



CGMS SAINTS NEWSLETTER



CGMS Has a New Look

Parents and students are welcomed back to Cedar Grove Middle School with a new look! Cedar Grove Middle School (originally the Wildcats) has decided to become The Saints! CGMS has also adopted new school colors to include Blue, Yellow, and White. That's not all that's New ... Yes, school uniforms are mandatory for the 2014-2015 School year! The decision was voted on by parents of current students, PTA, and active individuals in the neighborhood to make CGMS a mandatory uniform wearing school this year. The uniform includes a polo style shirt in the colors blue, white, or yellow and pants should be khaki, black, or blue. Girls can wear skirts that come to their knees. Boys may wear shorts. All students should have black or brown soft bottom shoes. CGMS will be allowing a grace period for all students to obtain the appropriate uniform color and items for three weeks. If parents need extra time due to unforeseen circumstances or financial hardship, please contact CGMS Counseling Center for support services.

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- New School Club
- CGMS Homecoming Week

From the Desk of Dr. C. Alexander, Principal A Saint-Spirational Moment



Welcome Back! It is my pleasure to serve the Cedar Grove Middle community under the leadership of Region V Superintendent, Mrs. Rachel Zeigler. With your support, we made some gains last year; 15% increase in Writing, 3% increase in Reading, 1% increase in ELA, and 4% increase in Social Studies. Congratulations CGMS Family! We have been named a Reward School, the highest Progress School for the 2nd year in a row.

Parental involvement in the middle grades is just as important as it was in elementary school. We understand that middle school is a big step and a big change for both the students and parents. Our children are growing and changing, and you can see their focus shifting from families to friends. Being a parent becomes more complicated, and often more difficult as middle school students become more independent and socially active.

Now, more than ever, our children need our guidance, encouragement, and support through these changes. Yes, this promises to be a year of CHANGES (i.e. Infinite Campus, GA Milestone)... complete with growing pains. Many of you have embraced the changes, while others seem to struggle.

My charge to ALL is "Hang in there". It can be overwhelming...! get it. Please know that your efforts are appreciated and have NOT gone unnoticed. There is much to be done and it all starts with believing in ourselves and our abilities to help children. My Motto is simple, "If best is a possibility, then good is not an option."

With much love and respect,

~Dr. A.~

"The Georgia Milestones replaces the CRCT, EOCT, and Writing Assessment for grades 3-8 and High School."

From the desk of Ms. Wells

Hello Saints Family. Welcome to our 2014-2015 School Year. I look forward to working with you to empower our students through knowledge to be productive citizens. Students in 7th grade will only be administered the ITBS and CogAT during the month of October. CogAT results are used for program qualification for students that need SST, RTI or Exceptional Education. ITBS results are used for program qualification for magnet, high achievers, and gifted students. We look forward to every child demonstrating their mastery in both tests.



New Test in Georgia

The Georgia Milestones Assessment will begin during the 2014-2015 School Year. This test replaces the CRCT, EOCT, and Writing Assessment for grades 3-8 and high school students. It will include open-ended questions to evaluate better the students' concept mastery. Open-ended items (also known as constructed response) ask students to provide both short answer and extended types of responses. Multiple choice questions will not be included. The new assessments will enable educators to deepen their understanding of student's progress from one grade to the next and just as importantly, identify any gaps in progress so they can address them well before students enter college or the workforce. Examples of the Language Arts and Math portion are below.

The Language Arts portion will demonstrate the following:

- ◇ Whether students can read and comprehend contexts of varying complexities.
- ◇ How well students can use information from multiple sources to effectively summarize key points or make a persuasive argument.
- ◇ The degree to which students can use context to determine the meaning of academic vocabulary.

The Math portion will demonstrate the following:

- ◇ Whether students understand and can use important math ideas, including number sense, algebraic thinking, geometry, and data analysis.
- ◇ The extent to which students can use math facts and reasoning skill to solve real world problems.
- ◇ How well students can make mathematical arguments.

For more information about the Georgia Milestones please visit www.georgiastandards.org There will also be a workshop on Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 1-4pm. It will take place at the AIC Auditorium 1701 Mountain Industrial Blvd Stone Mountain, GA 30083. For additional information, please call: 678-676-0381



CGMS Saints Football

The CGMS football team's 2014-2015 season got off to a GREAT start with the assistance of Head Coach and 8th Grade Science Teacher, Rickey Wright. He is an advocate for after school activities whether it's sports or non-sport related. "...after school time is when most juveniles commit crimes and participate in risky behaviors. I'm a firm believer in after school activities whether its sports or academic because these programs have shown to improve academic achievement as well as athletic ability.", said Coach Wright. The Saints have a winning record of 2-0 so far in the season. Coach Wright and the coaching staff (Mr. Hinton and Mr. Latimer) feel really good about the first games. They are making sure the guys are prepared every game by executing plays in practice so it can be done with precision on game days. With this formula they have set a short term goal to win one game at a time. The long term goal is to win the DeKalb County Middle School Championship and face off with the Champion of Atlanta Public Schools on November 8, 2014. CGMS is rooting for our Saints Football team to go all the way to the Championship! GO SAINTS!!!

