



From the Top

COUGAR

CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS

Pride

SPRING 2021

cms.mntm.org

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Just can't Hide that Cougar Pride!





Spring Semester



Mr. R. Brandl
Superintendent

The 2020-2021 school year has been like no other. Change has been constant but we also have been able to move the right direction as the year progressed. It is so exciting to have all students K-12 in our buildings each day and we will continue to work tirelessly to provide a great education in a safe environment. We hope to finish strong as we work to ensure every student is ready for the next step in their educational journey.

There is a saying that “not all heroes wear capes”. Never has this been so apparent than it has been during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen front line workers in our hospitals, firefighters, law enforcement, ambulance personal and public health who have been asked to meet challenges that were brand new and unprecedented. We truly appreciate these heroes in our local communities.

At Cedar Mountain, we have countless people who have stepped up to make the 2020-2021 school year a positive and safe learning experience for our students. I wanted to take some time to highlight these individuals as a thank you for all they have done.

Schools Nurses: Cedar Mountain is fortunate to have not one, but two, great nurses working in our schools. Becky Wolling and Barb Billmeier have gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that our families have the support they need when dealing with COVID or possible exposures. The efforts of these two are nothing short of amazing and we are fortunate to have them on our team. Thank you as well to public health nurses Mary Kay Sinner (Renville County), Jill Bruns (Renville County), Marie Meyers (Redwood County) and Karen Moritz (Brown County) for all they have done to support our schools.

Custodial Staff: This year, cleaning and sanitizing became an even bigger priority. Thank you to CM custodial staff for doing their part to keep our school clean and ready for each changing learning model.

Paras/Bus Drivers/Kitchen/Office Staff: Change has been constant as rules and guidelines were adjusted. This group of individuals showed their flexibility and were able to make our changes nearly seamless each time. Tons of work has gone on behind the scenes but certainly has not gone unappreciated.

Principals: Thank you to Mrs. Machart and Mrs. Yackley for all that they have done this year. Both principals should be commended for their leadership and communication. COVID at times was a 24/7 job and our principals were there when our schools needed them the most.

Teachers: Teaching during a pandemic is something that the world has never seen on this scale. Our teaching staff stepped up to find new ways to not only use technology but to also be innovative in the way they teach in a socially distanced classroom. Many things look completely different, however our teaching staff has worked very hard to ensure that learning is still taking place. Cedar Mountain saw success in distance learning, hybrid learning and full in-person and much of that credit goes to the efforts and energy our teachers put forth.

Students: When I think of our students at Cedar Mountain, many great things come to mind. The word that stands out when describing our students is “perseverance”. We asked our students to learn digitally, wear masks in school, keep their distance and be patient for the start of activities and events. Not only did our students do these things but they did them at a high level. It would have been very easy to complain or give up but our students have pushed on and done their best. I am truly proud of our students and I know that the countless hours of preparation that went into this year was worth it.

We look forward to a great spring semester at Cedar Mountain.

Go Cougars!



Thank you to the **Cougar Pride Action Committee** for their donation of \$1,500. These funds will be utilized for technology at Cedar Mountain. Thank you to CPAC for their continued support of Cedar Mountain Schools!

Cougar Pride Action Committee (CPAC) has been in full swing this year. Two of the big events they have planned and organized were the Halloween and Christmas parades. This committee is made up of parents and community members interested in supporting CM. Fundraisers are held to raise money so special projects and events can take place to support our students and school. This group is

excited to continue to bring energy and pride to our school. Some of the other things already done include an online store, Cougar Pride yard signs, and Cougar driveway stamping. Due to COVID, they were not able to host their big Gala night, they look forward to next year when this fun and new event can take place. Please follow them on Facebook! Questions or inquiries can be sent to cpac20@outlook.com.



Mrs. P. Machart
Elementary
Principal

Elementary News

Today I visited the classrooms as they were enjoying their favorite yummy breakfasts! Blue frosted (of course ... our school colors) bismarcks! The student's love these! The cooks have learned to put the frosting in a cup – so each child can enjoy the bismarck in the way they prefer. Many students smeared the blue frosting on the top and had it running down the sides of the bismarck. Some dunked the bismarck in the cup and enjoyed frosting in each bite. One clever boy cut the bismarck open and used the frosting as if it were jelly and applied it to each side and made a sandwich. No matter how they devoured the treat – they each enjoyed the blue frosted bismarck!

