



# Cheektowaga Central Middle School



## MARCH NEWSLETTER



### Message from the Principal

Throughout the school year, our students have been working diligently to improve their skills in Reading and Math, and we are excited to offer them the opportunity to showcase their growth and abilities on this year's New York State ELA & Math computer-based assessments. Please note that students will have unlimited time to complete the assessments, and we encourage them to take their time and do their best. The dates for these assessments are as follows:

**ELA Assessment:** Tuesday, April 8th and Wednesday, April 9th. This assessment will focus on reading, writing, and language standards, and will include multiple choice, short-response, and constructed-response questions.

**Math Assessment:** Tuesday, April 29th and Wednesday, April 30th. This assessment will evaluate mathematics standards and will include multiple choice and constructed-response questions.

Additionally, please note that only **5th and 8th grade students** will be participating in the **New York State Science assessment**, scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th. This is a one day assessment that evaluates science standards.

While these assessments are important, it is essential to remember that no single test provides a complete picture of your child's abilities. The NYS assessments offer valuable information about how our students are performing in relation to the state standards and other schools. Additionally, they provide us with important data to help guide our program decisions, evaluate ongoing progress, and set goals for the future. We kindly ask that you avoid scheduling any appointments for your child on the assessment days to ensure they are able to complete the tests without any interruptions.


We are looking forward to seeing our students apply all of the knowledge and skills they have worked so hard to develop over the past year. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at (716) 686-3660 or by contacting our administrative team directly at [csalinas@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:csalinas@ccsd-k12.net) or [kdaniels@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:kdaniels@ccsd-k12.net).

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working together to make this testing experience a positive one for all our students.



# NYS TESTING



Session	Grades 5-8 ELA	Grades 5-8 Math	Grades 5 & 8 Science
1	4 reading passages 26 multiple choice questions 2 constructed-response questions- 2 credits	30 multiple choice questions (grs. 5 & 6) 32 multiple choice questions (grs. 7 & 8)	36-43 multiple choice questions (gr. 5) 56-62 multiple choice questions (gr. 8)  *60 percent of each test will be comprised of multiple-choice questions, while approximately 40 percent will be constructed-response questions
2	3 reading passages (grs. 5 & 6) 4 reading passages (grs. 7 & 8) 7 multiple choice questions (grs. 5 & 6) 14 multiple choice questions (grs. 7 & 8) 3 constructed-response questions- 2 credits 1 constructed-response question- 4 credits  *reading passages are a mix of literary (fiction) and informational (nonfiction) passages	5 multiple choice questions (gr. 5) 6 multiple choice questions (grs. 6 - 8) 3 constructed-response questions- 1 credit 5 constructed-response questions- 2 credits (gr. 5) 6 constructed-response questions- 2 credits (grs. 6-8) 1 constructed-response question- 3 credits	

## Grades 5-8 NYS Testing Dates

ELA Session 1: April 8th  
ELA Session 2: April 9th

Math Session 1 April 29th  
Math Session 2 April 30th

5th & 8th Science: May 13th



# NYS MATH ASSESSMENT

## **NYS Math Assessment April 29th and April 30th**

For the best chance of success your student needs access to the TI-30xiis calculator. I have plenty for students to use in class, but not enough for all the students on the day of the test. It would benefit your student to have one on test day and for math assignments done at home there after. Please consider purchasing this calculator for your student. This calculator can be useful through high school.

### Amazon Calculator



### Walmart Calculator



### Target Calculator







# Important Information



## Upcoming Dates

<b>March 6</b>	25-Week Progress Reports
<b>March 7</b>	Staff Development Day-NO SCHOOL
<b>March 11</b>	Grades 5-12 All Chorus Concert
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Last Day to order Yearbooks</b>
<b>March 19</b>	Grades 5-12 All Band Concert
<b>March 24</b>	All Modified Spring Sports Begin



## CCSD Student Code of Conduct 2024-2025



**SCAN ME!**



CHEEKTOWAGA  
**CHARGERS**

## School Contact Information

Main Office	716.686.3660
Student Services	716.686.3649
Principal: Dr. Salinas	716.686.3662
Asst. Principal: Dr. Daniels	716.686.3663

## Stay Updated!



## School Hours:

**Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri**  
7:45am - 2:37pm

**Wednesday**  
7:45am - 1:37pm

Follow us on Facebook  
and Twitter!

