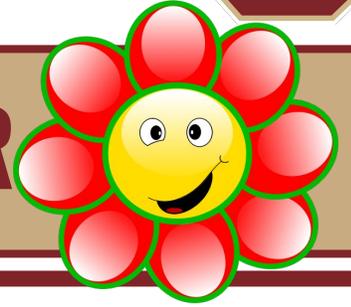


## APRIL NEWSLETTER



### Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

As we step into the month of April, we are excited to continue our journey together toward a successful end of the school year. This month, our focus in character education is *imaginative*. Imaginative thinking is such a powerful tool, allowing our students to explore new ideas, overcome challenges, and think creatively in all areas of their lives. As we encourage imagination in the classroom, we are also fostering innovation, problem-solving, and the ability to see beyond the present to what is possible.

As we approach the end of the school year, there are a few key things to keep in mind:

- **State Testing:** Testing season is upon us, and we ask that you help your child stay well-rested and ready to do their best. We're confident that our students will demonstrate their growth and all they've learned this year.
- **End-of-Year Celebrations:** We are already planning end-of-year events, from class projects and field trips to graduation ceremonies. These celebrations will be wonderful opportunities to reflect on the progress our students have made and recognize their hard work.
- **Year-End Wrap-Up:** Teachers will be preparing students for the transition to the next grade level, helping them finish strong while setting goals for the future. It's an exciting time to reflect on accomplishments and set new ambitions.

As we move forward, let's embrace the opportunity to finish the school year with *determination, positivity, and, of course, imaginative thinking*. Each student has the potential to achieve great things, and with continued effort and support, we know they will rise to the occasion.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

# Important Information

## Upcoming Dates

April 11	3rd Marking Period Grades Close
April 14-18	Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
April 22	Grades 5-8 Jazz Night @7pm
April 29	NYS ELA Exam Part I (Grs. 5-8)
April 30	NYS ELA Exam Part II (Grs. 5-8)
May 3	Multicultural Festival
May 6	NYS Math Exam Part I (Grs.5-8)
May 7	NYS Math Exam Part II (Grs. 5-8)

## CCSD Student Code of Conduct 2024-2025



**SCAN ME!**

## Multicultural Festival Family Interest Form



Scan to fill out

OR

[click here](#)



## 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>

# NYS TESTING INFO

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

## Grades 5-8 NYS Testing Dates

ELA Session 1: April 29th  
 ELA Session 2: April 30th

Math Session 1 May 6th  
 Math Session 2 May 7th

5th & 8th Science: May 13th



# NYS MATH ASSESSMENT

## NYS Math Assessment May 6<sup>th</sup> & May 7<sup>th</sup>

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





**SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025**

**10AM - 3PM**

**JOIN THE FUN!**

**ACTIVITIES STILL AVAILABLE TO SIGN UP:**

5th - Hoop Gliders 2-2:30pm

6th - Paper Rockets 1-2pm

7th - Airplanes 1:30-2pm

8th - Microscope Mysteries 11-12pm

MS Tech pop Bottle Racers 12:30-1:30pm

**\*Plus 73 Stations to visit\***

# 5TH GRADE

## 5th Grade News

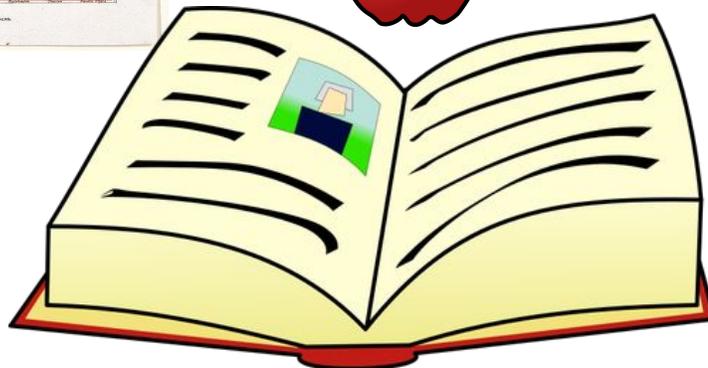
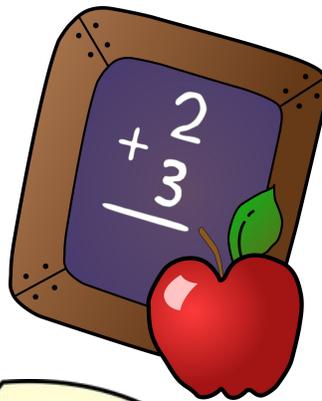
As we approach the last quarter of the school year, please continue to look at your child's agenda and sign it daily. Ask your child if they need pencils for class. Working together, we can build good habits for a lifetime.

