



Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!



BACK TO
SCHOOL!

I am thrilled to work with your child this school year! Collaboration between parents, your child, and myself will result in a successful school year - we are a team! I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how your child's classroom will operate and what you can expect as we embark on a learning journey together!

Panther Pride  Expect Excellence

School Day

The school day begins at **8:00 AM** and ends at **3:00 PM**. Attendance is of great importance. A student is considered tardy if they arrive to school after **8:05 AM**. If this is the case, they must go to the office to sign in. Students are dismissed out **Door #2**.

Absences

If your child will be absent, please notify the school by phone, a written note, or through Aspen. Emails are **no longer** accepted to excuse an absence. If your child feels sick, please use your best judgment if they should come to school.



Lunch/Recess (12:10-1:00 PM)

School breakfast and lunch is free for every student. Students eat lunch **after** recess this school year.

Students will have recess every day. The weather will determine if recess will be held inside or outside. Please have your child in the appropriate clothing at all times. During the snowy months, you may send your child with snow pants and snow boots in order for them to play in the snow.

Gym

On days that we have Gym, I ask that you please send your child in athletic gear (or OPS apparel) along with the appropriate shoes.



Homework

Every student has received a planner and is expected to write their homework in it daily. Please look it over to see what assignments were given. Also, please make sure you look through your child's take home folder nightly to check for important notes.

Certain skills are expected to be practiced daily. This will include: reading for 20 minutes, practicing math fact flash cards, and studying the weekly spelling words. It is extremely important that these skills are practiced consistently throughout the school year.

Students are also expected to write in complete sentences when applicable.



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
Learn,
the MORE places you'll go.



Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile



Our Classroom Expectations

- ☐ Raise your hand.
- ☐ Walk in the hall.
- ☐ Listen to the teacher.
- ☐ Keep your hands to yourself.
- ☐ Be quiet.
- ☐ Be kind to others.
- ☐ Have fun!!



Classroom Management - Strikes and raffles...

My classroom has two systems set in place: strikes and raffle tickets. Students get strikes every time a rule is broken. If a student gets 7, 8, or 9 strikes in a month, they miss **half** of the incentive party for that month. If a student gets 10 or more strikes in a month, they miss the **entire** incentive party for that month. Also, on any given day, when a student receives 3 strikes, I try to send an email making you aware of the behavior (or call you directly). Our first incentive party will most likely be at the end of this month. Stay tuned for more information!

Students may earn raffle tickets for good behavior and when setting nice examples. Every two weeks I will pull 3 winners. These 3 students will choose a coupon and may use it on a day of their choice. Some examples are: sit at the teacher's desk for a day, bring a stuffed animal, and wear your pajamas to school.

Note: Panther Pride raffle!



A decorative line with colorful dots (pink, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) arching across the top of the page.

Curriculum

Language Arts

We are excited to begin our **new** literacy curriculum, Into Reading. The program combines phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing activities to create a well-rounded literacy experience.

Students will be exposed to engaging fiction and nonfiction texts where they will learn comprehension strategies that will help them think critically. The program also includes a daily focus on vocabulary.

Students will also learn foundational reading skills. Phonics, phonemic awareness, and high frequency word instruction will help your child build a strong base for reading success.



Curriculum

Small Group Instruction

Working with small groups allows for differentiated learning. When we work with small groups we are able to tailor learning to the specific needs of students. This could be for phonics practice, specific comprehension skills, math concepts, and writing support. During small group time, we will be better able to monitor your child's academic progress. It is also a great opportunity for us to build relationships with students.

Curriculum



Writing

Students will do journal writing as part of their morning work routine. Writing is integrated with our literacy curriculum as well. Students will also participate in Writer's Workshop. We will be writing for a variety of purposes this school year.

We will be focusing on weekly Spelling words using the new literacy curriculum.

Curriculum



Math

We follow the Math in Focus curriculum. Hands on practice is really important to help students understand abstract concepts and gain number sense. We will utilize the Math workbook and other supplements for learning. Students are also expected to master (have memorized) single digit addition facts and certain multiplication facts during this school year.



Curriculum

Social Studies/Science

We will be using a program called Amplify Science. It is aligned to next generation science standards. Through this curriculum, we will cover life science, Earth science, physical science, and engineering technology using hands on inquiry and nonfiction texts. Additionally, we will use Scholastic News to learn about monthly and thematic science topics.

We will cover a variety of Social Studies topics such as communities, fire safety, and famous leaders. Additionally, we will use Scholastic News to learn about monthly and thematic social studies topics.

Curriculum



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social emotional learning teaches children skills for learning empathy, emotion management, and problem solving.

Throughout the year, we will work on various SEL themes including: emotions, self management, growth mindset, relationships, social awareness, kindness, respect, and responsibility. We will also have monthly SEL themes for our school.

Grading Scale



The Oriole Park parent portal is available to parents to keep you updated on your child's grades. If you need help logging in please contact Mr. Riff. If your child appears to be struggling academically, I will contact you and schedule a meeting to discuss the matter further.

The grading scale looks as follows:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59-0	F

Categories

Reading : Classwork/Projects 30%, Assessments 70%

Math : Classwork/Projects 30%, Assessments 50%, Fact Fluency Assessments 20%

Writing : Assessments (Spelling) 70%, Classwork/Projects 30%

Science : Classwork/Projects 100%

Social Studies : Classwork/Projects 100%

Speaking and Listening : Classwork/Projects 100%

Supplies

Make sure that your child comes prepared each day. I suggest you continually check with your child to make sure they do not need their supplies replenished.

Other business...

- Snack/water bottle
- Birthdays (non-edible treats, 22 students)
- Invitations (entire class or all boys/girls)
- Website (check daily)



Remind app

I will also be using the Remind App this year for communication. Through this app we will be able to communicate over text message without revealing our actual phone numbers.

Please use your phone to join now, if you haven't done so already.

Enter this number: **81010**

Text this message: **@mskosacg**



A decorative border at the top of the slide consisting of numerous vertical bars of various colors including pink, orange, blue, green, yellow, and purple, arranged in a slightly irregular pattern.

Thank You!

I am really looking forward to working with all of you this year! Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or just to check in.

Ms. Kosac - ackosac@cps.edu