

Robinson G. Jones

News From The Launchpad



Important Dates

- Oct 5 Great American Fundraiser Kick Off; **Order forms and payment are due Oct 16.**
- Oct 8 Professional Development Day – **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- Oct 18 Bellaire Puritas Neighborhood Summit & Wraparound Community Meeting, 6-8 p.m. **Light Dinner Provided!**
- Oct 24 Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:30-7 p.m. – **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

A Message from Principal Melissa Watts

There are lots of little ways to help your student be successful every day. First of all, show you care with hugs and words of support. Ask your scholar to tell you about his or her day. Find time to read with or to your child each day. Be sure to make it enjoyable — even older children benefit from being read to. Have a middle schooler? Encourage them to read and talk with you about what they've read. In addition, make your home a place for learning. Help your child practice writing, math and science skills. Remember, short, but frequent reviews of math facts are best.

Enjoy the time you spend with your child!

The Leader in Me



Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind®

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.



School News

Fall Testing Update – Grades 1-8

Academically, we are wrapping up our fall NWEA MAP tests. This assessment tests students in the areas of reading and math. Its results are used as a guide so teachers can ensure that scholars are on track to pass the Ohio State Test, which is administered at the end of the school year. **Families: please make sure to ask your scholars when they are testing! Help ensure that they get a good nights sleep and arrive at school ready to perform to their utmost abilities.**

Laser Focused in Third Grade

Third grade is continuing to focus on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee (TGRG). With Ohio’s Third Grade Reading Guarantee, it’s a program that is used to identify students in grade K-3 that are behind in reading. If a student is identified, schools will provide help and additional reading support to make sure that our students are on track for reading success by the end of third grade. **Please continue to stay involved and communicate with your child’s teacher about their progress with regards to the TGRG.**

True2U Launches for 8th Grade Scholars

On, September 20th, our 47 eighth graders traveled to the Cleveland Zoo for the Tue2U Program Launch Event. The True2U program is an innovative year-long youth development and career exploration program that prepares all Cleveland’s eighth grade students for the transition from middle school to high school. The eighth graders were accompanied to this event by Ms. Lutwin and Mr. Cobb. The monthly sessions begin October 18 and scholars will also be introduced to the Naviance portal. **Ask your scholar to share some key takeaways from each of the sessions. Choosing a high school is right around the corner!**

Rocket Pride: August Students of the Month

Each month, our teachers have the opportunity to recognize scholars for exemplary behavior, academic progress, and/or demonstrated effort in academics.

In September, a total of 20 students were awarded “Student of the Month” status. These students are: Jayden Alvarado, Nyla Bright, Liana Burke, Aubrey Dorenkoff, Brianna Finley, Jazmyn Gonzalez, Joshua Hamm,

Allen Malec, June Malec, Nadia Ortiz, Alexander Paneto, Julian Reyes, Airalease Ruiz, Yarityz Santizo, Retesh Subedi, Lon Selvage, Pedro Torres, Tatiana Torres, Dominique Ware, and Tanai Williams.

All students of the month will also receive a coveted “Rocket Pride” yard sign to post at home.

Congratulations scholars!



The Coordinator's Corner

**You Are Invited to Attend
The 2018 Neighborhood Summit
Hosted by Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation
Thursday, Oct 18 from 6-8 p.m. @ RGJ**

Enjoy a light dinner, visit community resource tables, learn about the success of the wraparound strategy at RGJ, get important community updates, hear remarks from Councilman Brian Kazy and more!



PARENTS: Please join us on Nov 16 at our next monthly Chat & Chew parent meeting! The meeting, open to all parents, will be held in the Media Center from 8:30-9:30 a.m. School safety and bullying will be on the agenda. As an added incentive, parents who attend will receive a "Golden Ticket" for a future dress down day for their child!

Donations of clean, gently used uniforms are currently being accepted to help students and families in need. Please direct any donations to Mrs. Hatgas, Site Coordinator.