<https://www.facebook.com/CheektowagaMiddleSchool/>  
<https://twitter.com/cheektowagaMS>

# YEARBOOKS



## Order Your **YEARBOOK** **TODAY!**

[inter-state.com/order](https://inter-state.com/order)

Use Order Code: 91687T

**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
FOR EASY ORDERING!



**Online Orders Due By:  
Friday, March 14, 2025**

**\$30.00**



# 5TH GRADE



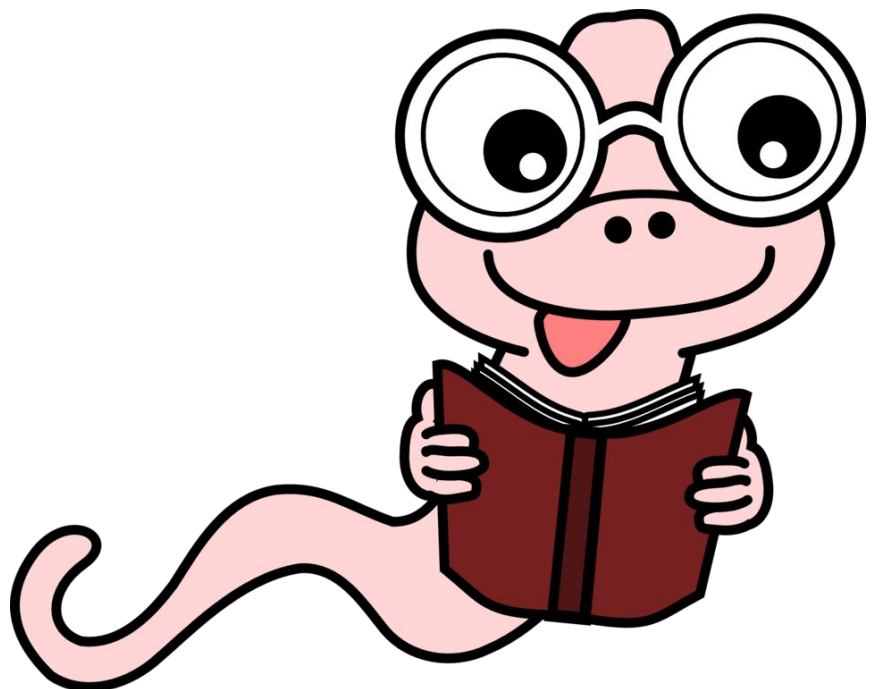
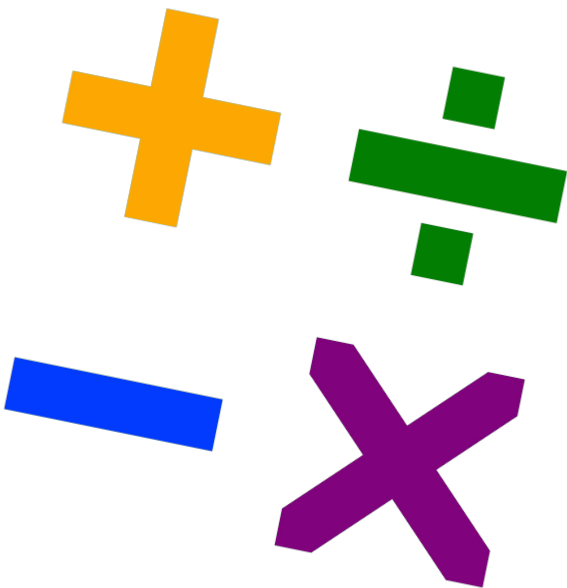
## Fifth Grade Updates

**Math:** Students are working on multiplication and division. It is imperative that all students know their multiplication facts to be successful with division. A few minutes of practice at home daily will help all students to establish or maintain fact fluency. Many students struggle with identifying coins and their value. Sorting and counting coins, or playing store at home can instill lifelong skills.

