

Carver Road Middle Newsletter

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November 2018

Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

Students need social studies to make sense of the ever-changing world around them. Subject areas such as history, geography and economics are all areas of social studies that help our students make sense of how people live and the events that shape our lives. Please read this month's newsletter to find tips and websites to help you and your students at home.

As always, please feel free to contact us any time if you need support or information on how to improve your child's academic performance in school. You can reach us at jada.ingram@gscs.org or rebecca.murray@gscs.org.

Estimados padres:

Este es un documento importante de la escuela de su hijo. Si ustedes necesitan que traduzcamos esta información, por favor, llamen a Lisa Bates al 770-229-3710 ext.10327.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR-IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

- 11/15 Continuing To Take Flight Parent Workshop
8:00 – 8:30 am in Media Center
11:30 – 12:45 am in Media Center
4:00 – 5:00 pm in Media Center
- 11/26 2nd Nine Weeks Progress Report Sent Home

Academic Tips and Websites

<http://congressforkids.net/index.htm>

Interactive website to extend the learning in basics about American federal government

<http://mrnussbaum.com/>

Geography and history interactive games that integrate comprehension practice with social studies

<https://www.icivics.org/>

Interactive website in meaningful civic learning

http://www.uen.org/7-12interactives/social_studies.shtml

Grades 7-12 interactive social studies games

In November, we will hold the Helping Parent Take Flight parent workshop. We will discuss how to use literacy to help meet the school goals listed in the School-Parent Compact, how to make literacy relevant to your child, literacy strategies to help your child, fall parent survey results, ways parents can be engaged, how to monitor children's progress and how to work with educators to improve student performance. Parents will be given an opportunity to give input on the use of parent engagement funds and staff training topics.

We will partner with Southern Crescent Technical College to provide resources to families.

If you can't attend the workshop but would like the information presented, you may watch a video clip at

<http://www.carverroadmiddle.education/Students--Families/Parent-Resources/Parent-Meetings/index.html> or please contact us at

jada.ingram@gscs.org or rebecca.murray@gscs.org.

Parent-Teacher Conferences were held to discuss the academic progress of your child, how you can monitor your child's progress and how you can use the compact at home to help meet the school goals. If you have not had a conference, please contact your child's teacher at 770-229-3739 or email the teacher using firstname.lastname@gscs.org.

Study History More Effectively

As your students progress through school, it is important that they learn history in greater detail. For example, they should not just know the date of the Battle of Gettysburg; they should also understand why it was an important turning point in the Civil War. Try some of these tips to get you started:

- Use many different sources when studying a particular subject. Students should understand different points of view on a subject.
- Students should ask questions when learning. For example; "Why did that occur?" or "How might things have gone differently?"
- Create a timeline of events so that your student has a visual representation of when and where events occurred in chronological order.



THE GEORGIA SLDS PARENT PORTAL

The Georgia Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is a free online tool developed by the Georgia Department of Education that helps States, Districts, Schools, and Teachers make data-driven decisions to improve student learning. Parents now have access to their children’s SLDS data through the SLDS Parent Portal. The SLDS Parent Portal is accessible to parents directly through their district’s student information system—that means no additional logins and passwords to remember!

BENEFITS OF THE SLDS PARENT PORTAL

Using Georgia’s SLDS Parent Portal helps parents to:

- Monitor their children’s achievement on statewide summative assessments.
- Identify their children’s strengths and weaknesses in the domains that are tested in each subject area.
- Access online resources that are directly aligned to their children’s course standards.

HOW TO ACCESS THE GADOE PARENT PORTAL

Parents can access the Georgia SLDS Parent Portal by logging in to the district’s Student Information System Parent Portal, then clicking the SLDS Portal button on the Parent Portal landing page.

WHAT’S IN THE SLDS PARENT PORTAL?

Student attendance history, Lexile scores, assessment scores, standards-aligned online student resources, and more! For more information about the Georgia SLDS Parent Portal, visit this link:

http://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/SLDS/Documents/SLDS_Parent_Portal_Guide.pdf .

For log in information, please contact the school at 770-229-3729

*The listed resources are not endorsed by GSCS but offered as possible tools that families may utilize.

2018-2019 Fall Parent Survey Summary

Carver Road Middle School had 336 responses to the Title I Fall Parent Survey.

#2 Grades reporting:

Pre-Kindergarten – N%	Kindergarten – N%
First – N%	Second – N%
Third – N%	Fourth – N%
Fifth – N%	Sixth – 42.86%
Seventh – 38.69%	Eighth – 26.79%
Ninth – N%	Tenth – N%
Eleventh – N%	Twelfth – N%

#3 Responses from parents of students in:

Regular Classroom Instruction – 80.62%
English to Speakers to Other Languages (ESOL) – 4.15%
Gifted Program (Program Challenge) – 16.96%
Migrant Program – 0%
Special Education Program – 10.38%
AP (Advanced Placement) Program – 7.61%
College and Career Academy – 3.81%
Dual Enrollment – 5.88%

#7 97.62% of parents believed their child was prepared to transition to the next grade.

#8 97.33% of parents are aware of what their child is expected to learn in all subject areas.

#11 Most effective communication methods in giving parents information regarding school/district parent engagement activities:

#1 — Automated Phone Calls (ParentLink) 57.31%

#2 — Parent-Teacher Conferences 55.22%

#3 — Parent Meetings 35.22%

#4 — School Newsletters 34.03%

#5 — Social Media (Facebook, Twitter) 34.03%

#12 The following are important to improve communications:

#1 — Progress Reports and Reports Cards 100%

#2 — Parent-Teacher Conferences 98.80%

#3 — Open House 98.50%

#17 Parent Struggles:

#1 — After School Functions 51.82%

#2 — Helping With Homework 47.59%

#3 — Motivating My Child Academically 29.7%

#18 67.77% of parents are interested in attending classes, workshops or programs on how parents can help their children have more academic success.

#9 82.58% of parents feel their child's school provides parents with opportunities to share feedback and ideas regarding the school's parental engagement program and activities

#15 Top 3 staff training topics:

#1 — How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners 78.15%

#2 — Building ties between parents and the school 72.62%

#3 — Encouraging and supporting parents in more fully participating in the education of their child 65.23%

#19 Top 5 topics of interest:

#1 — Math Skills 68.12%

#2 — Reading Strategies 52.35%

#3 — Homework Help 50%

#4 — Preparing for Standardized Tests 49.66%

#5 — Standards and Curriculum 44.30%

#20 97.83% of the responding parents feel that the school is the most convenient location to attend a workshop or meeting.

#21 58.33% of the responding parents feel that evenings (Monday — Friday) are the most convenient times to attend a workshop or meeting.

#22 60.45% of the responding parents feel that WHEN is the most convenient day to attend a workshop or meeting.

#23 Parent needs for workshops:

Access to information online— 50.58%

Meetings offered more than once— 33.20%

Transportation— 14.67%

Child Care— 23.55%

Translator— 3.47%

#24 53.25% of parents indicated they plan to use the school or district Parent Resource Center.

Reading Apps for Teens

Reading Game Apps:

Scrabble

Words with Friends

100 Pies

Word Cookies

Book Apps:

Wattpad

Kindle

Goodreads

NewsELA

Read Works

Khan Academy

Ways Parents Can be Engaged

- Participate in decisions relating to the education of your children
- Monitor children's progress
- Work with your children to improve their achievement
- Work with educators to improve student performance
- Utilize the school and district Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- Visit the school and district parent resource centers
- Volunteer at your child's school
- Attend events
- Read the information schools send home