

5 NEW THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT

Important information for CCSD families to ensure a smooth start to the 2026-27 school year!

1

Student Academic Ownership

- **Placement/Promotion:** New supports are now in place to ensure that any academic concerns are addressed with early and on-time supports. As CCSD begins 2026-27 with clearer standards for meeting grade level or course criteria, it will be important that students make attendance a priority and complete academic work in a timely manner.

Elementary: Clear promotion criteria have been established including skills in math and reading.

Middle: A new opportunity, course recovery, will be available for middle school students with a final semester average of 55-69 and fewer than 10 unexcused absences. Summer school will be available if the final semester average is lower than 55, or 69 or lower with 10 or more unexcused absences.

High: The following continued opportunities will exist at our high schools with clearer parameters this year:

- Course extension is available if a student's final grade is 65-69 and fewer than 10 unexcused absences.
 - Credit recovery is available if a student's final grade is 55-69 and fewer than 10 unexcused absences.
 - Students can retake the entire course if they are not eligible or are unsuccessful in credit recovery or course extension.
- **Conference Days:** To strengthen communication between schools and families, we are beginning scheduled parent-teacher conference days. Elementary schools will have conferences October 13-16, with student dismissal at 11:30 am daily (free ASP will be provided until 2:15 pm regular dismissal time; regular rate ASP will run as usual until 6 pm). All grades will have conferences January 28 & 29, with early dismissal at all schools on those dates. More details will come from your child's school as we approach these events.

- **Grading Systems:** Students in 3rd grade will move from a standards-based report card to numerical grades.
- **Report Cards:** Printed report cards will go home quarterly with students in grades K-8. High school students will receive a printed report and unofficial transcript at the close of each semester.

2

Stronger Expectations for Student Behavior

- **High Standards:** Thriving schools have strong expectations for positive student behavior, and this is a sentiment we heard repeatedly from parents, teachers, and staff in focus groups last year. We are strengthening our expectations for respectful behavior at our schools, aboard our buses and at school-sponsored events.
- **Disruptions and Threats:** Student learning is our focus. Class disruptions and disrespectful behavior interfere with other students learning and impact the teacher's effectiveness, and will not be tolerated. Elementary school students will be subject to stronger and more consistent consequences, including in-school suspension. Threats are taken seriously at all grade levels, including our elementary grades, and cannot be tolerated. Please have conversations with your students about the importance of respectful classroom and bus behaviors, and the seriousness of threatening language.
- **School Buses:** Our school buses are an extension of our classrooms, and behavior on school buses is receiving increased support and consequences. Our bus drivers have a very important responsibility that requires focus and attention, and behavior that disrupts, distracts or involves disrespect will not be tolerated. Bus riding privileges may be suspended for a student who interferes with the safety of a bus route.
- **Attendance:** Daily school attendance is critical to learning and student success. CCSD will notify you via email each time your student is absent. In accordance with Georgia law, an Attendance Review Team meeting is required at 5 unexcused absences or 10 cumulative absences.

3

Technology

- **Canvas:** While there were disruptions in access to the Canvas learning platform at the close of the 2025-26 school year, Canvas is now fully operational and ready to use! If you need to set up a Canvas account, you can find a link to instructions on our Back to School webpage (use the QR code below).
- **1:1 Student Learning Devices in Middle School:** Middle school students will each be issued a Chromebook assigned to them to use during the school day. Personal devices can no longer be used at school.
- **Cell Phone Restrictions:** In accordance with Georgia's Distraction-Free Education Act, our middle school students will no longer be permitted to use cell phones or other personal electronic devices during the school day. Once on campus, devices must be silenced and kept out of sight during the school day and at school-sponsored activities (this includes field trips). Existing cell phone and personal device expectations for elementary (no use during school day) and high school students (restricted use) remain unchanged as outlined in our [Code of Conduct](#).
- **Screen Time Guidelines:** The addition of new technology devices in middle school prompted the School Board to clarify the expectation that our teachers remain central to student learning. CCSD has established new screentime guidance to shape the time spent on student learning devices so that, on average, it equates to 35 minutes for Pre-K through Grade 2, 45 minutes for Grades 3-5, and 90 minutes for Grades 6-12 each day. Teachers will apply their professional expertise and discretion to achieve this balance between each day and across each week.



Find out more information on these and other back-to-school topics on our website under the Back to School tab at the top of the home page, or scan the QR code here.

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Safety and Security

- **School Bus Stop Arm Cameras:** As a reminder, stop when a bus has red flashing lights. Stop Arm cameras were added to all CCSD school buses in the spring, and after a 30-day warning period, citations began to be issued for confirmed vehicle violations of passing a stopped school bus. When school buses begin rolling August 3, be aware that the stop arm cameras will be in use. Georgia law sets the fine for violations at \$1,000.
- **E-bikes and E-scooters:** These motorized devices are not allowed on school campuses.
- **Safety & Security Personnel:** Our Safety & Security team of 35 police officers and four safety monitors is adding five crossing guards to help traffic flow at our school campuses; the Cherokee Sheriff's Office provides five crossing guards to work with our team as well. Each middle school and high school will have one to two full-time officers and every two elementary schools will share an officer.
- **Camera Systems:** Cameras inside school buses have been replaced with better quality equipment, and the mapping of all our camera systems across all schools is complete. Our camera systems are now linked with the Cherokee Sheriff's Office to ensure rapid response if needed.

5

Communication Tools and Avenues

- **Best Way to Connect:** Use email or ParentSquare to communicate with teachers and staff. Students may also contact their teacher within the Canvas platform.
- **Conference Days:** As noted in Item 1, conference days to strengthen parent-teacher communication will be held in October (elementary only) and January (all schools).
- **Update Communication Contact Information:** Use ParentVUE to complete First Day forms and update emergency contact information, medical info and more.