



Gator Gazette

From the Principal.....

News Article From Mrs. Goodman:

Greetings Gator Families! We are back in full swing and it feels GREAT! It seems so good to see our little GATORS every day in the school building. Rest assured though, that we are still following all safety guidelines as outlined in the 'Strong Schools Toolkit' as published and updated by the State of North Carolina. We are wearing our masks, washing our hands, and keeping our distance as much as the space allows.

SCE is also continuing the focus on student learning and their general social and emotional well being. Staff is working hard to meet the needs of students and we hope you, at home, are working with us to ensure their success. What students learn now will continue to mold them into the adult they will become. So, it is critical that we all work together to make the experience as best as possible.

Here are a few important reminders for success:

- Virtual students should be logging on every day as instructed by the teacher and actively participating in the learning. Students can't afford to miss learning opportunities as they can never be recaptured.
- Students should be completing all homework assignments as these are extensions to the learning that goes on during the school day.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the student is actively participating in homework and any virtual learning activities for students. Little ones need guidance and assistance.
- Virtual students should have a designated place at home that is quiet and conducive to learning. Students should be actively participating and following the rules of the teacher.
- Arrive on time and depart on time! We need every minute!

Thank you for your support during this 'strange and different' kind of school year! We hope that students will work hard to end the school year STRONG! Happy Spring and Summer!

Best wishes for good health and happiness!

Lori Goodman

Upcoming Events

May 24th & 25th

**End -of- Grade
Testing**

May 31st

**No School
Memorial Day**



June 4th

Last Day of School



Updates from the School Nurse

- New guidance was issued a few weeks ago and a new question was added to the attestation form regarding anyone in the household having symptoms related to COVID-19. If anyone in the home has symptoms of fever, new cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing and/or loss of taste or smell then students cannot attend school until there is an evaluation of symptoms by the doctor. If the doctor says the symptoms are not COVID related and gives an alternative diagnosis then students can return to school. Remember, students need to be FREE from fever for 24 hours prior to returning to school without having to use any fever reducing medications such as Tylenol or Motrin.
- Some of you may ask, what is a new cough? Well that is a great question! Many children have problems with seasonal allergies and even asthma this time of year or with weather changes. If a child has these conditions and typically develops a cough then this would not be considered a new cough. A new cough would need to be evaluated by the primary care doctor and a doctor's note would need to be provided for students to return if the new cough is not related to COVID.
- If anyone in the home has tested positive for COVID or is going to be tested for COVID, please notify the teacher, front office or the school nurse. The school has guidance to follow on the time students should be quarantined and we need to make sure this is communicated to you correctly.

Thank you for taking the time to read these updates. I am at school Monday-Friday from 7am-3pm. Please call me anytime if you have questions.

Stay safe,
Hayley Fly, RN
School Nurse

ESL News

ESL teachers are excited to have students again after our long annual ACCESS testing from February-April.

Mrs. Duke, Mrs. Morton, and Mrs. Tan are enjoying face to face students. Mrs. Sanchez is working well with our virtual students. Students have worked well despite all of the changes over the last year.

We look forward to wishing our fourth graders well as they transition to the middle school. Best wishes and congratulations!

Kindergarten News

The last grading period tends to be bittersweet for many. As we continue through the fourth nine weeks, we are reminded that the year is quickly coming to an end. Even though it is hard to think about letting them go, many students have made growth.

The spring season has been very busy! From now until the end of the year we will be conducting end of year reading assessment. Students will be expected to be at or above proficient on their STAR Early Literacy Assessment. We will also be doing end of year assessments in math. Your child will be assessed in the five domains—Counting and Cardinality, Measurement and Data, Geometry, Operations in Algebraic Thinking, and Number and Operations in Base Ten.

Parents/guardians, please remember to send a note in your child's folder or agenda when they are absent from school, explaining the reason for the absence. Please sign the folder or agenda daily to let your child's teacher know that you have looked at the folder, and review any work in the folder with your child. Be sure to have your child complete and return any homework that is assigned. Thank you so much for your continued support!

The Kindergarten Staff



First Grade News

First Grade Parents,

We are focusing on the future this year! As we begin our second quarter, please make sure your student is working hard daily. They should know all the letters in the alphabet, as well as the sounds they make.

Students should be able to blend words together and they should be practicing reading every day. Counting and addition concepts have been taught and students should recognize numbers from 1-120.

Remember, everything they learn from now on depends on these basic skills! Students should be attending school in person or online FIVE days each week. If they do not complete online work or come in person, they are counted absent.

Please make sure any classroom concerns are addressed immediately. Don't wait until the end of the grading quarter. You may contact your teacher through email, phone, or Class Dojo.

Check your child's homework folder daily. Lots of communications go home in the folder. Please note the "Bring Back to School" side and the "Leave at Home" side.

