

Coconut Creek Elementary School
500 Northwest 45th Avenue
Coconut Creek, Florida 33066
754.322.5800

CCES Fall Newsletter

Issue No. | September 2023

A note from Administration:

Dear Cougar Cub Families,



Welcome back to a new school year at CCE! We hope you had a fantastic summer and are as excited as we are for the year ahead. Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our students, and we want to reassure you that we have comprehensive safety measures in place. We regularly conduct drills to ensure that everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency. A Parent Link text message will be sent out after the drills are conducted to notify the families. Being on time and attending school regularly are essential for your child's success. Instruction happens from "bell to bell" so it is critical that your child is at school in their classroom by 8:30 a.m.

We want to ensure your child doesn't miss out on valuable learning opportunities and arriving on time helps establish good habits that will serve them well in the future. In addition, we believe wearing uniforms fosters a sense of pride and unity among our students. Please ensure that your child is dressed in accordance with our uniform policy.

We encourage you to get involved in our school community by attending our various events, including B.L.A.S.T. nights and our monthly School Advisory Council (SAC) meetings. Your participation and support play a vital role in creating a positive and enriching educational experience for your child.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Sincerely,
Dr. Miron & Ms. Futscher



Calendar of Events for September

September 13th -	PTA Meeting - 6:00 pm
September 18th/19th -	iReady K-5 ELA Diagnostic 1
September 20th/21st -	iReady K-5 Math Diagnostic 1
September 21st	Volunteer Orientation - 9:00 am
September 18th - 22nd -	Peace Week
September 25th -	No School
September 26th - 29th -	2nd - 5th Grade Science Beginning of the year assessment
September 26th -	School Advisory Council Meeting - 2:40 pm - 3:15 pm
October 4	Open House 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm KG - 2nd Grade 7:05 pm - 7:35 pm 3rd - 5th Grade

News from the Front Office

Bus Transportation: Register to Ride

If you are a bus rider, you must register at:
<https://www.browardschools.com/register2ride>



Attendance

Attendance matters at Coconut Creek Elementary. Regular attendance is a key factor in a child's academic success. Regular attendance is when a student attends more than 95% of the academic school year; this may include up to 8 absences in a 180-day school year. Please use the school calendar that all vacations are planned around school days. We understand that exceptions may arise, but attendance is key to strong student success, and we appreciate your partnership!

Item Drop Policy

Please be aware of our “item” drop-off policy for the 2023/2024 school year. We will accept items up until 9:30 AM daily. Items may include lunches, water bottles, snacks, projects, homework, etc. This policy was established to minimize the disruptions to our academic day and ensure extra safety on campus. We thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Miron.

Entering the Front Office

When visiting Coconut Creek Elementary, ALL VISITORS AND GUESTS MUST SHOW THEIR ID to the camera before entering the front office.

Step 1: Press the doorbell to the left of the office door.

Step 2: Hold your identification 3 or 4 inches away from the domed camera.

Step 3: Wait to be buzzed into the office.

Step 4: YOU DID IT!

Student Birthday Policy

In order to honor instructional time, birthday celebrations are not permitted. Parents may drop off cupcakes and drinks to the front office. The front office will contact the teacher upon arrival. We appreciate your cooperation.

Volunteer Application

If you are interested in volunteering, please be sure you have registered on the following website. This application must be completed every year.

<https://www.browardschools.com/volunteer>

Safety Updates:



See Something, Say Something - Submit a tip easily via our anonymous **FortifyFL** app. Provide as much detail as you can including names of people involved, physical descriptions, school name, social media handles, etc. Download the app or visit <https://www.getfortifyfl.com/> for more information.

Broward Schools has transitioned to the Plain Language Emergency protocol. This language will be used to conduct our monthly safety drills and in the event of an emergency.

SaferWatch is a web-based and mobile app system that allows users to report an incident as they see it happening or submit a tip later. It also provides real-time communication during a situation. Visit <https://www.saferwatchapp.com/> for more information.

Welcome to the School Counselor's Corner



Welcome Back To School!

Welcome Back! Our Cougar Cub community is a place where each student's potential is nurtured, where curiosity is celebrated, and where growth is a collective effort.

This month, our Kids of Character theme is Cooperation. We believe that cooperation is an essential life skill that empowers our students to work together, communicate effectively, and contribute positively to the world around them.

