

# Cardinal Connection



## Mrs. McCool's Nest News

It is with pleasure that we bring to you our first publication of the Cardinal Connection for the 25 - 26 school year. This newsletter will provide consistent communication to our Cardinal families with all the fun and excitement happening in our nest. The information within our newsletter will provide reminders, events on the horizon, and updates from not just myself, but the CCE lead team members, such as our Assistant Principals, School Counselor, and Teachers. We want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to know what is Chirping around here! We are ecstatic to welcome our students back on campus this this week. We have all worked hard to prepare our school home for our scholars



[@CCE Website](#)   [@SpiritWear Store](#)

We have a new Spirit Wear Store this year! Make sure to check out all the awesome gear to show your Cardinal spirit! Just place your order online and your items will ship right to your door. Support our Nest in style! Click the @SpiritWear Store link.

# Embracing the Past to Learn and Grow our Futures...

Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Cunningham Creek Elementary School! The Nest opened in the fall of 1995 ready to take flight on a new journey with students and staff. This year we will reflect on the past to prepare and better our future. Stay tuned for information about a time capsule surprise and 30 year dedication present to our school!



Our new **Book Vending Machine** has arrived! Thank you to our fabulous PTO and all our families who supported each event on campus to make this happen. Each student will receive a birthday coin on their birthday to choose their

Our **Kindergarten Team** was thrilled to meet some of our newest Cardinals at the Kinder Screenings this summer! Our Nest will be SOARing with new minds ready for new adventures!



free book! We are excited to grow a love of reading and celebrate each of our Cardinals on their special day! We will start with our August 1<sup>st</sup> birthdays and continue throughout the entire year.

Our **Media Garden** has also received a refresh this summer thanks to Mr. Lee McCool and son, Nolan. They wanted to show their Cardinal Pride and help make our school shine! If you choose to check your child out for lunch one day, this is where you can enjoy your meal together.





# Character Counts & SOAR

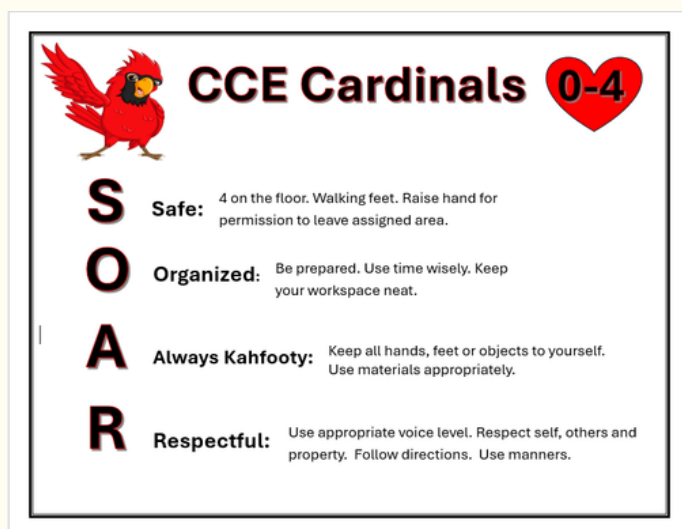
This year we are starting a new program throughout our school called **SOAR!** Students will be learning school-wide expectations with common language used by all to ensure our entire campus is ready to learn and grow each day. Banners will be posted in our halls and classrooms to support our students in following the **SOAR** standards. Students can earn **SOAR** tickets to earn prizes &/or special events on campus. Stay in the know by reading all about our **SOAR** program throughout the year in the Cardinal Connection. (Example below of our classroom expectations)



## Character Counts!

### August:

Our Scholars will be learning about each Pillar of Character to start the year off strong before we begin digging a little deeper into understanding each characteristic throughout the months to come!





- Dismissal will run longer than normal the first few weeks of school as we rebuild the routine from last year and our new students and families learn our process.
- Car Tags for Parent Pick-Up are mandatory. Please ensure student first and last name along with grade level are printed largely on the card and placed visible in windshield.
- Kindergarten Staggered Start - students will meet the teachers out front near flagpole at 8:40 a.m. after are normal arrival times to support a smooth transition into their first day. Please be on-time.
- Pre-k / ACCESS Pick-Up will be on the bus side through the parking lot row. Please have Car Tag visible. Do not go through the Bus Loop. Buses only are allowed in the main loop.
- Deputy Harrell will be out these first weeks of school. Deputy Wright with K9 Scout and other assigned deputies will be on campus to ensure all students & staff are safe until his return.
- Mark your calendar for our August/September events: 8/22 - Back to School Bash (PTO), 9/1 - Labor Day Holiday, 9/9 Curriculum Chats, 9/16 Boy Scouts Parent Night in Cafe, & 9/19 Student Holiday/Teacher In-Service Day

## PTO

We hope you plan to join our PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) to help support our school and all Cardinals in having their best year yet with resources and fun for all! Click the link above to head over to the CCE PTO Webpage!

