



Mighty Hawks Message

January/February 2022

Laura Espinosa, Principal

Mission Statement: We foster genuine relationships, embrace differences, and lead with our hearts.

Vision Statement: At Meade Heights, we:

- Hold ourselves accountable
- Achieve goals together
- Work to reach our full potential
- Keep inspiring others
- Soar with Kindness

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Administrators' Message

2022 has arrived! We have hit the ground running to meet the new year with all of the promise it brings and all the challenges that come with change..

Attendance continues to be a major focus for the Meade Cluster of schools this year. Please help us make attendance a priority. When students are out of school, they are missing foundational instruction. Quarantine and isolation protocols, as well as interrupted bus services, have been quite a challenge for many of our families. We want to have students in attendance as often as possible. Please schedule family trips and appointments outside of school days/times. Please see the suggestions for helping children attend regularly later in this message.

We are happy to have our STEM clubs in session again. It is exciting to hear the students talking about the Bee Bots, Code Combat Club, and Maker's Club each Tuesday. We look forward to the Thursday groups (Bee Bots, Code Combat, and Simple Machines) starting in February. A special thanks to Ms. Michele DeBerry, our Triple E STEM teacher, for planning and coordinating these clubs. Of course they would not be possible without the help of our dedicated teachers and staff who stay late to teach and assist. Thank you, Ms. Weems, Ms. Gardner, Ms. Sherry, Ms. Joyner, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Wright, Ms. English, and Ms. Young-Buckler. You are amazing!

As we approach the end of the first semester, please check with your child to see if they are in need of school supplies. If your child is in need of supplies or materials for learning and you need support to fill the need, please reach out to our counselor, Ms. Julianne Williams. We want all students to be prepared for at school and at home.

Mrs. Espinosa , Principal

Important Dates

Grade 3 Field Trip
Tuesday, Jan 25

Grade 4 NAEP Assessment
Tuesday, Jan 25

Mo Gaba Day
Wed Jan 26

End of Marking Period 2
2 Hour Early Dismissal
Thursday, Jan 27

End of Marking Period 2
2 Hour Early Dismissal
Friday, Jan 28

Semester Break
School closed for students
Monday, Jan 31

Project Unity Day
2 Hour Early Dismissal
Wednesday, Feb 9

Winter Concert
Thursday, Feb 10



Reading Corner



We wish our Literacy Teacher, Mrs. Chante Johnson, well as she departs for an exciting new position as the Assistant Principal of Pershing Hill Elementary School. Ms. Johnson is a wonderful advocate for children and her promotion will greatly benefit our school system. Congratulations, Ms. Johnson! We look forward to hearing great things about you in the future. You will be missed at Meade Heights Elementary, but once a Mighty Hawk, always a Mighty Hawk!

Title I Tidbits

Happy New Year Meade Heights!

Pre-K and Kindergarten families: Did you register for our Title-1 event, Coffee with the Counselor? The original date of January 20th was postponed due to weather, but we will be rescheduling soon. Plan to join our school counselor, Ms. Williams, to discuss the social-emotional preparation that can happen at home to better prepare you and your child during these uncertain times. You will receive school strategies to use at home, as well as a book that will be sent with students to model the strategies at home!

We hope you can join us!

Grade Level Messages

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten is currently working on addition and subtraction within 10 for math, we are focusing on key details to be able to retell stories in ELA and for Science/Social Studies we are exploring how things move.

We are looking forward to 100th day next month, currently set for February 18th.

As the weather gets colder, please be sure that your child is wearing a coat, hat, gloves, etc. We want to make sure they stay warm during recess. If you are in need of these items, please contact your child's teacher and we will be happy to help them get one!

1st Grade:

Family and friends, please be sure to check folders for forms and notices. Also, review with your child how to wear their mask correctly. The mask should fit properly and cover their nose as well as their mouth. Please work to make necessary adjustments so that the mask fits properly.

In Science we will be discussing how communication has changed over time.

Please provide a snack and a water bottle for your child daily.

2nd Grade:

At this point in the school year, we are really working hard to promote as much independence as possible with our 2nd graders. We are encouraging students to use the tools and resources provided to them if they are stuck or unsure how to do something. This applies in both the academic and social areas of their day. Any additional support you can provide at home to encourage this would be greatly appreciated!

Students should be reading for 15 minutes and completing 15 minutes of iReady each night for homework. Mondays and Wednesdays students should be working on iReady Reading, Tuesdays and Thursdays iReady Math. When students get on to iReady, any specific assignments sent to them by their teacher will appear in light blue on the left hand side of the screen. Please have students complete these first before continuing with their iReady pathway.

