



*CREC Academy of Science and Innovation*

*Jan 13th, 2021*

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### Monthly Announcements

- ❖ January 17th - Martin Luther King Jr's Day (No School)
- ❖ January 21st - Dress Down Day
- ❖ January 25th-28th - Midterm Exams
- ❖ January 25th-28th - Half Days
- ❖ January 31st - Semester 2 Begins

### Ms. Baker and Her Take on the New School Year

I had the opportunity to interview Ms. Baker, the former 9th Grade STEM teacher and current biology teacher here at ASI. She has been a teacher here for three years and has also helped coach the girls high school varsity soccer team. I asked her about the last few years of school and how COVID changed things. She told me that her first year teaching at ASI was the year we transitioned to online learning, and she said it was “very insane” to be teaching from home and then the next year to be sent home so many times. She has enjoyed this year so far and she is glad that everyone is in person for learning. She likes to build a connection with the students she has, and is glad the school year is pretty calm as far as COVID and precautions with wearing masks. When asked about what she would like students to take with them during their schooling, she expressed that she wants students to always advocate for themselves and ask questions, not only in her class but in general. When teaching, she likes to put a lot of responsibility on the student to advocate for their learning and get things done, as well as treating her students as adults as much as possible. She does find though that lots of kids do not come to class prepared with the supplies that they need to be successful, and that is one thing she would want kids to do better. Since she is currently teaching biology, I asked about one unit that students seem to like the most. Her students seem to like the genetics unit since they can visually see different traits that have been passed down in their own families and be able to see how different diseases occur. I then asked her, “What is one thing students may not know about you that you would want them to know?” Her response was that she likes to do hair and makeup, and she is very good at it. The last thing I asked her about is what she’s looking forward to during this school year, and she explained that she is looking forward to different field trips and some sort of field day, because she thinks it is fun and a good way to build connections, not only with students but also staff themselves.

Written and Edited by Karina Falcon

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**Have the scoop? Let us know at [asi.times@gmail.com](mailto:asi.times@gmail.com)!**

## ASI Sports Scoop

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The boys basketball team is having one of their biggest seasons yet with a Varsity, JV, and Freshman team. So far, the Ravens had their first victory against MLC on Monday, however, they fell short to Capital Prep on Tuesday. Their next game is going to be this Friday against Achievement First. The Varsity lineup hosts some strong players such as Tyvonn Thompson, Amari Cruz, and freshman Warlin Franco. Thompson averages eight points per game, 4 assists per game and 3 rebounds per game. This season will be his best yet, and we hope to see more performances from our varsity team when they play on Friday. As of right now, spectators are not allowed at games. However, you can wish the team good luck for the rest of their season!



Indoor track is experiencing a new and upcoming season showing a lot of promising athletes for future years. So far indoor track has had one meet over the weekend and some of the athletes already started their season strong. Returning senior athlete Mya Saylor qualified for states in the hurdles event and hopes to continue getting better throughout the season. Junior, Amya Ortiz, is on the verge of qualifying for states coming in third overall for long jump and coming in top ten overall for the 55 meter dash and the 300 meters. Since this was track's first meet, many athletes have tried new events and hope to improve on their next meet this Saturday. The coaches expect more growth throughout the season and for their athletes to set more personal records, so let's wish the team a successful indoor track season.



The Lady Ravens have a crucial rebuilding season that includes many new players as well as returning senior captain Te'ijah Roberts. The Ravens have yet to claim a victory this season, however, this is going to be Roberts best season yet. Roberts averages 13.5 points a game and has already broken the title for the most points scored for girls basketball in this school. As a returning captain, she has been leading the team and helping the girls basketball team rebuild for future seasons. A promising player who has already scored most of the team's points this season, is freshman Karina Falcon. Falcon is a Varsity starter for the Lady Ravens and will continue her

high school career strong as she has already become one of our most crucial offensive players. The Lady Ravens will have their next game this Friday against Civic Leadership, so let's wish them good luck!

# Pop Culture and Global News

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## Betty White's Untimely Death



We end 2021 on a somber note with Betty White's death. Infamous American actress, Betty White, star of Golden Girls, passed away on the morning of December 31st, 2021 at the age of 99, just a few weeks before her 100th birthday. It was revealed that her cause of death was a stroke. Americans all over the world are mourning her death with a heavy heart as she graced us with her wonderful presence for over 8 decades. Her legacy of greatness will never be forgotten as we continue to reminisce on the impact she's had on American entertainment.