This month, students will have numerous opportunities to practice and develop their cooperative skills. We will explore the value of active listening, empathy, compromise, and problem-solving as essential components of effective cooperation. Our goal is to equip students with the tools they need to navigate diverse perspectives, build meaningful relationships, and achieve shared goals. As a school counselor, I am here to support, not only the academic growth of your children but also their social and emotional well-being. Here's to a fantastic school year filled with growth, discovery, and the power of cooperation! Thank you for being an integral part of the Cougar Cub Family.

Warm Regards,

Mrs. T
School Counselor
754.322.5800

Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, (ADAAA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department at 754-321-2150 or email eeo@browardschools.com.



CCES PTA News

"PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."

CCES PTA would like to welcome our students and staff back for the 2023-2024 school year. CCE is ME! is our school theme this year and we'd love for your student to stop by our "Affirmation Station" on their way to class to remind themselves what a great job they're doing and how much they mean to our school. They can read all the statements posted on the board, because "They are smart", "They are amazing", "They are beautiful" and "They do matter!" We want our students to know just how important they are to all of us at CCE, and that their hard work doesn't go unnoticed.

September is the month of our Membership Drive. We'd love for you to become a member of the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation. Parent Teacher Association (PTA) reminds our country of its obligations to children and provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, community members, friends and more can all join. Anyone can be a member for only \$5! By becoming a member, you will receive all our important updates and correspondence. Being united in our membership strengthens our collective voice and empowers us to accomplish more together. Rest assured, membership does not obligate you to volunteer or attend meetings – your support in itself is immensely valuable. There will be a prize for the first class that reaches 100% membership.

Please go to our [website](#) and become a member today!!!

Our Cougar Cub Spirit shirts are sold online for only \$12! These shirts can be worn every Friday with jeans. The orders are fulfilled daily and delivered to your student's classroom. Please visit our [website](#) and get yours today.

We're excited to announce, we're opening CCES Hoodie presales! This presale is for our new zip-up hoodie design for \$35. Our vendor requires that we meet the minimum quantity of sales to order them! If we do not meet the minimum sales requirement, all money will be refunded. They can be worn any day at school and we all know how cold the classrooms can get. All orders must be in no later than 9/17/23. Please note all sales are final and there will be no exchanges. The presale will only be open for two weeks to ensure the hoodies are delivered to our students in a timely manner. Everyone can order one, adults and students! These can be preordered on our Memberhub website as well, at [PTA Website](#)

If you have any questions, or ideas, or would like to get involved, please contact [CCES PTA](#).

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make this a truly remarkable year for all students!

Sincerely,
Alexandra Lindholm, PTA President, and the entire 2023-2024 PTA Board

MATH

Math is off to a running start at Coconut Creek Elementary! Our teachers provide our students K-5 with a 60-minute core math block daily. The math instructional time is comprised of direct teacher instruction, collaborative learning experiences, and reteach/remediate small groups to assist students with timely, targeted support. We believe student learning in math is rooted in effective tier 1 instruction with a dependence on manipulative use which provides hands-on exploration of abstract ideas and creates an opportunity for kinesthetic engagement to build a concrete/tactile, fundamental basis for these concepts. Students utilize the Savvas Realize curriculum or "enVision" to ensure students are meeting the Florida B.E.S.T. standards for their grade level.

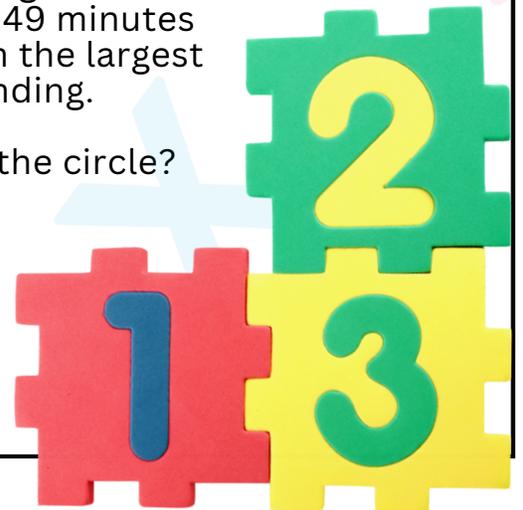
In the month of September, students are already finished with topic 1 and working through topic 2. Your student's topic 1 assessment was completed online, which will be true for all of their math assessments this year. Using the online testing platform throughout the year will help to equip students with the FL FAST testing system that is used 3 times a year throughout the state of Florida. Your student's individual teacher can communicate specific skills and mathematical concepts you can work on at home to support their current learning endeavors in the classroom. If you are unsure of what you can do at home to assist your student, please reach out to their teacher!