**ELA:** The Read Stop Write program is continuing for half of the team while the group that completed the program just finished reading Number the Stars. As the NYS ELA test approaches, students will be reviewing skills and practicing for their success in April. Reading to your child is a great way to spend time together and improve their skills. Students can also read to younger siblings. The way to become a better reader is to read, read, read.

**Science:** Students are finishing the Matter Unit and will be starting to explore the patterns of stars in the night sky. We will be focusing on why we see different stars at different times of the year and why we do not see stars during the day.

**Social Studies:** Students are continuing to learn how the European quest for spices to season and preserve food lead to a greater understanding of the entire Earth and eventually European colonization. Students will learn how great civilizations fell and why different parts of the Western Hemisphere speak the languages that they do today.





# 6TH GRADE



## **Math:**

This month, our sixth-grade students have been actively engaged in an algebra unit, focusing on fundamental concepts such as working with variables, writing and solving equations, and identifying mathematical patterns. Through structured lessons and interactive activities, they are developing essential problem-solving skills that will support their future success in mathematics. We encourage you to reinforce these concepts at home by discussing real-world applications of algebra, such as calculating expenses or identifying numerical patterns. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing your child's continued progress in this important area of learning.

## **ELA:**

As we approach the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) exam, our sixth-grade students have been working hard to strengthen their reading and writing skills. In class, they are practicing reading strategies, analyzing texts for key ideas and details, and honing their ability to construct well-organized written responses. Through guided practice and discussion, students are learning to interpret various types of passages and respond thoughtfully to both multiple-choice and open-ended questions. To support your child at home, we encourage regular reading of both fiction and nonfiction texts, discussing main ideas, and practicing writing responses with clear evidence from the text. Additionally, ensuring your child gets plenty of rest and a healthy breakfast on testing days will help set them up for success. We appreciate your partnership in helping our students feel confident and prepared for the upcoming assessment!

## **Social Studies:**

In Social Studies, our sixth graders will be exploring the rich histories and cultures of ancient India and China. Students will learn about the Indus River Valley civilization, the development of Hinduism and Buddhism, and the contributions of the Maurya and Gupta Empires. In our study of ancient China, we will examine the impact of the Yellow River, the philosophies of Confucianism and Daoism, and the achievements of the Shang and Han Dynasties. Through discussions, readings, and interactive activities, students will gain a deeper understanding of how these early civilizations shaped the world. We encourage you to ask your child about their discoveries along the way!

## **Science:**

Our sixth-grade students have been engaging in hands-on activities to reinforce key scientific concepts. Through interactive experiments and investigations, they are practicing essential skills such as making observations, forming hypotheses, collecting data, and analyzing results. These activities not only help students review important topics like physical and life sciences but also allow them to apply their knowledge in a meaningful way. Encouraging curiosity and critical thinking, these hands-on experiences are building confidence and readiness for the upcoming assessment. We are excited to see their growth as young scientists!



