

# Cardinal Connection




## Mrs. McCool's Nest News

Cardinal Families,

Happy New Year! Our Cardinals are back with 1.21 gigawatts of electric energy for learning!!! We are ready for 2026 to be the best year yet as Future Changers!! Teachers and staff are hard at work to ensure each child feels valued and ready to zoom to their highest potentials! Please see Dates of Importance on Next page and mark your calendars. We have a few more weeks of PM2 State Assessments then move into some fun with our Fun Run Fundraiser in the end of January along with Literacy Week. Please see below for a few reminders.

**News from our Nurse:** St Johns County has seen a rise of lice in our county per Public Health Authorities. Seek guidance from the Center for Disease Control, a local lice treatment facility or your pediatrician if nits or lice are found. St Johns County School District has a No Nit policy.

**News from our Deputy:** Please help us and remind your students to head straight home and not linger near the school gates at dismissal. Siblings should wait for and stay together at Biker/Walker Gate.

**Yearbook:** [BuyTheYearbook.com](http://BuyTheYearbook.com) ID-383507

[@CCE Website](#)



*Learning Today,  
Leading Tomorrow*



## Spirit Wear Store

Support our Nest in style!

**Click the @SpiritWear Store link below.** Love seeing our Grade level shirts and Cardinal Wear throughout the halls!

[@SpiritWear Store](#)



- 1/15 Report Cards Released @ 3pm
- 1/19 No School - Holiday
- 1/20 SAC Meeting @ 3pm (Media/Virtual link)
- 1/26 - 2/3 BOOSTER THON FUNDRAISER!!!
- 1/26 - 1/30 Literacy Week
- 1/29 NAEP Assessment - selected 4<sup>th</sup> graders
- 1/30 Spring Pictures (Pre-purchase only)
- 2/3 FUN RUN Event!!
- 2/13 No School - Teacher In-Service Day
- 2/16 No School - Holiday

Check our PTO page on the school website frequently for VOLUNTEER opportunities! We appreciate all the support!

[@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 on 'PTO' above to head over to the CCE PTO Webpage!

# SAC

Join our School Advisory Committee. Click 'SAC' above to head over to the CCE SAC Webpage

**SAC Chairs: Mrs. Raymer & Mrs. Tutten.**

[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)

We work in collaborative relationship with all stakeholders at CCE on ways to improve the education, academic achievement, and safety of all students. Meetings are held one Tuesday per month at 3:05 pm and may be attended in-person or virtually.

**SAC Meeting Link**

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

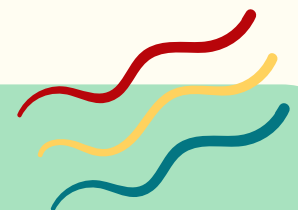
**1/20 ; 2/17 ; 3/24 ; 4/21**

**Lunch Menu Link for 25 - 26**

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



## Counselor Updates from Ms. McGrath!



**January:** I loved visiting classrooms and welcoming everyone back this New Year! We saw students setting goals for themselves and working collaboratively with peers. Students were sharing all the fun had over break and were excited to see all their peers. Please see below for links to resources to support our Cardinals at home if needed.

[Mental Health & Wellness Portal](#)  
[Mandated Safety Lessons](#)

[Digital Safety and Awareness](#)  
[Counselor Referral Form](#)

# Character Counts & SOAR



## SOAR Program

Ask your children about the SOAR Expectations and if they have earned a ticket at school each day! We would love the help in promoting positive actions each and every day!

We are moving our Woot Woot Wagon into the **SOAR Store!** Now students will come and use their SOAR tickets to purchase various items or 'coupons' for showing positive school expectations!

**THE 6 PILLARS OF CHARACTER**

 RUSTWORTHINESS	 RESPECT	 RESPONSIBILITY
 FAIRNESS	 CARING	 CITIZENSHIP



**Character Counts!**

**January:**

Our Scholars will be learning this month about the Pillar of Character:

**Respect**

Follow the Golden Rule; Be accepting of differences; Be courteous to others; Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements; Be considerate of others' feelings

## 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

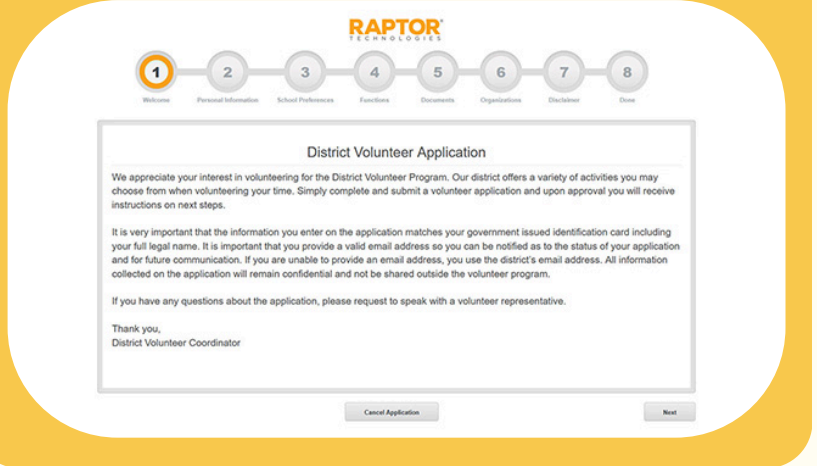


At Cunningham Creek Elementary School,  
we will build strong bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits  
so, we can  
Live, Love, Learn, and Lead!



# 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**

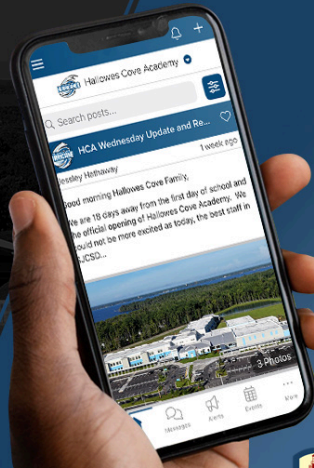
Early Check-Outs must occur before 2:15 p.m. on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri, and 1:15 p.m. on Wed. Please come to the front office prior to these times with your ID and students name, grade, and teacher information for the front desk staff to call your child from class.

## DOWNLOAD THE PARENTSQUARE APP TODAY!

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



ParentSquare



SJCS 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