



# Skyview and CCS School News

## State Testing

WASL scores from last spring are now available. These will be mailed or sent home to CCS families before break and to Skyview families on October 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions please feel free to call your child's teacher or myself.

I'm sure you have heard that we will not be using the WASL any longer. Starting this spring we will give a test called the Measurement of School Progress. Students will still be tested every year from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade on and in all of the same content areas. This test will be administered later in the spring. May 12<sup>th</sup> is when the testing window opens so we request that you not plan trips or times out of school during that testing period. We haven't seen the test yet so I'm afraid I can't answer many questions for you, but please feel free to call and I'll tell you anything I know about it.



## New Staff

We are happy to announce that Mrs. Warzon, Mr. Conley and Mr. Dickeson will be staying with us.

## Assessments

During these early weeks of school teachers are assessing student's reading, writing and math skills. This information will help us to build instruction around what our students need to know. In the last week of the month classroom teachers and our support team will meet to look at how our students are doing and, if needed, what interventions can we build in to support students.

## CORE Curriculum

Many of you have heard us talking about RTI (Response to Intervention) in the last year or two. We know that it is important for all students to have a strong foundation in our core (basic) curriculum in all academic areas. We also know that it is important for all students to be taught, and to have reviewed, the core of our school expectations. To this end your student will have the following throughout the school year:

- Principal visits to classroom 2-3 times per year with a focus on behavior
- Classroom instruction from the counselor (this is spread over the course of the year since our counselor is here only 2.5 days per week)
- Teacher instruction and review 3 times per year of school/class expectations
- Videos or Power Points focusing on appropriate playground and lunchroom (added in the winter of this school year) behavior.

A focus on "catching" kids doing things correctly. The research indicates that these steps will ensure that a minimum of 80% of students will respond to this instruction and be able to successfully manage their own actions in the school setting. That leaves only 20% (in our building closer to 10%) of students who require more assistance to be able to successfully manage the school setting.





**Check Backpacks**

Last year we asked questions about communicating with you. We learned that one thing that the majority of you wanted were fewer days when you had to worry about important things coming home. **Teachers will keep families informed about when homework will come home and when it is due back. All of the other kinds of things we send home will come home on Mondays.** We hope that this response to your request will be helpful.

**Fine Arts Block**

The delivery of music instruction for grades 4 and 5 has been changed to a fine arts block this year. All students in grade 4 will choose orchestra or general music, and all 5<sup>th</sup> graders will choose general music, orchestra, or band. This method of delivering instruction focuses on the arts for all students in those target grades and puts instruction time back into the 5<sup>th</sup> grade day.



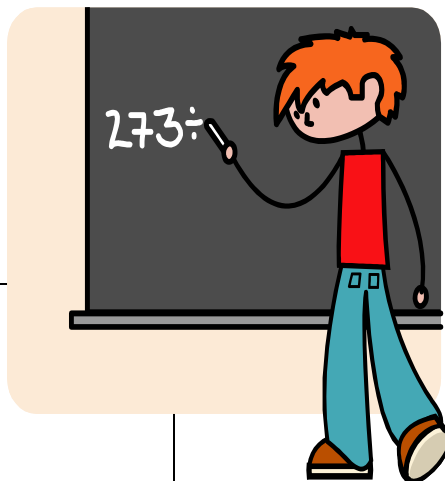
**Lap News**

**HELPFUL HOMEWORK HINTS**

- Set a regular time and place for homework
- Provide guidance through your child's homework
- Keep the stress level low- quiet, consistent place
- Make a doable schedule for longer assignments
- Give praise for successful completion of homework
- Talk over any serious homework problems with your child's teacher

**Supporting Reading**

Encourage your youngsters to think about what they read with questions like, "Do you think that could really happen?" or "What do you think the author wants us to learn?" Connect stories to other ideas. For example say, "Does that character's reaction remind you of anything?" Or discuss similarities between the story and a person or event in your child's life.



**Make Math Fun**

Put math into fun times. Play games like Yahtzee, Connect Four, or Monopoly. At night read books about math. Try Equal Shmequal by Virginia Kroll to learn what equal means, or Counting on Frank, Rod Clements tale of a boy who uses his dog Frank as his ruler.

**Number Sense**

Get your kids used to thinking about numbers and what they mean.

- Have them count objects regularly. Ask them "how many" kinds of questions.
- Give directions involving numbers. "Get into bed taking only 4 steps."
- Ask your child to count to a given number by numbering things around the house.





**Sleep Matters**

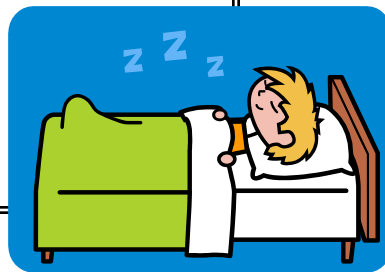
If your child seems cranky and unfocused, take a look at his/her sleep habits. Kids 6-9 years of age need roughly 10 hours of sleep per night. From age 10 on they should be getting at least 8 hours per night.

If your child isn't getting enough sleep, he/she may:

- Become irritable
- Have trouble focusing in class
- Become over-active

To avoid these problems and ensure that your child goes to school alert and ready to learn:

- Enforce a reasonable bedtime
- Establish a calm time before bed
- Strictly limit caffeine



**Drink This, not That**

Are your kids' juice drinkers? Look at these comparisons.

Ocean Spray Cranergy Cranberry Lift, 12 oz.—50 calories, 12 g. of sugar instead of

Nestle Juicy Juice Berry All- Natural 100% Juice, 8 oz.—120 calories, 27 g. of sugar

Minute Maid Kids+ Orange Juice box, 6.8 oz.—100 calories, 20 g. of sugar instead of

Minute Maid Apple Juice bottle, 10 oz.—140 calories, 32 g. of sugar

**Free Breakfast for Some**

Did you know...Thanks to our State Legislature, any students that currently receive Free or Reduced lunches, are eligible to have breakfast for free. If you have any questions, fee free to call Laurie Baxter at 241-5505.



**Attendance Reminder**

Please remember to call us when your child will be absent. That way we won't call to check on them. We are required by law to keep attendance records that clarify when and why a child was absent. One of our requirements under the No Child Left Behind Federal Legislation is the reduction of unexcused absences. We really appreciate your help in teaching kids how important it is that they be here. Thank you all for your cooperation. You can call the office at 927-3210 or our attendance line at 214-5575 and leave a brief message with students name and reason for absence.

**Meal Charges**

East Valley School District believes it is in the best interest of students to be provided a nutritious meal. Providing students with nutritious meals allow them to learn. Although the district is not required to provide meals to students who forget their money, an alternate meal may be provided to students who forget lunch or do not have money.

- The electronic meal-tracking program shows the balance in each account. When monies are within two meals of running out, a stamp may be placed on the student's hand indicating that lunch money is due.
- When the first charge is incurred the student may receive a stamp on their hand and a note will be sent home.
- Third charge attempt: When a student who is over the allowable charges attempts to eat he/she will be provided with an alternate meal (i.e. crackers and milk, cheese and milk, or fruit and milk) until the account is paid.

For families needing assistance, an additional option to qualify for school meals at the free rate is to apply for the Department of Social and Health Services Basic Food program. As of 10/-1/2008,the state raised the income guidelines for this program and if you qualify for Basic Food your children will qualify for the free school meal program. An application can be picked up in the school office.