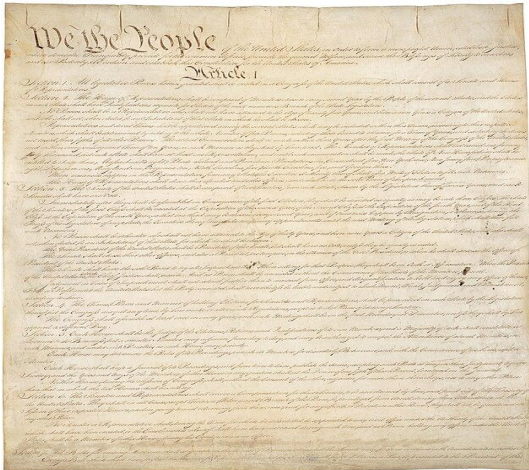


# 7TH GRADE



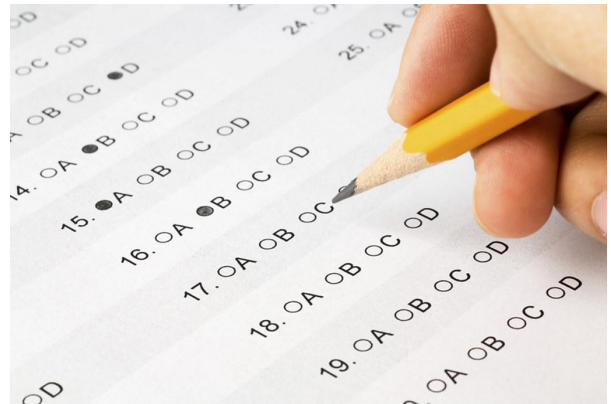
## Social Studies:

Students will then begin Unit 4: The Creation of the US Government: Articles of Confederation, the United States Constitution, including the Three Branches, and the Great Compromise.



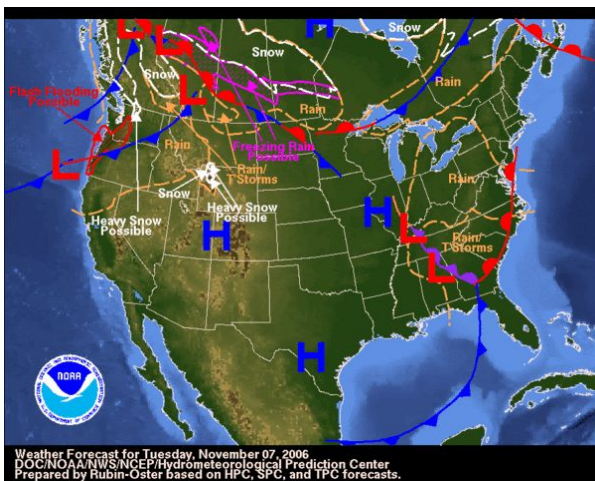
## English:

Students will begin preparation for the NYS ELA Exam, while studying a variety of texts related to our changing environment. Students will write an argument essay about the most persuasive article we read.



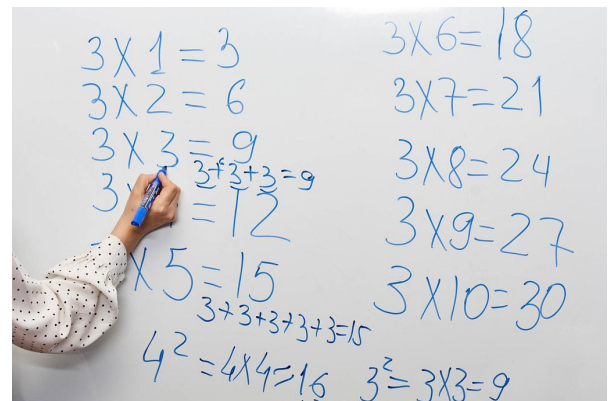
## Science:

Students are learning about the NYS investigation on weather: What's Up There? and Human Interactions on the Planet.



**Math 7:** Students are learning about percentages and solving equations.

**Math 7 Honors:** Students are learning about Geometry and systems of equations







# 8TH GRADE



**Dear Families,**

We hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. As we move through the school year, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are shaping the future of our students, and we are grateful for all that you do.

**Important Announcements:**

- **ELA New York State Assessment:** April 8 and 9, 2025
- **Math New York State Assessment:** April 29 and 30, 2025
- **New York State Science Assessment:** May 13, 2025

Please mark these important dates on your calendar and ensure your child is prepared for these assessments. Your encouragement and support play a vital role in their success.

