



SPCAS NEWS

May 2019

Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies

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Rock Hill, SC 29730
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Principal

Dr. Tammy White

Assist. Principal

Keri Beth Brown

Mission

We will create a child-centered learning environment where ALL children will learn at high levels.

Vision

At SPCAS the faculty and staff will...

- Purposefully collaborate.
- Empower students to discover, develop, and accelerate academically, creatively, and socially.
- Use practices that are research based and responsive to the needs of our students.
- Collaborate and communicate with all stakeholders to ensure student success.

Upcoming Events

May

1st- April PBIS Incentive
2nd- 2nd grade to Zoo
2nd- K5 to Imagination
2nd- YC Pop-Up Library
4th- GOTR 5K
6th-10th- Teacher Appreciation Week
7th- SC READY ELA Writing
8th- School Nurse Appreciation Day
9th- SC READY ELA Reading
9th- PTO/ Chorus Concert 6pm
14th- SC READY Math
15th- 3rd Grade MAPs ELA
16th- 4th/5th Grade SC PASS Science/SS
20th- 4th/5th Grade MAPs Reading
21st- 3rd-5th Grade MAPs Math
22nd- 3rd-5th Grade MAPs Lang. Usage
22nd- Terrific Kid Program 9am
23rd- K5-2nd Grade MAPs Reading
23rd- YC Pop-Up Library
24th- Field Day
24th- Last Day of 4th Grade Tutoring
27th- NO SCHOOL Happy Memorial Day
28th- K5-2nd Grade MAPs Math
29th- 2nd Grade MAPs Lang. Usage
29th- Last Day of Afterschool Tutoring
30th- MAPs Make-Up
30th- Robotics Team to present to 3rd-5th grades
31st- MAPs Make-Up
31st- K5 Graduation 10am
5th Grade Promotion 12pm

June

3rd- ½ Day for Students
3rd- May PBIS Incentive
4th- ½ Day for Students
4th- End of 4th Nine Weeks
4th- Q4 Report Cards sent home
5th- Teacher Workday

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER: DR. WHITE

Dear Sunset Park Families,

With the flip of the calendar it says June and the end of another school year is upon us. Now is a time for reflection, a time for thanks... and unfortunately some goodbyes.

Thank you to our PTO parent leaders...Erin Thorne, Kim Martin, Amy Hudson, and Jennifer Cluppert. People willing to step into these positions are special, and I sincerely want to thank each of them for their service to Sunset Park. When there was a need, these people filled it! So as one set of amazing parents move on, a new group, up to the challenge, moves in. We will open up the process for selecting our new PTO board for the coming year this month. I look forward to working with these folks and the organization that they will lead next year. To support the needs of the Sunset Park community, it takes the work of many. Thank you, in advance, for taking on these responsibilities.

Finally... a special thank you to our 5th grade families. Thank you for trusting us with your child over the years. I don't pretend that Sunset Park CAS can be everything to everyone. However, I know how hard our teachers work to give your child a safe and valuable academic experience. More often than not, I believe we do that at Sunset Park better than most. Good luck in middle school!

Summer is a special time and I hope the time you spend with your families this summer is everything you want it to be. Whether you are staying in town or traveling out of it... summer provides an opportunity to do things with the people who matter and that you love the most. Plus... you get to wear flip-flops!

Thank you, again, for a special year!

I hope that everyone has a great summer!

Tammy T. White, *Ph.D.*
Principal

MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: MRS. BROWN

Dear Parents & Guardians,

During the month of May students will participate in end-of-the-year standardized testing. All students, Kindergarten-5th grade, will take the MAPs district assessment. Students in grades 3rd-5th will participate in state standardized testing in addition to MAPs.

Students have prepared for these assessments all year and it is now time for students to demonstrate what they have learned. **To enable your child to perform to the best of his or her abilities, please remember:**

- Children do better if they take their test with their class. **If you have scheduled an appointment on these days, please consider changing it.** However, if your child is sick, make-up testing will be provided.
- It is important that your **child is at school on time.** Children need to be in their classrooms by 7:45am. Testing will begin at 8:15am.
- **Children need to be well rested.** While homework will not be given during testing, please do not allow children to stay up late and watch TV or other forms of screen time.
- **Breakfast is important.** Children need the fuel that breakfast provides to stay focused throughout the testing period. Children have as long as they need to complete the tests.
- **During testing** students may not be in possession of any electronic device(s) that can be used for communicating, recording, timing, creating images, or storing images. This includes smart watches and cell phones. Please have your child leave such devices at home.

