



# Falcon Flyer

**Summer 2023**

**Published by the students of Stetson Middle School**



Silicon Carbon Iodine Europium Nitrogen Carbon Europium

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Oxygen Lithium Yttrium Molybdenum Plutonium Iodine  
Argon Dubnium

***Competing Science Olympiad team celebrates  
three successful years***

*By Alexander Abramov and Jugad Singh,  
Eighth Grade*



Science Olympiad has been a fun experience for me (Alexander Abramov) and my friend, Jugad Singh. Before we say what we thought about our three- year experience, we want to

share some interviews we had with some other fellow members of Science Olympiad, asking them about their favorite part of the club -

*Liam Swett (8th grader; 1 year member): "I liked learning about things that people don't know about. I also enjoyed spending time with my friends."*

*Coby Booker (8th grader; 3 year member): "It was a very fun experience and a fantastic club to start middle school with. It's great to learn more things that aren't usually taught in school."*

*Gautham Varier (7th grader; 2 year member): "I liked to be able to choose lots of topics to learn about."*

*Raymond Qiao (8th grader, 2 year member): "Science Olympiad."*

*Matteo Cecchi (7th grader, 1 year member); "The awards ceremony is fun because it's nice to hear your name."*

As you can see, the Science Olympiad is a very enjoyable experience, but we would like to add on more that our teammates didn't say:

Science Olympiad is what we believe to be one of the best clubs at Stetson. You get to learn about a wide variety of subjects in interesting ways. For example, let's say that you enjoy sciences surrounding chemistry. Rather than studying from a textbook, taking a test, and iterating this same, repetitive cycle until you reach the end of whatever the field





contains, you can instead do actual engaging things. In the case of chemistry, possibly you will enjoy doing “Crimebusters”, an event in which you perform experiments on different solids, liquids, metals, and organic materials, and then use the data you collected from these experiments to solve crimes. Maybe you don’t enjoy solving crimes but instead want only to conduct the experiments – “Can’t Judge a Powder” is for you!

If you’re into music, you might want to look into Sounds of Music, an event where you learn a lot about music and what makes it happen: the physics behind it, the theory behind it, and the construction of different instruments. The coolest part of this event, however, is the building part: you must build an instrument under different restrictions that is able to play an excerpt from a well-known song and a scale. Be sure to be thorough, though, because the rules are five pages long!

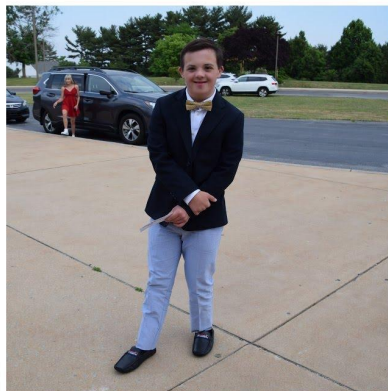
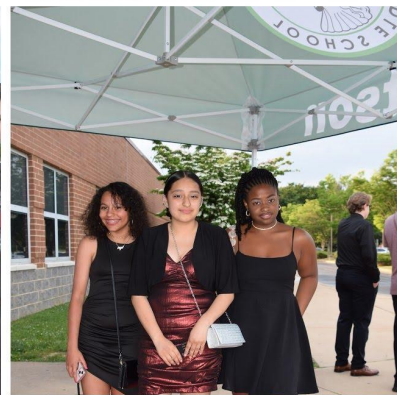
Now, every successful team must have a mentor, and we had an amazing one in Mr. Becker. The seventh graders may know him as their amazing science teacher, but the team knows him as the humorous, intelligent, hard-working supervisor who has taken the team to states every year since he took the helm.

In conclusion, Science Olympiad is the nation’s largest STEM competition. It is very broad and impossible to cover in one article - but these are our favorite events and we hope you’ll join next year!



# Masquerade Ball brings Eighth Grade class together

On Friday evening, June 2, eighth grade students arrived in style for the annual end-of-middle-school celebration. Friends and classmates walked the red carpet to enter the transformed cafeteria. The night was filled with music, dancing, free time in the gym, and quiet time in the library, as well as snacks, candy and desserts. The student Dance Committee worked with Mrs. Morris and Mr. Graham to organize a great event. Best of luck, eighth graders!