**Celebrations from the Week:**

March will be an exciting month for our 8th-grade team! Here's what our students will be learning:

- **Math 8:** We will be graphing lines using the equation ( $y = mx + b$ ) and exploring the concept of slope.
- **Algebra:** Students will delve into exponential equations, enhancing their understanding of this important topic.
- **Social Studies:** We will study "America Becomes a World Power" during the period of WWI (1914-1918).
- **Science 8:** Our focus will be on the food web, examining the interconnections within ecosystems.
- **Honors Biology:** We will cover genetics and reproduction, exploring the fundamentals of life science.
- **ELA 8:** Students will engage in test preparation for the NYS ELA Assessment, building their confidence and skills.
- **Spanish:** This month, we'll explore vocabulary related to weather, sports, and activities, while also working on expanding our sentence writing skills to add more detail to our work.

We are thrilled to witness our students' growth and enthusiasm in their learning journeys!

**Additional Information:**

As a reminder, we encourage families to continue supporting their children's learning at home. Engaging in discussions about what they are studying can reinforce their skills and boost their confidence.

Thank you for your ongoing support in creating a positive and enriching learning environment for our students. Together, we can ensure the success of every child in our school.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration and celebrating our students' achievements together. Your partnership is invaluable to us, and we are excited about what lies ahead!

Warm regards,

The 8th Grade Team



# SPECIALS UPDATES

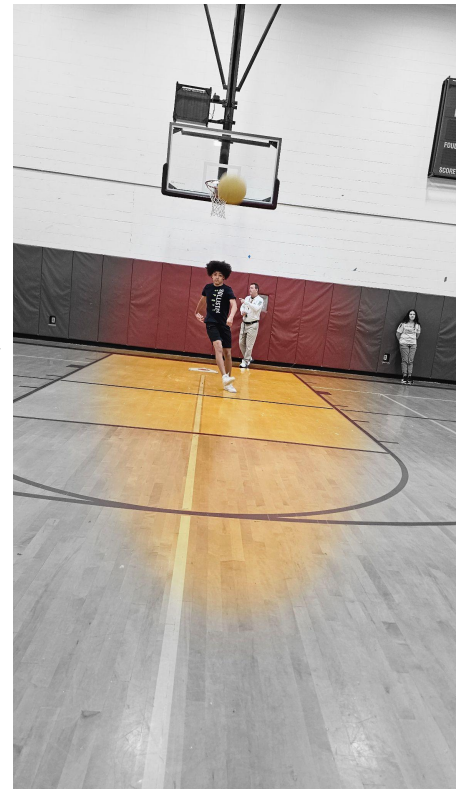


Assembly work of electronic components is the stepping stone to using industrial tools in the future. This task fosters responsibility for oneself and others as the irons are hot.

This week 5th graders in Ms Hallmark's class wrapped up a quick unit on symmetry. They learned about the migration of Monarch butterflies and talked about their symmetrical wings and created one of their own. 7th & 8th grade discussed contrasting colors last week and experimented with chalk pastels to create some outer space snacks.



Larry Tompkins, an 8th grader, demonstrates his impressive kicking skills during our kickball unit in P.E. class. Through practice and focus, Larry showcased how important it is to combine technique with strength when playing kickball.







# Character Education



The Middle School Character education team took 40 students who demonstrate good character in consistently follow the five to ROCK. The Students participated in fun activities as well as some team building games!





Cheektowaga Central  
Middle School  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.one voice.<sup>®</sup>

**SPRING FUNDRAISER**

We are excited to announce that our Spring Sweets Chocolate and Candy Fundraiser is up and running. Fundraising packets went home with students Monday, February 24th.

All paper forms with money are due March 10<sup>th</sup> to the office or their homeroom. Online orders are due March 14<sup>th</sup>.



