

Cowan Road Middle Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2020

Parent Engagement Corner

Welcome back! We would like to introduce ourselves; our names are Ana Bergland and Saporio Kimbrough and we are the Parent Liaisons for Cowan Road Middle School. A Parent Liaison works to bridge the gap between home and school by assisting parents in understanding ways they can help their children with academics.

During this school year, you will have an opportunity to attend parent workshops that will be offered at flexible times. Please look for information throughout the year regarding these workshops.

If you are looking for additional resources to assist your student at home, please make an appointment to visit our school Parent Resource Center located outside the front office. Open during school hours, parents can browse through our assortment of games, manipulatives, brochures, pamphlets and handouts to find wonderful resources to work with your child at home. 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 at ana.berglund@gscs.org and saporio.kimbrough@gscs.org.

VISIT THE PARENT ENGAGEMENT PAGE ON
THE SCHOOL WEBSITE AND CHECK OUT THE
GREAT RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

<http://www.cowanroadmiddle.education/Students-and-Families/Parent-Involvement-Liaison/index.html>

Rigorous Curriculum Dialogue (RCD) for Parents

- <https://sites.google.com/gscs.org/rigorous-curriculum-dialogue>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - IMPORTANT DATES IN AUGUST

8-25 **Virtual Annual Title I Parent Meetings "Get the Scoop"**
9:30 am: meet.google.com/kmf-vumw-drz
[Join by phone](#)
(US) +1 650-530-7350 PIN: 834 488 810#

5:00 pm: meet.google.com/yhm-grvy-vmv
[Join by phone](#)
(US) +1 314-666-2260 PIN: 336 207 061#

Title I Information Sheet

Have you seen a copy of the Title I Information Sheet? This document contains important information about Title I schools including information about Title I, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Parent Engagement Program.

This informational sheet can be found in your student's agenda or on the GSCS district webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/GSCSPEWebsite>.

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.

GSCS District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Like the school level Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy outlines the expectations for parent engagement activities and describes how these activities will be implemented and evaluated at the district level. You can read the policy by one of the following ways:

- GSCS Parent Engagement Page website: <https://tinyurl.com/GSCSPEWebsite>
- New Student Orientation Packet found in the front office of your school
- The Parent Resource Center located at 234 E. Taylor Street in room B112

Additionally, the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be sent to all parents via U.S. mail on or before July 30, 2020.

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact Melinda Owens at (770) 229-3710 ext. 10363 or melinda.owens@gscs.org.

CRMS's Parent & Family Engagement Policy

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is the foundation of home, school and community partnerships. It sets forth the expectations for parent engagement activities and describes how these activities will be implemented and evaluated. You can read the policy:

- On the school's website at <http://www.cowanroadmiddle.education/documents/Parent%20Engagement/Cowan%20Road%20Middle%20FY20%20Parent%20and%20Family%20Engagement%20Policy%20-1-.pdf>
- In the Parent Resource Center located outside the front office

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact Ana Bergland and Saporina Kimbrough at (770) 229-3722 or ana.berglan@gscs.org and saporina.kimbrough@gscs.org.

School-Parent Compact

A School-Parent Compact is an action plan for our school. The compact states our school's goals which have been agreed upon by parents, teachers and students and how we can relate them to increased student academic achievement. The compact outlines how the parents, entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

Our school goals are:

- From May 2019 to 2021, CRMS will increase the percentage of students scoring at the developing, proficient and distinguished learning level (combined) in ELA on the Georgia Milestones Assessment by 5 percentage points.
- From May 2019 to May 2021, CRMS will increase the percentage of students scoring at the developing, proficient and distinguished learning level (combined) in math on the Georgia Milestones Assessment by 5 percentage points.
- From May 2019 to May 2021, CRMS will decrease the number of students who have 2 or more discipline referrals by 15% by the end of the school year.

In order to meet Title I requirements, the compact cover sheet must be signed, dated and returned to the school. Compacts were distributed during Open House. If you did not receive a compact or if you would like to give us feedback on the compact, please contact Ana Bergland and Saporina Kimbrough at (770) 229-3722 or ana.berglan@gscs.org and saporina.kimbrough@gscs.org. We look forward to working with you to help your student achieve greater academic success.

