



Concord Elementary February 2024 Mustang Minutes

Message from Concord Administration

Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal
Dr. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal

Happy February Concord Parents!

February is Black History Month, and our students will learn about a famous African American every day during our morning announcements.

Concord's student attendance percentage for January 2024 was 88.63%. Your child must attend school daily and arrive on time. Our goal is to have our school's attendance percentage at 94% or higher.

If your child is absent from school, please complete *the Absence Reason Notification Form on our school's website, www.pgcps.org/Concord*. Continue to email and/or provide an absent note to your child's teacher as well. Absent notices can also be submitted to Mrs. Jones, our registrar secretary.

Quarter 3 just began, and I encourage all parents to make sure their child is completing and submitting all assignments on time. Please check in with your students each night to see what assignments are due. This will enable you to support your students in improving their grades. All students need to complete their homework assignments nightly, along with their Reading and Math logs. In addition, please ensure that your child is utilizing our online interventions at home 2 - 3x a week. The online interventions are below:

K - 3rd Grade - Lexia Core 5
K - 5th Grade - iReady & Dreambox

We urge all parents to check their child's grades in the School Max Family Portal once per week. If you do not have a family portal account, you can visit the county website to register. This will enable you to track their weekly grades.

Below are important dates for the month of February 2024:

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 100th Day of School

February 12 – 16, 2024 Concord Spirit Week

Monday, February 19, 2024 President's Day, Schools are Closed

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 In-Person Parent-Teacher Conferences,
(7:45 – 9:45 AM)
2-Hour Delay for Students

Monday, February 26, 2024 Parent & Family Reading Night
5:00 - 7:30 PM

Concord Elementary School will be closing at the end of this school year. All parents will need to provide an updated proof of residence and complete a student registration application online for their child. We will host in-person meetings on the selected dates below for those who need assistance with the transition process. It is imperative that on the date you select, you come on that day for this transition to go as smoothly as possible. We appreciate your efforts in getting this completed. Together, we will get this done, and the dates are as follows:

February 12, 2024 from 4:00-6:00 PM

February 20, 2024 from 4:00-6:00 PM

March 5, 2024 from 4:00-6:00 PM

Please use the link below to sign up for one of the selected dates above:

<https://forms.gle/xCp6qjgAZAoKpeTo7>

Lastly, please ensure that your contact information (phone number, address, email address, and emergency contact information) is updated and shared with your child's teacher and the main office. Our school newsletter will be available monthly on our school website, along with all information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (301) 817-0488 and/or at Dana.Doggett@pgcps.org and Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org.

Primary News

First-grade team!

As a team, we are partnering to strengthen and empower our students' vocabulary, critical thinking, and math skills by learning math word problems using various strategies. We will use repetitive reading and math lessons to increase their understanding and knowledge of phoning awareness, computation skills, and recognition of keywords. Some of their homework will include writing words and numbers for memory retention, handwriting skills, and vocabulary usage. There are 30 students in 1st grade for Valentine's Day.

Thank you,

Mrs. Cole & Ms. Wilson



Intermediate News

Fourth Grade Reading

For February we will be covering many subjects and standards of reading. First, there are the standards for Cycle 1 of Quarter 3. Students will refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. As we go through this lesson students will be asked questions that they have to think about and discuss with their peers. There is a good possibility that students will also do focus group activities.

As the lesson progresses students will read informational and historical texts in their volume 2 myBook.

Fourth Grade Math/Social Studies

Happy February!

In Social Studies our fourth grade students will explore the theme Geography – As the World Turns. We will learn how to identify land and water on maps and globes. In Reading and Language Arts, students will begin reading in Module 2. Students will learn how people use words to express themselves.

In Math our fourth graders will continue to spend a lot of time with **multiplication and division strategies within 100**. In Science students will also learn about force and its interactions. In Health students will learn about how to address attitudes, values, and goals, personal choices and responsibilities, and refusal skills for risky situations.

Intermediate News

Fifth Grade Reading/Social Studies

Essential Question: What makes something mysterious, and what drives people to solve mysteries?

Genre: Mystery (The Secret Keepers)

In this text, students will analyze literary elements and how tone and mood contribute to the theme of a text.

The key learning Objectives they will be learning in this text:

.Make Inferences about the text

.Explain the importance of pacing within a story's plot to move characters from event to event.

.Recognize the point of view.

Writing:

Students will learn how to write the next Scene.

Prompt: Use your imagination to create the next scene for the story. Change the point of view, telling the point of view from Reuben's mother's perspective.