In addition, our school is also excited about using i-Ready Math again this year to provide supplemental, targeted student instruction. Students will complete their beginning of the year diagnostic in i-Ready on Wednesday, September 20th. This will provide an opportunity to know exactly where your child excels, and which areas could use some additional practice for mastery. From that point on, your student will have a customized pathway in which they can work to grow their math knowledge and build their capacity to fulfill grade-level expectations. Our ask is that students complete 30 to 49 minutes of i-Ready math a week with a 70% + pass rate to reach the largest gains and see the greatest increases in their understanding.

Here's a little math joke: "What did the triangle say to the circle?
--Your pointless!" 😊

Looking forward to seeing great things this year
in math,

Jessica Johnston, Math Coach



READING

Communication is key at Coconut Creek Elementary. As we continuously work on our literacy skills across all grade levels, we focus on communication through our reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. So far this year, the students have been working on the foundations and routines of Benchmark Advance. This curriculum is aligned with the Science of Reading and incorporates the core components of reading. Students are exposed to literary, science, and social studies texts as they build their vocabulary and content knowledge. Within each unit, students are taught a myriad of ELA Florida B.E.S.T. standards. However, please be aware, these standards will spiral or be retaught throughout the year so mastery will most likely not be met the first time it is introduced. Your child will be engaging in whole group, small group, and independent learning. The first unit for all grade levels will focus on Life Science.

During this first month, students have engaged in the Florida FAST PM1 in both reading and math. On September 18, students will begin their first Reading iReady Diagnostic. Teachers and support staff will review and analyze the data gained from these assessments to help develop a plan that best meets the individual needs of each student.

Once the iReady Reading Diagnostic is complete, students will have their own instructional pathway which will help them learn the content. Our school expectation is that students complete 30 – 49 minutes of iReady Reading a week and complete at least 2 lessons with a 70% or greater pass rate.

Here's a little reading joke: "What do you get when you throw a lot of books into the ocean? --A "title" wave!" 😊

Have a great school year!
Michele Rothacker, Literacy Coach



SOCIAL STUDIES



September

The content area of social studies will be highlighting celebrations, contributions, and educating our children about important aspects of our history! Our school will be participating in grade-level appropriate, required instruction with varying focus/topics each month. In the month of September, we will teach students about Patriot Day, the Constitution, Celebrate Freedom Week, and the Declaration of Independence.

Patriot Day

On September 11th: Students were asked to wear red, white, and blue to honor the heroes that sacrificed so much to help our country during and after the events that occurred on September 11th!

Constitution Day

On September 18th, students will spend time with their classroom teachers learning about how our Constitution was written, the freedoms and liberties we enjoy as laid out in the preamble of the Constitution, and what our Constitution means to us today!

