faire



The guilds at Titusville Middle School have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Renaissance Faire, and the results have been impressive. From carefully designed creations to hands-on collaboration, students are bringing history to life through their craftsmanship and creativity.

Each guild has taken on the role of skilled artisans, working together to create pieces that reflect the innovation and spirit of the Renaissance era. While the final products are exciting, the most rewarding part has been watching the process unfold. Students have demonstrated strong teamwork, problem-solving skills, and pride in their work every step of the way.

TMS parents were invited to experience the students' work firsthand at the Renaissance Faire on Tuesday, March 31. Visitors had the opportunity to see the incredible projects students created and celebrated the effort that has gone into making the event a success.



March Mammal Madness Brings Science to Life



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Seventh grade students recently took part in an exciting and educational March Mammal Madness competition that combined scientific knowledge with a bit of friendly competition. Students created tournament-style brackets predicting which organisms would win in a series of hypothetical matchups. Unlike traditional sports brackets, these battles were based entirely on scientific evidence and real-world animal behaviors.

Throughout the competition, students explored important science concepts such as ecosystem dynamics, kingdom diversity, and symbiotic relationships. As the tournament progressed, students used what they learned to make informed predictions about how different organisms might interact in nature.

The championship matchup came down to two powerful contenders: the Nile crocodile and the humpback whale. After an exciting final round, the seventh grade grand champion was Kaydence MacQuarrie, who earned an impressive 115 points for the competition.

Runner-up honors went to Dominick Wesoloski, Luca Nosko, Liam Jackson, Blakely Evans, and Capri Warner, who also demonstrated strong scientific reasoning and knowledge throughout the tournament.

March Mammal Madness continues to be a fun and engaging way for students to apply science concepts, think critically about ecosystems, and see how evidence-based reasoning can bring the natural world to life

Student of the Month

6th Grade

- Layla Jacoby
- Eliza Jones
- Amelia Kline
- Bennet Knapp
- Taylor Loney
- Janelle Machokas

7th Grade

- Phoenix White
- Gina Beers
- Braxton Dingle
- Sarabi Orris
- Quinley Boyles-Panza
- Duke Holcomb
- Abbigial Blaylock
- Mahlek Abrigo

8th Grade (Feb)

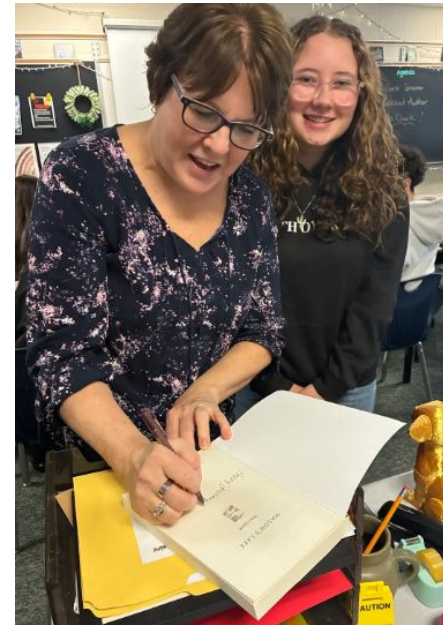
- Eli Miller
- Cooper Oviatt
- Kennedy Schmader
- Sadie Simmonson
- Devon Tuck
- Alivia Warner
- Evelyn Allen
- Connor Patterson
- Alesia Ison

Author Visit Celebrates Read Across America Week



Titusville Middle School eighth graders welcomed retired TMS teacher, Cheri Quirk, during Read Across America Week. Mrs. Quirk visited to share her newly published book, *Mason's Lake*, and talk with students about the writing and publishing process.

She read excerpts from the book and answered students' questions about becoming an author. Her visit was a great way to celebrate reading and inspire students during Read Across America Week.



From *Mason's Lake* :

Jackson Dawson had it all. He had a loving adoptive family, a successful business, and booming sales with his latest novel. What he didn't have was an answer to life-long questions that plagued his mind...Who was he? What were the mysterious circumstances behind his adoption?

Everything is going well for author, Jackson Dawson, until he receives a phone call from his sister. He learns that he has received a package that could contain information to his past. After acquiring the mysterious bundle of objects, Jake abandons his latest novel to go on a treasure hunt to find answers. With the help of two ghostly spirits, he wends his way to Mason's Lake, a family estate with a lot of land and just as many mysteries. Tucked deep in the little town of Catori Grove, Jake learns about the people who held the land for several generations. Through his journey, he relies on those silent apparitions to give him hints and clues and guide him along the way.

Mission Trip III: Splash Lagoon - A Successful Adventure!

On Monday, April 13th, 2026, our students embarked on the much-anticipated Mission Trip III to Splash Lagoon. Leading up to the trip, important requirements ensured that all participants met academic and behavioral expectations.

Students were eligible to attend if they maintained at least a 78% average in all classes for the third nine weeks. Behavior was also a key factor—students with one hour of detention or less were allowed to participate, while those with multiple detentions or any in-school or out-of-school suspensions were disqualified.

Thanks to everyone's efforts to meet these expectations, the trip went smoothly, and students enjoyed a fun-filled day at Splash Lagoon, celebrating both their hard work and dedication.



Crawford County 8th Grade Career Awareness Fair at Allegheny College

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, over 750 8th grade students from nine Crawford County schools gathered on the Allegheny College campus for the annual Career Awareness Fair.

Nearly 50 vendors showcased a wide variety of careers and educational pathways, giving students the chance to explore future opportunities and ask questions directly to professionals.

