

Cowan Road Elementary Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6

January 2021

Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

Homework has been a part of student's lives since the beginning of formal schooling in the United States. Homework can have many benefits for students including:

- Remembering and understanding of schoolwork
- Developing study skills
- Learning problem solving skills

With the many benefits of homework, it is important that you are involved in the process. Please read this month's newsletter to find homework tips to help you and your child at home.

As always, please feel free to contact us any time 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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

- 01/7/21 Report Cards sent home
- 01/14/2021 **Testing Tips and Treats Parent Workshop**
Time: 11:00 am
Location: Google Meet; complete this form to receive the link:
<https://bit.ly/3m3800S>

This month, the school will partner with English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to offer resources for families.

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.

Your Input Is Valuable!

Each year we seek your input on how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement through the development of the School-Parent Compact. The compact is a written commitment that helps bridge the learning connection between school and home.

We also seek your input on how we can establish the expectations for family engagement and strengthen student academic achievement through the development of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The policy describes the different ways that the school will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/37Nnt09> (then click Resources tab) to view the 2020-2021 School-Parent Compact Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and District Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

You may provide your feedback at <https://bit.ly/COESResources> or contact Mrs. Baker or Ms. Roth at 770-229-3790 or at Allison.Baker@gscs.org or Angela.Roth@gscs.org

Upcoming Parent Engagement Opportunities

February 2021

Stakeholder Meetings (AM and PM Sessions): School-Parent Compact, School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and Building Staff Capacity

March 2021

Stakeholder Meetings (AM and PM Sessions): Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan for the 2021-2022 school year

April 2021

Parent Workshop/Event: Open Topic (based on Fall Parent Survey and parent feedback) and partnership with a business or community organization to offer resources to families.

Math Academic Tips and Websites

- Rigorous Curriculum Dialogue (RCD) for Parents:
<https://sites.google.com/gscs.org/rigorous-curriculum-dialogue>
- Have your child help determine how much things will total when you're shopping. Ask how much change you should get back when paying with cash.
- <https://bit.ly/COESlibrary> - click on Math at Home at the top for math resources

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

Monitoring Your Child's Progress

- One of the most important sources of information about a child's progress is his or her teachers. Report cards provide some feedback about how a child is doing, however parents should also make an effort to communicate with the school on a regular basis.
- Parents can gather important information by observing their child.
- Parents should talk to their child about school. They should ask about what subjects are most enjoyable, how much time is spent on particular activities, and which assignments are easiest or most difficult. These types of conversations provide parents with useful information, and they can also help students develop the ability to monitor their own progress.

School Designation Status

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, the Georgia Department of Education used a new method to identify schools that need additional support and improvement. As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the new designations will be 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 schools fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Lowest 5%: Title I schools that, when ranked according to their three-year CCRPI average, are among the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools in the state
- Low Graduation Rate: High schools with a four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate less than or equal to 67%

TSI Schools fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Have at least one subgroup that is performing in the lowest 5% of all schools in at least 50% of CCRPI components
- Among all schools identified for consistently underperforming subgroups, and with at least one subgroup that is performing in the lowest 5% of all schools in all CCRPI components

CSI Promise Schools fall into one or more of the following categories:

- When ranked according to their three-year CCRPI average, are among the lowest performing schools that represent greater than 5% - 10% of all schools eligible for identification
- The purpose of Promise Schools is to provide supports to these schools to sustain improvement or provide proactive supports before they fall into the lowest 5% CSI category

Distinguished Schools are:

- Among the highest-performing 5% of Title I Schoolwide schools and Title I Targeted Assistance schools

Reward Schools are:

- Among the greatest-improving 5% of Title I Schoolwide schools and Title I Targeted Assistance schools
- Have to maintain the performance of their economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English learners to be recognized

CSI Schools:

- Anne Street Elementary School
- Moore Elementary School

CSI Promise Schools:

- Atkinson Elementary School
- Orrs Elementary School
- Cowan Road Middle School
- A.Z. Kelsey Academy (CSI Alternative)

Reward School:

- Crescent Elementary School

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>.

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/instructionaltech/tutorials/teacher-tutorials/google-classroom>
- **Griffin-Spalding County School System Testing Calendar:**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1s6DPFg1alEd0V1ifsdq0cHIBHUWuYc4a3qzuVOQk_S8/edit#gid=1006963355

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 at

<https://gscsela.libib.com/i/gscsfresh> and request 2 books using 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)

How to Increase Your Parent Engagement in the New Year!

When we make our New Year's Resolutions, we often put health, finances, or our career at the top of the list. Consider making parent engagement part of your resolutions this year. Here are simple ways to increase your engagement in your child's education:

- Read with your child every day. You can read before bed, at the breakfast table, after school, or any time!
- Attend a parent workshop hosted by the school. All schools host workshops for parents on topics varying from standardized test preparation to literacy. Contact your school's parent liaison for more information.
- Incorporate learning into everyday activities such as grocery shopping or riding in the car.
- Know what your child is learning. Ask your child what he/she does in school each day. If the response you receive is "nothing", ask specific

Homework Tips

Study the same things in different ways and places

- Help your child learn about new words or content in a variety of ways and in different settings. This will help enrich your child's understanding of the word.

Mix up study time:

- If your child prefers to do a little math and a little science and then back to math, that's okay! Mixing up the practice time may leave a greater impact on your learner.

Space out the learning:

- If your child has a big test next week, help your child study a little each day rather than cramming it in the night before.

Show your child that you think homework is important:

- Ask your child about the homework each day, and check to see that it is completed.

Help your child without doing the homework:

- It's important to answer questions if you can but remember that homework is supposed to help your child learn and doing your child's homework does not help.

Talk with your child's teacher:

- If your child has a problem completing or understanding homework, call or email the teacher to talk about the issue.