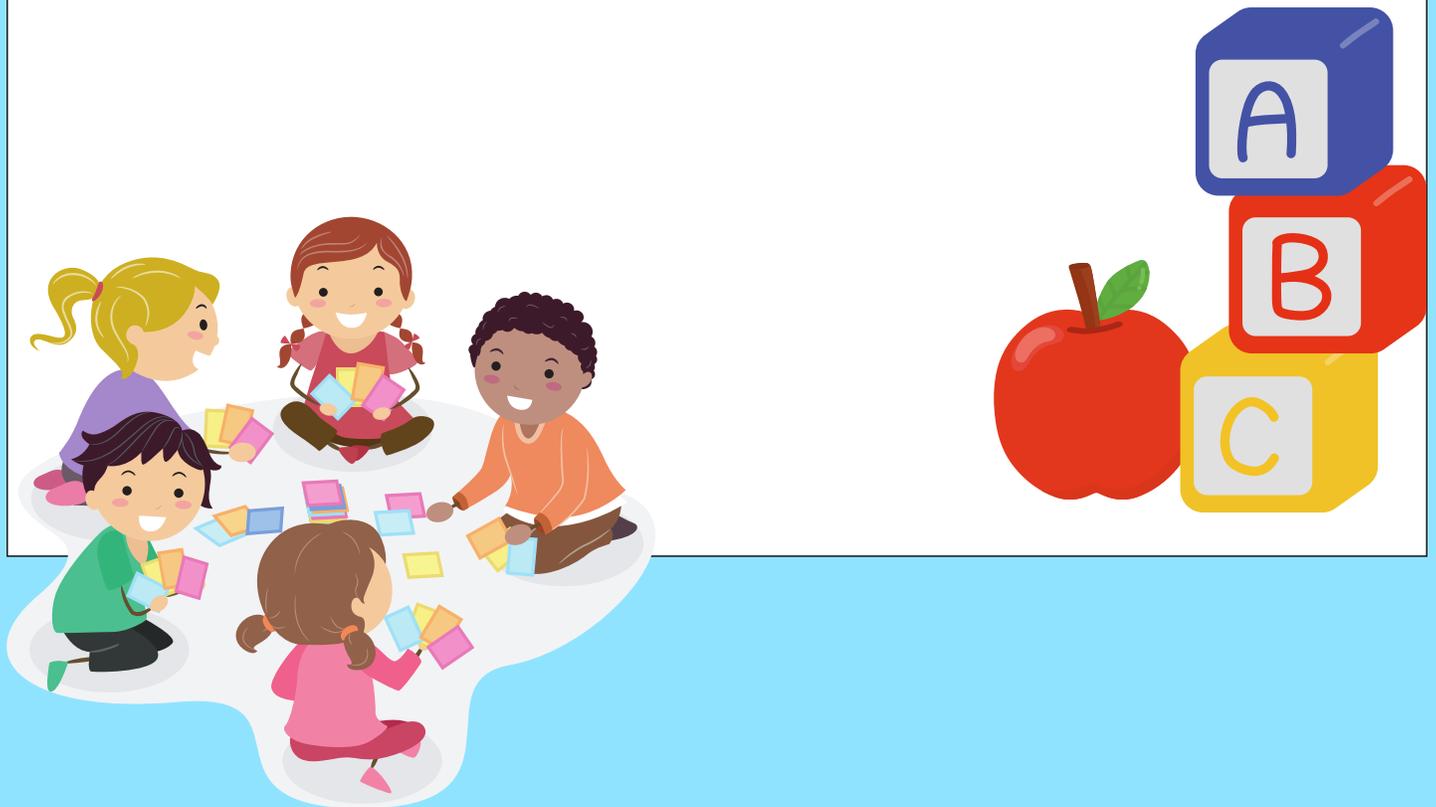
Freedom Week

During the week of September 25th - September 29th, students will learn about the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and America's Founding Fathers.

AUTISM SPECIAL PROGRAM

Our Autism Special Program is so thrilled to welcome all our new students and happy to see our returning students. We had a successful first few days of school and we look forward to an amazing school year that emphasizes inclusivity, diversity, and acceptance.

Additionally, we would like to welcome our newest staff members. New to our teaching team are Ms. Paz, Ms. Turnquest, and Ms. Hanlan; our Speech and Language Pathologist, Ms. Barralaga; our Education Support Professionals, Ms. Gruber, Ms. Waneska, and Dr. Charles.



KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE

KINDERGARTEN

It's been an exciting time in Kindergarten! The children have been getting to know their new school, teachers, friends, and routines. We can't wait to see you on October 4th at our Open House! We will have lots of information to share with you.

FIRST GRADE

The beginning of the year is always busy and full of excitement. We will begin reading groups this month in your child's class. We will also begin homework in a few weeks. Your child will be bringing home a leveled reader nightly. The first-grade students are busy learning about how plants and animals grow and change. We are also reading a variety of stories and learning about many kinds of characters in books. We are also learning about building friendships and about different people in our community. We will be learning about apples this month. In math, we are working on addition and subtraction to 20. We are also learning it is OK to make mistakes but to always try our BEST!!



SECOND GRADE & THIRD GRADE

SECOND GRADE

Thank you for a fantastic beginning to our 2023-2024 school year! We are so excited for this upcoming school year. Open House is October 4th, and we look forward to seeing parents and students to discuss important information about our classroom. Uniforms need to be worn daily with shoes/sneakers for safety reasons. Snacks can be brought in daily since we have an early lunchtime. Students must return the Communications folder daily for important papers. Students are reviewing Reading and Math skills, so they are ready for 2nd grade. Teachers will reach out to parents to schedule a conference to discuss individual progress. 1st Quarter Interims will go home on October 3rd. The 2nd-grade teachers are ready to help, so please reach out to your child's teacher for any questions/concerns.

