

Cowan Road Elementary Newsletter

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October 2020

Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

Reading is a key to success in school for students of all ages. Students who are good readers find it easier to do well in other subjects because so much learning depends on the ability to read. From history to science to geography to math word problems, reading is an important part of learning in every school subject. Please read this month's newsletter to find reading tips to help you and your students at home and be sure to attend this month's virtual parent workshop.

As always, please feel free to contact us anytime if you need support or information on how to improve your child's academic performance in school. You can reach us at 770-229-3790 or allison.baker@gscs.org or angela.roth@gscs.org.

Estimados padres:

Este es un documento importante de la escuela de su hijo. Si ustedes necesitan que traduzcamos esta información, por favor, llamen a Lisa Bates al 770-229-3710 ext.10327.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

10/8	<p>“PARENT-PALOOZA” VIRTUAL PARENT EVENT</p> <p>TIM: 5:30 PM</p> <p>LOCATION: SIGN UP HERE TO GET THE MEET LINK: HTTPS://BIT.LY/2RS35DD</p>
10/21	REPORT CARD SENT HOME

Academic Tips and Websites to Support Literacy at Home

- Rigorous Curriculum Dialogue (RCD) for Parents: <https://sites.google.com/gscs.org/rigorous-curriculum-dialogue>
- [MyCapstoneLibrary.com](https://www.mycapstonelibrary.com) (go to Login, Capstone Interactive, username: cowanrd; password: books)
- <https://sites.google.com/gscs.org/coeslibrary>

*The listed resources are not endorsed by GSCS but are offered as possible tools that families may utilize.

2020 Fall Parent Survey

Have you taken the fall parent survey? If not, please take it here:

English



<https://tinyurl.com/GSCSFall20ParentSurveyEnglish>

Spanish



<https://tinyurl.com/GSCSFall20ParentSurveySpanish>

Window closes: October 30

“Parent-palooza” October Virtual Parent Event

- Join us on October 8 at 5:30 pm
- Partnering with Special Education to offer resources to families
- Topics include
 - Curriculum and assessments
 - English Learners
 - School-Parent Compact
 - Using Technology
 - Digital Citizenship: Harms of Copyright Piracy

College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI)

On March 20, 2020, Georgia's was granted the ability by U.S. Department of Education to waive statewide assessment (Georgia Milestones), accountability (CCRPI) and reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

For prior scores and more information:

<http://www.gadoe.org/CCRPI/Pages/default.aspx>

Parent-Teacher Tips

Parent-teacher conferences play an important role in school-home communication. The conferences are designed to increase the quality of parent-teacher communication and interaction focused on student learning and achievement. You can always contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor or principal if you have any questions or concerns.

Things to Remember: If you're invited to a conference, it doesn't mean your child is in trouble! Teachers try to meet with all parents. You and the teacher both want the very best for your child. You can help your child by working together as a team.

Before the conference: Make a list of topics that you want to discuss with the teacher.

During the conference: Ask for explanations of anything you do not understand.

After the conference: Keep in touch with the teacher during the school year.

Middle and High School Parents

Our school district recently won a grant for free books for students to pick up from their schools and keep for their own reading pleasure. Middle school and high school students can view the book options here <https://gscsela.libib.com/i/gscsfresh> & request 2 books on this form: <https://tinyurl.com/gscsbooks>

VISIT THE PARENT ENGAGEMENT PAGE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND CHECK OUT THE GREAT RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/COESRESOURCES](https://bit.ly/coesresources)

GEORGIA MILESTONES ASSESSMENT

The Georgia Milestones Assessment System (Georgia Milestones) is a comprehensive summative assessment program spanning grades 3 through high school. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills outlined in the state-adopted content standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students in grades 3 through 8 take an end-of-grade assessment in English language arts and mathematics while students in grades 5 are also assessed in science and students in grades 8 are also assessed in science and social studies. High school students take an end-of-course assessment in Algebra I, American Literature, Biology and U.S. History designated by the State Board of Education. If you have any questions about the Georgia Milestones Assessment, please contact Karen Williams at 770-229-3790 or karen.williams@gscs.org.

The following website contains practice questions for the Georgia Milestones Assessment:
<http://www.gaexperienceonline.com/>

Helpful Links and Resources

- **Griffin-Spalding County School System Parent Resource Center**
<http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us/documents/Students%20and%20Families/Parent%20Engagement/2020-2021%20Parent%20Engagement%20Documents/Griffin-Spalding%20County%20School%20System%20Parent%20Resource%20Center%20Flyer%20.pdf>
- **Google Classroom 101 and the Power of Infinite Campus Parent Event Video**
<http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us/Students--Parents/Family-and-Community-Engagement/index.html>
- **Google classroom tutorials for families**
<https://sites.google.com/gscs.org/instructionaltechutorials/teacher-tutorials/google-classroom>
- **Griffin-Spalding County School System Testing Calendar**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s6DPFg1alEd0V1ifsdq0cHIBHUWuYc4a3qzuV0Qk_S8/edit#gid=1006963355

School Designation Status

The Georgia Department of Education uses a method to identify schools that need additional support and improvement. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the designations are Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools. As part of this waiver, Georgia assures that any school that is identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement or additional targeted support and improvement in the 2019-2020 school year will maintain that identification status in the 2020-2021 school year and continue to receive supports and interventions consistent with the school's support and improvement plan in the 2020-2021 school year.

CSI criteria:

- Lowest 5% of Title I Schools when ranked according to their three-year College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) average and
- All high schools with a 4-year cohort graduation rate \leq 67%

TSI criteria:

- Consistently underperforming subgroup
- Have at least one subgroup that is performing in the lowest 5% of all schools in at least 50% of CCRPI components

For more information about the designation status of schools, please visit the Division of School and District Effectiveness website at <http://www.gadoe.org/school-improvement/school-improvement-services/pages/default.aspx>.