DATE	Opponent	Home/Away	Time	Stadium
8/23/14	Lithonia	Home	1:45pm	Hallford
8/30/14	Bethune	Home	10:00am	Panthersville
9/6/14	Freedom	Away	10:00am	Avondale
9/20/14	Columbia	Home	11:30am	Panthersville
9/27/14	Salem	Away	11:30am	Panthersville
10/4/14	McNair	Away	1:00pm	Panthersville
10/11/14	Chapel Hill	Home	1:00pm	Panthersville

From the desk of Dr. Shelton Bernard

Welcome back CGMS Saints for the 2014-2015 school year. I am Dr. Shelton Bernard 8th Grade Assistant Principal. I look forward to working with our new 8th graders in guiding them into a bright future through academics, positive social connections, and achievements. I urge the parents to become involved by participating in all events through sports with a strong emphasis on academics. Together we can make a difference in our children's future. I look forward to making the transition from middle school to high school a memorable and positive experience. Parents please remember to log onto our new Infinite Campus Parent Portal to receive updates on your child's progress.

Let's have a great year!

"Persistence and positive attitude are the necessary ingredients for any successful venture."

~L. Douglass Wilder~



From the desk of Mr. Wright

Welcome to CGMS 6th Grade Parents and Students. I am the 6th grade assistant principal Mr. Overton Wright. I look forward to guiding our new 6th graders into the next stage of their life, middle school. I'm sure this can be a confusing and apprehensive time transitioning from elementary school to middle school. Parents with your help we can make this transformation a success. Top three things to make this a successful year: 1) Join the PTA. 2) Log onto Infinite campus to view your child's academic assignments due and schedule. 3) Volunteer from time to time. By doing these top three actions I guarantee we can make your child's first year in middle school a success. I look forward to working with you and have a great year.

"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it." ~ Lou Holtz



From CGMS' Parent Liaison Ms. Dorcas Adams

Do you know that as a parent your relationship with your child's school faculty and staff is as vital as your relationship with your child? It is more than simply hearing from the teacher every once in a while or reviewing the weekly communicator the teacher sends home. Your child's administrative team should also know who you are along with the administrative assistants and even the custodial staff. All of these people impact the daily life of your child from checking their attendance all the way to making sure they have a clean place to learn. Knowing the staff and faculty of the school, teaches your child the importance of community. Being aware for the school community teaches your child the importance of roles and responsibility. Being aware of the school community also teaches your child that as a parent you have a place in the school. You should feel a sense of security when sending your child to school, but how

can you feel secure if you don't know the people in the school? There is a shocking difference in the demeanor of a child who has a parent that is involved in their academic career opposed to a child whose parent is not. Our children need validations. If we do not provide it for them, they will possibly look in the wrong places. When this happens trouble soon follows. Their grades slip and their attitudes change. They begin to identify more with peers who are not always positive influences, and they do all of this for one simple reason. They NEED the attention, reassurance, most importantly YOU! Your child's "acting out" is not a ploy for attention, it's natural instinct to want attention. If you haven't asked your child in a while about his/her day, take the time and ask before it's too late. Better yet, come to the school and find out for your self. You are always welcomed!

New School Club

This is the first year that Cedar Grove Middle School is offering its wonderful students a book club. There are no prerequisites. Students do not have to be strong readers. The only requirement is that the students come ready to eat and have lively discussion with their peers! The discussion will be centered on our featured novel. The Giver is the first novel which is also the Cedar Grove book of the month. The discussions will be facilitated by Ms. Nelson and Ms. Smith (the club sponsors). The meetings are held in room 602 on Wednesday mornings from 7:45 to 8:15. Every Wednesday, students participating in the club will enter the building through the front doors and check in with campus security and then proceed to room 602 (first room on the left on the first hall). The yearly dues are \$45 (cash/money order ONLY). Dues must be paid by December 14, 2014.

CGMS LUNCHROOM UPDATES

Free and Reduced Meals

Applications for free and reduced meals are distributed to students at the beginning of the school year. At all other times, applications are available from the school nutrition manager. In order for your child to continue to receive free and reduced meals, please have their form turned into the office by September 19, 2014. Failure to do so will result in your child having to pay full price for lunch. The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services Department has translated the state prototype Free and Reduced Price School Meal Family Application into 33 other languages. If you are unable to use this site in the provided languages (English and Spanish) please use the other languages link to download and print the application in your primary language. Submit the completed application to your local School Nutrition Manager or to the School Nutrition Scanning Office, 5855 Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain, GA.

