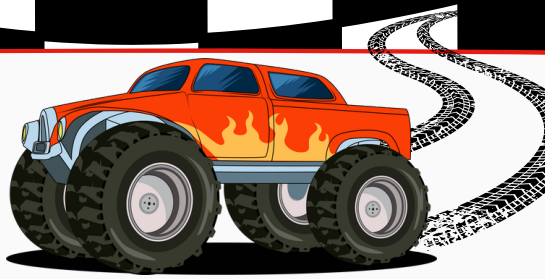
Coconut Creek K-8
Academy of Excellence

500 NW 45 Avenue
Coconut Creek, florida 33066



Note from Mrs Reid:

Hello Cougar Cub Parents,
Welcome to a new school year at Coconut Creek K-8 Academy of Excellence! We are excited for another year of learning, growth, and success as we continue “Racing Toward Excellence!” Our theme represents our commitment to moving forward together, setting high expectations, celebrating progress, and ensuring that every Cougar Cub reaches their full potential.
I am proud to share that our STAR/FAST testing is complete! These assessments provide important baseline data that help our teachers identify student strengths and areas for growth. We will use this information to drive instruction, target student needs, and provide the support and enrichment necessary for every student to succeed.
Your partnership is essential to our success. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is present and on time each day. Every minute of learning matters!
As always, I welcome your partnership and communication. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance.

Together, we will continue Racing Toward Excellence!

Proud Principal
Mrs. Jocelyn Reid



School News & Calendar of Events

- School Calendar of Events

Free and Reduced Lunch

Complete an application for free and/or reduced lunch today!

- Visit myschoolapps.com to complete an application.
- Breakfast is free for all students this year.
- Add funds to your school lunch account at myschoolbucks.com

Drop-off Policy:

Please be mindful of our Item Drop Policy for the 2026 - 2027 school year. We will accept items up until 9:00 a.m. daily.

- Items may include lunches, water bottles, snacks, projects, homework, etc.
- This policy was established to minimize disruptions to our academic day and ensure extra safety on campus. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Volunteer Application

If you want to volunteer on our school campus or attend field trips, you must be a registered volunteer. Registering is very easy; just go to the district's volunteer website. This application must be completed every year. https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NDgyMDplbi1VUw==



Labeling Items:

Please label all personal items with the student's name, including lunchboxes, water bottles, and jackets. This will help us return these items when lost.

Register to Ride

If you are a bus rider, please register at browardschools.com/register2ride

FOCUS

Parents, do you need help navigating FOCUS? Broward County Public Schools has you covered.

The link below will take you to useful information on how to navigate the FOCUS Parent Portal APP.
https://browardschools.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/auth/

SAFERWATCH

SafeWatch is a web-based and mobile app system that enables users to report an incident as it is happening or submit a tip at a later time. It also provides real-time communication during the situation.

Visit https://saferwatchapp.com/ for more information

FORTIFYFL

Submit a tip easily via our anonymous FortifyFL app. Provide as many details as you can, including names of people involved, physical descriptions, school name, social media handles, etc.

You can download the app or visit https://www.getfortifyfl.com/ for more information.



School Counselor's Corner



Welcome back to a new school year! During the first few weeks, students have been settling into routines, building positive relationships, and learning expectations that help create a safe and supportive school environment.

Throughout the remainder of the first quarter, students will participate in lessons focused on Cooperation and Responsibility. Select grade levels will also begin exploring Xello, our college and career readiness program. In addition, we will celebrate Start With Hello Week, promoting kindness, inclusion, and connectedness across our campus.

As always, I am here to support students and families with their academic, social, and emotional needs. I look forward to partnering with you for a successful school year!

Mrs. T



ASD Program:

Our Autism Special Program is thrilled to welcome all of our new students and happy to see our returning students. We had a successful first few weeks of school, and we look forward to an amazing school year that emphasizes inclusivity, diversity, and acceptance.

Our program goals are to promote progress in student academics as it relates to their grade-level curriculum standards and their IEP goals. We also thrive in encouraging student independence, communication needs, social skills, and catering to students' behavior and emotional needs through a variety of evidence-based approaches as it pertains to each individual student.

Kindergarten:

🌟 **Kindergarten Is Off to an Amazing Start!**

What a wonderful start to kindergarten! Our little learners have settled in so nicely and are becoming more comfortable and confident each day. It has been so exciting to see new friendships forming and to watch our students learn how to be kind, caring, and respectful friends. We are also practicing important social skills like taking turns, listening to others, sharing, and using kind words throughout our school day.