Image Source - Yahoo.com

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## Rising Covid-19 Cases & New Variants

As of January 10, 2022 there has been about a daily average of 737,415 reported cases of COVID-19 in America. Currently in Connecticut, compared to the amount of cases we had last winter, there has been a 377% increase in cases, 130% increase in hospitalizations, and 73% increase in deaths caused by the new Omicron variant. Compared to other states like Rhode Island, which had a 552% increase since last winter, Connecticut is doing decently well. Along with the huge increase in cases, there has also been an increase in new strains of the COVID virus. Omicron, this new and more contagious strain, has been taking the world by storm by infecting at least 2-3% of the population in every country. The CDC says that if you are vaccinated then there isn't much to worry about, but if you are unvaccinated then the symptoms will be much worse.

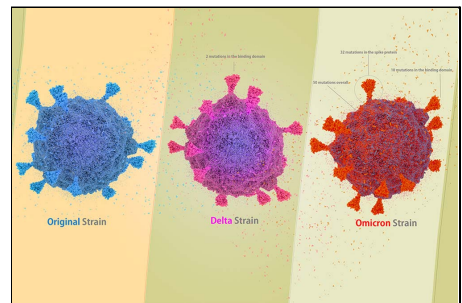


Image Source - MUSC

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# Breaking News

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## The Grammys: Cancelled?

According to the Recording Academy and CBS, the 64th Grammy Awards have been postponed. Due to safety concerns from the rapidly spreading Omicron variant, the Grammy Awards has been “canceled” until further notice. This year’s top nominees included Jon Batiste, Justin Bieber, Doja Cat, H.E.R., Billie Eilish, Olivia Rodrigo, and many more. Unfortunately,



America’s beloved award show will have to be put off until the risk of COVID infection goes down. Until then, we can only speculate which of our faves will win a Grammy.

Image Source - KSLX

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### Sources

- <https://web.musc.edu/about/news-center/2021/12/06/pay-attention-to-omicron-worry-more-about-delta>
  - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html>
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html>
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## Join the Newspaper!

Want to help us get the scoop? Join the newspaper club! You can either sign up to be an editor, writer, photographer, or news source to help create our monthly newspaper! For more information, talk to Mr. Schlechtweg or Alice Bidoae!

<b>Thank You To Our Newspaper Staff</b>	
<i>Calendar and Announcements</i> - Lujayn Banday and Katherine Palombizio	<i>Local News Team</i> - Jasmine Carby
<i>Advice Column</i> - Carese Davis	<i>Global News Team</i> - Ajae Lynch, Ariana Vicens, Jonale Walters, and Sarah Omary
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	<i>Editor in Chief</i> - Alice Bidoae

## Local News

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### Governor Ned Lamont Introduces New Way for Connecticut Citizens to Prove Their Vaccination Status

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In months prior there has been a lot of talk about whether or not businesses would adopt a method of vaccine tracking for customers, and if so how the idea would be implemented. The most common idea of these was a vaccination passport. The purpose of the vaccination passport is to allow business owners access to customers' vaccination status so that they are able to accommodate their guests and parties accordingly. One state that has implemented this technique, for example is California, which released a COVID-19 vaccination passport app not too long ago that requires mandatory use if you are attending any in-person event with more than 1,000 attendees. While Governor Ned Lamont says that he agrees that there should be some level of accountability regarding businesses and vaccination status, he doesn't necessarily believe that it should be referred to as a passport. In regards to this progression he states that, "We can make it easier for people to show whether they've been vaccinated. It's not a passport. It's not mandatory. It's just a QR code on your phone." In this way the governor's plan is similar to that of Charlie Baker, the governor of Massachusetts plan, where they are both developing a voluntary digital passport program.

Many citizens had opinions on whether or not they would utilize such a tool in their day to day activities as they go out to social gatherings. A survey done in Middletown, Connecticut got the opinion of Marisa Bramato, the business owner of Esca Restaurant and Wine Bar. She said that business had been much higher than it had been before the pandemic. However, it is because of that and the addition of the new Omicron variant that she is open to the obtaining of information about vaccination proof from guests. "If we need to wear a mask or if we need to show a passport, if we need to do that, then we need to do that," she states. The Millers, a couple from Branford, Connecticut agreed with her in saying that, "we have a responsibility as a society to look out for each other and as communities that's what we should be doing." While the governor says that this program is not yet mandatory, many businesses are bracing for the idea.

**Written and Edited By: Jasmine Carby**



# Advice Column and School Announcements

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## *Counseling with Carese*

Hello students and staff of ASI, welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable winter break with time for relaxation. Happy New Year and let's make 2022 a great one! As we transition back into the classroom, we are preparing to wrap up the first semester and take midterms and/or final exams, depending on if you are taking half or full-year courses. Each and every student is capable of doing well with proper preparation. The topic of discussion this month is studying for exams!