CGMS Counseling Welcomes Mr. R. Colbert

“Greetings students, parents, and community members. Welcome to a new school year. I feel very honored to be the new Student Support Specialist at Cedar Grove Middle, and I am excited for the upcoming year. I myself am a product of DeKalb County School System. I received my Bachelor’s in Computer Science and my Master’s in Counseling and Educational Leadership from Clark Atlanta University. I love all sports and enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I am thrilled to be working with, and getting to know the students at Cedar Grove Middle this year. I will be working with students on their attendance, behavior problems, new careers, and post-high choices through classroom guidance. I will also provide opportunities for students to take part in small group or individual counseling. I am here as a tool to help students reach their potential working collaboratively with teachers, administrators, and other student support staff.” ~ Mr. Randy D. Colbert, CGMS Student Support Specialist

Mr. Colbert CGMS Administration, Faculty, and Staff welcomes you and we look forward to an awesome year with you here!



“View your child’s grades anytime, you don’t have to wait until their report card comes out..”

Infinite Campus

In the 2014-2015 school year DeKalb County has launched a new information system that will enhance teacher to parent communication and sustainability.

Infinite Campus is a new database system that will provide parents in real-time information about their child’s achievements as it is happening in the classroom.

The program consists of different tabs to view your child’s productivity. The tabs include: Daily planner tab to view the child’s schedule and assignments due; Assignments tab to view all assignments by specific class and due date; and Attendance tab to view events in summary and detail form. You can also view your child’s grades anytime, you don’t have to wait until their report card comes out.

To access the portal parents will need to get an activation code and create a username and password. Parents that have the previous parent portal information can use the same user ID and password for Infinite Campus. If the parent has forgotten their password, just visit <https://campus.dekalb.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/dekalb.jsp> and click on the DCSD portal account activation. From this

point the parent will be asked to enter the child’s seven digit school district’s student number (also known as the EIN number), the child’s nine digit social security number, and the child’s date of birth. Then click the submit button. Once logged into the portal, if a parent does not see all of their children then visit the main web page at www.dekalb.k12.ga.us and complete the form titled Combine Student Request Form. All students are automatically issued their own campus portal account within 24 hours of enrolling into DeKalb County School District. Parents and students should come to our CGMS Counseling Office for additional information.

For more convenience Infinite Campus is also available as an app on your mobile Android or Apple devices. Just download the app from your Google Play or App store. When the screen comes up for Infinite Campus, link up your phone to your “IC” account by entering DeKalb County’s code, FLZLHV. If you have any more questions or concerns a campus portal support line is available Monday-Friday from 8:30am-8:00pm at 678-676-1131.



CGMS Homecoming Week

CGMS Homecoming will be held October 6-10, 2014. Each day will have a theme filled with creativity and fun to celebrate. Please note each student must pay \$5 to participate in the homecoming events or \$1 for that day. *CGMS is a uniform mandatory school, if the student does not purchase a wristband to the corresponding day they will be sent to ISS.* Please note below the days and events:

SPECIAL THANKS!!!!

Ms. Priscilla Jenkins

Ms. Adams and Ms. Campbell

Administration and everyone who contributed @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 678-874-4220. On behalf of the CGMS Newsletter team we hope you enjoyed and please spread the word!

Day of the Week	Wristband Color	Spirit Day Theme
Monday	Yellow	Celebrity Day
Tuesday	Red	Tacky/Nerd Day
Wednesday	Silver	Blazers and Heels/ Homecoming Dance 4:30-6:30
Thursday	Gold	Sports Day
Friday	Blue	Spirit Day and Pep Rally

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY - School Closed-	2	3 School Picture Day	4	5	6 CGMS Football Game Away vs. Freedom
7	8	9 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	10	11 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	12	13
14	15 Progress Reports	16 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-7pm	17	18 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	19	20 GA Milestone Workshop from 1-4pm @ AIC Auditorium
21	22	23 First Day of Fall	24	25	26	27 CGMS Football Away vs. Salem
28	29	30 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30				

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	3	4 CGMS Football Game Away vs. McNair
5	6 CogAT Testing Homecoming Week	7 CogAT Testing Homecoming Week	8 CogAT Testing Homecoming Week	9 CogAT Testing Homecoming Week	10 CogAT Testing Homecoming Week	11 CGMS Football Game Home vs. Chapel Hill
12	13 Staff Development No School for students	14 ITBS Testing	15 ITBS Testing 8th Grade PSAT Testing	16 ITBS Testing Progress Reports Issued	17 ITBS Testing	18
19	20 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	21	22	23 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	24	25
26	27 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	28	29	30 Parent Portal Assistance Rm 303 8:10-9:30	31	

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