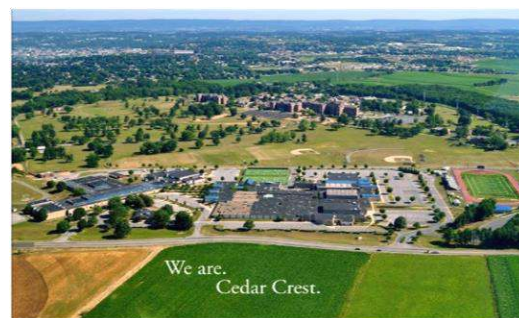


Cedar Crest Middle School

Newsletter

April, 2022



Principal's Message

Dear Falcon Families:

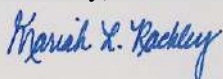
It is hard believe that we have completed the third marking period and are already three quarters of the way through this school year! Although this year has been full of challenges, we are grateful to have faced them together in our #CommUNITY at CCMS!

As many of you know, the state mandated PSSA testing dates will be held in April. The English/Language Arts test will be administered April 25-27 and the Math assessment on May 2-3. Eighth grade students will take the PSSA Science test on May 9-10. Please help your child prepare for this testing by making sure that they are well-rested and eating breakfast. PSSA information for families will be sent with this newsletter as a separate attachment. Questions about PSSA testing can be directed to your child's guidance counselor in our Counseling Office.

Please look for calendar updates and announcements for spring activities. We are excited to have our students competing in athletics, preparing their spring concerts, and participating in our familiar middle school experiences!

As always, we appreciate your continued support of your child's education. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us here at the middle school.

Sincerely,



Mariah L. Rackley, Ed. D.
Principal

Calendar of Events

- Apr. 1: NO SCHOOL for Students
- Apr. 4: Chess Club, B-14, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 4: Mini-THON meeting, A-13, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 4: Sketch, Art rooms, C-13/C-15, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 5: Boys Volleyball Club, MS Gym, 3:10-5:00 pm
- Apr. 5: Spring Picture Day
- Apr. 5: Video Game Creator Club, B-14, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 7: Belonging, Connecting, and Mattering Club, A-15, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 7: Boys Volleyball Club, MS Gym, 3:10-5:00 pm
- Apr. 7: Envirothon, B-25, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 7: Report cards posted to Skyward Family Access
- Apr. 11: Sketch, Art rooms, C-13/C-15, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 12: Boys Volleyball Club, MS Gym, 3:10-5:00 pm
- Apr. 13: Card Club Wednesday, A-6, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 14-19: NO SCHOOL Spring Vacation
- Apr. 20: Card Club Wednesday, A-6, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 20: P-SP Meeting, Learning Center, 7 pm
- Apr. 21: Belonging, Connecting, and Mattering Club, A-15, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 21: Boys Volleyball Club, MS Gym, 3:10-5:00 pm
- Apr. 22: Falcon Bingo at CCMS for all students!
- Apr. 25: Sketch, Art rooms, C-13/C-15, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 26: Boys Volleyball Club, Youth Volleyball Night during HS JV (6 pm) and Varsity (7 pm) match.
- Apr. 28: Belonging, Connecting, and Mattering Club, A-15, 3:10-4:10 pm
- Apr. 28: Boys Volleyball Club, MS Gym, 3:10-5:00 pm
- Apr. 28: Envirothon, B-25, 3:10-4:10 pm

CCMS Student Council Sponsored Spirit Days

Wednesday, April 20 – Heart Day – One of our most important organs is your heart. Wear your most comfortable clothes.

Thursday, April 21 – Show appreciation for Organ Donor Awareness month and wear green and blue.

Friday, April 22 – Falcon Friday – Wear your Cedar Crest apparel or your Falcon colors. Students may wear a hat for \$1 donation. All funds go to organ/tissue donor awareness.

