

May/June Parent Newsletter

CHESAPEAKE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL
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Principal's Corner

Robert Frost once said, "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." A teacher's job is to tackle the pleasures and perils of rousing knowledge inside and outside of the classroom. Students will recognize and remember what teachers have taught them throughout their lives. These lessons are about the subject, yes. But they are also about life lessons too.

Teachers only spend a portion of their work hours in the classroom. They spend a great amount of their personal time researching activities, creating projects and plans, grading, contacting parents, and many other activities. Teachers spend their own money purchasing things that are just not in the school budget. Yet, they do all these things willingly and selflessly because they care. They care about all of their students.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1 through 5. Take a few moments, either during this week or anytime in the days to come, to encourage your child to write a note to their teacher, to think about what they have learned from them, and to thank them for all their hard work and efforts.

Dr. Penny Schultz, Principal

Office Notes:

SOL Tests: In mid-May, the Reading SOL's are taken by the 7th, 8th and 9th graders. It is VERY important (more than ever) for students to be present in school. Please ensure your student attends school daily and is well rested. Try to schedule appointments for after school, or on non-SOL test days.

Farm Fresh:

Each time you shop at Farm Fresh you can earn money for our school. Please see Ms. Stedman in the office for your Farm Fresh 1.2.3.4 swipe cards and use them every time you shop.

Supplies:

It's close to the end of the year, and many supplies are low. Kids may need new binders, loose leaf paper, and pens/pencils. Teachers are getting low too and are accepting the following donations:

Tissue boxes
Hand sanitizer

Glue Sticks
White Board Markers



Reading and English

The end of the year is quickly approaching which means the SOL tests are right around the corner. Parents, you can help us prepare your child for the Grade 7 & 8 Reading SOL. Encourage your child to read in their spare time instead of playing video games or hanging outside. Students can log on to

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/released_tests/index.shtml and complete released tests. Students can then use the answer key at the end of the test to check their answers. Most importantly, please be aware of the test dates and make sure that your child gets a good night's sleep and eats breakfast the day of the test. Thanks for all you do to support our efforts!

D. Deloatch, *Reading Specialist*; E. Lewis, M. Moyer, *English*



Math

Here is a great website for tips on how to fend off math anxiety.

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/24/well/family/fending-off-math-anxiety.html?ref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FMathematics&action=click&contentCollection=science®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=collection&r=0

J. Kesner, G. Kirk -*Math*



History

7th Grade: In U.S. History I, we have studied much of the History of the United States before the Civil War, but as we go into our final stretch, we will be concentrating our efforts on the buildup to the War & the Civil War itself. We are currently looking at the Reform movements of the 19th Century (Abolitionists & Suffrage Movements) and later will look at the economic, cultural & political differences between North & South that led up to the Civil War. There are many documentaries and movies about this period; please allow your child to watch them as necessary so they may have a better understanding of a pivotal part of American History (Netflix, YouTube, History.com, Discovery channel, discovery.com).

8th Grade: We've just completed writing book reports about the Holocaust in Europe. We will be investigating the Cold War (Korean War, McCarthyism) and the new American prosperity, the beginning of the GI Bill, the rise of Suburbs and the baby boom of the 1950s. We will then discuss the Vietnam War & the effects it had on American society.

9th Grade: We will be studying Europe's late medieval & renaissance periods (the invention of the printing press, voyages of discovery, the different trade routes for eastern goods in Europe & motivations for westward exploration). We will also begin reviewing in earnest for the fast approaching SOL exam & the post exam projects of discovery.

L. Tsimba, S. Zegarelli, *History*

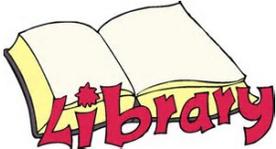


Science

7th Grade: Seventh grade science is currently completing their unit of ecology. Students are examining and analyzing the common processes and components of ecosystems and energy flow from the sun to decomposer. Students are expected to maintain all notes and materials as they approach the end of year assessment.

8th Grade: Eighth grade science is completing their unit on electricity and magnetism. In addition, SOL review will begin in mid-May. Students will be exposed to review items and activities for the three middle school years in preparation for the SOL test to be given at the end of May.

J. Doss, H. Seigle - *Science*



Library News

We've begun our ALA sponsored book club, and 10 students are meeting with Ms. DeCamillis and Ms. Shields during lunch to read the book ***Thirteen Reasons Why*** by Jay Asher. The fact that the book has now been made into a Netflix series has appeared to increase the students' desire to participate in the club. We've had some good discussions so far and the students are enjoying the experience.

M. DeCamillis - *Librarian*



Special Education

What makes special education programs succeed?

The main ingredient for successful special education programs is the same as education for non-disabled children—parent participation. Only an effective home/school partnership can enable a child, with or without disabilities, to develop his or her education potential.

How can parents help?

Parents can help ensure school success for a child with a disability by communicating regularly with the teacher about the child's progress, by supporting the school's efforts, by helping with homework, and by encouraging good habits and behavior at home. Family participation in school activities enables special education students to feel that they are members of the school community.

Perhaps the most important thing for parents and educators to remember is that the focus on special education in schools today is on children's *abilities*, and not on their *disabilities*.

For more information:

Web links:

US Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services:
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html> and www.thelearningcommunity.us

H. Lucart, J. Walski - *Special Education*



Technology

This school year is flying by and final SOL testing is right around the corner. Students and teachers have been working very hard to prepare for this test all year long. It is crucial that every student does his/her very best to pass the SOL tests since the scores will go on each student's record; in addition, student scores determine accreditation of his/her home school.

It is greatly appreciated if you, the parents, help your children prepare for these important tests. One way to achieve this is to have your children practice taking tests online. Below are resources that your children can access at all times, at no cost, in order to familiarize themselves with the SOL tests

that they will be taking. Students can review released tests and other practice tests in order to become more prepared.

1. http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/released_tests/index.shtml
2. http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/practice_items/testnav8/writing/gr8_writing_tool.pdf
3. <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
4. <http://education.ilab.org/solquiz/>
5. <http://www.problem-attic.com/account/documents/wddAsHM3BUO0lz7rdau0/nodes/2182>

Let's all work together to see your children soar to their best potential!

N. Bichara - Technology Integration Specialist



Recognition Programs

All students are eligible for daily recognition with our MVP awards program. Each day, all students who have earned an MVP award are recognized.

Each month, one student will be chosen as the student of the month. Scorecards, behavior, and attendance will all factor into the decision.

Perfect Attendance Breakfasts are held every other month. Parents are invited to join in this celebration.

Periodically, students will have the opportunity to win a new bicycle, which were donated by the Chesapeake Police Department. Students will have the opportunity to win one of the bicycles by participating in various contests such as essay writing or meeting certain goals such as perfect attendance, etc...

Students who have made it to the All-Star and Coach level receive special privileges such as being able to move about the building without an escort. They also earn the opportunity to participate in various social times in the cafeteria and the media center as well as assemblies and recognition events.



Behavior Team

- *When a student reaches the coach level, they are permitted to wear solid black shirts.
- *Make sure to sign the bottom portion of your child's scorecard each night. This helps students keep their daily percentages up.
- *Also, please check every day to see if your child has homework.

Quote of the Month

"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

May 15 – End of grading period (9-12) and progress report time (7/8)

May 29 – Memorial Day Holiday

Jun 13-15 – Exams (if appropriate)

Jun 15 – End of grading period; early release day; last day of school