

October 1, 2016

Hello Upper School Families and Students,

I just saw an informative and very accurate poster on Pinterest titled Ten Ways to Be a Good Student. Number 1 was "Come to School Every Day." I can't tell you how very important that is. Students can get behind so easily and it is really difficult for them to catch up on their work. I printed a copy of the poster at the end of the newsletter because I think that if every student did these things to the best of their ability, all students would be exceling in all areas.

We have revamped our schedule a bit this week to see how these minor changes increase efficiency. I won't change the schedule permanently until we know how it works. Right now when kids arrive they hand in all of their work. Next they start updating their bullet journals as we go over an overview of the day's classwork and the standard homework. After that we move into our science study for the day. At 8:45 one group of students goes to math while the rest continue to work on science or work on language arts. When that first math group comes back we check bullet journals for completeness. We will start adding other criteria as we go along. At 10:00 we have two more math groups with the first group finishing their science and language arts. Everything else on the schedule is remaining the same. As you can imagine, being early to school is incredibly beneficial and being on time is a necessity. We try to pack as much into every minute as we can.

Since we are starting a new month, all students need to turn in their September reading logs. They will be taking home another folder of work for parents to review and this will be due back on Friday as always. They also have another Problem of the Week to complete. These will get more difficult as the year goes on, so don't worry if you are feeling they are too easy right now.

We had a sixth grade boy visit our class on Friday. He will be starting class on Monday on a trial basis. With older students coming from public schools we move slowly before making permanent decisions. I hope you will all welcome him to CNS and help him feel at home.

For October we will be working on different types of writing in ELA as well as continuing our word study. I will get Spelling City letters out to you so you have a copy of your child's user name and password in case they forget and need to complete an assignment or get a list on line. We will be doing a word list every two weeks. The students are broken into two groups for the list. Grades 4-6 and Grades 7 & 8.

I am thoroughly enjoying our social studies class this year. The students are such active participants and are always thinking and asking questions. I had hoped to be talking about the Constitution and the election by now, but we are going into the early part of the colonies in detail and that is really awakening the kids' interests and I want to encourage that.

We have finished our microscope unit. It took twice as long as normal because of all the absences and how hard it is to make up hands-on work. We will be talking about life and what makes something "alive" this week. We will also be talking about the basic building blocks of life. Here is a list of things that I need for our next unit: slices of different types of bread, eggs, distilled white vinegar, and zip-lock sandwich bags. Any help you can give me with these items would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes,

Carla

On the next page is the poster I was talking about. All the items are good advice for students.

# 10 WAYS TO BE A GREAT STUDENT

1

Come to school every day.

2

Have your supplies ready.

3

Keep your materials organized.

4

Pay attention in class.

5

Complete assignments on time.

6

Follow directions.

7

Ask for help when you need it.

8

Participate in class activities.

9

Follow all school rules.

10

Always do your best.