Our kindergarteners are already working hard and learning so much! 📚

In **Reading**, we are building our foundational skills and getting ready to become strong and confident readers. In **Science**, we have been learning how to make observations and explore the world around us like scientists. 🔎

In **Math**, we have been practicing counting, representing, and writing numbers to 5. Our students are learning that math is all around us and can be lots of fun! 🔢

We are so proud of how well our kindergarteners are doing and are excited about all the learning, growing, and fun ahead! Thank you for partnering with us as we begin this wonderful kindergarten journey together. 💛

1st Grade

Welcome to an exciting 2026-2027 school year in First Grade! We have had a wonderful start to the year and are excited about all the learning taking place in our classroom. In Math, students have been building their addition and subtraction skills within 10, and we will soon begin adding and subtracting within 20. In Reading, we are working on Unit 1, which focuses on how plants and animals grow and change. Students are learning to retell stories using relevant details and describe important story elements such as characters, setting, and events. We look forward to a successful first quarter filled with growth, learning, and lots of fun!

2nd Grade

The second-grade team has had a strong start to the school year, focusing on establishing routines while building foundational skills across all content areas. In Literacy, students have worked on phonics skills, including open and closed syllables, long vowels, inflectional endings, prefixes, and r-controlled vowels. They have also engaged in high-frequency word practice, reading comprehension strategies, vocabulary development, shared reading experiences, and expository writing activities.

In Math, students have explored even and odd numbers, skip counting, arrays, repeated addition, and addition and subtraction within 20. Instruction has emphasized problem-solving, mathematical communication, and the use of manipulatives and visual models to deepen conceptual understanding.

In Science, students have been introduced to the Nature of Science standards through hands-on investigations focused on observation, measurement, classification, and material properties. In Social Studies, students have developed map skills through the use of globes and maps while learning about the equator, poles, prime meridian, and the differences between political and physical maps.

As we continue through the first quarter, the second-grade team will remain focused on following the district curriculum and strengthening students' academic skills through engaging, standards-based instruction. We are also excited to begin planning a grade-level field trip for October to provide students with an enriching real-world learning experience.

3rd Grade

Hello, Cougar Families!

Our third-grade Cougar Cubs have been busy learning and building important skills across all subject areas. In Reading and Writing, students are currently studying Unit 1: Animal Adaptations, a nonfiction unit focused on identifying central ideas and relevant details. Students are also learning how authors use details to support their ideas and how to summarize important information. In Writing, students are developing expository pieces that explain and teach others about animal adaptations using information from texts and their own words. Coming up, students will explore fiction, plot, character development, figurative language, and opinion writing.

In Math, students have begun learning multiplication and division. They are using arrays, repeated addition, equal groups, counters, and bar diagrams to develop a strong understanding of these operations. Topics 1–4 place a strong emphasis on multiplication and division, making regular practice of multiplication facts at home especially helpful.

In Science, students are learning about matter and the three states of matter. They will soon explore how matter can change from one form to another. In Social Studies, students are developing map skills and learning to understand the world in spatial terms. Next, they will study places and regions. Students will also participate in learning activities connected to Heroes' Day, Constitution Week, and Celebrating Freedom Week.

We are proud of the progress our Cougar Cubs are making and appreciate your continued support at home as we work together to help every student grow and succeed.



4th Grade

Hi Fourth Grade Families!

A very warm welcome from your teachers: Ms. Alvarado, Ms. Blake, Ms. Craig, and Ms. Milien.

In ELA, we are currently wrapping up week two of Benchmark Advance Unit 1. This unit is non-fiction based, but the texts range from personal essays to realistic fiction to poems. Some of the standards assessed by this unit will be central idea and supporting relevant details, narrator's point of view and characters' perspectives, author's perspective, and figurative language. By mid-September, we will shift our focus from non-fiction to fiction-heavy standards as we begin Unit 2 of Benchmark, which will then carry us through to the end of quarter 1! 😊

In Math, we are currently working on Topic 2: Multiplication and Division Basic Facts. Students are building automaticity, which means recalling multiplication and division facts quickly and accurately without counting. Developing strong fact fluency helps students succeed with future math concepts, including multi-digit multiplication, division, fractions, and problem-solving.

Please encourage your child to practice multiplication facts for 5–10 minutes each night. Regular practice makes a big difference!