What's the point of sharing this...well, it is kind of how we have had to look at our school year. We have examined what our goal/purpose is of a certain event – and then determined how we can accomplish that safely within the new guidelines ... We still have fun. We have learned that sometimes our "new way" of doing things is maybe even better. As we enter in the last half of the school year – we have some updated events taking place.

Parent Teacher Conferences will again be held virtually on Feb 22. Teachers will be sending out login information soon. Our survey showed that some of you preferred this style of conferences, so it may continue to be an option in the future.

FRED Night – Families Read Every Day will be held the last week in February. Families will be asked to document the reading that they do together. When students return their form – they will be able to select a free book to take home.

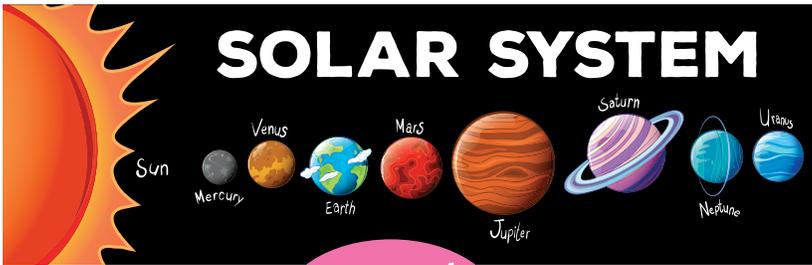
Cedar Mountain's Got Talent – This will be our new version of Arts, Academics and Awards (AAA). Students will sign up to display their artistic projects in the lobby at school and share their talent performances with their classmates. We will be videotaping and showcasing this with families at the end of March.

Grandparent's Day – We will not be inviting our grandparents to our school this year – but, instead, we have some special tributes planned for them!

Cultural Family Night – Be on the lookout for a special activity that will be sent home with children this spring. All the directions and links to videos will be included to make this an interesting and delicious (hint- hint) family night!

Study Island Challenge – Students in grades 3-5 have been working on Study Island quizzes in both reading and math throughout the year. Each time they earn a blue ribbon, their name goes in for a drawing for specific prizes. At the end of the year we will celebrate with those who have completed all the quizzes in each subject with a pizza party, treats with the principal and gift cards!! Encourage your children to continue reviewing their grade level skills and earning prizes on Study Island!

So....just like the kids enjoyed eating the frosted bismarck in a variety of ways.... we are enjoying our spring events in a variety of ways! Great things continue to happen at Cedar Mountain!



3rd grade

The third grade classes are learning about the solar system and have been busy comparing how far the planets are from the sun. They looked at a scale that converted the distance to centimeters and then measured the register tape. The students who had an outer planet were very busy!

Going, Going, GONE!



Auctioneer Doug Kerkhoff visited the 5th grade classroom for their first Classroom Economy Auction of the year. Students can earn "money" for their checking accounts through academics and behaviors in and out of the classroom. They had so much fun bidding on items and asking Mr. Kerkhoff questions about his job. The students were amazed by his auctioneering skills. They are really looking forward to the next auction!

SCIENCE

Science experiments are a highlight for many students, 4th grade is no exception! Students love learning through hands-on activities, but this year has been different for sure. Thankfully with the small class sizes, 4th graders have still been able to do many experiments either individually or just with a partner while staying 6 feet apart. They are great about taking turns with materials and always washing their hands often. We have even been able to utilize larger spaces such as outside or the gym to keep everyone safe while still having a great time learning.

4th grade



FLEXIBLE Seating



Mr. Babbitt has found a way to make flexible seating work in his classroom, even though it's been challenging during the pandemic! His students may select an alternative seat for the day that best fits their learning style/needs. The students use them very well and love to have the options! It gives them choice and allows them to freely and comfortably move around the classroom to work, while still maintaining safe distances. It also helps students focus, especially if they thrive through movement. And it adds a real sense of community to the classroom environment, which is more important than ever!