Jump Start after school tutoring program

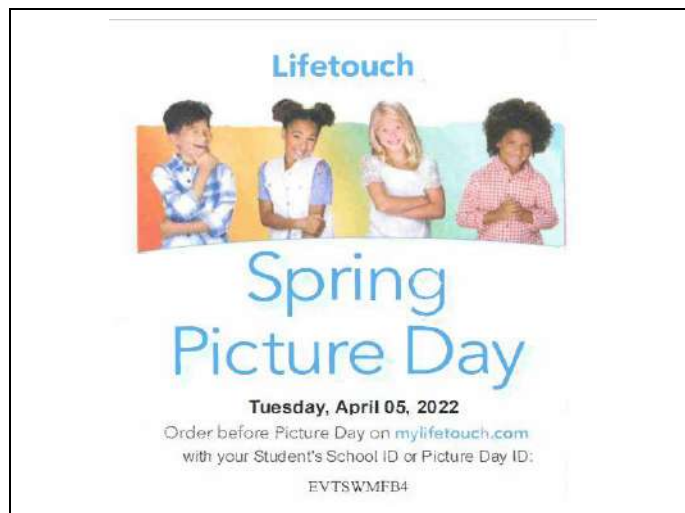
Jump Start is an after school tutoring program designed for students who need academic assistance. Students will be able to use resources for research, complete homework, and work on projects. It is open to all students in grades six through eight from 3:10-4:10 pm. Students will report to the Skylight after second run buses have been called. Students may ride the activity bus home.

Dates are posted in the office and all classrooms.*

April 5, 7, 12, 21, 26, 28

May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19

*These dates are subject to change.



First Chapter Falcons CARE Group

Mrs. Bray and Mrs. Schappell's Falcons CARE Groups, *First Chapter Falcons CARE*, will visit South Lebanon Elementary for an afternoon of reading and fun. This event will happen on Wednesday, April 20 from 12:45-2:45 pm! CCMS students will return to CCMS in time to ride home on the bus. Parent permission slips were handed out at the March 30 Falcons CARE meeting. Forms must be completed and returned to Mrs. Bray or Mrs. Schappell.

Information from the District Office

Be sure to check the online CLSD Community Bulletin Board for information about sports activities, summer camps, scouting opportunities, fundraisers, and many other activities and opportunities for students and families: <www.clsd.k12.pa.us> Look under the "Community" tab. Info is updated regularly!

No School - Spring Vacation: April 14-19, 2022. Classes resume Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

CLSD Board of School Directors meetings: Tuesday, April 19, 5:30 pm, CCHS Large Group Instruction (LGI) room. A Public Work Session will be held Monday, April 11, 2022, 5:30 pm, in the same location. Check CLSD website for info and a link to view the Livestream meeting or to register to attend in person.

Administrative Professionals Recognition Day: Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Falcon Foundation Grants/Awards and Recognition Reception: Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 7:00-8:00 pm, CCMS Auditorium.

Middle School Orientation for Parents of 5th Grade Students: Thursday, April 28, 2022, 6:30 pm, CCMS Auditorium

Star Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students selected as their team's "Star Student of the Month" for March. Stop by the bulletin board located between the main office and the attendance office to see the star students and why they were chosen by their team of teachers.

Team Blast 6-1 - Alice Kitchens
Team Blue Aggies 6-2 - Alexander Men
Team Ironmasters 6-3 - Maya Brubaker
Team Horizon 7-1 - Kai Hopple
Team Spartans 7-2 - Addison Witmer
Team Knights 7-3 - Mykelann Lotz
Team Academy 7-4 - Indigo Schade
Team Mariner 8-1 - Connor Strauser
Team Enterprise 8-2 - Sarah Updike
Team Endeavor 8-3 - Chase Greeninger

News from the Nurse

Please encourage your child to carry a refillable water bottle at school!

If you received a referral for evaluation, as a result of the school's vision, hearing, and/or scoliosis screenings, please remember to have the completed referral form(s) returned to the nurse, after your child's evaluation by your health care practitioner.

Completed physical and dental exams, as well as updated immunization records can be brought to the school or provided via fax to 717-389-1858. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. North, CCMS school nurse, at 717-389-1845.

News from Student Council

We are excited to share that we will be opening, The Falcon Nest, this school year! This will be a pop-up closet where Falcons can go and shop for clothes, toiletries, snacks, and school supplies at no cost. Students can sign up to shop by using the link below or talking to their guidance counselor. We are asking for donations of lightly used or new clothes, new toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.), individually packaged snacks, and new school supplies. We will be accepting donations in the commons area from Monday, April 4 to Wednesday, April 13. There will also be a donation box located located in the Main Office all the time for incoming donations. We are ecstatic about being able to help our fellow Falcon friends! Thank you!
[Link to sign up to shop](#)

Parent-School Partners (P-SP)

The next P-SP meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 pm in the Learning Center Classroom. This date is a change from the school calendar where it is listed on Thursday, April 21. We would love to see you and share our spring opportunities with you! If you have any questions, contact Matthew Davis, at yodendelgra@gmail.com.