Reading: We will work primarily with nonfiction text, students will become familiar with using nonfiction text features to add to their understanding of a subject or topic as well as identifying the main idea or topic of a text. Students will be asked to identify key detail from the text that support the main idea or topic. Additionally, students will continue to practice determining the meaning of words in a text by using context clues.

Math, we will finish the second quarter learning about time. In second grade students are expected to read and write time to the nearest 5 minute. The third quarter will primarily focus on three digit numbers. Students will learn how to apply their knowledge of place value to three digit number as well as add, subtract, and compare them.

2nd Grade (Continued):

Writing: We are finishing up our unit on informational writing and in third quarter will move into persuasive letter writing. Students will learn how to structure a letter and create a convincing arguments to persuade their reading one way or another.

Social studies and science: Students will participate in a theme called, "How to Share Ideas" where we will explore the human impact on the environment, research the cultures of several Native American communities, and use different historical sources to learn about the past.

The second grade team appreciates all your continued support this school year!

3rd Grade:

We have been working hard this quarter and looking forward to finishing out the quarter strong! In reading and writing, we have been working on the elements of nonfiction texts and how to compose information writing pieces. In math, we finished up elapsed time and are moving on to learning about fractions. In social studies, we have been learning about culture and are completing research projects on countries around the world. In science, we have been learning about animal life cycles, traits, and adaptations.

4th Grade:

This month Fourth Graders are looking at the text structure of informational passages as well as reviewing Main Idea and Key Details.

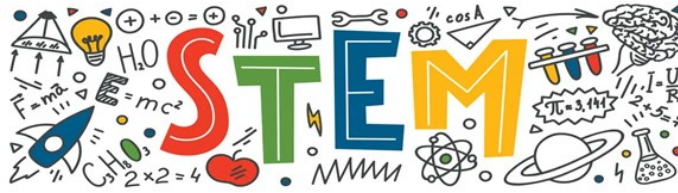
In math, we are beginning our unit in fractions.

Fourth Grade Black History Month Informational project information was sent home this week. All projects are to be submitted no later than Friday, February 11th. Fraction Pizza Projects are due Friday, February 18th.

The 24 Game Club begins January 26th. All permission slips will be due by January 24th. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's teacher.

5th Grade:

Fifth grade will be participating in a research project on influential African American individuals in American history. They will be working on the project at home throughout the month of February, and will then present their finished products to the class the first week of March. We can't wait to see the great work our fifth graders do on this fun project!



Michele DeBerry- Triple E STEM in Society/DODEA Cyber Launch Grant Liaison

News from Triple E STEM:

We have begun grade level specific projects this marking period!

Pre-K-Habits of Mind: Students are learning the behaviors to be successful in the STEM classroom (questioning, communicating, collaborating, etc.).

Kindergarten- Animal Tracks: Students are exploring tracks that animals leave behind and will ultimately use what they have learned to create steppingstone models of tracks for our school gardens.

1st grade-Pigeon Perch: Students are learning all about birds and will construct a perch and test to see if it will hold the weight of a bird the class is studying.

2nd grade-Illuminart: Students are creating a piece of artwork that "lights up" using what they've learned about circuits.

3rd grade-Electro Cards: Students are learning about circuits and systems to create an electrical greeting card for a client of their choice.

4th grade-Battle Bots: Students are learning about the forces that impact a spinning top and will create their own spinning tops to test in two categories-duration of rotation and whether it can remain standing when battling another top!

5th grade- Can You Stand the Rain: Students are learning about water conservation, including the use of a rain barrel and will work as a team to create a functioning rain barrel model to test its effectiveness in controlling the water within it!

Materials needed in the STEM classroom:

We are always in need of toilet paper/paper towel tubes, small boxes (like those pop tarts and other snacks come in), loose parts objects like keys, screws, bolts, washers, seashells, bottle caps, etc., and plastic bottles that have been washed clean.

After School STEM club news:

We had a tremendous turn out of those interested in our after-school STEM programs! So much so that we had to add some additional sessions of our Bee Bots and Code Combat coding clubs! We were still unable to accommodate everyone, but rest assured, those of you who did not get into a club this session are first in line for spring clubs that will start up in April. Stay tuned!!

School-wide STEM days:

We have scheduled 2 school wide STEM days where all our students are involved in STEM experiences in their regular classroom. Our first one will be on January 28th, 2022. Be sure to ask your child what they did that day! It is sure to be a great day of learning and great fun!