The test schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, May 7
Thursday, May 9
Tuesday, May 14
Wednesday, May 15
Thursday, May 16
Monday, May 20
Tuesday, May 21
Wednesday, May 22
Thursday, May 23
Tuesday, May 28
Wednesday, May 29

SCREADY ELA Session 1 (Writing) (Grades 3-5)
SCREADY ELA Session 2 (Reading) (Grades 3-5)
SCREADY Mathematics (Grades 3-5)
3rd Grade Reading MAPs
SCPASS Science (Grade 4) Social Studies (Grade 5)
4th & 5th Grade Reading MAPs
3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade Math MAPs
3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade Language Usage MAPs
K, 1st, & 2nd Grade Reading MAPs
K, 1st, & 2nd Grade Math MAPs
2nd Grade Language Usage MAPs

Make-Ups will be conducted throughout the testing window for all district & state assessments.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or me!



Physical Education News from Ms. Bundy:

Field Day is May 24th. We need YOU to volunteer to make our field day special. Our SPCAS field day is a day filled with fun and fellowship to celebrate our school year. In order for our field day to be successful we need parent volunteers to help us with our stations. Please complete our parent volunteer letter and return it to school by May 17th so that you can join us in all the fun!

*the volunteer form is located on our website and FB page and was sent home in your child's Thursday folder



Mrs. Blackwell- GT/Math Coach & PBIS Coordinator

It's hard to know how much and what kind of activity your child needs over the summer -- scheduled family activities, community camps, academic programs, or residential camps. That can be determined by you and your child, but it is known that children who participate in summer activities, experience learning gains and those who do not, lose some learning gains from the past school year.

There are many considerations when thinking about camps and programs your child might attend. Here are a few things to consider when looking at camps or programs.

The best camps:

- Are physically and emotionally safe and welcoming places, with adequate staffing
- Provide a variety of activities --academic, physical, and social -- based on a single goal or philosophy.
- If academically oriented, provide challenge and allow your child to explore higher-level concepts than they might get during the school year
- Provide active rather than passive learning experiences that build on your child's interests
- Have staff who are trained in the academic and emotional needs of gifted students as well as those from diverse backgrounds.
- Have trained counselors who can help students who have difficulties finding friends or joining in activities
- Are flexible enough to meet your child's academic, athletic, or musical ability without be overwhelming and have an end of session evaluation of progress made with next steps.

Counseling Corner:

Parents/ Guardians:

I can't believe we only have one month left in school. This has been a fantastic school year, and we have had the opportunity to cover so much. During classroom guidance in grades K-4, we have been covering social skills catered to your child's specific grade level. However, in our 5th grade classes we have been given the opportunity to discuss the elementary to middle school transition process. Excitingly, our 5th graders were also provided the opportunity to meet with one of our Rock Hill School District middle school counselors to discuss the transition process as well. As you know, transitions can be difficult for everyone; for young people one of the most difficult transitions is the one from elementary to middle school. Although this transitional period can cause worries, there are many ways that parents can help students during this transitional time. Here are a few tips:

- Listen and validate your child's feelings about the change
- Let your child know you care about them with extra hugs/nice notes and support
- Visit your child's new school together
- Help your child feel prepared in every way he/she can (school supplies, school clothes, healthy breakfast, etc.)
- Explain the rules/procedures of school and how things will work
- Role play going to school and what things may be like
- Allow your child to possibly sign-up for an extra-curricular activity in order to make friends and feel like he/she belongs

Likewise in the month of May, our 3rd-5th grade students will take the SC READY and/or SCPASS Test. Standardized test such as these can sometimes create stress for students, which impacts how well they do. Therefore, it is the perfect opportunity to talk about test taking skills. During classroom guidance, students will participate in lessons to help get their minds ready for the testing challenge. If you notice your child more worried or anxious, please direct him/her to me so that I can provide tools and strategies that can also be practiced at home. Some strategies will include: Breathing and calming techniques, ways to create healthy study habits and ways to help build confidence & visualize success. As always, please know that I am available should you wish to speak with me regarding your child's needs at Sunset Park. Have a Marvelous May!

