



Fort Report

Mrs. Pearson, Principal

October, 2018



Hello GFB

Families! This communication is officially called "The Fort Report." It is one of the ways I inform our school community about matters that are important to students and their families. While it typically doesn't include information that is classroom specific, it is a great source for learning about activities and programs that are relevant to our school community.

The students have transitioned into the school year smoothly and with the help of their teachers have quickly established predictable routines. Parents/guardians however are continuing to transition and acclimate to new start/dismissal times. Please believe that timely arrival to school is likely the most important part of getting your child's school day off to a good start. Upon arrival all students begin their day with their entire grade level in the gym. This time invites social connections to be made and information specific to each day to be communicated thus it matters!

Much of September is spent identifying the skills and needs of our students. Depending on the subject matter teachers might use a formal instrument, informal instrument or observation to learn what skill set each child brings into the new school year. These instruments (frequently called assessments) provide

information about your child's depth of understanding, rate of learning and helps us to both plan and measure the effectiveness of our instruction.

As we respond to changes coming from DESE and continue to escalate our expectations of students we have made several changes in our approach to teaching and assessing. Here are a few examples you can look for this year. Science is the exclusive focus of Ms. Millerick's class (formerly known as "academic support") and this content is reinforced twice weekly in all classrooms. A project-based approach to teaching science is being used in all grade levels which affords students instruction that is bolstered by hands on/interactive experiences. The science lessons and assessments are the work product of our teachers and as such this content is one in which we are heavily invested and will continue to expand. First and second grade students have been introduced to I-Ready, a technology-based tool that personalizes student learning, teases out areas of strengths/weakness and provides authentic and ongoing assessment of student learning and growth. In the coming months, families will receive information to help students engage with I-Ready at home much like we do with Lexia.

Report cards have been significantly revised this year to reflect changes in standards as well as changes in our approach to teaching.

Also, noticeable will be the addition of grading in writing and science and a more defined and specific breakdown of skills within all of our content areas. And finally, the language used in evaluating students' academic performance and approaches to learning is more specific to each area and therefore more informative. We have received lots of feedback over the years about our report cards and it was clear that the tool fell short of providing families with specific information that they can use to support our efforts in improving student learning. I am optimistic that you will be pleased with this new reporting tool and find it useful.

October is the time when parent conferences begin. Each teacher has the flexibility to determine his/her own schedule for parent conferences so please be sure to contact your teacher directly if you are hoping to schedule a conference time. And if possible please plan to arrange for childcare during your conference time so you can speak candidly with your child's teacher and maximize your meeting. Families are reminded that time provides for only one conference per family so please be sure to consider this when scheduling.

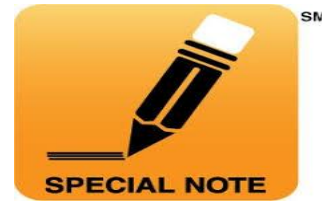
Fun at the Fort is a one hour after school enrichment program that offers a menu of classes your child is sure to enjoy. Our fall session will begin in October. Please check your child's backpack at the beginning of October for specific information on this very popular, first come/first enrolled opportunity.

Wishing you a happy and fun filled fall!

Your Partner in Education...



- 10/8: NO SCHOOL/Columbus Day Observed
- 10/12: EARLY RELEASE/Parent Conferences
- 10/19: EARLY RELEASE/Parent Conferences
- 10/19: SPOOKY DANCE 6:00-8:00 PM
- 10/26: EARLY RELEASE/Parent Conferences



SPECIAL NOTES

Early Release Times

- Grade 2 11:15
- Grade 1/Kindergarten 11:45
- PK-full day 11:15
- PK-half day NOTE: PM PK (only) is cancelled on 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 10/31, 11/21, 12/5
- PK-half day NOTE: AM PK (only) is cancelled on 12/21, 3/6, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5, 5/8

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