Parents, you can help your child build confidence and fluency in reading by reading with your child daily. Take turns reading to model fluency and discuss what you have read to increase comprehension. The NYS ELA test will be held on April 29th and 30th.

Daily practice of basic math facts is a must. All students should know their facts with automaticity. This means that they can immediately give an answer without counting on their fingers. Many students still struggle with money. Having your child count change is another great skill to work on at home. The NYS Math test will be held on May 6th and 7th.

In Social Studies, students are concluding their study of the Age of Exploration. They will be moving on to the colonization of North America leading up to the Revolutionary War. Stay tuned for information on a field trip in June that will bring their studies to life.

In Science, the fifth graders are finishing up their study of matter and are moving on to the patterns of Earth and sky. With the warm weather approaching, take the opportunity to observe the stars on a clear night. Students should be able to explain why we have a daily pattern of day and night and why the stars appear to move across the sky.



# 6TH GRADE

## Math

Our 6th graders have been working hard and are gearing up for the New York State Math Test this spring! In class, we've been reviewing key concepts like fractions, ratios, geometry, and problem-solving strategies. Students are practicing how to show their work clearly, explain their thinking, and tackle multi-step word problems with confidence. You can help at home by encouraging your child to practice math facts, complete homework carefully, and talk through math problems to strengthen their reasoning skills. A good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and a positive mindset on test day will help them feel ready to succeed!

 **17** Math Testing Dates: May 6th and 7th We're so proud of the effort they're putting in!

## ELA

As we head into spring, our 6th graders are getting ready to take the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) test. This test is an opportunity for students to show what they've learned in reading, writing, and critical thinking. The ELA test measures students' skills in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. Students will read both fiction and nonfiction passages and answer multiple-choice and short-response questions. They'll also write longer responses, explaining their ideas with evidence from the text.

### How We're Preparing in Class

In school, students are practicing:

- **Close reading strategies** to understand texts deeply
- **Answering text-based questions** that require evidence
- **Writing clear, organized responses**
- **Building stamina** for longer reading and writing tasks

 **17** ELA Testing Dates: April 29th and 30th, please encourage your child to do his/her best!

## Social Studies

Our current unit is focusing on the Roman Empire. We've been learning how Rome grew from a small city to one of the most powerful empires in history. Students are discovering how Roman inventions, like roads and aqueducts, helped connect their vast empire, and how Roman laws and government still influence us today. We've also explored the daily life of Roman citizens, from what they ate to the games they played. Ask your child about what surprised them most about ancient Rome—they've learned some amazing facts!

## Science

In science class, our 6th graders are learning about force and motion. They are exploring how objects move and what causes them to start, stop, or change direction. Students are studying important ideas like gravity, friction, and Newton's Laws of Motion. They are also participating in simple experiments to observe how different forces affect motion. This unit helps students understand the science behind many things they experience in everyday life.

# 7TH GRADE

## Social Studies:

Students will then begin Unit 5: The Constitution at Work. How early Presidents used the Constitution to improve the country's growth in the early years.

## Bill of Rights

**Amendment I**  
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

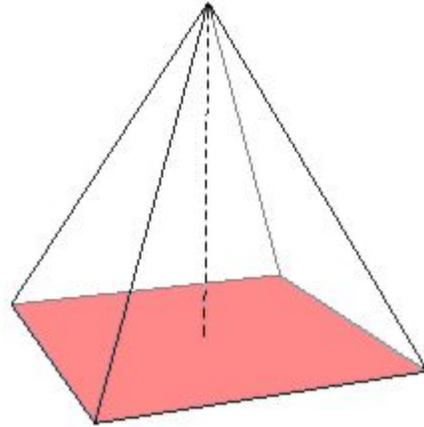
**Amendment II**  
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