THIRD GRADE

Greetings from the Third Grade Team,

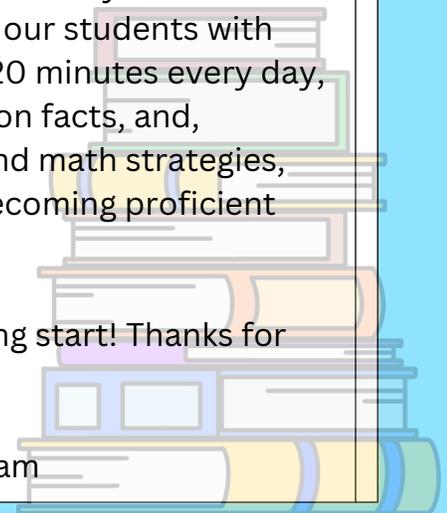
Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to work with our students and will encourage them to always do their best! Our learning community, "CCE is ME" consist of unique individuals with their own learning styles, strengths, interest, hopes, and dreams.

Establishing routines and foundations will bolster our students learning to the next level. Beginning of the year assessments in Reading, Math and Science are being administered to students this month. We are working on: Topic 1 in Math, Understanding Multiplication and Division of Whole numbers. Unit 1, in ELA, Animal Adaptations. Our Essential Question is: How do living things survive in their environment? In Science, Classifying Animals and Plants and Social Studies, The World in Spatial Times.

Your partnership is vital to your child's success. Supporting our students with homework, reading 20 minutes every day, learning multiplication facts, and, practicing reading and math strategies, will assist them in becoming proficient learners.

We are off to a roaring start! Thanks for partnering with us.

Your Third Grade Team



FOURTH GRADE

Hello there 4th grade family!!!!

We are excited to start a new school year with our students. It has been interesting getting to know them and we can't wait to continue building relationships with them as well as watch them grow academically.

Here are a few announcements, updates, and reminders:

Announcements:

All fourth graders have a daily folder that will go home every single day. Please look at them daily because important information will be sent home in that folder along with homework. Each student was given a planner (agenda) where they write down their homework daily.

We have a few field trips coming up for the students, so please be on the lookout!

Curriculum Updates:

The students took their FAST ELA and Math PM1 and the scores will be forthcoming. The students who haven't taken the FAST will complete it on designated makeup dates.

Math:

We wrapped up Topic 1 and started Topic 2. Topic 2 is focused on the basic facts of multiplication and division. Please review the basic facts with students. These basic facts will be the foundation for the upcoming topics in math. Students can practice using iReady Fluency Flight or xtramath. The students will be sent home with the login information for xtramath.

Reading:

In reading, we are still going over the Rules, Routines, and basic foundational skills. We will start Unit 1 of Reading in another two weeks. Unit 1 of Reading will be focused on Observing Nature. Our essential question that we will be focused on is How do we respond to nature?

Science:

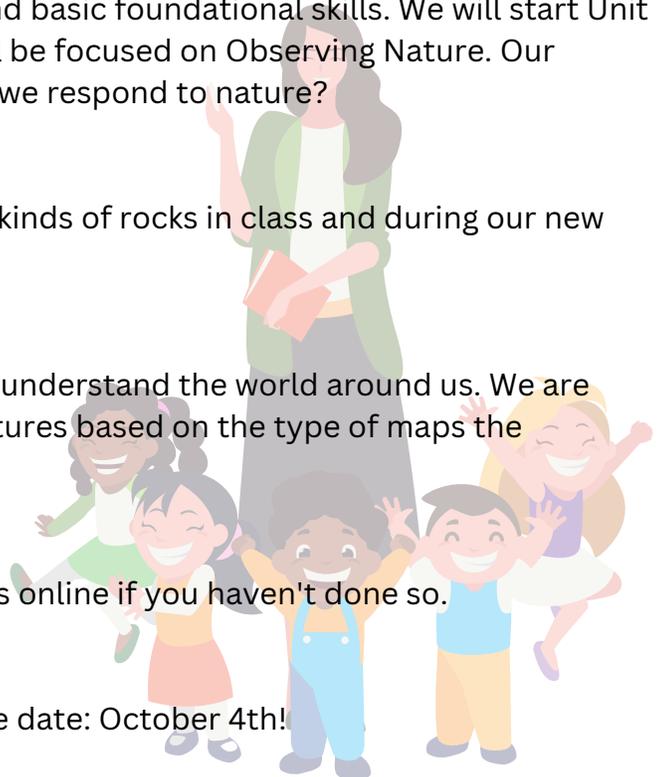
The students started learning about the three different kinds of rocks in class and during our new Science Specials.