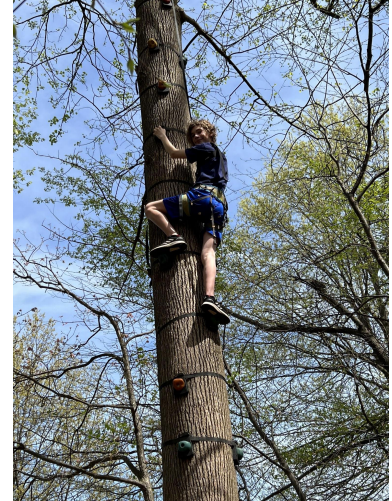
# Sixth Graders soared at Treehouse World

By Cooper Boreman, Sixth Grade



This April, Stetson sixth graders went on an exciting field trip to Treehouse World Adventure Park. Students could try new challenges while hanging out with their friends and classmates.

The top three things students did were the zip line, tree climbing, and a freeplay area. The tree climbing was a lot of fun. Everyone wanted to climb to the top of the trees. Tree climbing was the second busiest place after the zip line.



The freeplay area had a rope web, an obstacle course, and some mini zip lines and climbing towers. Many students and teachers went there towards the end of the day, as it was a space to cool off.

To add to the adventures, some of the teachers went on the zipline, as well. Those teachers included Mrs. Gomez, the organizer; Mrs. Mesi, a reading teacher; Ms. Verna, a math teacher; and Mrs. Puchella, our beloved principal here at Stetson.

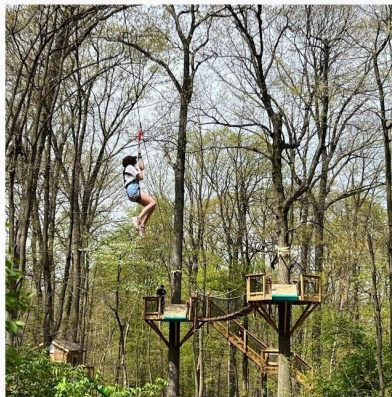


The whole sixth grade

day gave the students



and teachers an entertaining break and free time from schoolwork and testing!







# Stetson Track & Field



*By Kiki Simunov, Seventh Grade*

Out of all the sports here at Stetson, track & field is definitely the most popular at over 130 members. But what is the sport really like? To find out, I interviewed student athletes from three areas of track: distance, sprinting, and throwing.

**Sprinting:** Aubrey McCoy, 7th grade.

**Q: What does an everyday practice look like for you?**

A: Generally we start with fence drills, toe taps, accelerators, and then we can either break into individual events or work with a relay team.

**Q: What events can sprinters do?**

A: Sprinters can do the 100m, 200m, 400m, and the 100m hurdles.

**Q: What's your favorite part of track?**

A: My favorite

part is being able to work as a team and get to know my teammates.

**Q: What's your favorite event?**

A: The 400m.



**Distance:** Riya Puranik, 7th Grade.

**Q: What does an everyday practice look like for you?**

A: Normally we will either run our loop around the school fields or do a workout, which focuses on speed or endurance.

**Q: What events can distance runners do?**

A: The 400m, 800m, and the 1600m (one-mile).

**Q: What's your favorite part of track?**

A: Running in the woods.

**Q: What's your favorite event?**

A: The 800m.

**Q: As someone who also did XC, how does distance running compare to it?**

A: XC involves a lot more running than distance on the track team. Usually we would run 4 miles per day compared to 2-3 for distance.

Throwing: Shane Reignier, 7th Grade.

Q: What does an everyday practice look like for you?

A: We either practice technique, during which we break into shot put and discus and throw to a partner or lift weights, where we go to the gym and... lift weights.

Q: What events can throwers do?

A: Shot put and discus.

Q: What's your favorite part of track?

A: Getting to know people I wouldn't have gotten to know outside of track.

Q: What's your favorite event?

A: Discus because I love seeing improvement in myself and others.