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Mrs. T Yackley
MS/HS Principal

Middle / High School

As we have reached the mid-point of the 2020-2021 school year at Cedar Mountain, we have much to celebrate. We are able to have all of our students back in person. Starting February 1st, all 6-12th grade students are able to attend school in person everyday. It has been so wonderful getting to catch up with our students. It has also been

fun to see students able to catch up with their friends in an educational setting. Another major accomplishment has been our intentional focus on fostering positive relationships within our schools. Our staff is working extremely hard to ensure that Cedar Mountain provides a great environment where all students feel welcomed, safe and encouraged to do their best every day. Programs such as PBIS, Yellow Ribbon, National Honor Society, and Blue Crue give our students an

opportunity to work with our staff with the goal of increasing school pride and making our school a better place.

It is at this time of year that we also find ourselves in the midst of the various sports and extra-curricular seasons here at school. We are having success in our various programs and are very proud of our students that have participated and continue to participate in each of our offerings. Besides sports like basketball, wrestling, dance, gymnastics, and hockey we also have students participating and competing in Speech and Knowledge Bowl. We continue to ask our parents/guardians to stay active in their child's education and encourage your student to be an active participant in their learning. Cedar Mountain is committed to providing a high quality education for every student and we know that together we can make our students' time at Cedar Mountain successful. Thank you to each and every person for the efforts you make to help prepare our students for a lifetime of success.



Congratulations to our Spelling Bee participants

Cedar Mountain recently held a Spelling Bee for students in grades 6-8, congratulations to all of the participants. April advanced to regionals in Redwood Falls on February 2nd where she had to complete an online exam, the top 4 from that exam advanced on. Cedar Mountain is very proud of April, you represented Cedar Mountain well!



April Hacker

Cedar Mountain Spelling Bee Results

Champion - April Hacker (6th grade)

Runner-Up - Madison Welch (8th grade)

3rd place - Aidan Guetter (7th grade)

Spelling Bee Participants



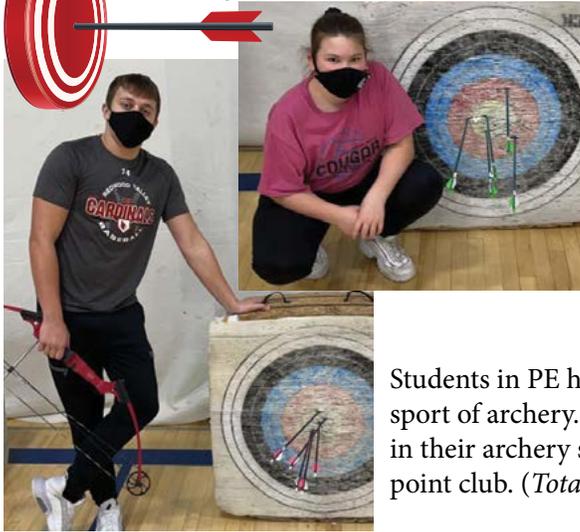
FR: Tatiyana Weikle (6), April Hacker (6), Lennon Ross (7), Marek Anderson (8), Colton Birkemeyer (7)
BR: Marlie Wildt (6), Madison Welch (8), Abby Nelson (8), Zach Sandgren (7), Aidan Guetter (8), Miley Renville (7)

A Great way to Close the Semester

In celebrating the last day of Leadership class, these freshmen had some fun seeing who could build the highest tower made from noodles and marshmallows! It was a great STEM activity to end the semester!



40 POINTS



Students in PE have been having a great time learning about the sport of archery. We have seen great improvement from students in their archery skills. The students pictured are part of the 40 point club. (Total score of 40 or higher in 1 round)

Job Opening See details on Page 12 of this newsletter or visit www.cms.mntm.org



PHY-ED TAKES ON WHEELS

Cedar Mountain Elementary school PE teacher, Mike Freitag, has teamed up with Skatertime School Programs to bring an exciting and innovative Physical Education program to its students. Students in grades 2-5 are learned basic roller skating skills during regular gym class right on the gym floor. Students had a blast learning how to skate using quad skates which were rented from the company Skatertime. The skate rental was paid for through class funds which were not used last spring due to the Covid 19 shutdown. The highlight of the skating unit was the 80's theme day on Friday, February 12. The students skated to the hit songs of the 1980's. The 2-week roller skating unit started on Monday, February 8 and concludes on Thursday, February 18.