## SAC

We love for you to join our SAC (School Advisory Committee) to be a part of making CCE be the best it can be! Our SAC Chairs this year are Mrs. Raymer & Mrs. Tutten. Click the link above to head over to the CCE SAC Webpage and send an email about your interest to:

[andrea.raymer@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:andrea.raymer@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

[constandina.tutten@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:constandina.tutten@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## Lunch Menu Link for 25 - 26

## Cardinal Vision



We are a community of  
Caring Cardinals Committed to  
Creating an atmosphere that encourages everyone to  
reach their greatest potential through  
Communicating, Caring and achieving Excellence!

All Cardinals will soar with a passion for  
lifelong learning.

## Cardinal Mission



At Cunningham Creek Elementary School,  
we will build strong bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits  
so, we can  
Live, Love, Learn, and Lead!



## Policies and Procedures

### VOLUNTEERS & SCHOOL ACCESS

**RAPTOR: School access** (proceeding past the front office of any school) is required for every individual that is not a staff member of the St. Johns County School District. This is done through completion of the district's volunteer application. School access is good for 3 years. For help completing the online application, please call (904) 547-3945. Anyone entering campus must bring a photo ID to sign in.

### Absence From School

If your child is absent from school, a parent/guardian must turn in a signed note within 48 hours for the absence to be considered excused. You may also click the link above to report the absence and attach a doctor's note. The district is currently working on a district-wide absence survey. More to come when launched. Phone calls will not be accepted. We appreciate your support.

### DISMISSAL CHANGE REQUEST

Use link above prior to 12:30 each day to make a Dismissal Change Request. Must use this link as no phone calls or hand written notes will be accepted.

## ***Policies and Procedures Cont.***

### **Birthday Treat Policy**

It is important that we celebrate holidays and students while keeping everyone healthy. CCE feels strongly that these celebrations are part of the school experience. If families would like to send birthday treats for the class in honor of their child's birthday, we ask that you send non-food and non-balloon items (i.e.: pencils, stickers, etc.). Our #1 priority is keeping all our students healthy and safe. If the classroom teacher sponsors a holiday party or other event, they will provide a list of items that can be sent based on classroom allergies. We appreciate your support and understanding. Teachers will also collaborate with their Room Parent for celebration (non-birthday) needs. Administrative approval is needed for all holiday activities involving non-curriculum activities and food items.

### **Tardy Policy**

CCE Tardy Bell rings at 8:25 a.m. Students must be inside their homeroom classes at that time. Students will be marked Tardy if not. The Biker/Walker Gate will be closed and locked at 8:22 a.m. each morning. Car Rider entrance doors will be closed at 8:22 a.m. At 8:24 a.m. all students must enter through the main entrance to sign in and get a Tardy Pass to get to their homeroom class. It is important to arrive on time, for our students to start their day prepared and ready to learn.

### **Cell Phone & Smart Watch Policy**

New State Law has passed stating that Elementary Students are not to have cell phones during school. Smart Watches are to be used only as watches or will be taken away and placed in backpacks. If students continue to have these items out, a parent will be called to come pick item up from front office. Repeat offenses will result in a behavioral referral with consequence.

### **Homework Policy**

A grade will not be reflected in the gradebook for homework. Homework, when assigned, is for extra practice of previously taught skills. Students should not be spending a majority of their evenings doing homework. CCE knows the importance of students participating in active play and extracurricular activities to grow in other important ways! Please contact your child's teacher with any homework concerns.

### **Early Dismissal Policy**

Early Check-Outs must occur before 2:15 p.m. on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri, and 1:15 p.m. on Wed. Please come to the front office prior to these times with your ID and students name, grade, and teacher information for the front desk staff to call your child from class.



## DOWNLOAD THE PARENTSQUARE APP TODAY!

STAY INVOLVED WITH YOUR STUDENT'S  
LEARNING AND ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL.  
FROM ANYWHERE.



ParentSquare



SJCSD is pleased to launch ParentSquare as our unified communication platform for all schools. This adoption brings a consistent, modern approach to how we share information with families and staff. [Learn more!](#)

Families who have not yet logged in to the [BusPlanner website](#) or the [Chipmunk app](#) are strongly encouraged to create an account before the start of the new school year. This will help ensure that you are able to access your child's 2025-2026 bus schedule.



# BusPlanner



# chipmunk



## FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.

#FORTIFYFL  
GETFORTIFYFL.COM



FortifyFL is a mobile app and web-based tool that allows students, parents, and community members in Florida to anonymously report suspicious activities, potential threats, or safety concerns related to schools. The app immediately forwards these reports to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials for rapid response