Social Studies:

Students will learn about Famous Black Americans in the month of February.

They will also learn about The French and Dutch in North America.

Fifth Grade Math/Science

For the month of February, our scholars will continue to learn Multiplication and Division of Decimals. It will be followed by Multiplication and Division of Fractions. In both topics, students will be solving equations and word problems in which they are expected to show the strategy/ies they used in getting their answers. They should also be able to apply math reasoning skills in justifying and explaining their answers.

In Science, students will start learning about the Earth, the different spheres, and how the spheres interact with each other. This unit also includes activities showing different ways how humans take care of the Earth's resources.

Health is about "Growing Up". This unit provides an overview of hormones and the body, biological differences, and changes during puberty.

Specialist Corner

Physical Education

Here is my February newsletter submission for P.E. If you have any questions, please let me know:

Happy February! Here is a P.E. fun fact: Did you know that just 10 minutes of jumping rope can be as effective as 30 minutes of jogging? It's a super workout for your heart; you can jump rope almost anywhere.

For February, students will learn how to jump rope and learn about their hearts as it relates to fitness. Isn't that Cool? It's good to model good physical behavior to your children while they're young. This will ensure that they have an opportunity to take this same knowledge into adulthood and potentially live a long and healthy life.

We will continue P.E. indoors until the weather permits.

Just to remind you, please make sure that your child is wearing the correct shoes on P.E. days: No crocs, flip-flops, dress shoes, boots, or cleats. If you do send your child to school with shoes that are not suitable for P.E., please ensure that they have a set of spare shoes to put on.

Media

3, 2, 1...Book Fair!

The countdown is ON to the best day of the year—and everything you need to know to bring the Bookjoy is right here. Concord Elementary Book Fair is scheduled for March 18, 2024 - March 22, 2024.

Valentine's Day Celebration:

Get ready to spread the love in our library! On February 14th, we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day with special activities, crafts, and of course, books about love and friendship.

Featured Book of the Month:

Our featured book for February is "Love from The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle. Join us as we follow the journey of the beloved caterpillar and discover the true meaning of love in this heartwarming story.

We're looking forward to another fantastic month of reading and learning in the library!!

Specialist Corner

Mental Health School Therapist

Dear Parents,

My name is Carsan Johnson and I am excited to reach out to you as the school mental health therapist at Concord Elementary.

What I do?

- Provide emotional support to students to ensure physical, mental, and emotional well-being.
- Mental health services are free to all students.
- To provide tier 3 interventions consent will be needed by a parent or guardian.
- Tier 3 interventions, i.e., social skill development, counseling, mentoring, etc. are provided to students who have active mental health symptoms that meet diagnostic criteria.

Contact information for inquiries or service request: pg_carsan.johnson@pgcps.org

Special Education

PARENTING CHILDREN WITH ADHD: FIRST SERIES

By Sonia D. Bobis

Raising a child with ADHD is tough. The child with ADHD will be more challenging to deal with if both parents don't agree. I would like to share with you one thing about how to raise a child with ADHD and make life bearable for everyone. Elaine Taylor-Klaus, CPCC, MCC, is a parent of a child with ADHD. She and her husband are not on the same page about raising their child with ADHD, despite her being a parent counselor, and therapist. As she navigated the challenges of having a child with ADHD, she implemented a tool to maintain a harmonious relationship with her husband, have a peaceful family life, and raise an emotionally and mentally healthy child.

Elaine implemented this technique with her husband, the conversation "design," which defuses defensiveness. The technique can be used in making simple requests or navigating high-conflict conversations. The "design" is made up of two parts: the gift and the request. Start with a gift, such as an offer to do something. You might say to your spouse, "I know you've had a long day, and reading another article about ADHD doesn't sound appealing. You and I can read the article together and discuss how we could adapt it to help our child. Or we can make an appointment with a School Family Therapist who specializes in counseling parents with children with ADHD." (That is an acknowledgment followed by a gift.) "And I'd like to ask:, when I give you something to read, will you please make the effort to read it? I know it takes time, but I appreciate it. Or when we make an appointment with a therapist, will you please come with me with a happy disposition? It might be embarrassing on your part to talk about our struggles raising Craig, but I appreciate it." (That's a request.)

Your conversation pieces might be different, but when you start a negotiation of a gift or acknowledgment or what you are willing to "give" to a situation, the other person feels heard and respected. He or she will lower her or his guard and be more open to conversation and requests. After you have offered a genuine gift, you can request someone to do something for you.