

CGMS Newsletter



It's about that time again for the GA Milestones to begin! 2015 was the first time in Georgia that the new test was administered. The GA Milestones is a newly formatted test that has multiple choice and constructed response. Over time The Georgia Milestones will be transitioned to online testing. This year our 8th graders will take all of their GA Milestones Online.

English Language Arts scores for students in grades three, five and eight and Mathematics scores for students in grades five and eight will be received in Mid-May. Parents will be notified by the school if their child will need to participate in the EOG retest May 17-20, 2016. Individual student reports for all students and content areas are expected to arrive at the end of the school year.

(continued on pg. 3)



Inside this issue

Board of Education	2
From the Principals Desk	2
GA Milestones.....	3
TOTY & ESPY	4
Parent Center.....	4
Zika Virus	5
Calendar.....	6

Special points of interest

- CGMS Career Day
- Congratulations to Ms. Jenkins and Mrs. McArthur!
- Thanks to Mrs. Houser and Mrs. McArthur!
- Thanks to CGMS Administrative Assistant Team!

BOE APPROVES SECOND PHASE OF SUPERINTENDENT'S CENTRAL OFFICE REORGANIZATION



The DeKalb Board of Education's approval of the second phase of Supt. R. Stephen Green's strategic plan includes appointments of four senior level positions previously approved by the Board at its Dec. 7, 2015 meeting. "The central office reorganization enables the District to achieve the Strategic Plan's goals and supports the realignment of the core business of improving the teaching and learning experience for increased student achievement," Dr. Green says. In December, Dr. Green noted the proposed design had with one goal in mind – to improve student learning. "It streamlines, strengthens and makes the district's executive team more effective, efficient more responsive – ultimately leading to a higher degree of accountability." Dr. Green's proposed his plan following six months of "personal observations, research, evaluations and explorations." "This design reallocates resources – time and financial," says Dr. Green. "It flattens the layers of bureaucracy through decentralization, placing critical human capital and other services in the field.

The DeKalb Board of Education's approval of the second phase of Supt. R. Stephen Green's strategic plan includes appointments of four senior level positions previously approved by the Board at its Dec. 7, 2015 meeting. "The central office reorganization enables the District to achieve the Strategic Plan's goals and

In the end, it will be cost neutral given the overall size of the District's annual budget of \$1.5 billion." It supports what the superintendent calls "the triangulation of services between the superintendent, regional superintendents and auxiliary support." "Therefore," he says, "through the elimination of unnecessary functions, the elevation of key functions and services, the reclassification of key positions and functions, and the creation of new positions, the reorganization of operational services is a means to support our ultimate goal: "the improvement of teaching and learning for our students." In December, Dr. Green noted, "For many, it is a cultural change – one I am confident will work and lead to improved instructional delivery and classroom results. It gives us consistency across all regional offices through checks and balances. As our administrative team, teachers and other staff become familiar with the plan. I encourage them to embrace it. "For our teachers, staff, parents and other residents it will provide greater transparency, a quicker response, more accessibility and better communication," he says. (Continued on pg. 3)

DeKalb County School District News Release

Contact: Quinn Hudson 678.676.2848
quinn_hudson@dekalbschoolsga.org



As this year comes to a close we want to congratulate CGMS Faculty, Staff, Parents and Students for being a 5 Star Family! We have gotten so much accomplished this school year. From Academics to Athletics, we are truly 5 Star Citizens!

As we move forward, parents please help our students remain 5 Star during the GA Milestone testing season by helping our students take the following steps:

- 1) Limit evening activities prior to testing so that adequate time is provided for rest.
- 2) Discuss the importance of testing with your son/daughter.
- 3) Testing will begin promptly at 9:00am daily.
- 4) If your child is a walker/car rider, please have your child at school by 8:25am and no later than 8:50am.
- 5) Provide a nutritious breakfast and two #2 Pencils daily.
- 6) In compliance with GaDOE policy, "students are not permitted to use or bring into the testing environment any electronic device that could allow students access to information (e.g., cell phone, electronic watches, PDA, electronic recording or playback device, etc.)." Please ensure your child place their cell phone in their lockers or leave them at home. **If a student carry a cell phone into the testing environment, the cell phone will be confiscated and returned only to a parent at the end of the testing cycle in May.**
- 7) Ensure your child is present and on time each morning. If possible, please avoid scheduling doctor/dentist appointments during the testing period or any checkout.
- 8) If an issue arises that may impact your child's performance, please contact a school counselor.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of testing please contact the school at 678-874-4202.