Fun Ways to Practice

- Flashcards
- Multiplication fact games
- Skip counting
- Multiplication charts
- Card games
- Fact practice apps or websites



5th Grade

Fifth-grade teachers are excited to work hard with our students this school year! Our fifth-grade teachers are Dr. Carroll, Ms. Butler, and Mrs. Van Sciver. In September, our students will work in our reading series, Benchmark Advance. We have already begun to explore the topic of "Cultivating Natural Resources" while reinforcing reading skills and working on mastering BEST ELA standards. We will be incorporating reading/writing, science, and social studies topics in our reading series. Look for reading text magazines to come home after the unit is complete. Continue to work on multiplication tables daily, as we will continue with number sense, including place value through the millions and decimals in our math series, Envision. Please check planners and FOCUS online daily for important information regarding your student's grades. Please make sure your student has headphones daily at school for testing purposes and for iReady lesson completion. Students are expected to pass a minimum of 1 ELA and 1 Math iReady lesson and be online for 30-49 minutes per week per subject. This will help them review skills and prepare for FAST testing. We would love to have all of our families join our PTA this year!

Thank you for your support!



6th & 7th Grades

Helping Your Middle Schooler Succeed This Year

Middle school is an exciting time of growth, independence, and new responsibilities. Parents play a vital role in helping students develop the habits they need to be successful both academically and socially. Here are a few ways you can support your child this year:

✅ Check Grades Regularly

Monitor your child's progress through FOCUS and discuss grades, missing assignments, and upcoming assessments.

✅ Encourage Organization

Help your child maintain an organized binder, backpack, and planner. Staying organized reduces stress and promotes responsibility.

✅ Establish a Homework Routine

Set aside a consistent time and quiet place for homework each evening. Encourage your child to complete assignments before engaging in recreational activities.

✅ Promote Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance is essential for learning. Arriving at school on time helps students start the day prepared and ready to learn.

✅ Stay Connected

Read school and teacher communications, attend school events, and reach out with questions or concerns. A strong home-school partnership benefits student success.

✅ Encourage Reading and Learning at Home

Support your child's learning by encouraging daily reading, discussing current events, and helping them make real-world connections to what they are learning in school.

✅ Foster Independence

Allow your child to take ownership of their responsibilities while providing guidance and support when needed.

✅ Celebrate Effort and Growth

Praise perseverance, improvement, and positive choices. Focusing on effort helps students build confidence and resilience.

Together, we can help our students develop the academic skills, responsibility, and confidence needed for a successful and rewarding school year. Thank you for partnering with us in your child's education!

Art with Mrs. Bazos

Welcome to another amazing year at Coconut Creek K-8 School of Excellence. We got off to a busy start in the art room learning about color theory. This year we went with an under-the-sea theme for our first project. Each grade level illustrated a sea animal in warm colors and the ocean background in cool colors. Most grade levels got to select their color source, such as paint sticks, watercolor, and acrylic markers. Fourth and fifth graders incorporated the Seven Elements of Art into their sea animal design.

This year in middle school (6th and 7th grades), students will be working on 2-D and 3-D art. Students in our 2-D art class created a self-portrait using the Elements of Art. Currently, they are working on a sandpaper rubbing that requires four layers of paint and sandpaper. In our 3-D art class, students completed a recycled project by using outdated T-shirts cut into strips and then color-dyed. Some students made a mini rug. Some students created a handbag, and some students created weavings.
Thank you, PTA, for the recycled shirts. Students are currently working on a Salvador Dali-inspired sculpture out of firing clay.

I'm looking forward to seeing how CC K-8 artists grow and develop their artwork. It's gonna be a great year!

❤️ Mrs. Bazos



Media with Mrs. Esposito

📚 We're Off to a Great Start in the Media Center!
All our elementary classes have already completed their first book checkout, and students are learning how to be responsible library users and take care of our wonderful collection.
During our Media Center lessons, students have been learning about book checkout procedures, how to properly use a shelf marker, library expectations, and the importance of remaining quiet so everyone can enjoy a positive learning environment. We also watched an age-appropriate anti-bullying video and talked about treating others with kindness and respect.

📖 A Reminder About Checking Out Books

- Students in third grade and up may take library books home.
- Students in Kindergarten through second grade may check out books, but those books should remain at school.
- Students may check out one book at a time.
- Books are due two weeks after checkout.