Coming back to school after a long break can be challenging as many feel foggy about previous concepts. I suggest reviewing past assignments to refresh your memory which will also benefit testing. Simply going over old worksheets and Google documents will remind you of the areas in need of improvement. For the content that you are less familiar with, do not be afraid to reach out to your teachers for assistance. I am sure they would be happy to review with you but make sure to ask early. Don't forget to take advantage of platforms like Quizlet as they make memorizing terms more enjoyable. If not, find out which method of studying works best for you. Maybe having a study partner motivates you, or maybe rewriting your notes helps knowledge stick. As long as you are retaining information, feel free to do whatever works.

The biggest piece of advice I have for everyone is to start now! Trying to cram mounds of data the night before an exam will not benefit your grade as it only results in stress and lack of sleep. Remember to apply yourself; you are more than capable. We are halfway through everyone!

Until next time, Carese.

## Afterschool Clubs and Reminders

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Club registration is open and has begun as of January 10th! Make sure to sign up for clubs such as the cooking club or GSA club. There are now six buses for afterschool programs, so make sure to check them out on Schoology if you need transportation. Also be on the lookout for updates from Ms. Hahn who posts on Schoology for announcements on after school clubs! Joining a club can be really fun and something important that you can put on your college application, so it's a good opportunity to do something fun and for yourself!

## A Word from the NHS President

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Hello everyone, I'm Ajae Lynch, the President of the National Honors Society. We are all excited to get started on our school and community projects and have some great things planned in order to aid our school's mental, environmental, and academic health. Please look forward to all we have in store for the rest of the school year!



# Capstone Senior Projects

Seniors! If you would like to share your capstone project and advertise your ideas then contact me or the newspaper team to show the school your products!

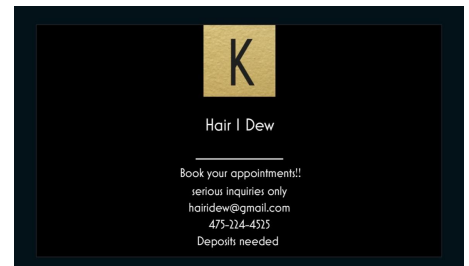
## Future Doctors Mentorship Program: Ajae Lynch

The medical trends of today are extremely concerning: people of color are far more likely to get poor quality healthcare than their white counterparts. Statistics show that black women, for example, are **3x** more likely to die of childbirth. To combat these alarming facts, I have decided to center my capstone project on diversity in healthcare. My project will have a group of around 6 to 10 students who are passionate about becoming a healthcare worker, and pair them with doctors already in the field. These doctors will mentor and aid the students throughout their medical careers. Studies have shown that when patients of color are assisted by doctors of color, they are less stressed and often feel more comfortable. So, if you'd like to be one of those students please email me, Ajae Lynch at [stuffpuppy1@gmail.com](mailto:stuffpuppy1@gmail.com). Let's combat racial injustice in the healthcare system together!



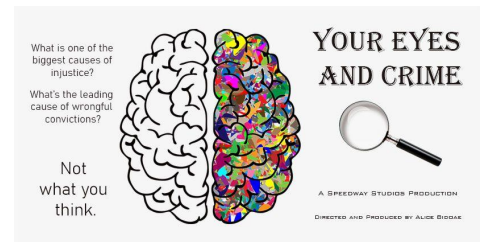
## Hair I Dew

Hi! I'm Kaylah Forde and I am running my own hair business. My Capstone is going to be focused on growing small businesses and working on growing my own! I am currently looking for models for the different hairstyles I post on my business Instagram page, which is @hair.idew. My business is based in CT and is welcome to clientele! I am hoping to grow my small business and use my journey to influence other adolescents to also grow their small business. If you know anyone who would like to be a model for my Instagram or who would like to be a potential client, please make sure to contact me on my business card!



## Your Eyes and Crime

The biggest leading cause of wrongful convictions includes faulty eyewitness statements, meaning many acts of injustice were effects of lacking observation skills. There are many psychological factors that affect crime, and ultimately close a case or open one back up. I have decided to bring this topic to the school's attention. My name is Alice Bidoae and I am going to be directing a documentary focusing on our human observation skills and how that affects our perspective on crime. I am looking for people to both help and be in my documentary, and I hope to teach people the importance of attention, and how that can cost someone's life one day.



## January 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr's Day (No School)	18	19	20	21  Dress Down Day	22
23	24  C Day (Full Day)	25  Midterm Exams (Half Day)	26  Midterm Exams (Half Day)	27  Midterm Exams (Half Day)	28  Midterm Exams (Half Day)	29
30	31					