Virtual Annual Title I Parent Meetings

In this meeting, we will discuss the topics below:

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Intent and Purpose of Title I
- Title I Funding
- Programs/Supports in Place to Help your Students
- Academic Standards Expected of All Students
- Measuring Student Progress
- Spring Parent Survey Results
- Parent Resource Centers
- Complaint Policy and Procedure
- District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policies
- School-Parent Compact

We can't wait to see you on August 25 at 9:30 am or 5 pm



2019-2020 Spring Survey Results

Cowan Road Middle School had 69 responses to the 2019-2020 Title I Spring Parent Survey.

Grades Reporting:

Sixth – 33.33%

Seventh – 52.17%

Eighth – 20.29%

94.03% of parents believe their child is **prepared to transition** to the next grade.

Effective Communication Channels:

Automated Phone Calls 94.03%

Parent-Teacher Conferences 88.06 %

Parent Meetings 84.62 %

Parent Struggles:

Help with Homework 25 %

Attending School Functions 22.73%

Motivating My Child Academically 20.9 %

Parent Engagement:

% of parents that attended classes, workshops or programs on how parents can help children have more academic success.

64.71% of parents that felt their child's school provided parents with opportunities to share feedback and ideas regarding the school's parental engagement program and activities.

23.53% of parents that indicated they used the school Parent Resource Center.

Parent Needs for Workshops:

Child care -1.56 %

Transportation – 3.13%

Translator – 1.56%

Access to information online – 20.31%

Meetings offered at various times – 21.88%

Parent Right to Know

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Griffin-Spalding County School System would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher:
 - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact Candace Peek of the Human Resources Department by phone at 770-229-3700, by email at candace.peek@gscs.org or in person at 223 S. 6th Street, Griffin, GA 30224.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) HIGHLIGHTS

ESSA includes provisions that will help to ensure success for students and schools. Below are just a few. The law:

- Advances equity by upholding critical protections for America's disadvantaged and high-need students.
- Requires—for the first time—that all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers.
- Ensures that vital information is provided to educators, families, students and communities through annual statewide assessments that measure students' progress toward those high standards.
- Maintains an expectation that there will be accountability and action to effect positive change in our lowest-performing schools, where groups of students are not making progress and where graduation rates are low over extended periods of time.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) can be found on the U.S. Department of Education website at <https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=rn>.

Use Everyday Opportunity to Help Children Learn

Every day activities can help your student improve in reading, math, science and other skills. They can also help your student practice skills that increase success on tests. Here are some ideas:

- Children in elementary school need regular practice to review what they are learning in the classroom. Younger ages might identify colors of produce and packaging, practice finding letters and simple words in-store signage, and even practice math by counting produce as you bag it or keeping track of the number of items in your cart. Older elementary school students could practice sight-reading by reviewing the information found on their favorite food packages. They can even work on more advanced math by calculating the cost to purchase foods for a favorite recipe while making allowances for doubling or tripling the dish.
- For middle school students who are digging deeper into science, chemistry, and more advanced math, consider the baking aisle and a discussion of how leavening agents work. While purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables, can they identify how and where certain items grow? Reinforce language skills by asking them to spell things that they see and even practice math by calculating the total bill in their head.
- You might be tempted to leave high school-aged children at home while you shop, but consider the life lessons that they can learn during a shopping trip. It's an ideal time to teach them how checking accounts differ from credit cards, how to live within their means and how to use debit cards.

GRIFFIN-SPALDING COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER (PRC)

Did you know that the Griffin-Spalding County School System also has a Parent Resource Center?

Find activities, books and brochures for your student in our District Parent Resource Center. The center is designed to provide educational resources for parents to help your student succeed academically. Parents can also find computers with internet access at the center. The best part is resources are FREE! You can find the Parent Resource Center located in the

Parent Services Building, Room B112 on 234 E. Taylor Street, Griffin, GA 30224. The Center is open, by appointment, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you would like more information or want to make an appointment, please contact

Melinda Owens at 770-229-3710, ext 10363 or at melinda.owens@gscs.org.

A graphic titled "PARENT PORTAL" with the tagline "Your access to...". It features three main sections: "Learning Results" with a target icon and the question "How is my child doing in school? How does my child compare to other students?"; "Resources" with a stack of books icon and the question "How do I help my child at home?"; and "Attendance" with a group of people icon and the question "How many days has my child missed while in school?". At the bottom left, it says "Learn more at: slds.gadoe.org/Parent".

McKinney-Vento **Information**

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the Griffin-Spalding County School System will work with homeless children and youths and their families to provide stability in school attendance and other services. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Larry Jones, the system's McKinney-Vento liaison at larry.jones@gscs.org or 770-229-3700.