Other Field Events in Track and Field include long jump and high jump



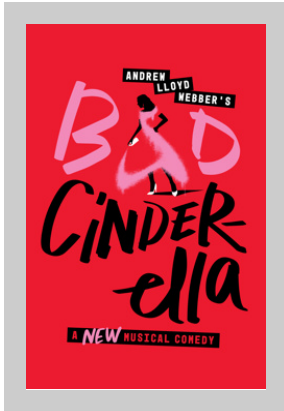
**The Stetson Track and Field team had many strong performances this season. Coach White shared the following impressive results:**

- Pat Garofalo - Set the school record in the shot put and won the County Championship in discus and shot put
- Aoife Speer Gibson - Set the school record and won County Championship in the high jump
- Jake Wright, Fred Garcia, Dathan Jacobs, Colton Gossman - Set the school record and won the County Championship in the 120 lb. 4x100 meter relay
- Fiona Ennen - Set the school record in the 105 lb. 100 meter sprint
- Fiona Ennen, Hannah Friend, Zoe McGraw, and Edi Kamara - Set the school record in the 105 lb. 4x100 meter relay
- Jake Wright - Set the school record in the 120 lb. 100 meter sprint
- Nora Reese - Tied the school record in the long jump
- Coby Booker - Set the school record in the long jump

*Photo credits to Mr. Tim Hudson*

# Bad Cinderella: How Literal Is the “Bad”?

By Maiya Wilhelmson, Seventh Grade



Although it feels like it just arrived on Broadway yesterday, the new musical *Bad Cinderella* has ironically been reviewed as worse than bad. Written by Andrew Lloyd



Webber--composer/featured composer of *Phantom of the Opera*, *School of Rock*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Cats*, and many more highly popular musicals, it seems as if it should definitely be looked upon with much higher expectations than the reality of the show offers. Sadly, this is not the truth. Due to the show's disorganized storyline, dehumanization, substandard lyrics and composing, repetitiveness, inconsistent characters, and derogatory plot, it is considered one of the worst musicals on Broadway of all time. The main theme of the show is about empowerment and how not everyone should feel the need to conform to beauty standards. According to AP News, it's classic, wholehearted, and sweet: only if the entire message wasn't muddled by what seems like a middle school boy's imagination. The musical has so much potential, and it is truly unfortunate that it all got thrown away throughout the production process.

However, I suppose you might as well see if it's good or not for yourself! Nothing is set in stone about this new musical, as this article is mainly just a popular opinion based on published reviews.



# *Finding fun in and around West Chester this summer!*

*By Samantha McNichol and Mira Luedtke, Seventh Grade*

## *1. Get some yummy Rita's Water Ice*



Rita's Water Ice, dating back all the way to 1984, was



created during a sweltering summer by a former

Philadelphia firefighter named Bob Tumolo to augment his income. There are a variety of sweet and cold treats to eat here varying from Italian ice, frozen custard, gelati (a mixture of both Italian ice and frozen custard), shakes, frozen drinks, custard cakes, custard pints, and even custard cookie sandwiches. People of all ages still continue to enjoy Rita's ice cream and you can find them open just about anywhere in Pennsylvania as said by the very obvious map. Go get some delicious custard and Italian ice cream at your local Rita's Water Ice this summer! You will not regret it.

## *2. Go Biking!*

Biking is an activity that keeps you fit while also having fun. It is enjoyed by all ages and can be done just about anywhere (if given permission by parents/guardians.) A safer way to bike instead of risking getting into an accident by riding on the street is by going on a trail designated for biking.



Lucky for us Pennsylvanians, there are plenty of nearby bike route locations for us to choose. We are going to list some of the trails you can find based on length (short-medium-long.)

**SHORT:**

- Angelica Creek Trail - 1.9 miles
- Auburn Valley Trail - 1.2 miles
- Audubon Loop Trail - 2.5 miles
- Barrel Run Trail - 1 mile
- Battery Park Trail - 1.7 miles
- Baxter Trail - 1.8 miles
- Butterfly Acres Trail - 0.5 miles
- Goshen Road Trail - 0.9 miles

**MEDIUM**

- Iron-ton Rail-Trail - 9 miles
- John Heinz Refuge Trail - 7.7 miles
- Saucon Rail Trail - 6.9 miles
- Union Canal Trail - 6.5 miles
- Wissahickon Valley Park Trail System - 8.5 miles

**LONG**

- Chester Valley Trail - 18.6 miles
- Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail - 18 miles
- PennyPack Trail - 16 miles
- Northwest Lancaster County River Trail - 14.1 miles

Whether you're looking for a crazy adventure or a peaceful roll on a serene path, these are the perfect places to visit. Now, of course, there are many more trails that you can go to in Pennsylvania, but these are some of our favorites.