CCMS Music Department

Congratulation to the following students who were selected to perform in the LLMEA Middle School Band Festival on April 1 and 2 at Cedar Crest High School: Noah Bensing, Kyle Blizzard, Adelyn Brown, Haylee Cook, Marchelle Contreras, Kate Crawford, Aiden Davis, Sophia Ebersole, Toby Felker, Evan Garman, Ali Gatto, Margret Graby, Joshua Grove, Landyn Kline, Edward Kuntz, Wyatt Lahr, Halle MacDonald, Vincent Mattern, Sophia Mays, Nathan Meng, Cambell Meyer, Abena Obuobisa, Aiden Reif, Alex Reimann, Andrew Seeger, Kya Sherwood, Lila Stutzman, Tanner Thomas, Daniel Trexler, Sarah Updike, Mikalyn Weaber, Evan Weimer, Carter Wickenheiser, Caden Wolfe, and Ella Wolff

News from Yearbook Staff

Two Ways to Purchase a Yearbook!

1. Visit YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM and order electronically.
2. Return the Yearbook form with payment to Ms. Oblinsky in Room A-19. Checks should be made payable to CCMS. Purchase early to save!

INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING PHOTOS?

Two Ways to Submit Photos!

VISIT YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM

Click on the community upload banner
School access code: ccms22

Yearbook Snap App!

Download our App to upload your photos!
Photos must be actual size (Megabytes)

If you have questions regarding purchasing or submitting photos to the yearbook, email Ms. Oblinsky at toblinsky@clsd.k12.pa.us.

Information from the District Office CCMS Student of the Year

On Monday, February 14, 2022, at the Cornwall-Lebanon School Board meeting, Abena Obuobisa was presented to the Board as the Cedar Crest Middle School Student of the Year.

Abena is a member of our Envirothon, Morning Announcements crew, track team, and plays clarinet in the school band. Abena tutors her peers and friends to help them with their academics. Outside of school, Abena plays the piano and takes tap and ballet lessons.

Abena is a quiet leader who takes the initiative to do things that need to be done. Her teachers describe her as brilliant, thoughtful, and personable.

Abena is a motivated student who is driven to be the best that she can be. She sets high expectations and demonstrates great citizenship within the Cedar Crest community. Congratulations to Abena and her family!



Has a teacher or staff member had a positive impact on your child?

At Cedar Crest Middle School, we use Wings of Praise to encourage our students to show our four core values of **Positive Attitude, Work Hard, Do what is Right, and Share your Talents**. You may have seen the stickers, heard your child talk about the prizes, or even seen the weekly tweets. Over the course of this school year, teachers and staff have handed out approximately 6,500 Wings of Praises and we have had over 100 weekly, monthly, and quarterly prizes awarded to students who exemplify the qualities of being a Falcon.

While we reward our students with Wings of Praise, our faculty and staff share the same core values. Our students are doing amazing things every day thanks to the awesome efforts of our teachers and staff. **To recognize our tremendous teachers and staff we have at Cedar Crest Middle School, please consider sharing how a staff member or your child's teacher has exemplified our core values, the same core values we use with our students.** #WingsOfPraise

Congratulations to the following staff members who were recognized this year:
Todd Gardner, Rachel Sparks, Kristi Glassford, Chris Muritz, Jared Daubert, Heidi Eck

Use the link or QR code to share your praise.

<https://forms.office.com/r/v1UUMchViZ>



CCMS Performing Arts Performing Willy Wonka Jr.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Cast and Crew of Willy Wonka Jr. We had 3 SOLD OUT performances! A very special thank you to our parent volunteers, Melissa Lotz, our amazing seamstress, and PA Audio and Lighting for their knowledge and equipment to make our show a success!