Social Studies:

In social studies, we are learning about reading maps to understand the world around us. We are focused on the state of Florida and identify specific features based on the type of maps the students are analyzing.

Reminders:

- Please remember to fill out the back-to-school forms online if you haven't done so.
- Remember to check the student's daily folders.
- Remember to have your car tag up during dismissal
- Open house is slowly approaching so please save the date: October 4th!



FIFTH GRADE

Fifth-grade teachers are so excited to start the school year with our students! Our fifth-grade teachers are Ms. Craig, Ms. Joseph, Mrs. O'Laughlin, and Mrs. Van Sciver.

For the month of September, our students will be working in our reading series - Benchmark Advance. We have already begun to explore the topic of "Cultivating Natural Resources" and "Developing Characters Relationships." We will be incorporating reading/writing, science, and social studies topics in our reading series. Look for little readers coming home that students will be able to keep and build their own home library with!

Continue to work on multiplication tables daily as we will continue with number sense including place value through the millions and decimals in our new math series, Envision.

Please check planners and take-home folders daily for important information. Please make sure your student has a water bottle and headphones daily at school. We would love to have all of our families join the PTA this year! Thank you for your continued support!



Art, PE, & Science News

Art

We're off to a great start in Art! First, our students reviewed and learned about classroom expectations. Art promotes self-expression, encourages creativity and problem-solving skills and engages children's senses. This week students are learning about the Elements of Art beginning with Line and Color. We're looking forward to creating amazing Art!

Thank you! Mrs. Bazos 😊

P.E.

Coach Kenney is excited to see all of our Cougar Cubs back on campus!

Students are working on coordination, balancing activities, and Jump Roping this quarter.

If anyone ever has any questions regarding PE, please don't hesitate to reach out to Coach Kenney.

Science

Super Science Special!

It is my great privilege and joy to join the Coconut Creek Elementary family as the new science special teacher. I've been teaching for nearly 20 years, most of them as a science special. I look forward to working with your children in engaging lessons designed to enhance the understanding of science gained in their classrooms.

Kindergarten and 1st graders started the year off learning about their five senses. Our 2nd and 3rd graders learned about metric measurements and science tools. The rock cycle kicked off with 4th-grade lessons. The 5th-grade special started with atomic theory.

Also, I will be running a Drama Club and a Chess Club soon for 3rd-5th grade students starting in October. Interested children will be chosen randomly to ensure fairness.

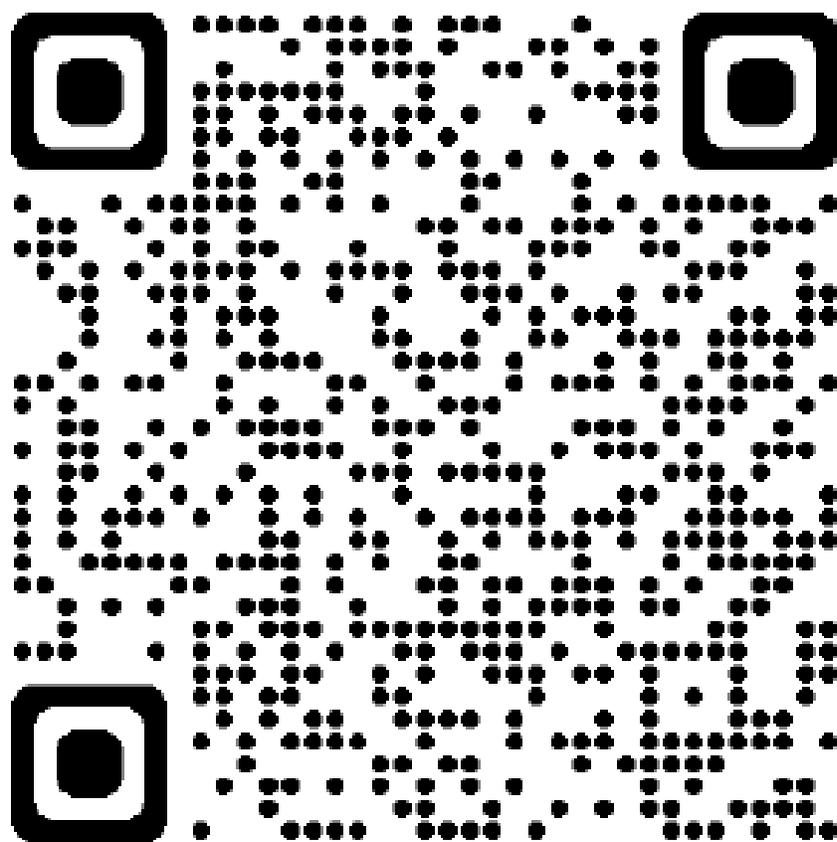
Thank you to all the staff and parents who welcomed me so warmly. Here's to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Simone Ryals

