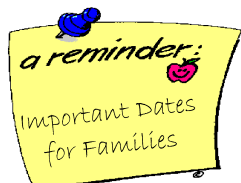




Carroll Creek Communicator



Peaceful Beginning

The United Nations has declared September 21st as International Day of Peace each year. We celebrate this day annually with an afternoon whole school assembly. Each of our classes or clusters prepared something to share with the group and we ended, of course, with "Light a Candle for Peace". It was an amazing first assembly, as it is each year, and brings us together to share our hope for a peaceful world. You can checkout pictures and video on our closed Facebook page. Peace education is an integral part of the Montessori philosophy and at the core of what we model and teach daily.



Once again, we will have many opportunities for parents to learn about our Montessori community. There will be curriculum presentations, general information meetings and "insights" into the classrooms. Childcare will be provided for night meetings by our students who will be attending the Montessori Model United Nations for a donation (please consider supporting these 18 sixth and seventh grade students as they work toward participating in this amazing learning opportunity in New York City). Some of the parent opportunities are limited to a small number of participants, so you will want to sign up early!

Our staff has grown and changed over the summer (please see staff roster on the next to last page of this newsletter). You can learn more about our staff on our website: <https://carrollcreekmontessori.org/directory/>

Please take time to review the data on the next to last page of this newsletter. This data is a reflection of our Charter Renewal that has been presented to FCPS (huge thank you to our GC President, Carrie Jean Rathmell for all her work on this huge, detailed project). Dr. Alban will speak to the BOE sharing FCPS' support or denial of our renewal. The review of the data reveals that we should continue to focus on math so we have put in several new strategies to support students in that area.

Field Studies are in full swing. We have had students visit Upward Enterprises and the Smithsonian. Our first camping group goes out this week. Students have walked to Giant to purchase supplies to bake various products. Upper Elementary students will experience the Fredrick public transit system soon as they travel in small groups to the public library. Montessori schools call experiences outside the school "field studies" rather than "field trips" because we want students to understand from the outset that our excursions are scheduled to complete in-depth studies of concepts that could not happen while in a school building.

Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter School Mission

CCMPCS's mission is to build a community in which students, parents and staff work together to educate the "whole child," the sum of the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual parts. We will implement a Montessori based curriculum to give students the hands-on tools they need to be active learners both in and outside the classroom. By offering English with Spanish enrichment or dual-language Spanish instruction to all students, we will provide a unique opportunity for students to learn a second language at an early age and develop multicultural awareness.

9-26	Camping—Smith
9-30	Picture Day
10-1	Insight Observation—Brady
10-3	Camping—Messinger
10-3	Insight Observation—Balodis
10-7	Insight Observation—Will
10-8	1:45 Dismissal
10-9	School Closed—Yom Kippur
10-10	Camping—Edwards
10-14	Insight Observation—Smith
10-14	6:30 Montessori 101
10-16	Insight Observation—Edwards
10-16	7:00pm CCM GC Meeting
10-17	Insight Observation—Messinger
10-21	Insight Observation—Duffy
10-22	Insight Observation—Grier

Montessori Moment

Essential Characteristics of Montessori Education

The Montessori Method of education is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations and refined by decades of practice. Montessori education is student-led and self-paced but guided, assessed, and enriched by knowledgeable and caring teachers, the leadership of their peers, and a nurturing environment.

Essential characteristics include:

Developmental Stages

Montessori classrooms are organized and prepared to meet the developmental needs of the child.

Multi-Age Classrooms

A mix of younger and older children in the same developmental stage allows students to advance at their own pace, build an authentic community, and learn from both teachers and peers.

Prepared Environment

Montessori teachers carefully observe each child daily in order to modify the learning activities in the classroom to meet the students' educational needs and interests.

Personalized Learning

Teachers give lessons one-on-one or in small groups, tailoring each presentation to the skill level and readiness of individual children.

Montessori Materials

Montessori students learn through hands-on contact with either real things or concrete models that translate abstract ideas into concrete form. Activities are designed to capture the child's attention and encourage independent learning through discovery.

Uninterrupted Independent Work Periods

During two to three-hour blocks of time, students can select and work through various tasks and responsibilities at their own pace, without interruption.



Counselor's Corner



*Mrs. Mosquera,
Montessori Teacher
Specialist*

Welcome back to another exciting school year! I am very happy to return to CCM for the second year. This year my hours will be Monday through Friday from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. We are very happy to introduce Brittany Bishop as the other part time School Counselor. Brittany will be at CCM on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30am-4:00pm. Prior to Carroll Creek she was employed with Carroll County Public Schools for 3 years. Her professional background is in Career and Technology Education and Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Brittany earned her Masters Degree in Counseling from McDaniel College in 2018.