**Amendment III**  
No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

**Amendment IV**  
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

## Math 7: Students are learning about Geometry.

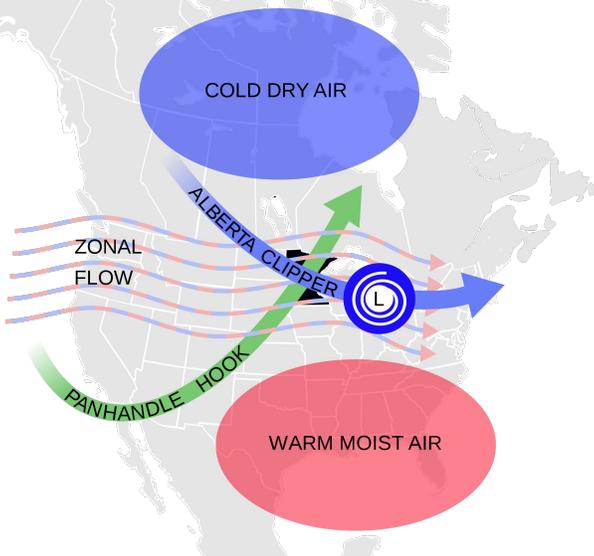
Math 7 Honors: Students are learning about Advanced Geometry.



## Science:

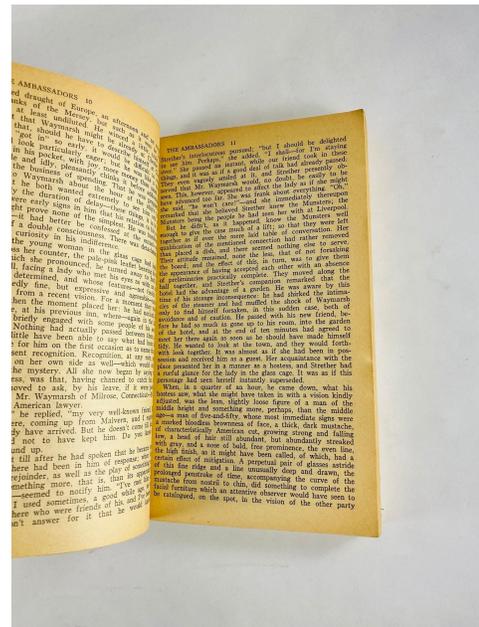
Students are learning about the weather patterns in the world and start the NYS investigation on weather.

## MINNESOTA WEATHER PATTERNS



## English:

Students will begin preparation for the NYS ELA Exam, including reviewing reading passages, essay development and test question preparation. After the state assessments, students will begin a new novel.



# 8TH GRADE

**Dear Families,**

As we move forward in this exciting school year, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement is vital to the success of our students, and we truly appreciate everything you do.

## **Important Announcements**

- **Math 8:** We will be covering some last-minute topics for the state assessment, including volume. Please note that the state test is scheduled for **May 6 & 7**.
- **Algebra:** Our focus will be on working through the various forms of a quadratic function.
- **Social Studies:** We are wrapping up our unit on imperialism and will soon begin our study of World War One.
- **Science 8:** We are starting our unit on Natural Selection and preparing for the NYS Science test on **May 13**.
- **Biology:** We will begin our reproduction unit, which covers both cell reproduction and human reproduction.
- **ELA:** Students will be preparing for the New York State ELA Assessment and will start reading books from the World War II era, including *Night* and *Unbroken*. Please note that the state test is scheduled for **April 29 & 30**.

## **Important Dates for April**

We have some exciting milestones to celebrate:

- **Spring Break:** April 14, 2025, through April 18, 2025, is Spring Break for the Cheektowaga Central School District. We hope you enjoy this time with your family!
- **Marking Period End:** The Third Marking Period ends on **April 11, 2025**. Thank you for your support in helping our students achieve their best this marking period!

## **Additional Information**

As we approach these important dates, we encourage families to continue fostering a love for learning at home. Your support makes a significant difference in your child's educational journey.

In closing, we are grateful for your ongoing support in nurturing our students' growth and achievements. Together, we can continue to create a positive and impactful learning environment. We look forward to more collaboration in the weeks ahead!

