

Cowan Road Middle School Newsletter

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February 2020

Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

A basic knowledge of science is critical in today's world. An interest in science begins at home. As a parent/guardian, you can play a crucial role in helping your child develop a positive attitude about science. You do not need to be a scientist to spark your student's interest. Please read this month's newsletter to find science tips to help you and your students at home.

As always, 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

- 2/11/20 Progress reports sent home
- 2/11/20 "Have Your Say" Stakeholder Meeting in the CRMS Media Center at 9:30 am or 5:00 pm

Stakeholder Meeting

All parents are invited to attend and participate in the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to review and revise the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, to review and revise the School-Parent Compact, to discuss the reservation of funds, and to discuss building school staff capacity.

CONGRATULATIONS

Crescent Elementary School
for receiving the Reward
School Designation!!!

Did You Miss...?

In January, we held the Understanding Assessments parent workshop. We discussed information on understanding state and local assessments, proficiency levels students are expected to meet, Lexile scores and their meaning, how parents can support student achievement, ways to work with children to improve their academic achievement, ways to monitor student progress, preparing for standardized tests, test taking tips for parents and students, how to use school goals from the compact to help your student do well on state and local assessments including alternate assessments, interpreting assessment results and who to contact with questions.

We coordinated with English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to offer resources to families.

If you missed the workshop but would like the information presented, you may watch a video clip at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmu0GbAggITLAvjXs0H5xUQ/videos?view_as=subscriber or please contact me at 770-229-3722 or tara.riggs@gscs.org.

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 District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policies. Each policy describes the different ways that the district and 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 <http://www.cowanroadmiddle.education/Students-and-Families/Parent-Involvement-Liaison/index.html> to view the 2019-2020 School-Parent Compact and District and School Parent and Family Engagement Policies.

You may provide your feedback at <https://tinyurl.com/GSCS2019FeedbackLink> or contact Tara Riggs at 770-229-3722 or at tara.riggs@gscs.org.

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.

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, have 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
- AZ Kelsey Academy (CSI Alternative)

Reward Schools

- 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>.

Science Academic tips or websites

- Rigorous Curriculum Dialogue (RCD) for Parents: <https://sites.google.com/gscs.org/rigorous-curriculum-dialogue>
- <https://www.Biology4Kids.com>
- <https://www.explorelearning.com/>

*The listed resources are not endorsed by GSCS but 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 in settings outside the classroom.
- 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.

If you need childcare or transportation for the February stakeholder meeting, please contact Tara Riggs at 770-229-3722 or tara.riggs@gscs.org no later than 1/28/2020.