**For every 5 orders placed your child will be entered to win a \$100 Urban Air Gift Card!**

Please see the accompanying flyer for more information. As always, thank you so much for your continued support!

**DONATE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS**

Support our PTA by dropping off your cans and bottles to  
*Any Fast Cash Redemption Locations – 3 local locations are*  
**2377 Harlem Road Cheektowaga** (Corner of Walden Ave).

**1350 Harlem Avenue** (Corner of Parker)

**10 Hyland Avenue Depew** (Corner of George Urban)

Make sure you ask for the funds to go to the **“Cheektowaga Middle School PTA”**.

We are always looking for new members! Please consider joining the PTA!

<http://ccmswarriors.givebacks.com/store>

Please contact Angela Scholl at  
[cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com)



# **CHEEKTOWAGA MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA**

## **Spring Sweets Fundraiser**



Featuring chocolate from Oliver's Candies in Batavia, NY!

Profit benefits all students through PTA sponsored events and activities.  
Your participation at any level WILL make a difference!



### **There are 2 ways to sell: On Paper and Online**

#### **Paper Order Forms**

- Make sure your name, phone number and teacher name is on your order form.
- Paper orders and money need to be turned into your classroom teacher by 3/10.
- Cash and checks payable to: Cheektowaga Middle School PTA
- Do not add tax

#### **SHOP, PAY & SHARE ONLINE!**

There are MORE items available online! Share your online link with friends and family. Orders can be shipped to the purchaser's home at their expense or to the school at no cost.

Go to: [Profit-raisers.com](http://Profit-raisers.com)  
[click on Register](#)

School ID: PR2841

Scan for quick access to  
[www.profit-raisers.com](http://www.profit-raisers.com)



Make sure to enter your teachers name when registering.

#### **Important Information**

- Paper Orders due by 3/10
- The online link will remain open through 3/14
- Do NOT write online orders on your order form.
- Orders shipped to the school will be available for pick up the week of 4/7 - Exact day TBD
- The PTA is counting on your support



**WIN A \$100  
URBAN AIR  
GIFT CARD!**

1 entry for every  
5 items sold!

Questions:

Contact Angela at

[Cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:Cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com)



# REMEDIAL SCHEDULE



## Grade 5: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Hoeltke/McKeever/Zilliox/MacVittie/Gandy

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Math/Science/ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Lewis/Wasner/Skierczynski/Richter

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** Math/Science
- **Teachers:** McKinney

## Grade 6: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** Math/ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Braddock/Kwilas/Petre/Panikowski

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Science/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Niederhauser/Granat/Christopher

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** Math
- **Teachers:** Lambert

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./Science
- **Teachers:** Zajdel/Carroll



**\*\*\*Teacher invite is required. After school buses leave at 3:35PM.\*\*\***



## Grade 7: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** Math/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Torrillo/McGill/Gozzo/Buscaglia

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** ELA
- **Teachers:** Lewandowski/Cadwallader

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** LOTE
- **Teachers:** Casper/Clare/Schneegold

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** Science
- **Teachers:** Al Qaysi/Hess

## Grade 8: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./ELA/Spanish
- **Teachers:** Shehadi/Maloney/Todaro

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Science/ELA/Math
- **Teachers:** Stonebraker/Orlowski/Baker/Burnett/Campbell

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./Science
- **Teachers:** Accurso/Huber/Silliman

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** Math
- **Teachers:** Garrison



