

December 2019

Parent Newsletter

CHESAPEAKE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

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Office Notes:

Walmart: The Walmart on Battlefield Blvd. has been beyond generous with CCSS. They have donated snack items and school supplies on a continual basis, both this year and last. Thank you *Becky Goodman* for all your hard work gathering items for our school.

Food Drive: CCSS is having our annual food drive. Any donations of canned or boxed items would be greatly appreciated. Please make sure they are not expired and not in glass. Thank you!

Twitter: The Twitter handle for CCSS is [@CCSSsharks](#) – Visit our page and check us out!

Kroger: If you shop at Kroger, please consider linking your Kroger Plus Shoppers Card to our school so we can earn cash back. Thank you.



Guidance

Benchmark testing will take place in the first week of December (2nd-6th). Please ensure your student is present during this week.

T. Winston - Guidance Counselor



Reading and English

Reading classes are working diligently on the 180 Universal program plus building up syllable skills. May I suggest that you have your student read 15 to 20 minutes per day? Perhaps before bedtime or dinnertime?

As students are reading a nonfiction book, here are some possible questions:

1. What has the author told me so far?
2. What am I going to find out next?
3. What do I think about this?
4. Can I picture what the author is writing about in my mind?
5. Are there any new words for me to learn? Should I use dictionary.com or use context clues?
6. If this doesn't make sense, will re-reading help?

May you enjoy reading with your children and may it strengthen your communication with them. I hope you have a joyful holiday!

P. Stevens - Reading Specialist

Our middle school students are continuing to work diligently on reading and writing skills. In December, students will take their Writing Benchmark during their normal class times. Our classes will have an emphasis on writing skills until then. The 8th graders are working on understanding SOL prompts and writing thesis statements in preparation for their Writing SOL later this year. There are a couple of different reading challenges going on in the school, including one for the English Core Plus classes, to encourage reading stamina.

M. Moyer & J. Mitchell - *English*



Math

The following link will take you to a site for some math games geared towards middle school students: <https://www.hmhco.com/blog/6-fun-math-activities-for-middle-school-students>

G. Kirk & J. Thomas - *Math*



History

Welcome to the last month of 2019! – Here in the History Department, we are excited by all the historical changes that the United States is undergoing and we encourage you to share with your children the ability to watch or pay attention to some of the historical changes taking place in the United States right now.

6th Grade:

We have just finished our survey of what Political Parties are and what their function is in a democracy (such as ours). In the weeks ahead we will be focusing on the Electoral College and how it affects our unique type of democracy. We will also be investigating the Supreme Court and the Legislative branch and their purpose.

7th Grade:

We have just finished investigating and writing about the early European explorers to North America and now we will be investigating, writing and creating rap songs about the 13 Colonies and the different colonial experiences. We will analyze the maps of the 13 colonies and start our timeline of events that led to the American Revolution in the 1700s. We are so excited to 'go there' and hopefully the students will have fun.

8th Grade:

"The more times change, the more they stay the same..." ~ We are beginning our survey of American history in the Gilded Age, when workers were fighting for fair pay, safer work conditions, and other progressive topics. We are starting our investigation of the Prohibition era and how Progressive forces were trying to help heal the nations' problems by banning alcohol. After Thanksgiving day – we will be instituting "No Candy-December" as part of our analysis of the Prohibition Age and how it affected people. Hopefully students will sympathize with the temperance movement and its goals.

L. Tsimba & S. Zegarelli - *History*



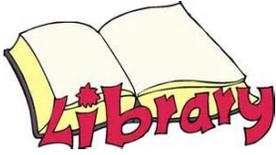
Science

6th grade is working on Chemical Equations

7th grade is working on Genetics

8th grade is studying Ionic and Covalent Bonding

J. Doss & C. Irving – *Science*



Library News

The staff demonstrated Cosplay by dressing in Character a few weeks ago. Remind your students to read books, write a book summary/report, and plan their costumes for the parade which will occur at the end of the 1st semester.

Hammerhead, Tiger or Great White? These are the names of the 3 teams competing in our school wide reading challenge. Students have book logs which will document the amount of time spent reading and the number of pages read. Please be sure to sign the log as your student reads. The willing team will enjoy a pizza party. Members of the winning team must read at least 50 pages in order to participate in the pizza party.

M. DeCamillis – *Library Media Specialist*



Special Education

EveryoneOn is a national nonprofit that creates social and economic opportunity by connecting everyone to the internet. Through partnerships with local internet service providers, EveryoneOn is able to offer free or \$9.95 home Internet service, discounted devices including \$150 tablets and \$199 laptops and free computer & internet courses at more than 8,000 training sites across the country. Call 1-855-EVERY1ON or visit everyoneon.org to learn more about these opportunities.

M. Nottingham & J. Walski - *Special Education*



Technology

5 Ways to Be Smarter than the Smartphone (from Netsmartz.org)

- 1. Be a parent and a resource.** Establish clear guidelines, including time limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior, but be open so your child comes to you with any problems.
- 2. Set up password protection.** This will keep everyone but you and your child from accessing personal information stored on the phone.
- 3. Update the operating system.** New versions often contain important security fixes.
- 4. Approve apps before they are downloaded.** Make sure you understand their capabilities and approve their content.
- 5. Understand location services.** GPS features are useful when using maps, but you'll want to disable location-tagging when your child posts anything online.

K. Lomanno - *Technology Integration Specialist*



Recognition Programs

All students are eligible for daily recognition with our MVP awards program. Each day, all students who have earned an MVP award are recognized.

Each month, one student will be chosen as the student of the month. Scorecards, behavior, and attendance will all factor into the decision.

Once a week, a drawing for a small treat/prize is held from the signed and returned scorecards.

Periodically, students will have the opportunity to win a new bicycle, which the Chesapeake Police Department generously donated. Students will have the opportunity to win one of the bicycles by participating in various contests such as essay writing or meeting certain goals such as perfect attendance, etc...

Students who have made it to the All-Star and Coach level receive special privileges such as being able to move about the building without an escort. They also earn the opportunity to participate in various social times in the cafeteria and the media center, as well as assemblies and recognition events.



Behavior Team

*When a student reaches the coach level, they are permitted to wear solid black shirts/sweatshirts without hoods.

*Make sure to sign the bottom portion of your child's scorecard each night. This helps students keep their daily percentages up, and enables them to participate in the drawing.

*Please check every day to see if your child has, and is completing, homework. They should have homework in all core classes Monday through Thursday.

***Please make sure to monitor your child's attire when they leave for school. Many students are coming without belts. Students can leave their belt in their locker at dismissal so that they will have it each school day. Also our "Professional Dress Tuesdays" should consist of collared/dress shirts, and other business attire. T-shirts are not allowed. Please refer to the CCSS student handbook and contact us if you have any questions. We thank you for your continued support!**

Quote of the Month

"All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination." —Earl Nightingale

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Dec 11: End of Grading Period (9-12)

Dec 23-Jan 1: Winter Break