Car riders need to be dropped off on the sidewalk. Please sit them in the back seat on the driver's side of the car. This makes drop off safer. This way students aren't walking in between cars during dark morning hours. As always, we want our children to prosper. This year is difficult but not impossible. We can do this!

Thank you,
First Grade Teachers

Second Grade News

Things are going full force in second grade. We have been studying habitats and plants in reading. Some of you may have had your child come home with a bean sprout. Ask them how we grew them in the window. Our next reading unit will be about different cultures around the world. In math we are learning about time, money, and measurement. Please work with your child on identifying coins and reading a clock. Our 2nd grade Math Assessment will be completed this month. We will do a few problems a day to get it completed. So it is important that your child gets a good night's sleep every night so they are well rested for this assessment.

We had a Virtual STEAM Night in March. That was a big success. Many students logged in to their Google Classroom and did many of the activities that were posted. These activities should still be in your child's Google Classroom if you didn't get a chance to participate. Be sure to check them out; they are truly amazing experiments and so much fun. Our kids are really enjoying being able to play on the playground now during recess and going to resource classrooms. The weather is getting warmer so please make sure your child has a water bottle they can fill up because we still cannot use the water fountains except to fill up our water bottles.

Third Grade News

We are almost to the finish line! However, we still have lots of work to do! ALL third grade students will be taking the Star Tests in the coming weeks. In addition, they will be taking the EOG on May 24th and 25th. Please encourage your student to do his/her best on these assessments. It is very important that the students come to school well rested and ready to work.

Many of our students will be invited to our “Summer Scholars” program. Be on the lookout for information that will be sent home with students.

Finally, thank you for your continued support in such a difficult school year.

3rd Grade

Fourth Grade News

It's hard to believe the 2020-2021 school year is coming to an end! One thing is for sure, whether students are virtual or face-to-face, lots of learning has taken place. Now, most classes are working on reviewing for the upcoming End of Grade Test. Tentatively, these tests have been scheduled for May 24 and May 25.

In math, 4th graders have been working on lines and angles and identifying lines of symmetry. We are currently working on metric measurement, as well as finding the elapsed time. Please continue to stress the importance of showing work in math. They should have their multiplication facts memorized.

In science, we have learned about animal adaptations. Our last topic to cover is nutrition. Students will understand food and the benefits of vitamins, minerals, and exercise. We have learned a lot this year in science! Ask your child what has been their favorite topic in science this year.

In social studies, some students participated in a virtual field trip to the CB Aycock Birthplace. COVID restrictions kept us from physically going on our fourth grade field trips this year, but at least the virtual components of learning allowed us to still experience it. We also studied the types of government.

Last, but not least, students have been working hard in language arts! Students have been working on comprehending reading selections. Students have also been practicing answering end of grade test questions. A lot of work has gone into finding evidence in support of answers. Finding the main idea of passages is such a crucial skill for students to know.

Music News with Mrs. Rose and Mr. Guevara

Hello, everyone!

We are so happy that all of our face-to-face students are now here with us five days a week! We are able to make so much more beautiful music! This has been a challenging year, but in the midst of all the trouble, we are able to encourage each other as well as help each other! Always remember that we are

Our classroom instruction continues both face-to-face and virtual. Our students are learning the basic elements of music and are incorporating them into more advanced concepts and techniques. We can still make music even when we are apart, and we are blessed to be part of your lives!

We look forward to an exciting end of the school year and the prospects of a super-fun summer break followed by the return to school with a more normal setting. Please know that we love your kids and work to help them be the best they can be!

Art News with Ms. Amos

This semester, student artists have focused on learning about flowers created by Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet, famous artists from The Impressionistic and Post Impressionistic Art Periods. They learned about the style and techniques of both art masters. Other spring projects included studying about author, illustrator, and artist Eric Carle and creating artwork related to some of his famous books: The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Grouchy Ladybug, and Mister Seahorse.



P.E. News

Gator Parents,

The past school year has been a challenge but we wanted to thank-you for making sure your child joined our Google classrooms and participated in the assigned activities. Now that we are face-to-face with most of our students we wanted to give you an update on what is going on in the gym. Kindergarten-3rd Grade is currently working on a variety of fitness related games to promote socialization and overall cardiovascular endurance. 4th Grade is currently working on kickball skills with the hopes of participating in a May Madness kickball tournament to finish out the year.

As always, please prepare your Gator(s) to take part in the Physical Education Class by dressing them appropriately for safe movement. Always have your child/children wear tennis shoes on the days they attend their PE class. Some of our students come to class with their shoes untied. This causes a safety issue for the student during class. Please help your child master this important skill. Safety is constantly stressed during Physical Education time. Thank you for your cooperation by having your student prepared for class. We need Gator Parents to send a short note to school with their child any time they need special consideration or to be excused from the day's activities.

As always, good sportsmanship is an important part of the curriculum. We are proud of our students for working hard to improve their health and fitness. We wish our Gator Parents and students a safe and healthy Spring and Summer season!



