

# Cowan Road Middle School Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2019

## Parent Engagement Corner

Welcome back! I would like to introduce myself; my name is Tara Riggs and I am the Parent Liaison at 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 visit our school Parent Resource Center located in the front lobby of the school. Open during school hours, parents can browse through our assortment of: games, brochures, pamphlets, school news, and handouts to find wonderful resources to work with your child at home. Please feel free to contact me any time if you need support or information on how to improve your child's- academic performance in school. You can reach me at 770-229-3722 or [Tara.Riggs@gscs.org](mailto:Tara.Riggs@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.

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>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR- IMPORTANT DATES IN AUGUST

8-15 Annual Title I Parent Meeting  
5:00 PM  
CRMS Media Center

## 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: <http://tinyurl.com/GSCSTitleInformation2019E> and <http://tinyurl.com/GSCSTitleInformation2019S>

## Back to School

Starting the new school year can be a time of great excitement. Here are a few tips to calm your child's fears (and your own) with these teacher-approved tips.

- Meet the teachers
- Tour the school
- Maintain a routine
- Give the teacher your contact information
- Get the house ready for homework
- Place all events/meetings on your calendar

## 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:

- Parent Engagement Page of the GSCS website <http://www.spalding.k12.ga.us/Students--Parents/Family-and-Community-Engagement/index.html>
- 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 August 5, 2019.

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

## Cowan Road Middle School'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 Front Office
- In the Parent Resource Center located in the front lobby.

If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please contact Tara Riggs at 770-229-3722 or [Tara.Riggs@gscs.org](mailto:Tara.Riggs@gscs.org).

## Annual Title I Parent Meeting

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
- CCRPI and Results
- Engagement Opportunities Offered at School and at Home
- Parent Decision Making and Volunteer Opportunities
- 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 15 at 5:00 PM in the CRMS Media Center!***

## 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:

- During the 2019 – 2020 school year, the students scoring at the developing, proficient, and distinguished learning level in ELA on the Georgia Milestones assessment will increase by 5%.
- During the 2019 – 2020 school year, the students scoring at the developing, proficient, and distinguished learning level in math on the Georgia Milestones assessment will increase by 5%.

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 Tara Riggs at 770-229-3722 or [Tara.Riggs@gscs.org](mailto:Tara.Riggs@gscs.org). We look forward to working with you to help your student achieve greater academic success.





## 2018-2019 Spring Survey Results

Cowan Road Middle School had 52 responses to the 2019 Title I Spring Parent Survey.

### Grades Reporting:

Sixth – 42.31%  
Seventh – 34.62%  
Eighth – 32.69%

**94.23%** of parents believe their child is **prepared to transition** to the next grade.

### Effective Communication Channels:

Automated Phone Calls (ParentLink) – 96.15%  
Parent Meetings – 92.16%  
Parent-Teacher Conferences – 90.38%

### Parent Struggles:

Helping with homework- 19.23%  
Attending school functions- 19.23%  
Meeting with teachers- 19.23%

### Parent Engagement:

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

**82.69%** 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.

**25%** of parents that indicated they used the school Parent Resource Center.

### Parent Needs for Workshops:

Child care – 12.24%  
Transportation – 10.20%  
Translator – 8.16%  
Access to information online – 22.45%  
Meetings offered at various times – 26.53%

## 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>.

## 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 Melissa Ritter of the Human Resources Department by phone at 770-229-3710, by email at [melissa.ritter@gscs.org](mailto:melissa.ritter@gscs.org) or in person at 223 S. 6th Street, Griffin, GA 30224.



## 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](mailto:melinda.owens@gscs.org).

#### 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 and 8 are also assessed in science and social studies. High school students take an end-of-course assessment for each of the ten courses designated by the State Board of Education.

If you have any questions about the Georgia Milestones Assessment, please contact Chandra Bell at 770-229-3722 or [chandra.Bell@gscs.org](mailto:chandra.Bell@gscs.org).

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

#### COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PERFORMANCE INDEX (CCRPI) SCHOOL YEAR 2019

The College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) is Georgia's annual tool for measuring how well its schools, districts, and the state itself are preparing students for the next educational level. It provides a comprehensive roadmap to help educators, parents, and community members promote and improve college and career readiness for all students.

The CCRPI includes five main components each scored on a scale of 0 to 100: Achievement, Progress, Closing Gaps, Readiness, and Graduation Rate (high school only). These components, encompassing multiple indicators, are combined for a total CCRPI score on a scale of 0 to 100. The CCRPI also reports other information, such as the performance of student subgroups, school climate and financial efficiency status.

If you have any questions about the CCRPI, please contact Derrick Dalton at 770-229-3722 or [derrick.Dalton@gscs.org](mailto:derrick.Dalton@gscs.org).

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

#### Academic Tips and Websites

- [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
- <https://newsela.com/>
- <http://www.readwritethink.org/>
- <http://www.gpb.org/>
- <https://www.archives.gov/>

#### Childcare and Transportation

**If you are in need of childcare or transportation for the Annual Title I Meeting, please contact Tara Riggs at 770-229-3722 or [Tara.Riggs@gscs.org](mailto:Tara.Riggs@gscs.org) no later than August 8, 2019.**