GA Milestones (continued from front page)

DeKalb County teachers have been working all year to ensure that students are prepared to take these new assessments. Preparations have included teaching students to answer more complex questions and to provide supporting evidence. GA Milestone Tutors worked with our students and many teachers held after school tutorial sessions through the year to support our students.

Below is the schedule for the administration of the EOG in the DeKalb County School District. It is imperative that students attend school each day and arrive on time so they will not miss any sections of this important assessment.

April 19	ELA Sections 1 & 2 (Online and Paper Pencil)
April 20	ELA Sections 1 & 2 (Online Only and Paper Pencil Make-ups)
April 21	ELA Section 3 (Online and Paper Pencil)
April 22	ELA Section 3 (Online Only and Paper Pencil Make-ups)
April 25	Mathematics Sections 1 & 2 (Online and Paper Pencil)
April 26	Mathematics Sections 1 & 2 (Online Only and Paper Pencil Make-ups)
April 27	Make-Up Day
April 28	Science Section 1 & 2 (Online and Paper Pencil)
April 29	Science Section 1 & 2 (Online Only and Paper Pencil Make-ups)
May 2	Social Studies Section 1 & 2 (Online and Paper Pencil)
May 3	Social Studies Section 1 & 2 (Online Only and Paper Pencil Make-ups)
May 4	Make-up Day



BOE 2nd Phase (cont'd)

Included in the Board's approval of the plan's second phase, are the following appointments to senior level positions: Jennifer Hackemeyer, currently General Counsel-Georgia Department of Education, to Chief Legal Officer, Office of Legal Affairs; Eileen Houston-Stewart, currently Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer for the Kansas City Public Schools, to Interim Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer, Office of Communications; Oliver Lewis, currently DeKalb Director, Professional Learning to Executive Director of Professional Learning, Leadership Development, and STEM Program, Division of Curriculum & Instruction; and Manomay Malathip, currently Director, Graduation and Post-secondary Research for the Kansas City Public Schools, to Interim Executive Director of Student Advancement, Division of Student Support & Intervention. Dr. Green invites you to read the 2015-2016 Central Office Reorganization (Phase 2) summary via this link, item F12: <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=4054&MID=48968>



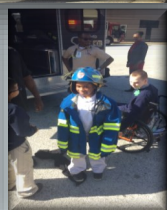
Congratulations!

CGMS CAREER DAY 2016

The CGMS Counseling Department hosted a very successful Career Day on March 17, 2016.

Representatives from every industry was present to educate and encourage our students on how to pursue a career that may interest them. Some representatives included CEO's from the entertainment industry, Government officials, Social Service Departments, TV/Film Industry, Cosmetologists, Realtor's, Sports Industry, Health Industry, and Entrepreneurs.

A huge thanks are in order to Ms. Pruitt, Ms. Crane, Mr. White, Mrs. King, Mrs. Weekes, and the awesome students who assisted that day of CGMS! THANK YOU!



Congratulations to Cedar Grove Middle School's new 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year Ms. Richanna Smith and Educational Support Professional of the Year Ms. Glynis Jones!!!!
We appreciate both of your hard work and dedication as an educator and professional !



Region 5 Family Engagement Center @ CGMS

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!!

CGMS Parent Engagement Center is now available for Parents In the Cedar Grove and McNair Clusters to use!

The family engagement center offerings include:

- Parent workshops
- Six computers with Internet Access
- Printing/Copies
- Rosetta Stone for Limited English Proficient Parents (NEW!)
- Parenting Brochures in English and Spanish!

Parent workshops include, but not limited to:

- Navigating GA Standards of excellence (GSE)
- College & Career Readiness Linked to learning
- School Transitions
- How to Monitor Your child's Progress (Infinite Campus)
- Help with homework
- "Appy Hour" : Using Technology to Enrich Learning at Home with web, mobile and software applications.

These Parent workshops provide educational resources to use at home to increase student success from K-12. Workshops are typically 60- 90 minutes, interactive and hands-on technology-based in a computer lab, if possible.