We will continue to serve your students through classroom lessons, small groups, and individual meetings. We would appreciate your input on which skills you would like your child to learn about through classroom lessons. Please complete this survey: [Parental Input Survey](#). In addition, if you think your child would benefit from small group counseling please complete this survey: [Small Group Counseling](#).

Septembers classroom lesson topic is: What does a school counselor do? We were so pleased to hear the students have a great understanding of our role! Primary and Lower Elementary students should have brought home a "Meet your School Counselors" book. Upper Elementary and Middle School demonstrated their knowledge with a friendly game of Jeopardy. October's lessons will be focused on anti-bullying and upstanders vs. bystanders.

Please be sure to complete the Free and Reduced Meal Application: [FARMS Application](#)

This year we will continue to offer a food bank to our students. Bags will come home weekly with the students. If you would like for your child to receive a food bag, please send an email with your children's names to Danielle.Adams@fcps.org

Confidentiality Statement:

A counselor-student relationship must be built on trust and confidentiality. This means that we are bound by ethical codes of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) to keep conversations between the counselors and students private. We try our best to keep parents and teachers updated on the progress and relevant information for the betterment of your student. There are times when we may need to break confidentiality and tell appropriate persons. This is when a student may be susceptible to: harm themselves, harm others, or abuse/neglect. .

We look forward to working with your student and your family. Please feel free to contact us at any point in the school year.

Danielle Adams
Danielle.Adams@fcps.org
M-F 9:00am-2:00pm

Brittany Bishop
Brittany.Bishop@fcps.org
Mon. & Wed. 8:30am-4:00pm

From the Art Room



Welcome to a New School Year!

Kindergarten students are practicing making dated sketchbook entries in art and are being introduced to the elements of art and water color paints through the Square 1 Art project.

Lower Elementary students are reviewing art classroom expectations and the elements of art as they design their Square 1 Art stickers.

Upper Elementary students are reviewing art classroom expectations and the elements and principles of art as they design their Square 1 Art stickers.

Middle School Illustration & Graphic Design students created original graphic designs and illustrations and defined, compared, and contrasted the images. They are illustrating their choice of an op ed article and designing a sticker for Square 1 Art.

Middle School Drawing & Printmaking students created experimental drawings and are in the process of developing drawings in graphite using the grid and charcoal drawings using the subtractive method.



"All art requires courage." — Anne Tucker

Mrs. Reed

Music Notes

Kindergarten music classes are practicing routines for the music classroom with regards to getting and restoring materials, grace and courtesy in group activities, and our greeting song in Spanish and English. Students are learning rhythms stick techniques for the "Old Gray Cat," dancing to the Color song, and using their voice in different ways like speaking, singing, calling, and whispering in the Muffin rhyme. Classes have also enjoyed playing egg shakers to the favorite "La Vaca Lola" as they practiced two distinct rhythm patterns for the piece.



Lower Elementary students have taken turns leading the three part round, Bottle O' Pop. They have also enjoyed the partner dance "Down in the Valley" helping them to get acquainted with new classmates. Classes have also started to play the all time favorite singing game, "Button You Must Wander."

Upper Elementary music students are continuing to work on building a climate of respect, patience, and "good for the group" mindset while challenging each other with dotted quarter rhythm sequences. They have also worked on African drumming with the Banuwa song, using tubanos, shekeres, and the talking drum. while singers do clapping movements.



Middle School General Music is also focusing on African percussion with the added element of improvisation. Students especially enjoy the layered drum circle, where each student adds an improvised rhythm as an ensemble builds. As students move from one instrument to another, the sound created is different each time.



Performing Ensembles: afterschool rehearsals have begun for our Elementary Chorus (grades 3, 4, & 5) rehearsing on Tuesdays and dismissing at 4:45. Sixth graders wishing to join the Middle School Ensemble will rehearse on Wednesdays beginning September 25. Our 7th and 8th graders have already performed for the Peace assembly, with the song "Color Esperanza."

All of our classes worked hard on their performance of "Light A Candle" for our world peace assembly, sung in English and Spanish, with accompanying sign language!

