



# MARCH CONCORD MUSTANG MINUTES

## Message from Concord Administration

Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal

Dr. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal

March is Women's History Month and we will highlight important women in the world's history during our daily morning announcements.

Our cumulative attendance data for the month of February 2024 was 88.78%. Our attendance rate needs to be 94% or higher. Parents, we need your assistance and cooperation in ensuring that your child reports to school daily and arrives on time. Many of our students who are not reporting to school on time and are frequently absent have negatively impacted their grades. Please ensure that your child reports to school daily and arrives on time. If your child is absent from school, please complete the absent notification form on our school's website and/or write a note/email to your child's teacher. Attendance is important, and so is the law!

Listed below are some important dates to remember:

Monday, March 4, 2024 Professional Development for Teachers  
(schools are closed for students.)

Monday, March 11, 2024 Family MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive  
Assessment Program) Night, 5:00 – 7:30 PM,  
3rd–5th Grade

Monday, March 18, 2024 Supporting Students w/Disabilities MCAP Boot  
Camp, Session 1, 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Friday, March 22, 2024 End of 3rd Quarter

March 25–April 1, 2024 Spring Break (schools are closed).

Please continue to have your child log into the following online interventions below at home at least 2 - 3x a week:

Lexia Core 5 (K - 3, Reading)

DreamBox (K - 5, Math)

iReady Reading (1st - 5th, Reading)

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's 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](mailto:Dana.Doggett@pgcps.org) and [Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org](mailto:Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org).



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## Intermediate News

### Third Grade

In Reading, students will practice synthesizing, asking/answering questions, finding the central idea, comparing and contrasting, and monitoring and clarifying, as we focus on what lessons we can learn from animals and nature. They will continue cursive handwriting practice, learning their signatures, identifying content area words, and improving their writing skills. In Social Studies, third-grade students will learn about geography, the world, landforms, and our country. In Math, our third graders will continue to work with multiplication word problems, division problems, and word problems with an unknown, and begin learning about fractions! In Science, students will learn about fossils and how we can use fossils to learn about life long ago. In third grade, we will also begin practicing responding to questions that students will see on benchmark assessments and MCAP assessments in the spring. Students will continue working on expanding their thoughts, ideas, and writing using reasoning, in both reading and math.

### Fourth Grade

We are currently reading Module 2 Expression with Words. The Reading and Language Arts focus is reviewing stories, dramas, and poetry. In writing, the focus is on staying on topic by writing facts and transition words in Black History Month Projects. In social studies, we are exploring geography, weather, and climate. In math, students will learn about fractions, which are numbers that describe the division of a whole into equal parts. Unit fractions are the building blocks of all fractions. In Science, students will analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms. In Health, students will learn the importance of saying no to smoking, drinking, and drugs, drugs and the law, understanding addiction, and setting goals for drug-free living.

### Fifth Grade

In March, our scholars will continue to learn the multiplication of fractions. They should be able to apply their understanding of the multiplication of fractions to finding the area of a rectangle. The division of fractions will also be introduced this month. Students should be able to model and solve problems involving the division of a unit fraction by a whole number and a whole number by a unit fraction.

Our students will take the Maryland Integrated Maryland Assessment (MISA) between March 5 and 15, 2024. Help us prepare your child for the assessment by having them review the 3rd and 4th-grade science concepts they learned. We will finish Unit 3, which is the Interacting Earth System, and start with Unit 4, which is Patterns in the Night Sky.

In Health, our students will distinguish between the effects of use, misuse, and abuse of drugs, drug abuse, and the family, the influence of print and electronic media on the misuse of drugs, and the value of living a drug-free life.



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## Specialist Corner



### Physical Education

It's March! Spring is almost here! Here is a P.E. fun fact: Did you know that dribbling was not in the original basketball rules when it was implemented in 1891? Dribbling was introduced later in basketball and continues to evolve today. Also, did you know that if you dribble a soccer ball in a more narrow or closed area, it could naturally increase your dribbling skills?

In March, students will learn manipulative skills such as dribbling basketball and kicking a soccer ball. Introducing the students to these skills will enhance their understanding of hand, foot, and mind coordination.

As the weather continues to warm throughout the month, we will be outdoors more.

Parents, warm weather is approaching. In March, the weather tends to go up and down. Please remember to send your child with at least a light jacket, just in case. As a reminder, please ensure your child also wears the correct shoes on PE 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 PE, please ensure that they have a set of spare shoes to put on.

Happy March, Madness!

### Media

3, 2, 1,... Book Fair! The countdown is on for 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, through March 22, 2024.

### Special Education

Importance of Healthy Eating

By Sonia D. Bobis

Healthy eating matters. Food fuels us and delivers the calories and nutrients our body needs to function. Healthy eating lowers our risk for diseases, increases longevity, and promotes optimal mental and physical well-being. Healthy eating means eating foods that are high in nutrients like protein, fiber, healthy fats, vitamins, and minerals. These foods include veggies, fruits, nuts, seeds, beans, fatty fish, and eggs. Eating healthy also means eating a variety of foods. A diet rich in different kinds of food supports a healthy gut, promotes healthy body weight, and protects against chronic diseases. One of the best ways to improve your diet is to cut back on highly processed foods/products like soda, baked goods, sugary cereals, candy, processed meats, fast foods, and highly processed snacks. It is never too late to start eating a healthy diet.



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## Technology Updates

March Technology Updates for the Newsletter

Parents your student must have a working Chromebook every day. If they need to replace a broken device, please complete the form to begin the next steps for a replacement. State testing and school surveys for which students must use their school-issued devices begin next week. Kindly ensure your student is prepared with their electronic device for school. Students only have access to some of the resources to support their development in reading and math if they have a working device. Academics are enhanced by completing lessons in the online intervention tools for reading (iReady and Lexia Core), and Dreambox for math. These online tools are accessible at home and should be used for at least 20 minutes three times a week. Concord is proud to celebrate the top users who appear on our leaderboard for the highest completion rate in iReady with 20+ lessons completed, for Dreambox with 40+ lessons completed, and for students moving up a level by earning certificates in Lexia Core.

Online intervention Leaderboard

iReady

5th Grade Lesson Completion YTD (Year-to-Date) percentage

5th Grade- iReady-Lesson Completion 20+ lessons from 1/15- 2/15

Dr. Zoleta HR

Montrell B.

Kamoni C.

Kymani F.

Ms. Dember's HR

Victory A.

Najid C.

Kadence E.

Kalahni G.

Camille J.

4th Grade- iReady-Lesson Completion 20+ Lessons from 1/15-2/15

Kamryn B.

Elijah C.

Walfred H.

CharDiamond W.

Dreambox Student Usage (Percentage of students using the tool per grade level) 2/1-2/25

Kindergarten-100%

1st Grade-78%

2nd Grade - 60%

3rd Grade - 44%

4th Grade- 97%

5th Grade- 94%

