Cheetah Family News
2019-2020 School Year

Dear Parents:

Can you believe it is already Labor Day weekend? Our students have quickly settled back into the school routine and we are looking forward to partnering with them as they discover, create, and collaborate in their quest for knowledge.
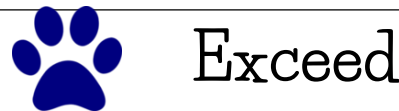
We have implemented several new pilot programs this year align with our school vision:
All students will learn in an environment that fosters curiosity and creativity, promotes individual learning styles, and entices students to seek knowledge and solve problems.

- First, we have restructured our library into a *Learning Commons* area which will serve as the learning hub of the school. The spirit of the Learning Commons is to develop a space specifically designed to inspire creativity, foster curiosity, and prioritize collaboration among students and teachers. Our goal is to provide a collaborative physical and virtual environment that invites and ignites participatory learning by:
    - Promoting interdisciplinary real-world problems, projects, and learning experiences that take advantage of rich information, resources and useful technology tools.
    - Using technology to boost teaching and learning together.
    - Creating cultural experiences across the school, community, and the world.
    - Fostering creativity, innovation, play, building, and experimentation.
    - Providing space/materials for students to learn the coding component of the new elementary computer science standards
- The physical components of the Learning Commons Environment include:
    - Flexible seating on the carpet or hub area where students have an area to work with materials and/or a laptop.
    - Sharing space where students can research, share ideas, work in pairs or small groups on class or individual projects.
    - Individual Zone- comfortable seating, soft, quiet places for students to read on their own, work on individual research, reading, or creative design.
    - STEM space to build, design, experiment and create.
- Our next new initiative is the extension of our *STEM Lab*. We received a $5,000 grant from the TN DOE to support student academic enrichment. This funding has enabled us to expand our current program by purchasing a Google Virtual Reality Expedition Kit, K'Nex kits, and materials and software for our green screen. Students will have the opportunity to enhance their critical thinking skills and creativity by utilizing technology through design challenges and science, math and engineering lessons. Students will strategically learn to define a problem, research, brainstorm, build a prototype, redesign and evaluate. Our school will implement 4 school-wide STEM Fair days this year to experiment with this equipment and work collaboratively on STEM challenges.

We have an exciting year ahead of engaging, hands-on participatory learning. Please feel free to visit our new Learning Commons area and STEM Lab when you are in the building. Thank you for your continued support of our school community. Have a wonderful 3-day weekend.

     - Dr. Garrett

Believe   Achieve   Exceed

IMPORTANT DATES

September 2nd: Labor Day-No School
September 9th- Tier 3 Badges 4:00-6:30
September 13th-19th- Book Fair
September 12th- Picture Day
September 17th- PTO Spirit Night at Culver's
September 18th- Family Literacy Night from 6-7:30
September 26th- Girl Scout Parent Meeting at 6:00

HELLO! SEPTEMBER

PTO

- All **Room Parents** will be meeting on Friday, September 6th at 9:00 in the cafeteria to get organized for the school year!
- Keep those **box tops** coming! This is an easy way to earn money for our school!
- Thank you for your support at our first **Spirit Night** at Red Robin! Mark your calendar for September 17th and join us at Culver's!
- **Tier 3 volunteers** can come to school from 4:00-6:30 on September 9th to get their badges made!
- Our **Spirit Shop** is still open! Shop our new **spirit wear** using the following link: http://chapmansretreatpto.3dcartst ores.com/NEW-Spirit-Wear-20192020_c_23.html

Be smart on the internet

Have you discussed online safety as a family? Keeping our kids safe is one of the hardest and most important aspects of being a parent or guardian. However, finding new ways to open the conversational doors can be difficult. Have your child login to their WCS student dashboard, select the *Be Internet Awesome* Google app, and begin the adventure! *Be Internet Awesome* explores different lands of online safety and is a wonderful conversation starter!

Art Room News

Students are busy in the art room these days.

- Kindergarten is busy learning their way around the art room and procedures while creating paper sculptures. We will continue to learn about the Element of Art: Lines in painting and clay.
- First Grade is learning about Eric Carle and his wonderful collages. The Frist Center for Visual Art will be hosting "A Celebration of 50 years of The Very Hungry Caterpillar" with a show of Eric Carle's work from October 18th to February 23rd.
- Second and Third Grades are exploring the Principle of Design, proportion in creating self-portraits.
- Fourth Grade is practicing creating the Element of Art, Color Value in drawing and will be moving to painting next week.
- Fifth Graders are creating self portraits using different art media in each quarter of the composition.

Art Room Needs:

- I need magazines for collages and extra LEGOS. In keeping with the emphasis on STEM, I am creating extra project boxes that students can experiment with after they complete their assignment. One of those is a Lego design challenge.

Other Information:

- Information about Artsonia will be coming soon.
- While we are careful and wear smocks, accidents can still happen. Please be aware of your child's art day and make sure they are wearing play cloths. (Most) everything we use is washable but there can still be some colors of paint that are harder to get out than others. Should your child get something on their clothing it is best to pretreat the area and wash right away.

