



JANUARY 2022

# MUSTANG MINUTES

CONCORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Dana Doggett, Principal**

**Mrs. Tracie Connelly, Assistant Principal**

Happy New Year 2022! Welcome back from what we hope was a restful and relaxing winter break. Please be advised that virtual learning will occur for all students from Wednesday, January 5 – Friday, January 14, 2022. All students must attend all virtual classes, and can begin logging into their classes at 8:10 AM.

We are midway through the second quarter of the 2021 - 2022 school year and will conclude the semester at the end of January. This time is approaching quickly, which is why we urge all parents to make sure their students. Parents, we need your assistance in making sure students are completing and submitting all assignments on time. Several students are submitting blank assignments, which results in negative grades. Please check in with your students each night to see what assignments are due. This will enable you to support your students with improving their grades. All students need to complete their homework assignments nightly along with completing their Reading and Math logs.

Finally, we urge all parents to check their child's grades in the School Max Family Portal once per week. If you do not have a family portal account, you can visit the county website to register. This will enable you to track their weekly grades. Lastly, please ensure that your contact information (phone number, address, email address, emergency contact information) is updated and shared with your child's teacher and the main office.

## Student Attendance

Concord's student attendance percentage for the month of December 2021 was 83.74%, which has decreased 4.86% from November. It is imperative that you child attend school daily and arrive on time. Our cumulative attendance for the school year is 88.90%.

## One Team, One Goal Rising to New Heights!



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, January 17**

No School

**Tuesday, January 18**

Students return to in person learning

**Wednesday, January 19**

Vaccination Clinic at Concord 3-7pm

**Friday, January 21**

3 hour early dismissal (11:25am)

**Wednesday, February 2**

End of second quarter

Our school newsletter will be available monthly on our school's website along with all information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (301) 817-0488 and/or at [Dana.Doggett@pgcps.org](mailto:Dana.Doggett@pgcps.org) and [Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org](mailto:Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org).

# PRE-K

This month of January, the students will continue learning how structures and tools work and how to make or do things. Children explore the form and function of objects through observations, simple experiments, games, and activities. They will have more opportunities to investigate how form affects function by exploring the way animals move. They have chances to count both forward and backward and to count from a number other than one. They also focus on how things move and travel.

- Reading – Initial Sound of Letters (focus letters) and Medial and Ending Sounds for Recognition of Rhyming Words, Concepts of Print and Parts of the Book, Letter Formation and Creating the Letters Using Different Materials, Syllabication
- Math – Counting Forward and Backward, Subitizing, Counting from A Number other than One, Identifying Patterns, Duplicating and Extending Patterns, Using Simple addition and Subtraction while building things and Grouping/Sorting and Comparing 2-D and 3-D Shapes

## Other Important Information

- All students are encouraged to attend their virtual classes from January 3 to January 14, 2022.
- All students complete their independent practice activities, small group and class projects and write in their Language and Math Journals everyday (in the classroom and at home)
- ClassDojo is used as the pre-k class platform for updates, reminders, announcements and daily rewards/points for students' performance during large/small group times and daily routine activities
- Friday is Show and Tell Day for the focus letters and unit-based family projects

# KINDERGARTEN

In Kindergarten, we have been learning about rules. We are learning that we have rules in school and at home. In math, we have learned how to add. We can use various tools to add such as a 5 frame, 10 frame, number bond, pictures and our fingers. Parents, please make sure your child has their materials nearby when we are on live lessons. Materials may include journals, crayons and pencils. Precious time is lost when students are not prepared for lessons. Also, please be sure to submit weekly assignments when they are due. Assignment due dates can be located in the Google Classroom. Lastly, please make sure your scholar is using iRead and Dreambox weekly.

# 1ST GRADE

As we begin the new year, our students will continue to learn the foundational skills with the focus on blending and segmenting phonemes. S-blends, contractions, features of a sentence, text features to locate key facts, personal and possessive pronouns are introduced in Reading.

In Math, they will use different strategies to solve subtraction problems such as counting back, decomposing to ten and writing equal expressions. They will also explore length and time measurements. In Science, they will plan and investigate the relationship of vibrations and sound using materials and gather evidence of how sound and vibration are related. In Social Studies, they will explain how technologies and communities shape people's lives and affect the way people live. In health, they will develop respect for people who have speaking and hearing problems as well as discover the value of good communication skills.

We encourage all students to use I-Ready Math and Reading on weekends for 15 minutes. This will prepare them for the next assessments. Continue to read for 20 minutes every day and to practice addition and subtraction Math facts. Keep up the great work!