Mrs. Reynolds

Spanish Spoken Here

¡Saludos from the Spanish classroom! It was such a pleasure to return for the new school year and be greeted by so many enthusiastic hugs from your children. We have been hard at work refreshing our brains on concepts covered throughout last year as well as introducing new material. Here's a look at what has been going on the following Spanish groups:

Spanish 1 – Students in Spanish 1 began the year with a quick review of commonly used terms such as numbers, colors, weather, feelings, days, and months. Then, we moved straight along into a unit on high frequency verbs such as *dice/says*, *tiene/has*, *hay/there is-there are*, *es/it is (descriptive)*, *está/it is (location or feeling)*, *quiere/wants*, and others. We put these verbs to use by creating daily Special Person stories wherein we co-create and act out silly stories about classmates, and also by re-enacting an animated short called “[Wildebeest](#),” or *El Nu*” in Spanish. Students prepared props and DIY costumes and they had a wonderful time acting out the story for their peers. Lots of laughs and lots of learning! According to an informal, anonymous survey they completed last week, Spanish 1 students are really enjoying learning Spanish through story listening, story creating, acting, and games. Each day, they grow more and more confident with their Spanish abilities.

Upper Elementary – In Upper Elementary, we started the year with an introduction to the verb *dice/says* and a review of descriptive terms such as numbers, colors, calendar and weather vocabulary, etc. Students completed an All About Me foldable in Spanish for their journal. Additionally, students studied the classic Latin American children's song [Los Pollitos Dicen](#) and learned a hand-clapping game to accompany it. We also have introduced FVR, or Free Voluntary Reading, one day a week. During this time, students choose a Spanish language book (written at levels that are comprehensible to Spanish language learners) and they read purely for pleasure – and they broaden their Spanish grammar and vocabulary while doing so.

Lower Elementary A & B – In these two sections of Lower Elementary, we began the year studying a story called *Isabel Va a La Escuela*, or Isabel Goes to School. Through this story, children showed their comprehension of the verbs *va/goes*, *tiene/has*, *dice/says*, as well as high frequency words such as *niño/boy*, *niña/girl*, *escuela/school*, *amigo/friend*, and common greetings. Students then retold the story in comic form and I was so impressed with their comprehension! We have also introduced various shelf works for students to explore two-syllable words, cognates, family vocabulary, flags of Spanish-speaking countries, and three-part cards for various vocabulary themes.

All classrooms also completed a unit of study on *La Paz*, or peace, in preparation for the International Day of Peace. Students in Upper and Lower Elementary created paper *Palomas de la Paz* (peace doves) on which they wrote ways to promote peace in their communities. Fifteen students delivered a bilingual presentation at the school's Peace Day assembly and revealed a beautiful wall hanging made from the *palomas*. We also read a book called [Can You Say Peace?](#) by Karen Katz and learned the word for peace in over ten different languages.

Thank you for your support of Spanish at CCM!
Marisa Maldonado, Spanish teacher

¡Hola a todos!

Spanish 2 students started the year learning about the different types of Latin music. They learned about the connection between Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia and Latin Hip Hop. Also learned the origins of Tango (Argentina's Folklore dance). Later we started the lesson “¡A Viajar!” where do students learn vocabulary words as *pasaporte*, *itinerario*, *identificación*, *maletas* (luggage) and the expression *¿Dónde Queda?* (Where is?). Students ended up last week with the grammatic presentation of Direct Object Pronouns, and this week they will practice grammar by rewriting sentences using Spanish direct object pronoun.

Primary students have been learning about greetings. They start using the word *Hola* and *Buenos Dias* along with the meaning in English. Students had been introducing to the song *Buenos días y un pequeño dedo*. Through the last two weeks they have been introduce to what animals, insects, birds and things they can see during the day time; *mariposa* (butterfly), *gusano* (worm), *sol* (sun) *pájaro* (bird), *árbol* (tree), *flor* (flower), *gallo* (rooster) and *abeja* (bee). Students had learned to identify each of the pictures with gestures and hand movements. Students also have been listening short stories about *Buenos Dias con Pepita* and *Frio y Caliente* (Cold and Hot). Through this week, Pre-K students will be learning and practicing the word *Buenas Noches* and the animals and things they can visually see at night time as *Estrella* (start), *luna* (moon), *ratoncito* (little mice) and *búho* (owl).