Meisha Woods, B.A., M.A.
Sunset Park Center for Accelerated Studies
Professional School Counselor
(803) 981-1272 (Office)



Message from Mrs. Dieguez:

It's May. Where did the year go? A few reminders for the remainder of the year: It is important to be present and on time daily. The tardy bell rings at 7:45. Attendance plans are written when a child accumulates 10 unexcused tardies. If absent, please send an excuse, parent note or doctor's excuse. Attendance plans are written if your child has 5 unexcused absences. Any questions, please call or email.

Thanks
Dana Dieguez
ddieguez@rhmail.org
803-981-1263



Message from Mrs. Gray:

Karen Proell, a Children's Librarian at the York County Library along with Beamer, the firefly Mascot will visit the school on May 22nd to talk to the kindergartners, first graders, and second graders about the public library's summer reading program, "A Universe of Stories". In addition to the York County Library's Reading Program, all students will have an opportunity to participate in Sunset Park's Annual R-E-A-D-O Challenge. Our reading challenge will run simultaneously with the public library's program, June 3rd - July 26th. R-E-A-D-O forms will be sent home with the final report card or can be downloaded from the school's website.

Mrs. Nivens- Literacy/Yearbook:

<http://daybydayasc.org> Features a full year's worth of activities to build early literacy skills and help young children prepare for school, and provides free access to the Tumblebooks Library of animated, talking picture books.

<http://www.abcya.com/> Educational games for children by grade level. K - 5

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/games/> Geography and natural science games and quizzes.

<https://www.wonderopolis.org/> This website answers students' wonders that have been posted. This is a great place for students to inquire and explore the world!

*Now is a good time to get a library card for your child if they don't already have one. This will allow them to check out books during the summer and during our "Pop-Up" library sessions next year!

Congratulations to our April "DETERMINATION" Students

Grayden Hovis
Grayson Jones
Breasia Hemphill
Aja Mitchell
Malcolm Morris
Natalie DiStasio
Josh Nichols
Zyrielle Hardy
Chann Edwards
Anna Erwin
Madison Davis
Marissa Olivo
Makenzie McElrath
Meredith Cooper
Tyler Reid

Za'Vion Izzard-Strain
Kensley Martin
J'Den Ellittott
Azyah Adams
Carson Moore
Amari Minton
Maddox Moss
Kimora Davis
Jade Jones
Jace Nichols
Carter Ross
JaMond Bryson
Nariah Easter
Ava Walls
MJ Strong

Leelan Bolick
Nevaeh McCoy
Tyler Banner
Lyric Gordon McClinton
Jayshaun McClain
Malcolm Geter
Sophia Birgbauer
Victoria Sherer
Madison Howard
Presley Moss
Jesse Ratliff
Kaiden Scruggs





ONLINE REGISTRATION



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Rock Hill Schools will open online registration for NEW STUDENTS and KINDERGARTENERS for the 2019-2020 school year on **Monday, May 6**. Registration for RETURNING STUDENTS will open on **Monday, June 24**. This convenient, online process will allow parents to update information from the comfort of your home before attending orientation at your child's school.

We are pleased to offer this service to our families as a way to speed up the registration process and allow you to enjoy more time this summer with family. By completing the registration in advance, you will be able to quickly move through the orientation and course/class schedule pickup date for your child.

As we move closer to the registration date, parents of current students will receive an e-mail with additional instructions as well as a username and password to use to begin the online registration process. Once you are logged into our online registration system, you will be able to provide up-to-date information related to your emergency contacts, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, transportation preferences, and more.

If you do not have Internet access, we invite you to visit any of our schools after online registration opens. Computer access is also available at the York County Library, and many areas in our community offer free WiFi that would allow you to access the Internet to complete the online registration.

www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/register