Blue Crue

Each year Blue Crue Tue members work together to create a picture that represents Cedar Mountain Elementary's 4 character traits of being respectful, responsible, productive, and safe. These pictures are displayed in the lobby of the elementary for everyone to see and enjoy.



CEDAR MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY



This year's 5th Grade Blue Crue Tue members pictured in their new t-shirts. Ryder Garrioch, Maycee Weber, Marley Hewitt, Reagyn Kleinschmidt, Gabe Grunke, Macie Green, Blake Koerner, Evelyn Heibel, and Aaliyah Schweiss

RESPECTFUL

Evelyn Heibel and Gabe Grunke

RESPONSIBLE

Blake Koerner and Maycee Weber

PRODUCTIVE

Macie Green and Ryder Garrioch

SAFE

Reagyn Kleinschmidt and Marley Hewitt



Students who made the HONOR ROLL in grades 6-12 were recently treated to ice cream floats for their hard work.

Great job!



Cedar Mountain Drama recently presented the Not-So-Grimm Fairy Tales by Kevin Bean on Saturday, February 6 for a limited number of guests due to COVID restrictions.



In this one-act play, a working mom (*Abbie Hacker*) is told by her daughter (*Lauren Welter*) that a prince has to save the princess. The mom decides this is a perfect time to retell three classic fairy tales to show that each heroine can save herself. The first tale is Little Red Riding Hood. In this tale, Little Red (*Lily Krogstad*) is asked to visit her grandmother (*Evelyn Schumacher*). In the forest, she meets the Big Bad Wolf (*Tommy Ochs*). Instead of being frightened, she takes on the wolf and gains his respect. The second tale is Snow White. Snow White (*Maddi Mages*) is being



forced to participate in a beauty pageant by her evil stepmother, Morganna (*Lily Krogstad*). Her stepmother calls on the Magic Mir'ah (*Keegan Lorang*) to give Snow White a makeover. Instead of submitting to this, Snow White runs away and finds some little men (*Rylee Haala and Tommy Ochs*). She organizes the little men to overthrow the evil stepmother with the support of Mr. Prince (*Ylijah Rendon*). In the final tale, we hear the story of Cinderella. Cinderella (*Kelly Stelzer*) wants to marry an artist and escape from her stepmother. Her



stepmother (*Maddi Mages*) and stepsisters (*Evelyn Schumacher and Britney Gegner*) want to meet Charming (*Aidan Cavanaugh*) at a ball. Going to a ball is the last thing Cinderella wants to do. With the help of a tough-talking Fairy Godmother (*Jonah Krogstad*), Cinderella learns she has more in common with Charming than she thinks.



Virtual Tutoring Now Available

Reading Corps and Math Corps have turned their powerful programs into a free, virtual, one-on-one experience.

Tutors are ready to connect with your child and build up essential skills. If you're a Minnesota or Wisconsin family with a child in PreK – 8th grade, it's easy to get started. Join the squad!

Families may enroll at any time by visiting ScholarSquad.org and requesting a consultation to see if their child meets criteria for tutoring.



Nurse's Nook

Healthy Ways to Cope with Stress

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including those on social media. It's good to be informed, but hearing about the pandemic constantly can be upsetting. Consider limiting news to just a couple times a day and disconnecting from phone, tv, and computer screens for a while.
- Take care of your body.
 - ★ Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate
 - ★ Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
 - ★ Exercise regularly.
 - ★ Get plenty of sleep.
 - ★ Avoid excessive alcohol, tobacco, and substance use.
- Continue with routine preventive measures (such as vaccinations, cancer screenings, etc.) as recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine when available.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.
- Connect with your community or faith-based organizations. While social distancing measures are in place, try connecting online, through social media, or by phone or mail.