# 2ND GRADE

Second grade is a blast so far! We are learning about exploring the world around us. In reading, reading both informational texts and fiction stories to learn about exploring the world around us. We will continue to learn digraphs, blends, long vowel spelling patterns, and different spelling patterns in our spelling words. In class, we are reading the "Blend it" books in the curriculum to practice reading blends and words in small group instruction and in centers. We will continue to work on blending, decoding, and working with prefixes/suffixes and inflectional endings. The students are doing a great job with segmenting words and breaking words into their syllables! In Math, begin subtraction within 100. We will learn different vocabulary to help us solve word problems and equations. In Science, students will learn about changes to land and water on Earth. Please make sure your child is reading for at least 20 minutes each and every night. During virtual learning, any homework will be found under "Classwork" in the Google Classroom. When we return to school for in-person instruction, homework will be sent home as normal. Please ensure you are sending your student to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger each day!

## 3RD GRADE

In Reading and Language Arts, students will learn about Module 9 and continue to identify the Author's Point of View (RL3.6) and describe character actions, motivations, and feelings (RL3.3). Ongoing language skills may include regular and plural nouns, commas in address or a series, and using conjunctions to prevent run-on sentences. In social studies, students will explore the theme Celebrating Diversity and Traditions as it relates to how technology impacted people's lives long ago in comparison to today. Students will respond to the Document Based Question about Transportation and Communication. In Math our third graders will continue to spend a lot of time with multiplication and division strategies within 100. In Science students will also learn about force and its interactions. In Health students will learn about how to address attitudes, values, and goals, personal choices and responsibilities, and refusal skills for risky situations.

## 4TH GRADE

In Reading, we will be reading text with the purpose of understanding. Additionally, we will learn about Marvels of Nature and explore the different wonders of the world such as Niagara Falls, Mariana Trench, Wondrous Rocks and Nature's Wonder. Also, students will have the opportunity to practice comprehension skills by reading informational text. In writing, students will learn about different types of correspondence and how to write a formal letter. In Social Studies, students will read text and answer questions about the culture of Native Americans in Maryland and the impact of the American Revolution. In the next unit for Social Studies, students will learn "all things Geography" and how it affects the way we live.

For Math, we will continue our work with understanding and comparing decimals and fractions. For Science, we are identifying evidence from patterns in rock formations to explain the changes in landscape over time.

For Health, we will identify things that can hurt your body, using critical thinking skills to keep your body safe. It is important for students to log on to the zoom during virtual learning so they aren't missing instruction.

## 5TH GRADE

For the month of January, Math focuses on multiplication of decimals by whole numbers and by decimals and division of decimals by whole numbers and by decimals. Keep on practicing your basic multiplication facts Scholars. In Science, we will start with Physical Science, specifically Matter and its interaction.

In reading, Students will be working on fantasy stories featuring characters and events that are not real. Fantasy stories will tell a story through the plot-main events of the story. As the students read the text they will pay attention to how characters react to one another and to real events. The students will also pay attention to the text features and illustrations.

In writing, Students will write a journal entry after reading the text. The student's journal entries will describe and illustrate mysterious flying creatures. They will write a journal entry telling what happens when you look for the flying creatures. What do you see? How do you feel about your experiences?

In social studies, Students will learn why do people explore? They will learn how technology shapes exploration, how explorers explore Spain, and they will learn about the Columbian Exchange.

## 6TH GRADE

In January, we will then continue Unit 2: Algebraic Expressions and Equations. Students will solve equations using one step and a variable. Additionally, students will solve problems using inequalities.

Please be sure to continue practicing math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) each night with your student.

To close out Quarter Two, our RELA students will write an essay that compares and contrasts how different authors use the same theme to tell coming-of-age stories. Our final Social Studies assignment will be a research paper, presentation, or video. Each student will select an indigenous group and detail their geographic region, culture, and influence on modern society.



**Please ensure you are sending your student to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger each day!**

# HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

**From Nurse Jackson**

As we all move forward trying to live with the Covid-19 virus and the variants of the virus, we must continue to wear our masks, sanitize our hands, socially distance when in a crowded area, get vaccinated and get tested after known exposure to the virus. Also, if you have been exposed to anyone that tested positive for Covid-19, you must quarantine until you get your results back. If you have been fully vaccinated, you do not need to quarantine if you test negative. If you test positive, then you must isolate yourself from anyone that isn't positive.