The event offered students an exciting opportunity to think about their futures and connect with local career resources.



Ancient China Comes to Life in



Seventh graders in Mr. Locktosh's Ancient World class brought history to life by building Ancient Chinese structures in Minecraft.

Students recreated iconic sites such as the Great Wall of China and Qin Shi Huang's palace, applying what they learned about Chinese history and architecture.

This hands-on project let students combine research, creativity, and digital design, making Ancient China's achievements tangible and engaging.



Bands in the Round



The Titusville Area School District's Music Department celebrated Music in our Schools Month with a Bands in the Round Concert held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 in the high school gymnasium. The TMS bands were under the direction of Mr. Vetter and Mr. Vinson. There were 238 students who performed Tuesday evening and the gym was filled with beautiful music.



Seventh Graders Bring Learning to the Table with Board Game Creations

Students in Ms. Perman's 7th grade class recently put their creativity and problem-solving skills to the test by designing and creating their own board games. As part of the project, students worked to develop original game concepts, complete with unique rules, playing pieces, and game boards.

Throughout the process, students practiced important skills such as planning, collaboration, and critical thinking. They carefully designed game mechanics, tested their games with classmates, and made adjustments to improve gameplay. The project encouraged students to think about strategy, fairness, and how to keep players engaged from start to finish.

The classroom was filled with imaginative ideas—from adventure-style journeys to strategy and trivia games. Each board game reflected the creativity and personality of its creators while also demonstrating the effort students put into the design process.

By the end of the project, students not only had fun playing their classmates' games, but they also gained a deeper appreciation for the creativity and planning that goes into designing a successful game.



Middle Schoolers Take Aim in PE Archery Unit



Pictured above: Anna Cheney, Emily Delong

Middle school students are honing their focus and coordination in PE class with an exciting new archery unit. Under careful supervision of Mrs. Evans and Mr. Steffy, students are learning the basics of aiming, shooting, and safety, all while developing hand-eye coordination and concentration skills.

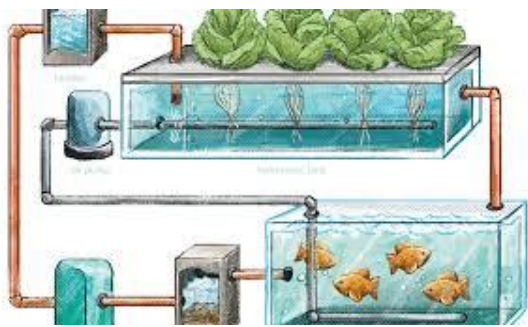
This hands-on activity gives students a fun way to stay active, challenge themselves, and experience a sport that combines precision and patience.



Pictured below: Cashleigh Huck, Mackenzie Beach



Aquaponics Update: New Growth in the System



Exciting progress is happening with our aquaponics system at Titusville Middle School. After weeks of preparation and careful monitoring, vegetation has officially started growing. Students are beginning to see sprouts emerge along with lettuce and a variety of herbs taking root in the system.

Aquaponics combines fish and plant growth in a balanced ecosystem where fish provide nutrients for the plants, and the plants help keep the water clean. This hands-on learning experience allows students to observe how living systems work together while learning about sustainability, biology, and food production.

Seeing the first signs of growth has been exciting for everyone involved. Students will continue to monitor the plants as they grow and learn more about how aquaponics supports healthy plant development. We look forward to watching the system thrive in the coming weeks! 🌱🐟



Second Year for Starch Madness

March brings the return of Starch Madness at Titusville Middle School! Students will complete a bracket similar to March Madness, but instead of basketball teams, the matchups feature starchy foods from local and chain restaurants.

Students predict which foods will win each round, while TMS staff members serve as the judges. Each week in March, staff receive a quick poll to vote for their favorites, and the winning "team" is posted outside the classroom.

Students earn points for correct predictions, and staff members are also welcome to stop by and grab a bracket to play along—there might even be a prize for a perfect bracket!

This year's championship matchup came down to Texas Roadhouse rolls vs. Missy's pancakes. After a close and delicious battle, Texas Roadhouse rolls took the title and won the finals, becoming this year's Starch Madness champion.



PSSAs are Quickly Approaching

PSSA Testing Dates:

ELA - April 21 - 23

Math - April 27 - 28

Science (8th Grade) - April 29 - 30

Tips for Testing

- ❑ **Get Enough Sleep:** Ensure 8-10 hours of sleep for several nights before the test to maximize focus and concentration.
- ❑ **Eat a Healthy Breakfast:** Start the day with protein-rich foods (eggs, yogurt) rather than high-sugar foods to avoid energy crashes.
- ❑ **Dress in Layers:** Test rooms can be cold or hot. Dress in layers to stay comfortable.
- ❑ **Stay Relaxed:** Remind yourself that this test is only to see what you know and how the school can help you improve, not a measure of your worth.
- ❑ **Arrive Early:** Ensure you are at school on time to avoid unnecessary stress before the test begins.



Exploring Language and Culture Through Music

Spanish class is more than learning the language. It's also about culture, and Joe Kovach brought Latin American Folk music to the 6th and 7th-grade classes in March. Joe is a local musician who has traveled the world with his guitar, collecting rhythms and melodies along the way. He brought his love of music (and the language) for a special class-long learning experience. The music for the 6th graders focused on songs about nature and animals. Who knew there were so many songs about doves? The 7th graders got to experience different rhythms, like the tango from Argentina! Of course, there was audience participation, and Spanish words were learned along the way.

Mr. Kovach has been coming to TMS each quarter since 2023.