Lower Elementary students started this year learning about Spanish greetings. They learned the word *Hola* and what does it mean in English. Learned about the weather and what is *soleado* (sunny), *nublado* (cloudy) o *lluvioso* (raining) and if the weather is cold or hot. Students have been learning also, the word *Buenos Dias* and what animals, birds, insects and things they can see at day time; *gallo* (rooster), *mariposa*, *sol*, *gusano*, *flor*, *árbol*, *abeja* and *pájaro*. We have discussed the sounds, movements and gestures done by these animals, birds and insects. This week, students will be learning about feeling *¿Cómo Estás?* (how are you?) *bien* o *mal* using thumbs up and down and using facial gestures and acting our if they are happy, sad, frustrated, excited and worried.

Thank you for your support of Spanish at CCM!
Zuleima Lopez, Spanish teacher

Physical Education

Welcome back!! Hope everyone had a great summer and are ready to get back to school!

Primary students are adjusting to physical education. It is a time of extreme excitement but also a time of learning how P.E. works and what we do during class. Primary students have been practicing their warm-up routine and learning why it is important to warm-up before exercise. Primary students have been learning many new locomotor movements and how to stretch and use their bodies in different ways. Students have been participating in group activities and learning how to work cooperatively with classmates. I like to use the first month of Primary P.E. to really make sure our students understand the expectations of physical education class so that they can be prepared for the remainder of the year as well as the remainder of their time at CCM to have a valuable P.E. class.

LE, UE, and Middle School have all completed their fall fitness testing! Students now have their scores from the four fitness tests we complete in P.E. and have set goals for themselves to improve over the year so when it comes time for spring testing they can see the progress that has been made. Students learn about the four fitness components: cardio respiratory endurance, flexibility, muscular strength, and muscular endurance and how they relate to the tests we do in class.



Just a reminder your student should always try to have sneakers on P.E. days. If you are unsure about when your child has P.E. you can always reach out to me or their classroom teacher to find out. If your student is unable to participate due to illness or injury please send a note in with them just so I have documentation. I am always available via e-mail if you have a questions or concerns regarding your child. Thank you for your help and stay active!

Mr. Hickman

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences are just around the corner. You should see signups in ParentSquare very soon. We are always reaching toward 100% participation from our families and look forward to these collaborative meetings. Please remember our student day changes all three days of conferences to allow teachers time to meet with families. The general schedule for the week is as follows:

- October 23rd (Wednesday)
 - 1:00 School starts (no lunch)
 - 3:45 Dismissal
 - 4:00-8:00 Conferences
- October 24th (Thursday)
 - 1:00 School starts (no lunch)
 - 3:45 Dismissal
 - 4:00-8:00 Conferences
- October 25 (Friday)
 - 9:00 School starts (lunch will be served before dismissal)
 - 11:45 Dismissal



Tidbits from our GC



September 2019 items of note from the CCM GC. Contact Carrie Jean Rathmell at GCchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org with questions or for help getting connected with the correct person.

Charter Renewal: CCM Charter Renewal was submitted to the FCPS Superintendent and Board of Education by the September 1 deadline. Next steps of the process are expected to occur during November and December Board of Education meetings with dates and times TBD.

Facilities: The CCM Facilities Task Force continues to actively seek a facilities solution for CCM when our current lease expires at the end of June 2020. If you are interested in helping with this task, contact facilities@carrollcreekmontessori.org

Volunteer Leadership Contact Info: A list of the membership and contact information for the CCM GC, MMCI BOT, and other key volunteers for CCM can be found at this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X4U97qPtK01kKWPQPWoUu1qklqTEwPrPfuwIIBozrg/edit?usp=sharing>

Volunteering: The adults in each CCM family are asked to provide a minimum of 30 hours of volunteering each school year to support the students and staff of CCM or a minimum of 10 hours per school year for CCM families with one adult. Volunteers need to complete volunteer training and volunteer forms each year before beginning volunteer work. The steps for volunteer training and forms are outlined at this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KNf9Wj_4ic_2xe6z0pPb7OHcTButCsJA3v5LfK9eyHo/edit?usp=sharing Contact communications@carrollcreekmontessori.org for more information.

Where can you find information: Current CCM information for the 2019-2020 school year can be found on Parent Square <https://www.parentsquare.com> or at the CCM website <https://carrollcreekmontessori.org/>. If you need help accessing Parent Square, email communications@carrollcreekmontessori.org. Tips and tricks for using Parent Square can be found at this link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1XQv0Ye6hVrFvNB3czPrAIKF5jImPLZ2LdKWRNQ3a_vI/edit?usp=sharing

Elected Volunteer Positions: Watch for information coming soon about annual November Elections to fill open positions on the CCM GC and MMCI BOT. Contact GCchair@carrollcreekmontessori.org for more information.