Coconut Creek Elementary School

Back to School Forms:

We're here to help you complete the back-to-school forms required for your child. The wizard makes the process easy. Let's get started.





Coconut Creek Elementary School and Florida Textile Recycling Programs ® have partnered to collect and recycle old clothing, shoes, and textiles!

So, please do not throw them away!

Just place the items in the white recycling bin in our parking lot.

Every pound of recycled items supports our school!

Below is a list of items that can be placed in our bin:

Clothing: pants, jeans, skirts, dresses, suits, shorts, shirts, tees, tanks

Footwear: shoes, boots, heels, sneakers, sandals, socks, tights

Undergarments: bras, underwear, slips, camisoles

Accessories: hats, belts, ties, scarves, headbands

Handbags: wallets, totes, luggage, backpacks, briefcases

Linens: towels, sheets, comforters, blankets, tablecloths

As you clean out the old and bring in the new, you can help the environment and Coconut Creek Elementary too!

Proceeds will benefit our Eco-Ranger Club

WELCOME! CCE IS ME!

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Please join us
Thursday, September 21, 2023
at 9:00 a.m. in our Media Center.

We will discuss volunteer guidelines and expectations.

Breakfast snacks and coffee will be provided.

**Please confirm your attendance to Mrs. Rothacker by
September 18 at michele.rothacker@browardschools.com.**

If you are unable to attend at this time but would still like to volunteer,
please let Mrs. Rothacker, Ms. Aponte, or your child's teacher know.

We will need to acclimate you before you are able to volunteer.

This includes volunteering for field trips.

**Please fill out a volunteer application at
www.browardschools.com/volunteer.**



**HIGH
FIVE!**



PARENTS!

WE WANT YOU!

Join the Coconut Creek Elementary
School Advisory Council and School Advisory Forum

All are welcome! Please arrive by 2:35 pm to check-in with the front office.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The School Advisory Council is a school-based group representing the school, the community, and those closest to the students. The group shares responsibility for guiding the school towards continuous improvement. The School Advisory Council is responsible for final decision-making at the school relating to the provisions of the annual School Improvement Plan (SIP).

School Advisory Forum (SAF)

The goal of the School Advisory Forum is to improve the education experience through advocacy, communication, and partnerships between Parents, Schools, and the Broward County School District. The School Advisory Forum meets throughout the school year, often after our School Advisory Council meetings, and representatives attend the district North Area Advisory Council meetings. The topics discussed are often district-wide initiatives, such as school safety, student well-being, calendars, and community issues

Future School Advisory Council Dates:

Tuesday, September 26th @ 2:40pm
Tuesday, October 31st @ 2:40pm
Tuesday, November 28th @ 2:40pm
Tuesday, December 19th @ 2:40pm

Tuesday, January 23rd @ 2:40pm
Tuesday, February 27th @ 2:40pm
Tuesday, March 19th @ 2:40pm
Tuesday, April 23rd @ 2:40pm
Tuesday, May 28th @ 2:40pm



ARE YOU FOLLOWING COCONUT CREEK ELEMENTARY ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Instagram for
the school



[ccescougarcubs](#)

Instagram for CCES
Before care/Aftercare
Program



[ccesbascc](#)

Twitter for
the school



[@CoconutCreekES](#)





COCONUT CREEK ELEMENTARY

OPEN HOUSE

Come meet your child's
teacher and learn about
their school day.

October 4th, 2023

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm KG-2nd Grade

7:05 pm - 7:35 pm 3rd - 5th Grade