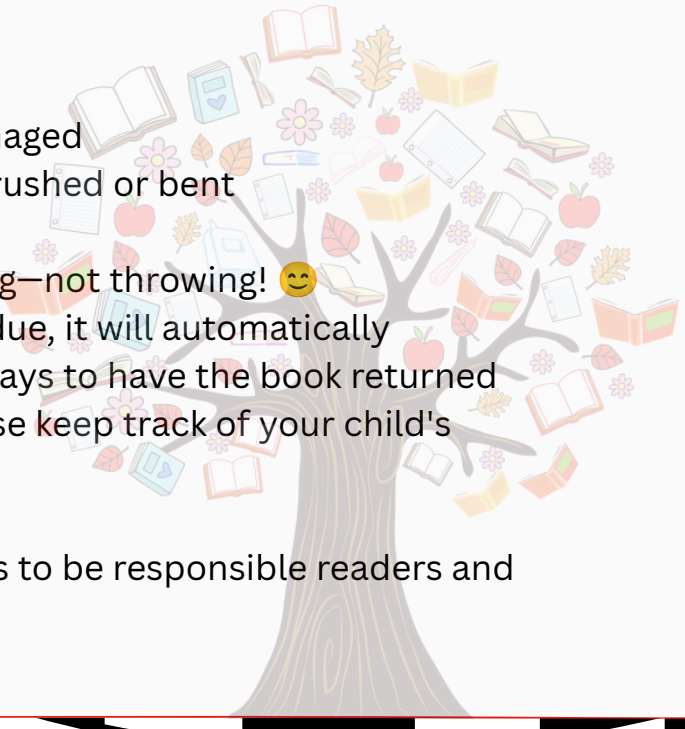
❤️ Please Take Care of Our Library Books!

Our books are here for everyone to enjoy, so please help your child take good care of them. Please keep library books:

- Away from babies and toddlers
- Away from pets
- Dry and clean
- In a safe place where they won't be damaged
- Out of backpacks where they may get crushed or bent

And please remember: Books are for reading—not throwing! 😊
If a book becomes more than 30 days overdue, it will automatically become an obligation. My preference is always to have the book returned rather than have families pay for it, so please keep track of your child's library book and return it on time.

Thank you for helping us teach our students to be responsible readers and good stewards of our Media Center! 📚❤️



Music with Ms. Shaheen

We are off to a wonderful start in music class this year. This quarter in Music, our elementary students have started off strong, singing our Hello Song and teaching the song to new students. Our first quarter unit focused on cultivating our beautiful singing voices. Our students learned solfege, *do re mi*, and hand signs. Ask your young musician to sing the scales using solfege and hand signs.

Our middle school students are doing an incredible job in beginning band. This past month, each student had the opportunity to trial different woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Each student selected an instrument and we have spent the past few weeks learning how to put together our instruments, read the music in our method books, and make the first sounds. This past week, all band students took their first playing test and passed with flying colors. Next quarter we are looking forward to rhythm and instrument units in our elementary music classes. Band students will continue to master their instruments, learning more notes and playing more musical exercises. We are excited to create more music together this year.

PE with Coach Kenney

Welcome back, Coconut Creek K-8 Families!
We are off to a great start in Physical Education! During the first quarter, our students are learning what it means to be physically fit and how making healthy choices can help them live an active and healthy lifestyle.

Students are learning about the importance of regular physical activity, proper nutrition, hydration, personal wellness, and making positive choices for their health. We are also focusing on teamwork, communication, respect, and sportsmanship as students participate in a variety of physical activities and fitness challenges.



Our goal in Physical Education is to help every student develop healthy habits and understand that being active and making healthy choices are important parts of a healthy lifestyle.

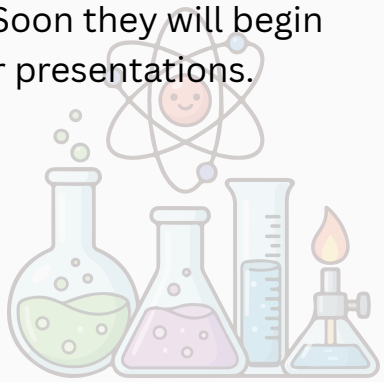
We look forward to a fun and active school year!

Science with Mrs. Ryals

K-5 Science Special:
We're off to a great start, with students learning about the Nature of Science and Physical Properties of Matter.

K-5th In-house Field Trips:
STEMobile will be joining us again this year for a FREE hands-on science experience. Please check your child's backpack for the permission slip and return it to your child's teacher ASAP!

Theater Elective:
The students are doing an amazing job learning improvisation, character development, and verbal and non-verbal communication. Soon they will begin rehearsing the play, Out of This World, for their end-of-year presentations.



Do you follow us on Social Media?

creekcougarcubs