Access Meade Heights Elementary School's website:

Logon to www.aacps.org

Go to the top of the screen under School Links and click Elementary Schools. Scroll down and click on Meade Heights Elementary School. This will bring up an informational page about Meade Heights. Go to the center of the screen and click on School Website,

School Hours

- Doors open at 9:15 a.m.
- Instruction begins promptly at 9:35 a.m.
- Students not in class by 9:35 a.m. will be marked late.
- Dismissal begins at 4:00 p.m.



ADULT SUPERVISION IS NOT AVAILABLE OUTSIDE
FOR STUDENTS UNTIL 9:15 A.M.

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Any parent or guardian interested in being more involved with Meade Heights Elementary is invited to attend our Parent Involvement Meeting on **Wednesday, February 16th at 5:30 p.m.**

Please join us by clicking on the link below:

meet.google.com/wpr-tpqu-zvv

We look forward to partnering with you this

Tech Talk: Please be sure all students in grades 3-5 are bringing their devices to school daily. Devices need to engage with the school system in order to update. Updates are essential for proper use.

Winter Weather Preparation

Parents, please be sure to send your child to school with a winter coat as the weather gets colder. We will enjoy recess outside as long as we can, and a coat/jacket is needed. We do not have a lending closet for coats at this time. As a reminder, hoodies are not allowed to be worn in the school.

MEDICAL CONCERNS & ADMINISTERING MEDICATION:

- Parents should make the school aware of any medical problems a child might have.
- **Only the health room staff may administer medicine** to students at school, including **cough drops, aspirin or medicated chap stick.**
- A **medical authorization form** is attached in newsletter in case you have a need for it. Please complete this **whenever your child will need to take medication during the school day. This must be signed by a doctor.**
- **Any medication to be given at school must be delivered to the health room by an adult. PLEASE DO NOT HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING ANY MEDICATION TO SCHOOL.**

Thank you for your cooperation!



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

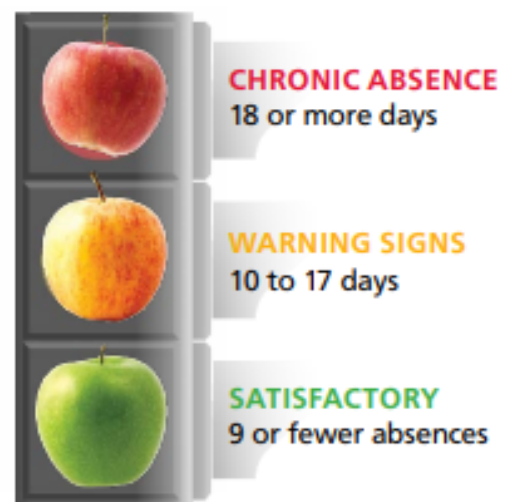
- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Keep in mind that complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home. If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

ATTENDANCE

in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



¹ Chang, Hedy; Romero, Marijose. Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades. National Center for Children in Poverty. NY: NY, September 2008.

² Chronic Absence in Utah. Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

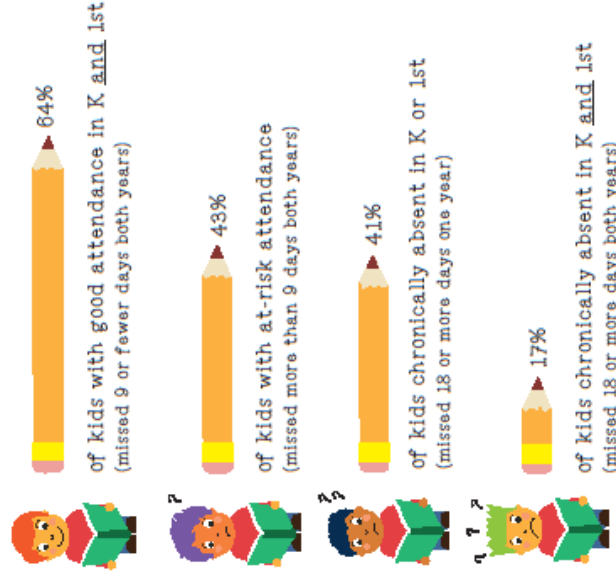
To download a copy of this infographic, please visit www.attendanceworks.org.

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

What We Can Do



Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



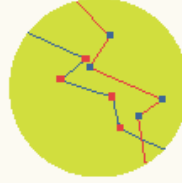
Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?