Seniors...Just a reminder.

If you have been accepted to multiple colleges, be sure to let them know if you will be attending a different college.



COLLEGE READINESS FOR PARENTS: GETTING YOUR STUDENT READY FOR COLLEGE

Academic Readiness	Financial Readiness	Admissions Readiness	Career Readiness	Social Emotional Readiness
<p>Establish a growth mindset Help your child understand that intelligence is not fixed and that with effort and support he or she can get smarter even in subjects that don't come easily.</p> <p>Read, read, read Point out words on signs to preschoolers. Spend 20 minutes a day reading to or with your child, or have older students read silently.</p> <p>Establish time for homework (without TV, cell phones and other distractions).</p> <p>Stay connected with school Attend parent-teacher conferences. Keep informed about your child's progress. Ask your school if your child's test scores indicate he or she will be college ready in math, writing and reading. Choose challenging courses for your child.</p> <p>Avoid the senior slump Enroll your child in at least one class that offers college credit such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College in the Schools, Project Lead the Way.</p>	<p>Start saving early. See www.mnsaves.org for savings plan ideas, or your state's site.</p> <p>Learn about the options available to your child beyond savings and budgeting for financing his or her postsecondary education.</p> <p>Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops with your child. Help your child research college scholarships.</p> <p>Complete a sample FAFSA financial aid form to get an estimate of college costs. Most students receive some form of financial aid.</p> <p>Help your child prepare a budget for college. Determine how much he or she plans to spend on housing, food, supplies, and entertainment during college.</p> <p>Determine a plan to cover the cost of one term at a postsecondary institution. Complete a FAFSA in October of your child's senior year.</p> <p>For help, see https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college</p>	<p>Begin college planning early Find out about different types of colleges in your area. Attend an event on campus – sports, arts, or simply walk across campus.</p> <p>Explore the academic requirements for the type of institution your child wants to attend. Typically four-year colleges require: 3-4 years of math (algebra II) 4 years of English 3 years of science (biology and Chemistry, physics) 2 years of one second language 4 years of social studies 1 year of art</p> <p>See MN public and private college sites for more information: http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/fresh.html http://minnstate.edu/ www.mnprivatecolleges.org/audiences/prospective.php</p> <p>Have your child take the ACT or SAT test at the end of the junior year, or early senior year.</p> <p>Visit college campuses and college fairs with your child.</p> <p>Submit applications in fall of your child's senior year.</p>	<p>Discuss with your child the benefits of postsecondary education, including its connection with income and quality of life, and how it can help them achieve their career goals.</p> <p>Find out your child's career interests. Ask your child: What will he/she be doing 5 years from now? Ten years from now?</p> <p>Talk to a school counselor about career interest inventories that can help your child find careers that fit his or her interests.</p> <p>Look at your child's hobbies and co-curricular activities – talk about related jobs.</p> <p>Talk with a school counselor or teacher about the classes and college education needed to prepare for this career.</p>	<p>Establish a growth mindset – remember that effort produces intelligence.</p> <p>Praise your child's effort and persistence, especially when facing challenges.</p> <p>Help your child set goals regarding his or her behavior, time management and academic work.</p> <p>Tell your children how much you value education, and show your pride in their achievements.</p> <p>Encourage your child to seek help when needed from peers and teachers, and form study groups.</p>



Early Childhood Development

THRILLING THURSDAYS

Thrilling Thursday is a Community Ed program for children ages 3 – 5 and is run in 7 week sessions. Each session is based on a theme that the children explore with their instructor, Mikayla Rudenick. They had a Colors theme earlier this year and the most recent session's theme is Nursery Rhymes. Children have been learning many of the childhood favorites and creating materials and doing activities to go along with the theme. If you'd like more information, contact Mikayla at mrudenick@cedarmt.org or 507-430-5731. If your child turns 3 during the school year, they are welcome to join us. This class has been a great way to introduce children to school as well as enhance learning for those already in a program.



ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) is back and has had some fun "theme" nights. *Fall, Valentines and Pajama Party for I Love to Read* month are some of the themes held this year. Due to COVID, the way ECFE is run is slightly different, however, our instructors have made it super fun and engaging for parent/child. If you would like more information on registering for ECFE, contact Dawn Tietz at dtietz@cedarmt.org or 249-5990.

ECFE Theme Nights



Early Childhood Development

ECFE Upcoming Dates

Watch for details as dates get closer. Updates will be posted on the school Facebook page as well as flyers handed out in the preschool classes.

**Hopping into
Spring**
Tuesday, March 30th
6:00-7:00
Morgan cafeteria



“Room to Run”
Tuesday, March 9th
Franklin gym



**MOM and Me
PLANTING NIGHT**
Tuesday, May 4th
Morgan Cafeteria



Thank you to Mr. Fish and the Blood Drive committee for organizing and hosting the blood drive on February 12. The need for blood doesn't go away just because we are in a pandemic. Many thanks to everyone who came out to give, your time and donation are greatly appreciated.



SCHOOL CENSUS: If you are new to the Cedar Mountain area or recently have had a new baby, please be sure to call the school and put your children's names on our school census.

Call CM Elementary at 557-2251

Community Education / Activities



Camp Cougar

Camp Cougar kids have been busy making fleece tie blankets after school. They will be donating them to the residents in both the Franklin and Morgan nursing homes. Camp Cougar is a childcare program for school aged children.



Summer REC

It seems crazy to be thinking this already, but summer recreation staff are currently meeting to plan out activities for our youth this summer. We're looking forward to offering in-person opportunities after "going virtual" last year. Jeremy Robinson (jrobinson@cedarmt.org) is taking over coordinating duties and is looking forward to continuing the direction Sarah Sullivan has taken the program in recent years. Be on the lookout for information over the next couple of months.

Activities Update

Winter sports are in full swing at Cedar Mountain. From an athletics standpoint, we have students currently competing in gymnastics, wrestling, dance, and basketball. While it's been challenging for our participants and coaches to practice and compete wearing facemasks, as required by the state, we've adjusted and maintain our excitement over being able to compete, representing our communities. Another adjustment has been our spectator guidelines. We're happy to be able to accommodate those who can't attend in person by offering a livestream for home events through YouTube (link found on school website). We extend a special thanks to the local sponsors, camera operators, and technology staff who have made it possible.

We're also thrilled to have strong participation in our Knowledge Bowl and speech programs. Both programs have moved to more of a virtual format this year, but are navigating successfully. Knowledge Bowl will compete in the annual Tomahawk Conference Meet on Friday, February 26.

Not to be outdone, our high school thespians will be performing their play, "Not-So-Grimm Fairy Tales." The performance will be Thursday, February 4 for limited in-person guests, but look for it on our YouTube link.

Spring Sports

It may not seem possible, but **spring IS around the corner**. If your family hasn't done so, please discuss with your child the possibility of participating in a spring activity. Cedar Mountain offers a number of options:

- Golf (boys and girls)
- Track (boys and girls)
- Softball (girls)
- Baseball (boys)
- Tennis (boys and girls)
- Trap Shooting (boys and girls)



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March 12 NO SCHOOL Teacher In-Service
March 31 12:10 Dismissal
April 1 – 5 NO SCHOOL Spring Break
May 31 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
June 3 Last Day of School
June 4 Graduation
Calendar subject to change

*Visit our website to see any updates
to the calendar.
cms.mntm.org*



Cedar Mountain Schools Elementary Special Education Para-Pro Opening **Job Opening**

Make a difference in a child's life! Special Education Para-Pro in the elementary building - 7-8 Hour/Day
Starting pay: \$11.82 Benefits Available.
Send Application to: Patti Machart
Cedar Mountain Elementary School
PO Box 38 • Franklin, MN 55333
Visit: www.cms.mntm.org or pick up applications at the school offices.

CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS

Cedar Mountain Events will be live streamed through the CM Live Stream YouTube Channel. Tune in using the web address below.

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCLYaug6hAt-zTbXhvqPC-MA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLYaug6hAt-zTbXhvqPC-MA)

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AREA BUSINESSES WHO ARE SPONSORING THESE EVENTS