

Cowan Road Middle School Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 5

December 2020

Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

We are almost at the end of 2020. What a year it has been! As you enter a new year, consider setting a goal to increase your parent engagement. You can increase your engagement by giving input on surveys, participating in decisions relating to the education of your child, attending a parent workshop aimed at increasing student achievement, working with the school leadership to conduct workshops for staff and other parents and regularly communicating with your child's teacher(s).

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 770-229-3722 or ana.berglund@gscs.org and sapor.kimbrough@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 DECEMBER

DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 5	CHRISTMAS BREAK
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Academic Tips and Websites

- Rigorous Curriculum Dialogue (RCD) for Parents:
<https://sites.google.com/gscs.org/rigorous-curriculum-dialogue>
- <http://www.readwritethink.org/>
- <https://readtheory.org/>

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

Did You Miss...?

In November, we held the Extra Extra Read All About It parent workshop. We discussed how to use literacy to help meet the school goals listed in the School-Parent Compact, how to make literacy relevant to your child, literacy strategies to help your child, fall parent survey results, ways parents can be engaged, how to monitor your children's progress and how to work with educators to improve student performance. Parents were given an opportunity to give input on the use of parent engagement funds and staff training topics.

We partnered with Flint River Regional Library to provide resources to families.

If you missed the workshop but would like the information presented you may watch a video clip at the following link: [Literacy Workshop](#) or you may contact us at 770-229-3722 or ana.berglund@gscs.org and sapor.kimbrough@gscs.org.

Winter Break Activities

Even during the winter holidays, learning opportunities for your student are everywhere.

- **Read! Read! Read!** Reading is a must every single day for children of all ages. The Griffin-Spalding County Library now offers eCards for immediate free access to picture books, graphic novels, eBooks and audiobooks for all ages. Visit <https://frpls.net/griffinlibrary> for more information.
- **Indoor/Outdoor Scavenger Hunt.** Create a scavenger hunt, either indoors or outdoors, to keep your child active and engaged.
- **Virtual Field Trips.** Travel virtually to museums, monuments, zoos or national parks. Each place encourages learning.
- **Journals:** Journaling is a great thing for children of all ages. Encourage your child to write about experiences or encourage them to write letters to people in their journal.

Virtual Field Trip Links:

- Museums, Monuments and Zoos:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/10riCnCFdIFp_owh4jfffqjisvLXW12HvH4I5vFj36SA/edit
- National Parks:
https://totallythebomb.com/heres-33-national-park-tours-you-can-take-virtually-from-the-comfort-of-your-home?fbclid=IwAR3pDSUBCKrvrYd8O2VJxBVQSIh8sa1_8PkqqJoDpcjovulH3i2KR8Q5qQ

2020-2021 Fall Parent Survey Summary

Cowan Road Middle School had 124 responses to the Title I Fall Parent Survey.

Grades reporting:

Sixth – 41.13%
Seventh – 30.65%
Eighth – 41.13%

In which of the following programs is your child(ren) enrolled?

Regular Classroom Instruction – 87.80%
Special Education Program – 25.20%
English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) – 2.44%
Program Gifted Program (Program Challenge) – 23.58%
Migrant Program – 0.00%
Advanced Placement (AP) Program – 6.50%
College and Career Academy – 1.63%
Dual Enrollment – 5.69%

90.91% of parents believed that their child was prepared to transition to the next grade.

66.02% provide parents with opportunities to share feedback, ideas, participate in the decision-making about their child's education and regarding the school's parent and family engagement program and activities

Most effective forms of communication methods in giving parents information about their child's education:

#1 — Email 91.94%
#2 — Text Message 67.74%
#3 — Parent Link 66.13%
#4 — Personal phone call from teacher 54.84%
#5 — Parent-Teacher Conferences 51.61%

Top 3 staff training topics:

#1 — Building ties between parents and the school 64.91%
#2 — Encouraging and supporting parents in more fully participating in the education of their child 57.89%
#3 — Reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners 52.63%

Top 5 topics of interest:

#1 — Accessing the Parent Portal (Infinite Campus) 61.74%
#2 — Georgia Milestones Assessments 46.09%
#3 — How to help your child with math 44.35%
#4 — Motivating your child academically 40.00%
#5 — How to help your child with literacy 39.13%

52.50% of the responding parents feel that Evenings are the best time to attend an in-person parent meeting or workshop.

66.39% of the responding parents feel that Evenings are the best time to attend a virtual parent meeting.

Parent needs for workshops:

Events at convenient dates or times 65.14%
Childcare 21.10%
Events relevant to me and my child (ren) 20.18%

22.22% of parents indicated they plan to use the school or district Parent Resource Center.