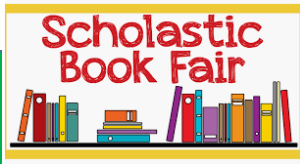Thank you so much for all your support!

CRES Chorus Information

All 4th and 5th graders have the opportunity to join CRES chorus! We will have our first rehearsal on Thursday, September 5th @7:30 am in the music room. If your child has turned in the chorus form, look for an email from Miss. Webb Friday evening with more details about arrival. If you think your child has turned in the form but you do not see an email, please contact kendall.webb@wcs.edu so you don't miss out on any email communications! Lastly, it's not too late to join! If you have a 4th or 5th grader that is interested in joining us, don't hesitate to contact me. I'm looking forward to a wonderful new school year!

This Week's Technology Tip

Want to encourage coding skills? Looking for new a game for your child? Try the Beebot app! We use beebots in the Learning Commons to teach students computational thinking and pre-coding skills. The app is a great way to extend that learning at home and it's free! Bee-Bot by TTS Group

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bee-bot/id500131639

The CRES Book Fair is coming soon!

Our Scholastic Arctic Adventure Bookfair will kick off with a student preview day on Thursday the 12th! Then teachers will be able to sign up for a shopping time on our Grand Opening, Friday the 13th. Students can shop during their Library Related Arts time the following week.

We will be using the money raised to buy exciting new titles for the library, inviting comfy furniture, and new technology! Help us reach our goal of 1,500 books sold!

Be on the look out for a book fair flyer! Prices in the flyer/catalog do not include tax. Attached to it will be instructions on how to load money onto your child's "eWallet." Using "eWallet" is an easy way to give your child money for the book fair and the money won't get lost! You no longer have to worry about getting your change back! If your child doesn't use all the money you loaded into the wallet the funds will be returned to you electronically. We will also accept cash and check.

We look forward to seeing you!

Family Literacy Night will be on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:00! Flyers with more information will come home soon!

Cheetah Coalition is up and running. Three times a week approximately 163 students meet before school. Their challenge is to see how many laps they can jog in 35 minutes. This is all in preparation for the "Celebration Run," aka the Grey Ghost. A big THANK YOU to many volunteers that show up to make this possible.

Cheetah Coalition Quick Facts:
Daily avg. miles completed 1.48
Total miles completed   1,223
Grade with the most miles completed   Fourth with 335 miles
Most miles completed by a boy   18.62
Most miles completed by a girl   9.38

As many of you know, we encourage our entire school to run the **Grey Ghost** 1K($10) or 5K($30). We have won the most participation award for the last 4 years and are hoping to keep our streak going. For every student that signs up, our school receives $10 of their race fee. This money goes straight to the PE dept. In years past, we have been able to buy awesome new equipment for your students!!

This year's race is **October 5th**! Unlike last year, we are unable to collect registrations and race fees at the school. We did this to give our families the ability to avoid the online fee of $3 (per runner). You are still able to mail in your registration to avoid the online fee.

GREY GHOST **5K**

SIGN UP

We want a five-peat!!!

Online Meal Payment Information

MY SCHOOL BUCKS

My School Bucks is a website for parents to pay for their child's school meals using a credit or debit card. With this online service, parents can also view a child's cafeteria purchases, make payments for their children even if they attend different schools, and set up automatic email reminders to be notified when a payment is needed. The online meal payment link can be found under "Quick Links" on our CRES website, or though the WCS app. For more information, visit https://www.wcs.edu/district/departments/food/meal-payments/

Does your child ride the bus?

Please consider creating an account with the bus tracking app, Safe Stop. Information is found on the Transportation webpage.
https://www.wcs.edu/district/departments/transportation/bus-routes/

InFocus

Subscribe today to receive InFocus, Williamson County Schools weekly e-newsletter. Complete with videos, articles and photos galleries, InFocus is your main source for Williamson County Schools information. Just go to https://www.wcs.edu/infocus/subscribe/ to sign up.

WCS Joins Instagram!

Follow us at @wcsnews

Hello, Instagram!

Share the news! Williamson County Schools is now on Instagram. Follow @wcsnews for the latest school info!

WCS wants to keep you informed!

You can find Williamson County Schools TN in the app store.

Download the free WCS Mobile App and stay up-to-date with your child's school.

The app includes access to school calendars and lunch menus to student grades and attendance reports. Users may also use the staff directory to find employee information and a Tip Line to share information with the district about issues ranging from bullying to school threats.

To download the app, visit the App Store or Google Play and search for "Williamson County Schools TN."

REMINDER

Please do not park in the fire lane in the front of the building, especially from 8:45-9:00 and 2:30-3:15, as it is used for pre-k arrival and dismissal. There are plenty of parking spots available during the school day.

Also, SACC parents, please pull to a parking spot in the back of the building if students are still loading/unloading in the bus loop.