## **What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

## **Where can I go to get tested or get a Covid-19 vaccine?**

[Symptoms Testing | Coronavirus - Maryland Department of Health](#)  
[Vaccines for COVID-19 | CDC](#)

If you get vaccinated please bring your documentation into school. Any student with a completed Covid-19 vaccine card will get 5 Mustang dollars from Nurse Jackson.

On January 19th, 2022 Concord Elementary School will be hosting a second Covid-19 vaccine clinic at our school for anyone wanting to be vaccinated from 3:00pm-7:00pm. Walk-ins are welcome as well as adults needing a booster or first shot. Let's all get together to beat this by getting as many in our community vaccinated as possible so we can safely return to in person learning for good. Nurse Jackson and Dr. Doggett will be cheering all our students on at school on January 19th.

Some more important links:

<https://www.pgcps.org/coronavirus/resources/quarantine-and-testing/quarantine-and-testing-details>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/health/soap-coronavirus-handwashing-germs.html>



# TIPS FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING

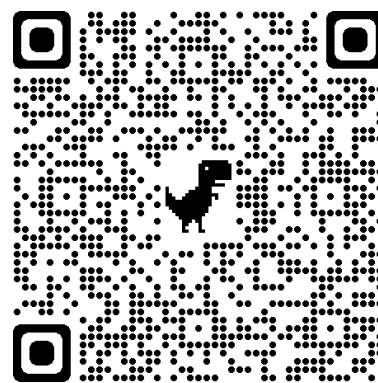
**From Sonia Bobis**

Parents can help their children with disabilities transition back to virtual learning successfully. For the young children with disabilities, parents may connect with the child's teacher virtually. They may engage in greet and talk about some interesting things the child did during the break. Allow the child to share with the teacher the fun things she did. The following tips will create consistency and structure that will help students succeed.

- Parents may ask their children with disabilities to have their notebooks, books, and pencils ready on their study areas.
- They can charge their chromebooks on Sunday to have them ready for virtual class.
- Have a preprinted copy of their class schedule and post it close to their study area.
- Have consistent rules in place.
- Make Sunday evening a NO TV Night and an early bed time will surely keep the students ready for class.

A+

**Remember to check SchoolMax weekly to get an updated account of your student's grades.**



SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO SEE NURSE  
JACKSON'S VIRTUAL  
HEALTH ROOM



## ART



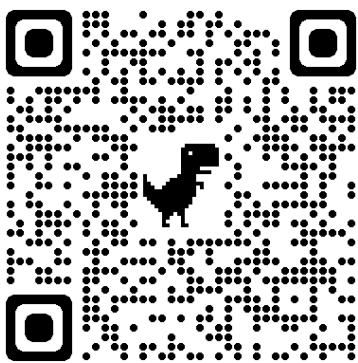
Happy New Year! As we are virtual learning for these first two weeks, students will be creating new projects at home and will finish any in-progress work when we return to the classroom. Students will be expected to turn in any virtual art work online, and there are tutorial videos posted in google classroom for tech support should you need the help! Students will not need to bring any art materials or artwork back to school with them when we return to in person learning, but while we are learning at home, please make sure students have at least pencil and paper with them wherever they are joining class from that day so they can participate. Suggested materials will always be posted the morning of class with the zoom link in the specials google classroom stream.

## PE



During the first two weeks of January, students in all grades will participate in activities that require them to work cooperatively with one another to achieve a certain goal. During the last two weeks of January, all students will participate in a variety of dances from different cultures. These dances will include the use of previously learned locomotor skills, rhythm, and patterns.

## MEDIA



CHECK OUT THE  
PGCPs VIRTUAL  
LIBRARY  
BROCHURE

## MUSIC



This month in music our primary students will be learning about melodies and pitch. We will be talking about high and low pitches and how a series of pitches make up a melody. Students will learn about the staff and the treble clef and how to read the pitches on the staff. We will also discuss melodic contour and determine if the pitches are ascending or descending.

Our Intermediate students will be heading into our unit on triple meter rhythms. We will also be composing with the rhythms we have learned. We are also reviewing and practicing with our melodic pitches do, re, mi, so and la.

## GUIDANCE



We are focusing on the character trait fairness... in Guidance this month.

Fairness is the act of giving people what they need in an effort to treat all people equally and with respect. How can you show fairness? You can show fairness if you...

- take turns regularly when playing with other children
- share toys when playing with other children.
- listen to another person's point of view.
- accept consequences of your behavior
- tell the truth

Happy  
New  
Year