

Cardinal Connection



Mrs. McCool's Nest News

Cardinal Families, We have made it to week 3, and we are SOARing high into the sky as we have learned about all the CCE Expectations and Safety Rules for campus. Students were able to watch a fun video of staff members acting out just what it means to be a Cardinal in various places throughout our Nest. As we move into the end of August and early September, our students are taking their first state progress monitoring assessment as a benchmark for learning growth for the year. So far, our students are showing they care and are eager to learn. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for each and every one of them!



Just a reminder that we have a new **Spirit Wear Store** this year! Order your GRADE LEVEL shirts here for field trips and school 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.



- 9/1 - Labor Day Holiday - No School
- 9/7 Grandparent's Day Breakfast (PTO)
- 9/9 Curriculum Chats @ CCE @ 5:45-6:30
- 9/16 Boy Scouts Parent Night in Cafe
- 9/19 Student Holiday/Teacher In-Service Day
- 9/30 Spirit Night @ Moes
- 10/13 Student Holiday/Teacher Planning
- 10/21 Fall Picture Day @ CCE
- 10/22 Spirit Night @ Jersey Mikes
- 10/24 Trunk or Treat at CCE (PTO)
- 10/26 - 10/31 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/31 Character Parade at CCE

Lunch Menu Link for 25 - 26

If you would like to participate in the upcoming Textbook Adoption process, please contact Ms.

Cirillo: gina.cirillo@stjohns.k12.fl.us

We are looking for parent input!



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

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). 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

constandina.tutten@stjohns.k12.fl.us

We work in collaborative relationship with all stakeholders at CCE to advise the school administration on ways to improve the education, academic achievement, and safety of all students. Meetings are held once per month and may be attended in-person or virtually. Our SAC is intended to represent every group in our school, from parents, to staff, to administration, and we encourage you to consider serving CCE in this important role.

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

Happy 30th 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** is a HIT!! August birthdays have received their coins and chosen their boo! When your child's birthday comes around they will receive a birthday coin on their birthday too to pick a book they choose.



Would you like to be a part of our school's Media Advisory Committee? This committee assists the media specialist in evaluating new additions to our library collection and discussing any concerns about our collection. Meetings are held twice per year. Please email Mrs. McCool or our media specialist, Mrs. Tuten at Constandina.Tuten@stjohns.k12.fl.us if you would like to be considered for this committee! We ask that you please respond no later than September 5th as committee names must be submitted to our district leadership by mid-September.



Counselor Updates from Ms. McGrath!

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! I'm thrilled to partner with you in supporting your child's academic success and emotional well-being. This year, I'll be sharing updates, resources, and opportunities to help your child thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Character Counts! Pillar for August – All Pillars

Mental Health & Wellness Portal

Digital Safety and Awareness

Mandated Safety Lessons

Counselor Referral Form

We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Character Counts & SOAR

This year we have started a new program throughout our school called **SOAR**! Students have learned school-wide expectations! Each Cardinal can earn **SOAR** tickets to earn prizes &/or special events on campus. We had our first reward Woot Woot Wagon travel to grades K-2 this week! Students were able to spend their tickets on prizes now or keep them safe to hold out for a bigger reward as they continue to earn tickets each week!



THE 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER



RUSTWORTHINESS



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



FAIRNESS



CARING



CITIZENSHIP

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!

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 1:30 (12:30 Wed) 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