Our next monthly fresh produce distribution is Friday, October 12 starting at 11:30 a.m. in the Robinson G. Jones parking lot. Special thanks to West Park Baptist Church and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for their partnership and support!

A Neighborhood Housing Clinic will offer information from different agencies about: tenant rights, landlord rights, nuisance neighbors, assistance for homeowners, health conditions, and more. The clinic will be held Wednesday, Oct 17th from 6-8 p.m. at Christ United Methodist. For more information, call Jolisa Gonzalez at 216.664.6927.

Thanks to a partnership with the Community Engagement Officers of the First District Police Department, we will be hosting a party the last Friday of every month to celebrate student birthdays. The party is a present for being present, so make sure your scholar comes to school!



We look forward to seeing you on Oct 24th!

**Remember, no school for students!*

If you have questions about how to make the most of your conference, please reach out to Mrs. Hatgas for resources, (216) 838-6775.

Strategies for Success

Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) is a small-group, supplementary intervention designed for children in grades K-3 who find reading and writing difficult. LLI is designed to bring children quickly up to grade-level competency in 14 to 18 weeks on average. LLI serves those students who need intensive support to achieve grade-level competency based on their Fall 2018 NWEA scores.

Each lesson in the LLI system also provides specific suggestions for supporting English language learners who are selected for the program.






We are proud to announce that R.G. Jones has four LLI tutors that will be working in grades K-3 this year. This will ensure all our students receive structured, small group reading instruction that meets all their individual needs.

Four Easy Ways To Connect To Your Scholar's Success:

- **Class Dojo** – Check with your child's teacher if you aren't connected!
- **Pink Homework Sheets**—sent home weekly and available on our website
- **Newsletters**—sent home monthly
- **RG Jones Facebook Page**—'Like' us and stay up to date on all things RGJ



2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Important Upcoming Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 4 – Ned’s Kindness Adventure Assembly Oct 5 – Great American Fundraiser Kicks Off! Oct 8 – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Oct 18 – Bellaire Puritas Neighborhood Summit, 6-8 p.m. Oct 24 – Parent Teacher Conferences, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Oct 29 & 30 – Healthy Smiles Dental Visits (2nd-3rd & 6th-7th) Nov 6 – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Election Day 				
1 Picture Day! Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m.	2 National Name Your Car Day 	3 “Garden Full of Life Cycles” Field Trip (3 rd grade), 9 a.m. Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Urbaneck!	4 Ned’s Kindness Adventure, 9:30 a.m. True2U Mentor Open House, 11 a.m. AS Soccer Game, 4:15 p.m. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Nall!	5 Great American Fundraiser Kick-Off  AS Soccer Games, 3:45 & 4:45 p.m.
8 No School for Students	9 Happy Birthday, Mrs. Trizzino!	10 “Romeo & Juliet” Field Trip (6 th -8 th grade), 10:30 a.m. Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m.	11 National Sausage Pizza Day 	12 Free Produce in the RGJ Parking Lot, 11 a.m. Happy Birthday, Ms. Gallagher!
15 National Grouch Day 	16 Great American Orders Due! Happy Birthday, Mrs. Seger!	17 RGJ Partner Meeting, 9 a.m. Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m.	18 True2U Session #1 (8 th) AS Soccer Game, 4:15 p.m. BPDC Community Meeting, 6-8 p.m. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Perk & Mr. Clay!	19 Happy Birthday, Mrs. K. Johnson! Join us Nov 16 for our next Chat & Chew Parent Meeting! AS Soccer Games, 3:45 p.m.
22 Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m. Happy Birthday, Ms. Spatny!	23 National Boston Crème Pie Day 	24 Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:30-7 p.m. No School For Students	25 “The Energized Guyz” (K-6) Assembly, 9:30	26 Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m. AS Soccer Games, 4:15 p.m.
29 Healthy Smiles Dental Screening (2 nd -3 rd & 6 th -7 th) 10:30 a.m. Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m.	30 Healthy Smiles Dental Screening (2 nd -3 rd & 6 th -7 th) 10:30 a.m.	31 Volleyball Game, 3:30 p.m. Happy Halloween!		