### *3. Cool off in a fun pool or waterpark*

A fan favorite, swimming, is one of the most popular ways of having fun during a hot summer day. There are not only plenty of public pools in Pennsylvania, but there are



also a couple water parks to visit! Some examples in West Chester include the Saxon Woods Pool, Sprain Ridge Park Pool, Tibbetts Brook Park Pool, and Wilson's Waves. There are also a couple waterparks in Pennsylvania like Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom, Hershey Park's water park, and the Kalahari Indoor Water Park. You can also buy a slip n slide for your backyard, a sprinkler, water balloons, or even your own pool! Remember to always follow water safety rules to keep you and others safe.



## *4. Cook something!*

Over the summer, boredom and fun appear just as often. When you don't have anything that you're able to do, nowhere to go, and no way to visit friends, the fun summer activities can get stale pretty quickly. Fortunately, there's an easy skill that you can learn at home with not too many supplies- cooking! Recipes with limited ingredients are easy to find, and what is a fun summer activity can



also be a skill that'll last you a lifetime! If you take a class or use online recipes, cooking can be easy and fun to learn or to simply practice! This includes baking and cooking! With baking, decorating and making fun recipes is great to know, and if you get good enough, maybe you can create some recipes of your own! With cooking, you can learn how to

make all sorts of delicious dishes, and you can play around with them and get creative! Some recipes recommended by us are cookies, personal pizzas, eggs, spaghetti, salads, pies, cupcakes, other pastas, and other easy dishes! Of course, this is for people just starting out cooking, and you might want to choose some more adventurous dishes if you're more advanced at cooking. You can





also enlist the help of an adult or friend to cook with, and it can be a great activity that more than one can participate in! No matter who you cook with or how you learn, be safe in your cooking adventures and have some fun!

## 5. *Hike somewhere! Go explore!*

Another amazing summer activity is hiking! There are so many places to hike, especially here in Pennsylvania! With 2.2 million acres of protected land, this state is practically covered in trails perfect for hiking and backpacking! A lot of the land in this state is forests, so scenic and fun hikes are abundant! You can spend days just enjoying the hiking trails just near West Chester, and weeks hiking throughout Pennsylvania! A great hiking opportunity in the



area is the Appalachian Trail, but that's for more experienced hikers. The trail starts in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, and runs through the state for a little under 230 miles! The total length of the trail is 2,190 miles, and it is the longest hiking-only footpath in the entire world! That's for a certain type of hiker, let alone person, so we won't be disappointed if you don't go for that trail. Some easier trails

include the Stroud Preserve Red Trail, the Cheslen Preserve, the Sugar's Bride Nature Trail, and many others! These easier trails can go from 40 minutes to 4 hours in length, but they all have one thing in common- they're really fun! If you aren't a hiking kind of person, or you've never tried before, this summer would be a great time to start! A great thing to do is to hike with some friends! You should probably have a parent or guardian with you on some of the trails, but friends can also be very fun to bring along! We recommend that you do some research on the trails in the area before you attempt any hikes, but most of them are really good trails. Hiker or not, pick your favorite and give it a try. Happy hiking!

## 6. *Go to a fair or two!*



Fairs are also a great way to spend your summer fun filled activities and can be even more fun when spent with friends and family. You can find games, food, rides, and much more at fairs. Fairs are usually held between June and September though there are a couple that are held in the spring and in October. Some examples are The York Fair, the Bloomsburg Fair, Big Butler Fair,

Malvern Fair, The Great Allentown Fair, and our local East Goshen Fair.. Our favorite rides are the chair swing ride and the pirate ship and our favorite food option is the lemonade that you can find at practically any fair. Bring some money, buy a ticket, and go to a fair this summer in Pennsylvania!

## 7. *Travel*

Travelling is a fun activity enjoyed by the whole family during summer as you can go just about anywhere in the world. The world is a vast place and there are plenty of places to explore.

Samantha's favorite place to travel is Florida because of the food, Disney, and the various abundance of fun places to visit.

Mira's favorite place to travel to is Maine because of the multiple harbors, shops, food options, and hiking trails.