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Media Center News

Notices have been sent home with students who have outstanding fines or overdue books from the library. Also, chromebooks and hot spots need to be returned for face to face students. Virtual students will be informed of the collection date for their devices.

If you have any questions about notices you have received please call Mrs. Crumpler at 919-751-7155.

Focused on the Future in Title I

It is amazing how quickly this school year has gone! As we come to the end of another school year it is important to reflect upon the importance of the partnership between home and school. Working together improves student learning and helps students make greater gains. At Spring Creek Elementary School, we are so fortunate to have such great parent and family participation! A pandemic could not stop our Gator families from attending workshops and events, even when they could only be offered in a “drive-by” or virtual setting! We applaud you all for your dedication to your child and our school community.

This Spring our district launched a free online program, “Triple P--Positive Parenting Program” because your most important job deserves the best parenting support. Triple P is the flexible, practical way to develop skills, strategies, and confidence to handle any parenting situation. Backed by decades of research, it aims to assist parents in having happier families, better relationships, and successful kids! Triple P Online offers free courses that are just right for you, based on your child’s ages and stages. Be sure to visit TRIPLEP.ONLINE/NC to get online parenting tools. Please contact the Title I team if you are in need of assistance navigating this free resource.

We would like to thank the parents/guardians who responded to the survey regarding preferences of time and topic for our final virtual Title I Parent Workshop of the 2020-2021 school year. An overwhelming majority requested “Expectations of the Next Grade Level” be offered. You have spoken and been heard! This workshop will outline what your child should know and be able to do in their current grade and provide information, resources, and strategies pertaining to content and grade-specific focus for each content area using parent-friendly language. Tips on how to support student learning at home and opportunities for additional support to raise achievement levels being offered by Wayne County Public School and local communities will be shared. The date and time will be disseminated by your classroom teachers and posted on ClassDojo in the coming week.

In the coming weeks, winners of the Title I Student Recognition Program Poster and Essay Contest will be announced. The students’ work depicts what “Shining Through Adversity” meant to them will be showcased throughout the district! We wish all who entered good luck!

The Title I team has very much enjoyed working with your child this year. It has been our pleasure to serve your child. We are very confident that our SCE students will do well on upcoming End-of-Grade

assessments. As a parent, the most important way you can help your child do well on tests is to read with your child regularly and talk with her/him about the experiences he/she has that helped in making connections with the text. Make sure your child gets enough rest and a well balanced diet. Consult with your child's teacher to find out if there are specific skills you can practice at home. Review practice materials and strategies sent home so you can encourage those smart test-taking practices they have been exposed to at school. Respond to any concerns your child has with encouragement and support. Emphasize that there are lots of ways to express what you know, and that these tests are just one measure. To help your youngster be prepared, share these test taking strategies:

- Be prepared. If your child is prepared and has thoroughly gone over the material, he/she will experience far less stress while taking the test.
- Get a good night's sleep prior to the test. Brains don't function properly when they are sleep deprived.
- Eat breakfast in the morning! This will give you an extra boost of energy.
- Wear comfortable clothing.
- Take time to carefully read all directions. Many kids lose valuable test score points because they simply do not follow directions. One little word in a question or answer choice can change the entire meaning! Take the time to read everything carefully; it will pay off in the end!
- Relax and take a deep breath.

Think positive thoughts! YOU CAN DO IT!

Guidance Dept. News

Hello and Happy Spring from the SCE School Counseling Department! It is definitely hard to believe, but the 2020-2021 school year is almost over. Although it has been extremely different and challenging for everyone, we have all grown exponentially and together we will indeed finish out the year strong! This year we continued to build upon our strengths as we worked collectively to navigate the unprecedented circumstances we all faced. Google Classroom, Google Docs, Class Dojo, Zoom, Google Meet, and Bitmoji are just a few of the resources that we as school counselors have learned how to utilize in conducting Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons and individual counseling sessions. Masks and social distancing have also been quite an adjustment. It is our hope that hugs and high fives will be acceptable again next school year. : D

We also want to give a great big “shout out” to all of the educators, support staff, parents, extended family members, and students for their efforts in making virtual learning and the many transitions successful! In addition, we would like to recognize our military students as well as their families for their dedication and service to us all. It is truly a blessing to have each of you as a part of our SCE Gator family! To highlight our “smallest heroes,” we were excited to celebrate April as the Month of the Military Child where school districts across our nation honored our military-connected families. Many SCE Gators and Staff participated in “Purple Up” Day and military students displayed their unique experiences on a school-wide bulletin board.

Finally, keep up the good work! We are almost at the finish line. Maintain your focus and do your best on the rest of your assignments and all End of Grade (EOG) assessments. In preparation for the EOG, we will be providing a lesson on test-taking strategies in the next couple of weeks. Hang in there and rock those tests!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jones and Ms. DeCostanzo, SCE School Counselors

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