CMSD report card: increased test scores, closing achievement gaps, another record grad rate

CMSD’s latest state report card is out, and it shows continued improvement in a number of key areas.

Among several highlights, this year’s report card shows the District’s graduation rate reached 74.6 percent -- yet another record high -- and students in racial, economic and other subgroups met or exceeded goals for closing achievement gaps or at least made gains. The District’s performance index, a composite of all test scores, rose from an F to a D.

CEO Eric Gordon said that while CMSD’s overall grade is an F, the District’s continuous improvement under The Cleveland Plan is evident in the data this year.

“We are far from where we want to be, but these results provide more evidence that our reforms are working and that we are headed in the right direction,” he said.

The report card also shows:

- CMSD made gains from last year on 19 of 21 report card indicators.
- Math and English test scores improved in almost every tested grade. Overall, test scores increased an average of 6.7 percent from last year.

- The K-3 literacy score remained essentially flat, but because of a change in the cutoff score, the grade fell from a C to a D. The percentage of third-graders meeting Ohio’s Third Grade Guarantee, however, increased by 4.3 points to 83.9 percent.

CMSD’s four-year graduation rate grew another 2.5 percentage points this year. The rate has now climbed more than 22 points since 2011, annually setting record highs for the District for seven straight years under The Cleveland Plan.

The five-year graduation rate rose 3.5 points to 79.6 percent. Had 11 more students in that category graduated, CMSD would have earned a D on that measure.

CMSD has also increased graduation rates every year for African-American and Hispanic students. The rates now stand at 75.2 percent for African-American students and 74.3 percent for Hispanic students. Those rates exceed statewide numbers for black and Hispanic students.

“The truest measure of performance is how well a District fares in graduating students,” said Gordon. “We continue to make strides in that area.”

Success in closing achievement gaps is another critical gauge of progress in Ohio school districts, and here, too, CMSD demonstrated progress. The District met or exceeded goals or at least made gains in subgroups determined not only by race, but also by poverty, English learner status and disabilities.

CMSD’s improved grade in the state’s performance index is significant, Gordon said, because it marks the first time CMSD has earned better than an F since the state adopted new assessments three years ago.

The report card also shows improved grades for a growing number of schools throughout the District.

About a fourth of CMSD’s schools received an overall grade of C or better. Forty-three of 104 schools received at least a C for closing achievement gaps, and 62 schools made gains in their performance indexes.

Nine high schools had graduation rates above 90 percent. The Cleveland School of Architecture and Design and Cleveland Early College High School both had rates of 100 percent.

CMSD compares well in growth, progress

New state report card results show that CMSD continues to outpace urban and other districts across Ohio in growth and progress.

Since 2011, CMSD’s four-year graduation rate is the fastest growing among Ohio’s large urban districts and fourth-fastest growing among all 609 districts.