Stay tuned for information for our Summer Theater Camp hosted by both CCMS and CCHS Fall Drama programs. Elementary-9th grade will be invited to learn the ins and outs of how our drama programs work, from auditions, casting, rehearsals, costumes, sound, lighting and more!



PSSA Testing Information

All students in grades six through eight must participate in the ELA and Mathematics PSSA (state assessment) testing. ELA has three sections and math has two sections for a total of five tests. Students will be asked to answer both multiple-choice and open-ended responses. PSSA ELA will be administered on Monday, April 25 through Wednesday, April 27. Math will be given on Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 3.

Eighth grade students will also take the PSSA Science Assessment. The science test consists of two sections with two types of questions—multiple-choice and open-ended. The science assessment will also include science scenarios which contain text, graphics, charts, and/or tables, and uses these elements to describe the results of a class project, an experiment, or other similar research. The Science PSSA will take place Monday, May 9 and Tuesday, May 10.

Information regarding PSSA Testing will be attached to this newsletter. If you have any questions regarding that information or PSSA testing in general, please do not hesitate to contact your child's guidance counselor.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In an era of cell phones, smartphones and other electronic devices which can easily photograph and instantly share photographs, confidential and secure test materials can be easily compromised. Not only is it expensive to replace a compromised test item, the material contained in the PSSA and Keystone Exams is copyrighted property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Copying or duplicating the material from the assessment, including the taking of a photograph of secure assessment material, is a violation of the federal Copyright Act. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).

In order to ensure reliable test results and to avoid the cost of replacing test items, the Department of Education requires schools to set rules and take certain steps to protect test materials. Electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, E-readers, Nooks, Kindles, iPods, tablets, camera-ready devices, and any other electronic device which can be used to photograph or duplicate test materials, access the internet and/or communicate with others during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams are not permitted in any testing site. Please speak with your child and let him or her know that the possession and/or use of a cell phone or other electronic device during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams will result in consequences.

You will be contacted by the school if your child is discovered using and/or having a cell phone or other unapproved electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the PSSA or Keystone Exams. Students who ignore this directive will be subject to the school's discipline policy and the Department of Education's requirement that the student's test will not be scored and the student will be required to retake the entire exam. The electronic device will be held by school staff, and the device's stored photographs and other functions will be examined with your permission. You may request to be present when the electronic device is examined. If a photograph of the PSSA or Keystone Exam is discovered or if permission to search other functions of the electronic device is refused, the device will be held by the school staff. The Pennsylvania Department of Education holds the copyright to all material contained within the PSSA and Keystone Exams, the Pennsylvania Department of Education will be contacted and further action may be taken.

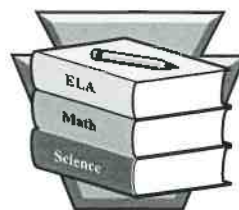
If, after testing is complete and test materials have been returned, it is discovered that a student used and/or had a cell phone or other unapproved electronic device in his or her possession during the administration of the test, the school's discipline policy will be followed and the student's test will not be scored.

Frequently Asked Questions

Information for Parents or Guardians

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

English Language Arts Assessment, April 25–29, 2022
Mathematics and Science Assessment, May 2–13, 2022



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PSSA

Which schools participate?

All school districts and charter schools participate in the assessments. Nonpublic and private schools may also participate on a voluntary basis.

Which students take the assessments?

Except for a very few students who meet specific criteria for participation in an alternate assessment, all students are included in the assessments as outlined below:

ELA & Mathematics—Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
Science—Grades 4 and 8

Who decided what the assessments should measure?

Groups of educators from all levels of education in Pennsylvania chose the areas of knowledge and skills upon which the assessments are based. The groups included teachers, supervisors, curriculum directors, and college specialists. They also reviewed, edited, and approved the test items.

Who administers the assessments?

Each school chooses the person(s) who will administer the assessments. In most cases, these are teachers in the students' building.

How are the results reported?

Two copies of the individual student report for all assessments will be sent to all schools and districts that participate for distribution to parents, teachers, school counselors, and/or principals. The state will not receive any report with individual names included.

School-level reports will be used for curricular and planning purposes. School districts and charter schools may publish the results of PSSA testing for each school. The state will also release school-by-school assessment data.

May parents see the assessments?