However, do be aware of the many dangers of traveling and have safe travels!



## 8. *Go to the beach*

Okay, we know that this isn't exactly in West Chester, but we think it still counts. West Chester is nestled in between a lot of great, scenic beaches. If you want to go to Ocean City NJ, Wildwood, Rehoboth, Lewes, Bethany, Beach Haven, or



Stone Harbor, these beaches are all wonderful, and near to West Chester! If you can't go too far away or are looking for a fun day trip, these beaches are perfect for you! There's some great things to do at the beach, and going to a boardwalk on one of these can be great as well! It's so fun to be able to swim and get summer treats. No matter where you go, a trip to the beach can be a great time with family and friends.



## 9. *Go shopping*

If you like spending money, browsing different items, trying on clothes, or just looking around, shopping in the comfort of an air-conditioned mall would be the perfect activity for you to do with yourself or with your family. There are plenty of malls scattered around Pennsylvania, and some of them even have fun activities in them. It's totally easy to shop online, but shopping in person is twice as fun as you can do a variety of things like eat some food, go see movies, and hang out with friends. The King of Prussia Mall is one of those malls that have just about everything in it and is also located near West Chester. We totally recommend going to this one as it has one of the best shopping experiences you can have.



## 10. *Reeeelaaaaaaax*

or bed is always a good option. A great summer is a fun summer, but it's also a summer where you get to relax and do what you want to do. Don't be afraid to skip a fun activity every once and a while to just relax. One of



the staples of summer is a relaxing time away from school, and a break from waking up early every day. However, summer can be stressful too! It can be stressful to have to bounce from summer camp to summer camp, or to do a bunch of activities with no real break in between. The thing is, summer is supposed to be fun! If you find yourself getting tired from all the

things you have to do in summer, nobody will blame you if you take a minute to relax during the summer. We found a lot of good ways, but some of the best are going to a pool with a lazy river, listening to some of your favorite music, watching a movie that you like, reading a good book, going for a walk, exercising, or doing a puzzle of some kind! These are all great options to relax with, and half of them can be done at home. You can have so much fun just doing something calm and relaxing, and with most of these, it can actually be considered productive! Of course, if none of these are available, lazing on your couch or in a hammock this summer might just be the best!



# Top Five Trends Of Summer 2023



## 1. Hair Wraps

Hair wraps are a great way to kick off summer! Watch a quick YouTube tutorial and you're a pro! They're a fun hobby with little to no skill, and you will be able to do them with all your friends! Plus, all you need is some colorful string!



## 2. Volleyball

Volleyball is a great sport to play during the summer! While it can be a bit tricky to learn, once you get started it's hard to stop! Most beaches have volleyball courts, so make sure to pack a ball when going to the beach for endless fun!



## 3. String Bracelets

String bracelets are a great way to accessorize during the summer! They're entertaining and super easy! It's perfect activity for long car rides, or lazy days at home! You can also try selling them and making a business over the summer!



## 4. Converse High Tops

Converse are the perfect summer shoe! With so many different styles, colors, and sizes they can be worn with any outfit! They're super easy to clean and don't stain!



## 5. Gold Hoops

Perfect with any outfit! They come in every size and variety, and are a great summer staple! Gold hoops are the perfect earring to go to the beach, pool, and go out on the boardwalk!



### *Top 10 Books to **Shake Up** Your Summer (According to Maiya and Kat)!\**

By Katerina Marcantonis and Maiya Wilhelmson, Seventh Grade

\*Not all books are summer themed



1. *Float* by Kate Marchant
2. *Two Can Keep a Secret* by Karen M. McManus
3. *Daughter of the Pirate King* by Tricia Levenseller (You can also check out the sequel: *Daughter of the Siren Queen*--and the next book to the series coming out this summer (*Vengeance of the Pirate Queen*)!
4. *The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
5. *The Black Queen* by Jumata Emill
6. *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black
7. *Jolly Foul Play* by Robin Stevens (check out the full series!)
8. *Lore* by Alexandra Bracken
9. *11 Before 12* by Lisa Greenwald
10. *Warrior of the Wild* by Tricia Levenseller