Region 5 Family Engagement Center
(serving Cedar Grove/McNair Clusters)

To Get More Information Contact:
Annette D. Ford, M. Ed
Family Engagement Facilitator
Email: Annette_Ford@dekalbschoolsga.org
Phone Number: 678-874-4248

Thank you to all of our absolutely amazing Administrative Assistants at Cedar Grove Middle!!!!
Ms. Campbell-Main Office
Ms. Jenkins- Discipline
Ms. Jones- Attendance
Mrs. Weekes- Registrar
Ms. Price- Bookkeeper
Mrs. King- Counseling



Zika Virus prevention from GA Department of Public Health Commissioner

In 2016 the Zika Virus epidemic has caused for immediate attention to travelers who destinations are throughout the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Pacific Islands, and Mexico. These countries have reported outbreaks of Zika virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued Zika travel notices with recommendations for travelers to these destinations. Because the Zika virus is primarily spread by mosquitoes, travelers to any destination with Zika outbreaks should protect themselves from mosquito bites. Please read the following guidelines from the GA Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald and the CDC as we enter the Summer Break to help protect you and from preventing the spread of Zika virus in Georgia.

"...As of this date, no locally transmitted Zika cases have been reported in Georgia or anywhere in the USA, but cases have been reported in returning travelers. Zika Virus is transmitted primarily through the bite of infected Aedes species mosquitoes, which can be found in Georgia. Sexual transmission of Zika has also be documented.

Pregnant women should not travel to areas where there is ongoing Zika virus transmission because of a link between Zika virus and bad birth defects. Studies are underway to determine if there is a connection between Zika virus infection and Guillain Barre' Syndrome (GBS) and other serious neurological disorders.

There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Zika. Travelers should check CDC travel advisories for their destinations and take precautions to protect themselves from mosquitoes:

- ◇ Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks
- ◇ Use EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), or IR3535 (during travel and for three weeks after returning home)
- ◇ Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear(such as boots, pants, socks, and tents)
- ◇ Stay and sleep in screened-in or air-conditioned rooms or sleep under a mosquito net

Upon returning home from travel to Zika-affected countries, individuals should continue to use EPA-registered insect repellents for three weeks and follow precautions to prevent additional mosquito bites. The mosquitoes that spread Zika bite mostly during the daytime and tend to live around homes. They breed in containers so removing anything that holds water or dumping out standing water around the home after it rains will help reduce the number of these mosquitoes.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or if I can provide additional help and guidance. For more information about Zika, log onto dph.georgia.gov/zika."

Georgia Department of Public Health

Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D. Commissioner and State Health Officer

Congratulations to CGMS Faculty and Staff on your contributions and certifications!

Congratulations to Ms. Jenkins
and Mrs. McArthur for
completing and earning their
CPR– First Aid– AED
Certifications! Way to Go!



Thanks to Mrs. Houser and Mrs. McArthur for representing CGMS and Participating in the Wings for Autism Initiative. Wings for Autism is a program designed to help families that have a member with other intellectual or developmental disabilities that are concerned about the ability of their family member to travel. Wings for Autism also gives airport, airline, Transportation Security Administration professionals and other personnel the opportunity to observe, interact and deliver their services in a structured, learning environment.





Relaxing is also a way to help you prepare for the testing season upon us!

Below, relax and complete the word search puzzle. The first 5 students who turn in their completed puzzle will win a prize! Good Luck and happy testing!



M	O	U	I	I	E	X	U	X	L	T	B	Q	F	O	I	T	G	Q	N
M	J	R	U	W	C	O	A	G	B	S	I	L	M	T	S	N	H	Z	F
C	L	P	S	S	I	M	F	L	G	E	D	R	V	E	I	Y	P	S	M
X	X	E	N	E	E	L	K	M	E	B	Z	L	R	T	I	D	N	H	Q
N	E	R	D	J	K	F	C	C	X	R	E	D	K	N	L	O	D	H	M
P	G	E	C	T	I	O	E	X	S	U	O	C	D	R	I	P	D	R	O
Y	W	S	H	E	E	C	H	I	E	O	A	N	Q	T	Y	V	I	E	K
K	F	A	N	I	H	U	C	E	G	Y	O	U	C	A	N	D	O	I	T
X	S	R	T	U	T	S	E	Q	D	Y	Q	A	E	C	Y	T	Y	Y	D
V	S	E	T	Q	A	Q	L	B	U	R	R	E	V	I	E	W	I	P	C
J	V	R	L	E	E	R	B	B	M	T	U	N	E	I	N	B	T	N	O
F	W	A	H	B	R	W	U	O	S	L	O	W	D	O	W	N	U	O	W
F	M	S	K	R	B	K	O	I	O	W	I	T	R	F	J	M	Z	P	B
X	E	E	E	D	X	U	D	O	N	'	T	P	A	N	I	C	K	E	L
M	D	W	M	V	O	E	B	E	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	D	C	E	E
L	I	E	I	B	R	M	U	L	X	P	U	C	E	R	B	Z	N	K	T
Y	I	L	T	O	K	X	B	H	L	R	Z	W	N	N	G	C	S	I	K
K	Q	L	N	P	W	D	H	D	B	U	A	I	T	F	C	T	V	N	C
J	E	G	O	O	D	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	R	I	Z	G	O
L	I	S	T	E	N	C	A	R	E	F	U	L	L	Y	I	W	L	Z	S

