



Cleveland Metro Remote School K8

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February 2024

Monthly Parent Ambassador Message

India Jones Parent Ambassador

Happy February CMRS K8 Parents and Caregivers. We are in the 3rd quarter of the school year. Keep motivating and encouraging your kids to finish strong. We are still testing this month, NWEA makeups for 1st-8th grade students and NAEP for 4th and 8th grade students. Remember that these assessments are mandatory. NAEP is in-person. We also have parent teacher conferences this month. Please contact your child's classroom teacher to schedule a conference.

We are hosting our 2nd annual BHM program at John Adams this year. Students have a very cool opportunity to participate in the living wax museum. Students can choose an influential African American person, research them and deliver a speech about that person, dressed as that person. I strongly encourage all of our scholars to participate. Research, creating a presentation and public speaking are very important skills for students to practice and learn. This will prepare them for high school and beyond. Please encourage your kids to participate.

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Parent Teacher Conferences and PBIS @ CMRS K8

What Questions Should You Ask at a PTC?

As parents, we are always told that parent teacher conferences are very important. This time spent speaking to your child's teacher will give you updates to their progress in the classroom. A conference with your child's teacher should be a two-way conversation with an emphasis on learning, that gives you the chance to explore opportunities for growth and any challenges your child may be facing. But sometimes, we don't always know what to ask

the teacher. What do you usually ask? What are my child's grades or why did they receive this grade? These questions don't always paint the big picture. We only have a few minutes to complete this conference, usually no more than 15 minutes. So what are the most effective questions to ask your child's teacher? How can we effectively communicate to get the big picture painted for us?

We should never be surprised by the feedback we get from our child's teacher, so before the conference, talk to your child about their progress, assignments and how they feel about school. This can keep you from being blindsided by anything you may not have expected to hear. From that conversation with your child, create a list of questions to ask the teacher. Instead of asking about your child's grades, ask if your child is performing at their grade level. This question helps paint a bigger picture. The grades that your child receives can only tell you so much about their progress. It shows that assignments have been completed or not completed. It doesn't really tell you how strong of a student your child is or the room for growth. Ask about how your child can improve in any area. Kids are learning something new everyday so there is always room to improve and grow. Ask to see examples of your child's work and ask how grades are given. What is the criteria for each assignment?

Next, talk to the teacher about what you think about your child. Tell them things that you know about your child and how you feel about their experience in school. Tell the teacher what you know your child's strengths and weaknesses are. Ask the teacher what you can do at home to support learning and what resources are available in the community to support them. Supporting our scholars at home is very important. Ask about what services are available in the school that supports your child. If your child has an IEP, this is an essential question that you need answered. Does your child need extra support? Ask the teacher what they will do in the classroom to challenge your child and ask them how they support your child when they are struggling.

How should we follow up the conference? First, make a plan with your child's teacher. Take notes during the conference and use those notes to create the plan. Focus on growth and setting goals. Schedule another time to talk to your child's teacher. You do not have to wait until another official conference and please don't wait until the teacher has bad news to share with you. Be diligent and check the progress of the plan. Most importantly, talk to your child. Tell them what you learned during the conference. Tell them how you will support their growth and then ask them to tell you what they think. Cooperate and create a plan with your child.

We A.R.E

PBIS stands for positive behavior interventions and supports. This is a way that schools approach students' behaviors and how to create their own school rules and expectations. It deals more with motivating students to exhibit positive behaviors and modeling those behaviors for the students to show them what it looks like at every stage.

At CMRS K8 our program is called We A.R.E, We are Accountable, Respectful and Engaged.



Students have been learning about our school expectations everyday for the past few days. They have had virtual assemblies and meetings about the school rules and what being accountable, respectful and engaged looks like in all locations of our school. During live sessions with their teachers, during async periods and breakout rooms. It's important for parents and caregivers to understand these school expectations so that we can encourage our children to exhibit these behaviors and make better choices.

Schools are starting to take a less punitive approach when kids don't always exhibit the most positive behaviors. Trying to suspend less and change the way that we set

expectations in the school. Less "NO" or "STOP" and more speaking from a positive perspective. At our school, kids can't really experience suspension or detention, so school administration has been creative about our expectations and rules. We don't really punish children here when they don't always behave in the ways that are most productive. But we still have to encourage them to be the best students possible. Coming to class, prepared and ready to learn. Being focused and respectful of their classmates and teachers. We A.R.E is about teaching the students what it looks like to be the best student they can be. And when scholars exhibit these positive behaviors, they will be rewarded and this will encourage them to keep up the good work. Scholars that show what A.R.E during the kick off of the program will be rewarded with a virtual movie day. Popcorn and candy will be mailed to their house and they will be invited to watch the movie.

Important Dates

February 2nd, 2024: Pre-K and K Teacher Professional Development Day. **NO SCHOOL FOR PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN**

February 6th, 2024: Grade 8 NAEP Testing. At John Adams High School from 10 am-12:30 pm. **THIS TEST IS MANDATORY**

February 7th, 2024: K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences

February 8th, 2024: High School Parent Teacher Conferences

February 8th, 2024: Grade 4 NAEP Testing. At John Adams High School from 10 am- 12:30 pm. **THIS TEST IS MANDATORY**

February 16th, 2024: Staff Professional Development Day. **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

February 19th, 2024: President's Day. **ALL FACILITIES CLOSED**

February 27th, 2024: CMRS K8 Black History Month Program at John Adams High School from 4-5:30 pm.

Important Parent/Caregiver Surveys

There are two surveys that I need families to complete. One is from our school, gathering more information and the other is the Office of Family and Community Engagement.

[CMRS K8 Family Survey](#)

[FACE Survey](#)

Thank you for your time.

[CMRS K8 Website](#)

India Jones
Parent Ambassador