# Summers in Greece bring families together!

By Alkistis Pistou, Sixth Grade

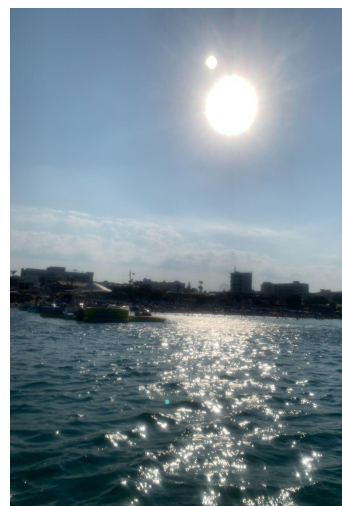
While many students are going to the shore and local summer camps for summer break, I have the ability to go to Greece every summer. My family lives in a neighborhood called Kypseli, located in Athens. It is so amazing that you can just walk to places and not need a car. Summer in Greece is just fascinating.



There are so many places to visit with different sites to explore. If you like hiking, then go to take a tour of the Parthenon, and you can even climb Mt. Olympus.

Are you a big history fan? Well Greece is the place to come and visit. You can learn all about the amazing historical events that took place in Greece such as: The Trojan War, The first Olympic Games, the Persian War, and so much more!

Maybe you are a person who wants to relax during the summer. Well, then go to all the amazing beaches located in Greece. You even have a variety of islands that you can visit for different beach experiences. You can go to Paros

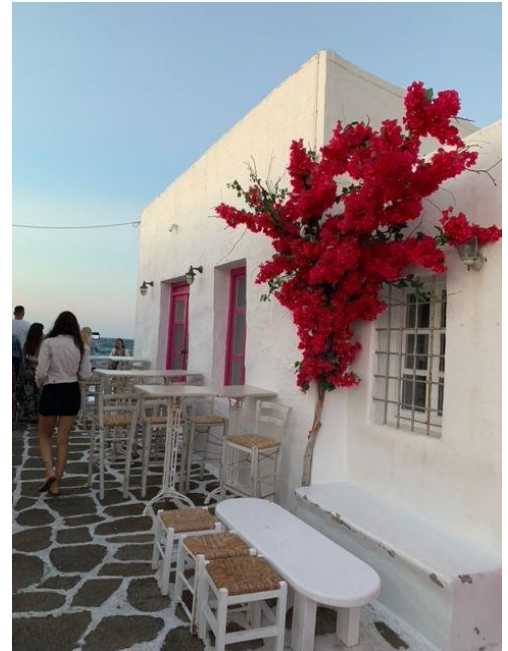


(absolutely beautiful), Naxos, Mykonos, or if you are not much of an island person, go to Loutraki which is located about an hour outside of Athens.



Don't even get me started with the food. The food is even better than the actual place! Some of their traditional dishes are moussaka, pastitio, solvlaki, saganaki, and gyros. The desserts there are phenomenal! Some of the desserts there

include baklava, bougatsa, loukoumades, melomakarona, and eckler! ( There are many more but those are the best.)



So, if you like good weather, food, kind-hearted people, beaches, hiking, and more, then summers in Greece are for you!





## **Congratulations to our retiring staff members:**

**Mr. Dewitt, Assistant Principal**

**Mr. Corcoran, Health & PE and Athletic Director**

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## **Falcon Flyer Staff, Stetson Middle School 2022-23**

### Falcon Flyer Staf

#### Sixth Grade

Cooper Boreman  
Phoebe Hutnick  
Asa Kelso  
Julia Lockledge  
Alkistis Pistou  
Eva Seltzer

#### Seventh Grade

Ilarlar Deng  
Piper Goodwin  
Aniyah Henderson  
Addie Hurford  
Norah Laasri  
Mira Luedtke  
Samantha McNichol  
Maggie Perritt  
Riya Puranik  
Kiki Simunov  
Lucy Stief  
Olivia Ward  
Maiya Wilhelmson

#### Eighth Grade

Alexander Abramov  
Zoe Case  
Elizabeth Flood  
Jugad Singh

Advisor Mrs. Claffey,  
cclaffey@wcasd.net

*Falcon Flyer meets on Wednesdays in Room B106, 3-4 p.m.*

*Best of luck to our eighth grade staff members as you move on to high school!*

*We look forward to seeing old and new staff members in the Fall of 2023!*

## ***Enjoy your Summer!***