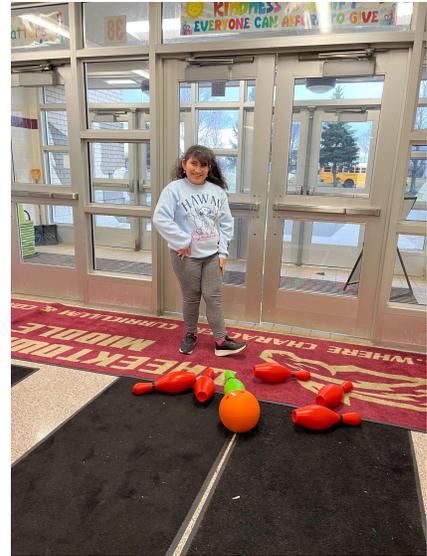
Warm regards

# SPECIALS UPDATES

Mrs. McMahon's class has been learning about color schemes and practicing drawing landscapes in Mrs. Netti's art room. Today they began painting monochromatic color schemes, showing off their mastery of color mixing.



Ms. Lombardo and Faith Ann had BLAST bowling!



March 19th was our All Band Concert. Students in grade 5-12 performed very well. The finale of the concert was a combined piece with high school and students in grades 7th and 8th. Over 100 students were on stage performing at the same time!



# Character Education

The character education team hosted its third annual pie day on Friday, March 14 during lunches. Students had an opportunity to throw a pie at their favorite teacher. It was a fun and exciting day!



On Tuesday, March 18th, Mr. Haberl hosted the Cheektowaga wrestling banquet at Ilio DiPaolo's restaurant. Superintendent Mr. Zipp addressed the wrestlers and their families, emphasizing the importance of work ethic and how Cheektowaga's motto—"Where Character, Curriculum, and Community Connect"—aligns with their athletic journey.



AND

ST GREGORY THE GREAT FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

*present*

AN AFTERNOON WITH

*Elisabeth von Trapp*

**Elisabeth von Trapp,**  
granddaughter of the legendary  
Maria and Baron Von Trapp,  
whose story inspired  
**The Sound of Music!**

**April 26**

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
at St. Gregory the Great Church  
200 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

**st.gregs.org**

Use QR code or purchase tickets  
at the Parish Office.



**IN CONCERT**



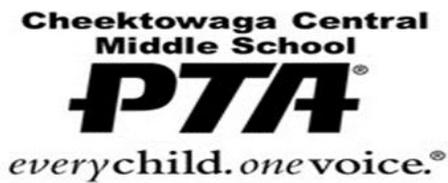
**Tickets On  
Sale NOW**

\$20 per Adult (Age 13+)  
\$10 per Child (Age 12 and under)

**New York Times** - Her voice is hauntingly clear and  
her lyrics tender and romantic.

**Boston Globe** - Before the concert is over she will have  
the crowd enthralled with the sheer beauty of her voice.





[NEXT PTA MEETING - ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS](#)

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

6:00PM

Cheektowaga Middle School Cafeteria

[SPRING FUNDRAISER PICKUP INFORMATION](#)

**When:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - 5:00pm - 7:00pm

**Where:** Door 26

It is the first door at the beginning of the pickup circle by the MS main entrance.  
Because of your help and support, we surpassed our fundraising goal!

[CCMS Spring Dance](#)

Theme to be announced soon - Stay tuned!

**Where:** CCMS Gym

**When:** Friday, May 16th 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Tickets:** \$5 each - on sale starting Monday, May 5th

Join us for a fun-filled night featuring a live DJ, door prize raffle, dance contests with gift card prizes, and food with refreshments for sale!

**Questions?** See Mrs. Scholl

[PTA SPONSORED STEAM EVENTS](#)

**SAT MAY 3RD 10:00-3:00**

[BOTTLE DRIVE](#)

Stop by the PTA and take part in our Bottle Drive! For every bag of bottles you donate, you'll receive an entry into a raffle for a fun prize basket. Can't stay long? No Problem, there will also be collection bins placed throughout the event for your convenience. Every bottle helps support our students and school activities. Thank you for your support.

[SAND ART](#)

Swing by our PTS Sand Art Table for a hands-on, colorful activity the kids will love! We'll have fun, wavy plastic bottles and a rainbow of sand for students to layer and design their own unique creations. It's a great way to get creative and take home a special souvenir from the event. Don't miss it.

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)



# 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:kwilas@ccsd-k12.net">kwilas@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>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:jlewis@ccsd-k12.net">jlewis@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