Yes, under one circumstance. School entities are required to have policies to ensure that parents or guardians have the right to review a state assessment in the school entity during convenient hours for parents or guardians from the time testing materials are received to the end of the make-up schedule in order to determine whether a state assessment conflicts with their religious belief. This is the only reason allowable under regulation.

Confidentiality agreements must be signed, and no copies of the assessments or notes about assessment items will be permitted to leave the school. If after reviewing the test, parents or guardians find the test to be in conflict with their religious belief and wish their student(s) to be excused from the test, the right of the parents or guardians will not be denied upon written request to the applicable school district Superintendent, charter school Chief Executive Officer, or AVTS Director. Parents or guardians should contact their child's school to make arrangements to review the test.

Report Testing Irregularities

Parents/guardians who believe that a testing irregularity may have occurred may email ra-edirregularities@pa.gov or call 844-418-1651 to report the incident.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT (grades 3 through 8)

How long does the assessment take?

The entire English Language Arts assessment takes approximately three to four hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

What does the assessment include?

Each student completes three sections of questions for the English Language Arts assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

What types of questions are on the assessment?

Students respond to multiple-choice, evidence-based selected-response, and constructed-response questions. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer(s) is chosen from four options. Evidence-based selected-response questions have two parts, and students select one or more answers for each part. Constructed-response questions may include a short-answer (grade 3) or text dependent analysis (grades 4 through 8). Short-answer questions require students to compose a brief response to support their answer. For the text dependent analysis question, students analyze a text and use evidence from the reading passage to compose an essay.

How are written responses to constructed-response items scored?

The written responses for English Language Arts are scored by evaluators trained in applying an ELA-specific scoring guideline. For short-answer questions, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process. Responses to text dependent analysis questions are scored based on both content and writing skills.

What is assessed in English Language Arts?

The English Language Arts assessment addresses six major reporting categories as well as two text types. Students respond to standalone multiple-choice items assessing language. Additionally, students read a number of passages from literature and informational genres and respond to questions about these passages that indicate both comprehension and reading skills and the students' analysis and interpretation of different types of texts.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT (grades 3 through 8)

How long does the assessment take?

The entire mathematics assessment takes approximately two to three hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

What does the assessment include?

Each student completes two sections of questions for the mathematics assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

What types of questions are on the assessment?

Students respond to two types of questions: multiple-choice and open-ended. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer is chosen from the four presented options, while open-ended questions require students to compose their responses. Open-ended questions generally require students to provide detail in support of their answers (such as showing or describing the steps performed to complete a calculation).

How are written responses to open-ended items scored?

The written responses for mathematics open-ended items are scored by evaluators trained in applying a mathematics-specific scoring guideline. In mathematics, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process.

What is assessed in Mathematics?

The mathematics assessment addresses five major reporting categories across four clusters. The reporting categories assessed and the proportion of questions in each reporting category vary by grade level. As a part of the assessment of Cluster A, Numbers and Operations, students in grades 4 through 8 respond to a set of questions without a calculator. Constructed-response items may require the students to show all of their work (e.g., calculations, graphs, drawings) and/or to explain in writing how they solved the problems.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (grades 4 and 8)

How long does the assessment take?

The entire science assessment takes approximately one to two hours to complete. Your school district will inform you about the assessment schedule.

What does the assessment include?

Students in grades 4 and 8 complete two sections of questions for the science assessment. Some portions will be the same for all students, and some will consist of different groups of questions.

What types of questions are on the assessment?

Students respond to two types of questions: multiple-choice and open-ended. In a multiple-choice question, the correct answer is chosen from the four presented options, while open-ended questions require students to compose their responses. At grade 8, the science assessment also includes science scenarios.

What is a science scenario?

A science scenario contains text, graphics, charts, and/or tables and uses these elements to describe the results of a class project, an experiment, or other similar research. Students use the information found in a science scenario to answer multiple-choice questions.

How are written responses to open-ended items scored?

The written responses for science open-ended items are scored by evaluators trained in applying a science-specific scoring guideline. In science, scores are based on content only. Spelling and punctuation are not included as part of the scoring process.

What is assessed in science?

The science assessment addresses the four major reporting categories: The Nature of Science, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences. The proportion of items in each reporting category varies by grade level.