General Reminders/Announcements



Arrival/dismissal—as you are entering the school grounds, use the lane closest to the road, not the school where parents and children are getting out of their cars. If you are going to come into the school, you are welcome to make the U-turn and park close to the school. As you exit the school parking lot, please remember to turn right toward the hotel. This helps alleviate back ups in the car rider line and keeps the traffic flowing. We will be putting up cones to at 8:55 and 3:55 (2:55 on Fridays) to allow our staff to come into the building as the school day starts and leave at their contracted time at the end of the day which is 4:00. Our staff have both personal and professional responsibilities after their contracted time, so if you will not be able to pick up your child by the end of dismissal, please make arrangements with Clubhouse Kidz, our before and after care provider. If you have to pick your children up before 3:45, please remember that early dismissal closes at 3:30 so please pick your child up for any appointments they may have before 3:30 (students must attend school for 4 hours for it not to count as a day absent).

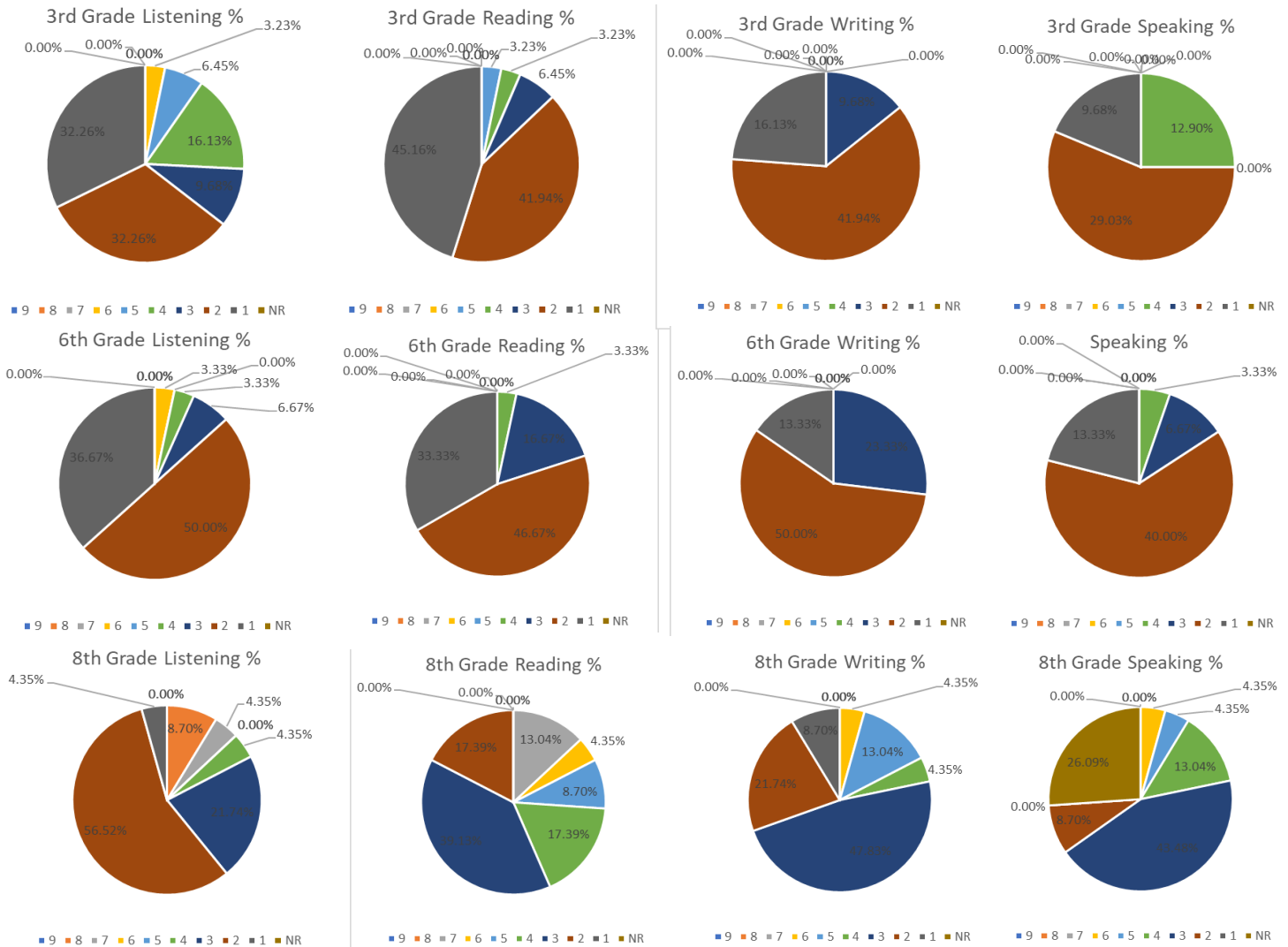
We also have a new website: <http://carrollcreekmontessori.org/> While some pages are still under construction, you can find a lot of information there including a calendar of events, breakfast and lunch information, a school directory and several other tidbits of interest.