# MS CLUB WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><b>GSA</b> - Every other week (starting September 23rd)  <a href="#">GSA Schedule</a>  <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net">hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Midway TV</b> - Every week  <a href="mailto:abaker@ccsd-k12.net">abaker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>STEM</b> - Meets every other week (*only 3 Tuesday dates 10/15, 11/12 &amp; 1/21)  <a href="#">STEM Schedule</a>  <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net">pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>International Club</b> - Meets 3 times each month on Mondays <a href="#">International Club Dates</a>  <a href="mailto:wwasner@ccsd-k12.net">wwasner@ccsd-k12.net</a></p>	<p><b>Junior Unified</b> - Every other week (starting October 8th) <a href="#">Unified schedule</a>  <a href="mailto:lkwilas@ccsd-k12.net">lkwilas@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>NJHS</b> - (starting September 24th) <a href="#">NJHS Schedule</a>  <a href="mailto:kwilas@ccsd-k12.net">kwilas@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>STEM</b> - (*only 3 Tuesday dates 10/15, 11/12 &amp; 1/21)  <a href="#">STEM Schedule</a>  <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net">pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Junior Challenge</b> - (every other week <i>mostly</i>) <a href="#">Junior Challenge Dates</a>  <a href="mailto:jorlowski@ccsd-k12.net">jorlowski@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:kbarbati@ccsd-k12.net">kbarbati@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Student Council</b> - Third Tuesday of every month  <a href="#">Student council</a>  <a href="mailto:mgoc@ccsd-k12.net">mgoc@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:bpanikowski@ccsd-k12.net">bpanikowski@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:kmacvittie@ccsd-k12.net">kmacvittie@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Jazz Band</b> - Every week            ***Until the musical is over it will be a 5th-8th grade group***  <a href="mailto:kdolan@ccsd-k12.net">kdolan@ccsd-k12.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NO AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES</p>	<p><b>Literature Club</b> - Starting September 24th (Grades 5 &amp; 6 alternate with Grades 7 &amp; 8 each week) <a href="#">Lit club calendar</a>  <a href="mailto:sscheffler@ccsd-k12.net">sscheffler@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net">hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Math Club</b> - Meets the first two weeks of each month (9/27 - the only friday date)  <a href="#">Math Club Dates</a>  <a href="mailto:ilewis@ccsd-k12.net">ilewis@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Student Ambassadors</b> - Meets the last Thursday of every month with exceptions to holidays  <a href="#">Student Ambassadors</a>  <a href="mailto:mzilliox@ccsd-k12.net">mzilliox@ccsd-k12.net</a>  <a href="mailto:vhoeltke@ccsd-k12.net">vhoeltke@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Art Club</b> - Meets every other Thursday starting 10/3 <a href="#">Art club dates</a> (only Monday meeting is 11/25)  <a href="mailto:jhallmark@ccsd-k12.net">jhallmark@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Science Club</b> - Meets every week on Thursdays  <a href="#">Science Club Dates</a>  <a href="mailto:wwasner@ccsd-k12.net">wwasner@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Chess Club</b> - Every Thursday</p>



# Important Information

## Grade Level Leaders

The following staff are delegated grade level leaders for each grade. To contact them, you can email them with their first initial, last name and @ccsd-k12.net (ex: [csalinas@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:csalinas@ccsd-k12.net))

<b>5th Grade</b> Mr. M. Skierczynski	<b>6th Grade</b> Ms. L. Braddock
<b>7th Grade</b> Mr. M. Buscaglia	<b>8th Grade</b> Mr. L. Silliman

## CCMS Student Handbook 2024-2025



Scan Me!

## School Counselors

Our school counselors and school social worker are:

- Mrs. Goc
- Mrs. Dudas
- Mrs. Schu
- Mrs. Kean (Social Worker)



Please note the assignments to learn of your son or daughter's school counselor:

5th Grade	
School Counselor:	Teacher:
<b>Mrs. Goc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wasner</li><li>• Richter</li><li>• MacVittie</li><li>• McKinney</li></ul>
<b>Mrs. Schu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skierczynski</li><li>• Zilliox</li></ul>
<b>Mrs. Dudas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gandy</li><li>• Lewis</li></ul>

Grades 6-8	
<b>Mrs. Goc</b>	6th Grade
<b>Mrs. Dudas</b>	7th Grade
<b>Mrs. Schu</b>	8th Grade