BEPREPARED
BEQUIET
BREATHE
DON'TPANIC
DOUBLECHECK
ERASER
ERASEWELL
FOCUS
FULLBUBBLES
GOODBREAKFAST
GOODREST
IGNOREDISTRAC-
TIONS
KLEENEX
LISTENCAREFULLY
NOPEEKING
NOSMUDGES
ONTIME
PENCIL
RELAX
REVIEW
SLOWDOWN
TRYYOURBEST
TUNEIN



Test Taking Tips for Parents




- ✓ Make sure that your child does all their homework and reading assignments, this will help make sure your child is prepared for the test. CGMS has diligently provided each student with study guides, USA Test Prep, Practice opportunities, etc.
- ✓ Encourage your child to space out their studying and homework assignments so that they won't be forced to cram on the night before the test.
- ✓ If you are anxious about your child's test, it's ok but try to keep cool around your child, you don't want them to get anxious about their tests.
- ✓ Encourage your child to do well but don't pressure him/her. You may stress him/her out. It is important for your child to stay relaxed for the test.
- ✓ Keep a positive attitude about tests.
- ✓ Provide a quiet, well lighted area with little distractions to help your child study efficiently.
- ✓ Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets enough sleep on the night before the test.
- ✓ Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and avoid heavy foods that may make him/her groggy and avoid high sugar foods that may make him/her hyper.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets up early enough so that he/she will be on time to school.
- ✓ Let your child relax for a few hours before bedtime, it can be stressful for a child to study all night.
- ✓ Talking about the test with your child can relieve stress about test taking.
- ✓ Praise/reward your child for their hard work preparing for a test.



April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					 2	
3			6		9	
10	11	12	13	14 <small>PTSA MEETING</small>	15	16
17	18	19 <small>GA Milestone ELA Sec 1&2</small>	20 <small>GA Milestone ELA Sec 1&2</small>	21 <small>GA Milestone ELA Sec 3</small>	22 <small>GA Milestone ELA Sec 3</small>	23
24	25 <small>GA Milestone Math Sec 1&2</small>	26 <small>GA Milestone Math Sec 1&2</small>	27 <small>GA Milestone Make- Up Day</small>	28 <small>GA Milestone Science Sec 1&2</small>	29 <small>GA Milestone Science Sec 1&2</small>	30

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <small>GA Milestone Social Studies Sec 1&2</small>	3 <small>GA Milestone Social Studies Sec 1&2</small>	4 <small>GA Milestone Make- Up Day</small>	5	6	7 <small>My Brothers Keeper 9am-3pm @ Miller Grove High</small>
8	9 <small>EOC for Math</small>	10 <small>8th Grade visit CGHS</small>	11 <small>8th Grade visits CGHS</small>	12	13	14
15	16	17 <small>Mentor Social</small>	18 <small>Award Ceremony @ 9am</small>	19	20 <small>Gala 6:30-9:30pm</small>	21
22	23	24	25		27 <small>Teacher Work Day</small>	28
29		31 				

SPECIAL THANKS!!!!

Ms. Priscilla Jenkins and The CGMS News Team Members

Administration and everyone who contributed at CGMS!!!!

Cedar Grove Middle School Newsletter is a bi-monthly bulletin showcasing our awesome staff, students, parents, school events, important changes and updates, and community information. If you have any events or information you would like to add please contact Ms. Jenkins at

Priscilla_Jenkins@dekalbschoolsga.org or 678-874-4220. On behalf of the CGMS Newsletter team we hope you enjoyed and please spread the word!