Assessments

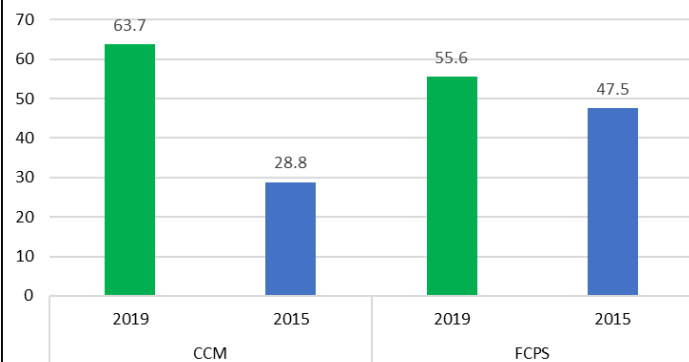
AVANT Spanish Assessment

Below is the data from the spring Spanish assessment. Basically, the more colorful, the better the students performed.

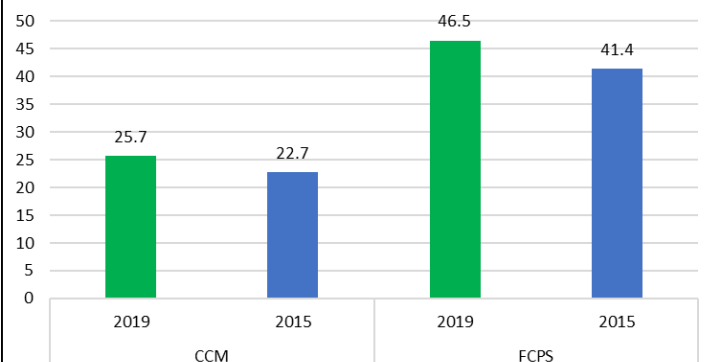
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PARCC Language Arts Scores % 4 & 5



PARCC Math Scores % 4 & 5



Our language arts scores have improved vastly over the past four years, exceeding the average score of FCPS schools. We continue to struggle in math and have added staff this year to support students through math intervention classes. Our students frequently have solid math skills which are getting close to the same scores as FCPS middle school scores (CCM 40% and FCPS 48.4%). Over the three years CCM has had middle school students their math scores have increased 11.4% while FCPS middle school math scores have increased 3.1% over the same time period.

CCM Staff



<u>Level</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Instructional Assistant</u>
Primary	Sara Viveiros (1.0)	Lenka Syslova
	Kendall Grier (1.0)	Nabanita Mitra
	Laura Duffy (.5)	Beatriz Meiburger
Lower Elementary	Kathleen Brady (1.0)	Ashley Andrews
	Katie Balodis (1.0)	Erika Cuzmar
	Therese Michael	Ann Everett
Upper Elementary	Kira Messinger	Laura Butler
	Camille Smith	Claudia Enriquez
	Michael Beth Edwards	Eric Riccio
Middle School	Kelli McIntosh	Maria Snody
	Tiffany Rothermel	
Teacher Specialist	Katie Mosquera	
Counselor	Danielle Adams	
	Brittany Bishop (M/W)	
Specials	Mary Lou Reynolds - Music	
	Brian Hickman - P.E.	
	Lisa Reed - Art	
Spanish	Marisa Maldonado	
	Zuleima Lopez	Beatriz Meiburger
Special Education	Courtenay Diederich	Nancy MacGregor
	Britenay Naylor	Gina Montgomery
		Emily Moyers
		Process of Hiring
Speech	Hillary Sizemore (Th/F)	
School Psychologist	Chris Sedgwick	
Student Support IA		Brian Hickman
ELL	Mary Alice Self	
Health Room	Tiffany Mathis	Caitlin Bell (Health Tech)
Secretary	Cathy Rossomondo	
Cafeteria	Mary	
PPW	Michelle Wilms	
Principal	Marilyn Horan	