

# Cowan Road Middle School Newsletter

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## Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

Increasing your student's vocabulary is important at any age. Since learning depends on good speech, reading, writing and communication skills, improving your student's vocabulary can improve school performance in every subject. Please read this month's newsletter to find vocabulary 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](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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR - IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

- 3/19/2020 Report cards sent home
- 3/19/2020 Donuts and Discussions Stakeholder Meeting in the CRMS Media Center at 9:30 am or 2:00 pm

### Stakeholder Meeting

All parents are invited to attend and participate. The purpose of the meeting is to provide input on the School Comprehensive Needs Assessment and to revise the School Improvement Plan.

## Did You Miss...?

In February, all parents were invited to attend and participate in the Have Your Say Stakeholder Meetings.

Stakeholders were given an opportunity to review and revise the School-Parent Compact and the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. We also asked for feedback on the reservation of funds and building staff capacity.

If you missed the stakeholder meeting and would like more information, you may watch a video clip at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmu0GbAqgITLAvjXs0H5xUQ/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmu0GbAqgITLAvjXs0H5xUQ/videos?view_as=subscriber).

You can also give feedback online at <https://tinyurl.com/GSCS2019FeedbackLink> or contact Tara Riggs at 770-229-3722 or [tara.riggs@gscs.org](mailto:tara.riggs@gscs.org).



## Spring Parent Survey

### We need your input!!!

Please take a few minutes to take the spring parent survey. The survey will help us know how to meet the interests and needs of your family more effectively.

English:

<https://tinyurl.com/EnglishSpringParentSurvey2020>

Spanish:

<https://tinyurl.com/SpanishSpringParentSurvey2020>

# Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan Parent Feedback!

A Comprehensive Needs Assessment is the first step in developing an improvement plan. It is a process that collects and analyzes data to determine strengths and weaknesses. A School Improvement Plan is a road map that sets out the changes a school needs to make to improve student achievement. School specific goals are determined based on data with action steps for improvement.

We value your input. Please take a few minutes to review the 2019-2020 Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan at [http://www.cowanroadmiddle.education/documents/Parent%20Engagement/Cowan%20Road%20Middle%202019-2020%20CNA\\_SIP.Pdf](http://www.cowanroadmiddle.education/documents/Parent%20Engagement/Cowan%20Road%20Middle%202019-2020%20CNA_SIP.Pdf). After reviewing, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/GSCS2019FeedbackLink> to provide your input. If you have questions about the plan, contact Derrick Dalton at 770-229-3722 or [derrick.dalton@gscs.org](mailto:derrick.dalton@gscs.org).

## Griffin-Spalding County School System Parent Resource Center

Did you know that the Griffin-Spalding County School System has a Parent Resource Center? Find activities, take home kits, books and brochures for your student in the District Parent Resource Center. The center is designed to provide educational resources for parents to help their students 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 Center Building, Room B112 on 234 E. Taylor Street, Griffin, GA 30224. The center is open by appointment from 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 [melinda.owens@gscs.org](mailto:melinda.owens@gscs.org).



## Cowan Road Middle School Parent Resource Center



Did you know that each school has a parent resource center with free resources? Come visit the school parent resource center located in the front lobby to check out books, pamphlets, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00a.m.– 4:00p.m.

If you would like more information, contact me at 770-229-3722 or [tara.riggs@gscs.org](mailto:tara.riggs@gscs.org).

## Tips for Parents of Special Education Students

- Organize all paperwork

In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork and documentation to maintain. Keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings and conferences.

- Review your child's current Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

The IEP is the cornerstone of your child's educational program so it is important that you have a clear understanding of the plan. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

- Attend school events

Take advantage of all parent engagement events and resources offered to help promote academic achievement at home.

## Eight Ways to Improve Your Child's Vocabulary

- Let your child tell the story
- Pay more attention to your child's vocabulary
- Make conversation a priority
- Read together
- Play word games
- Write for pleasure
- Introduce a new word each day
- Make frequent trips to the public library



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](mailto:larry.jones@gscs.org) or 770-229-3700.

## ACADEMIC WEBSITES OR TIPS

### Rigorous Curriculum Dialogue (RCD) for Parents

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

### Five Online Vocabulary Builders for Elementary Students

- <https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/classroom-resources/5-online-vocabulary-builders-for-elementary-students/>

### Vocabulary Apps for Middle and High School Students

- <https://www.teachthought.com/literacy/12-best-vocabulary-apps-middle-high-school-students/>

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

## Literacy Tips for Parents of a Middle School Student

- Read. Read. Read. The most important method of improving reading skills is to encourage reading of all kinds. Read the back of the cereal box, the newspaper or billboards.
- Visit places where reading is featured including the library, museums or bookstores.
- Talk to your child about what he is reading or learning (how he is doing in it, but the actual content). Have your child summarize or paraphrase what they are reading.
- Read the same books your child is reading. Then talk to them about the book. Ask why and how questions not just factual questions.