

## Cougar Connection



### *The Five Pillars of Success*

*\*Operational Excellence \* Engaging All Learners \* Shifting Into Deeper Learning \* Cultivating Leadership \* \*  
Promoting a Positive School Culture \**

Good evening and Happy Friday!

This is Mr. Santana, Principal of Glades Middle School, with your weekly Cougar Connection. As we close out another great week at Glades, it's hard to believe we are already at the midpoint of the first quarter. Our focus continues to center on "reimagining" Glades Middle School through implementing our 5 pillars of success. This was evidenced by this week's classroom visits which demonstrated a clear focus on our shift into deeper learning. There were various examples throughout the week, however, I have to say Mrs. Riley's World History class really stood out. Students were treated to an excellent example of project based learning through engaging learning stations that included a mock cave exploration within the classroom.

In safety and security news, please note that all students have now received their updated IDs. Students that were unable to take pictures for the first round of IDs will have an opportunity to take pictures on September 25th. Students without pictures will continue to use a temporary ID.

In community news, be on the lookout for interim reports that will be distributed next week Monday, September 17th. This is an important monitoring tool that can be used to better gauge your child's academic progress this school year. In additional community news, next week we will be having a Cougar Family night at Texas Roadhouse on Monday, September 18th between 6 pm and 8 pm. A percentage of the sales will be donated directly to Glades Middle School. Please be sure to mention that you are there for the Glades Family Night in order for us to receive a donation. Your support is greatly appreciated!

In student activities news, kudos to our Robotics teams as they had an opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Center this past weekend. During their visit, students were able to learn about long term space exploration and the challenges that engineers face on a daily basis. Thank you to Mrs. Farkas and Ms. Bartlett for organizing this incredible experience for our students. This is an excellent example of shifting into deeper learning!

In teacher recognition news, please join me in congratulating our Teacher of the Month, Ms. Ellison! In the spirit of promoting a positive school culture, we want to recognize Ms. Ellison for her heart in serving our students. I would also like to take the time to recognize Mrs. Van Valkenburg and our Glades Middle School Honor Choir. Under the leadership of Mrs. VanValkenburg, our choir has been selected by Disney Performing Arts to be part of the entertainment at the WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort! They will be performing Saturday, January 26th and Sunday, January 27th at Disney World.

In athletic news, CONGRATULATIONS to the boys and girls soccer teams for their victories against New Renaissance on Wednesday. Both teams excelled and displayed great sportsmanship. In addition, cheerleading camp and tryouts will begin next week for all interested students. **There will be two days of camp on September 17th and 18th from 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm and tryouts will be on September 20th from 4:15 pm to 5:30 pm.**

In closing, I wish everyone a fantastic weekend! Remember to follow us on Twitter @Glades\_MS to stay informed about all of the latest happenings at our school. The Future is always BRIGHT at Glades! Let's continue to Reimagine Glades Middle School with Pride, Passion, and Purpose!