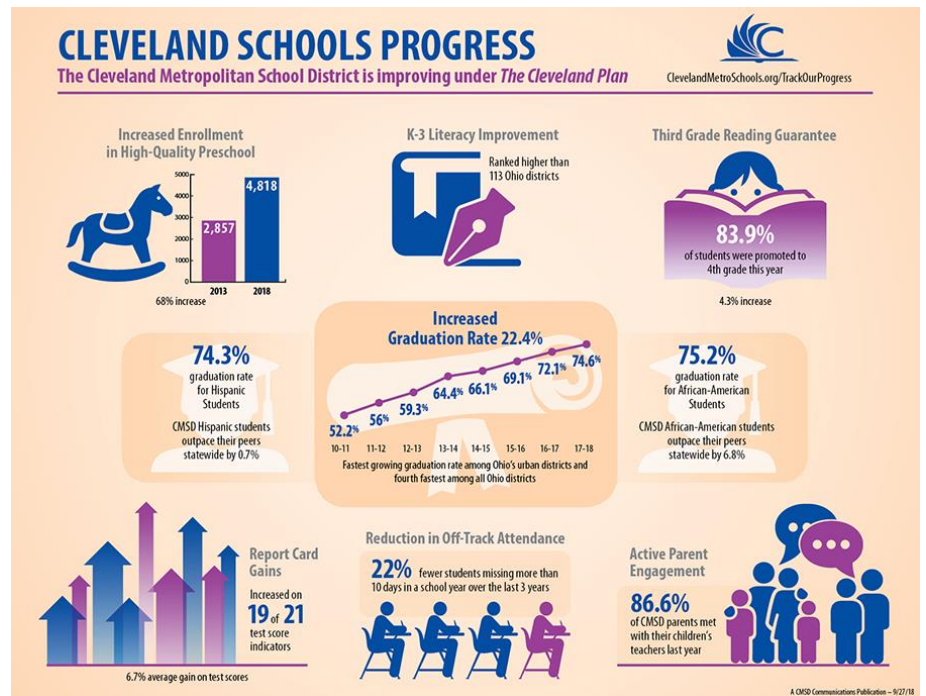
CMSD’s graduation rate has soared more than 22 points during that time and now stands at 74.6 percent. The rate is only 3.5 points behind the graduation rate in Columbus, the leader among the urban districts.

District graduation rates of 75.2 percent for black students and 74.3 percent for Hispanic students are higher than statewide numbers for those groups.

The District’s performance index, a composite of all test scores, has increased more in the last two years than those of the seven other urban systems that belong to the Ohio 8. CMSD’s performance index has increased 4.9 percentage points during that time, while indexes in the other districts grew by less than a point.

CMSD received a D in its performance index, but it is the first time the District has earned better than an F in that category since the state adopted new assessments three years ago.

CMSD made gains from last year on 19 of 21 state test indicators. Overall, test scores increased an average of 6.7



percent from last year, compared with a 1.23 statewide.

CMSD’s K-3 literacy score topped that of 113 other districts. Last year, CMSD was ahead of 88 districts.

Other highlights from the report card include:

- About a fourth of CMSD’s schools received an overall grade of C or better. Forty-three of 104 schools received at least a C for closing achievement gaps, and 62 schools made gains in their performance indexes.
- Nine high schools had graduation rates above 90 percent. The Cleveland

School of Architecture and Design and Cleveland Early College High School both had rates of 100 percent.

- 83.9 percent of third-graders met Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee and earned promotion to the fourth grade. That is up 4.3 points since last year.
- In English language arts, CMSD met or exceeded goals for closing achievement gaps in all 10 subgroups, identified by race, poverty and other characteristics. In math, the District met or exceeded goals in six of the 10 subgroups and made gains in the others.

Flu shots to be offered in schools

Students can receive free flu shots at CMSD schools this fall.

A private company, Healthy Schools, will have teams of nurses give the shots over a period of four weeks, starting on or about Oct. 10.

The immunizations will be free for all students ages 4 or older, though the

company will bill insurance companies if families have coverage.

Parental consent is required. The company has begun distributing consent forms.

The schools’ faculty and staff can also receive free shots but must have insurance.



Healthy Schools will provide the vaccinations in all CMSD schools, except for some where the service is already available.

CMSD launches bus-tracking mobile app for parents



Parents now have a mobile app they can use to monitor the travel of their children's buses.

The Edulog Parent Portal can be downloaded free through Google Play or the Apple Store. It is similar to a web-based option that the District introduced last year.

The app, linked to GPS devices on District buses, can be used to track a bus going to and from schools in real time. It monitors only the District's yellow buses, not RTA buses and other vehicles that transport students.

The app will be upgraded monthly.

To use the app, parents will need the student's first and last names, District ID, school and birthdate.

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