

The Falcon Flyer

JANUARY 2024



Happy New Year, Falcon Families!

We are excited to be back at school and we are looking forward to an outstanding second semester. We will hold first semester student recognition ceremonies this month and we will move into the second semester of the school year with great anticipation. We are always seeking ways to improve our practices and we solicit your input as valued members of our school community. We thank you for all that you do, and we hope that you will be able to join us for all of our parent and family engagement events this semester!

With Falcon Pride,

Dr. Erica Wakefall

LEAD | LEARN | LOVE | GROW

VISION & MISSION

The **vision** of C.J. Hicks Elementary School is to be a positive learning environment where students advocate for themselves, accept others, and advance towards their potential.

The **mission** of C.J. Hicks Elementary School is to ensure the academic, behavioral, social, and emotional success of all students through rigorous, individualized instruction.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

GOAL 1: By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, C.J. Hicks will increase the percentage of students scoring in the Proficient/Distinguished performance level on the READING/ELA EOG assessments by 5% as measured by performance on the Georgia Milestones Assessments.

GOAL 2: By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, C.J. Hicks will increase the percentage of students scoring in the Proficient/Distinguished performance level on the Math EOG assessments by 5% as measured by performance on the Georgia Milestones Assessments.

GOAL 3: By the end of the 2023-2024 school year, C.J. Hicks will increase the percentage of students scoring in the Proficient/Distinguished performance level on the Science EOG assessments by 5% as measured by performance on the Georgia Milestones Assessments.

GOAL 4: During the 2023-2024 school year, C.J. Hicks will provide monthly parent and family engagement opportunities.

CJH PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

CJH Parent Information Guide 23-24.pdf

[Download](#)

281.4 KB

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 8	➤ Students Return to School
JANUARY 10	➤ Extended Day After School Program for Select Students
JANUARY 11	➤ Extended Day After School Program for Select Students
JANUARY 15	➤ No School – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
JANUARY 17	➤ Extended Day After School Program for Select Students
JANUARY 18	➤ 100 TH Day of School ➤ Extended Day After School Program for Select Students
JANUARY 19	➤ Mobile Food Pantry from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
JANUARY 24	➤ Awards Ceremonies for 2 nd Grade & 3 rd Grade ➤ Extended Day After School Program for Select Students
JANUARY 25	➤ Awards Ceremonies for 4 th Grade & 5 th Grade ➤ Extended Day After School Program for Select Students
JANUARY 26	➤ Awards Ceremonies for Kindergarten & 1 st Grade
JANUARY 27	➤ Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl & Technology Showcase
JANUARY 31	➤ Fabulous Falcons Receptions for Students Only ➤ Extended Day After School Program for Select Students

Free Food Drive at CJH



**ATLANTA
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK**

Please come and get a box of fresh produce and nonperishable items.

When: Friday, January 19th

Time: 3:00-4:00pm

Location: Nursery Van Lane (adjacent to bus lane)

****This is a drive thru event in which you must remain in your car and a CJH Safety Patrol or staff member will place the box in your trunk.***

Contact information and address:

Phone: 470-642-2896

C.J. Hicks

1300 Pine Log NE

Conyers, Ga 30012



This is a reminder for all of us to do our part to part to reduce the spread of illness in our schools and offices. Health officials continue to see elevated levels of respiratory illness across the country including flu, COVID-19, and RSV. Our local health officials shared that one of the most

recent CDC and emergency department surveillance data, Georgia is experiencing very high levels of respiratory virus infections. They remind us that respiratory and other infections such as gastrointestinal infections can be prevented when the community takes simple but important preventive measures to limit transmission. It is important to ensure that staff and students follow the CDC and Department of Public Health recommendations below to prevent spread within our school and the community.

- **Get Vaccinated!** It is not too late to get your flu and COVID-19 vaccines. For certain individuals, RSV vaccine is also available. Contact your healthcare provider for more information on vaccines or GNR Public Health at 770-904-3717 to make an appointment.
- **Handwashing.** Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water isn't available. Remember that hand sanitizer is not effective against some gastrointestinal viruses.
- **Cover your cough and sneeze.** Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze. You can use your elbow if a tissue is not available. Dispose of used tissues immediately and wash your hands.
- **Keep your distance from people that are sick.** While this is not always possible, the closer you are to an individual that is sick, the more likely you are to be exposed to respiratory droplets containing a virus.
- **Stay home when you are sick.** In addition to staying home when you are sick, try your best to keep your distance from others in your home to help prevent them from getting sick. Get tested and consult your medical provider. **If you test positive for COVID-19, please be reminded you must isolate for a minimum of 5 days from onset of symptoms and may return after 5 days and when you have been at least 24 hours fever-free without the use of medicine.**
- **Clean and disinfect.** When someone is sick in the home, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces is especially important to help prevent spreading illness to other members of the home. Make sure to follow the directions on the cleaning agent including how long the cleaning agent needs to stay wet on the surfaces you are cleaning.
- **Mask wearing.** You may choose to wear a mask to help provide protection against circulating viruses. Masks can help protect people at higher risk of serious illness. Their effectiveness does vary depending on the virus and mask quality.

Visit CDC's website for more information on how to [Protect yourself and others from Flu, COVID19, and RSV](#) and to keep up with trends near you. Should you have additional questions about flu, COVID-19, and RSV you can contact your medical provider or contact GNR Public Health by calling (770) 339-4260 and ask for the Epidemiologist on call.



Our school is using Beanstack this year to monitor our reading. This program allows our students to log their reading daily to earn badges and rewards. Our goal with this program is to promote an authentic love of reading.

Please remember each C.J. Hicks student is expected to read for 35 minutes. Some of this reading (about 20 minutes worth) should be done nightly at home. Please support your child's reading by making sure they meet this expectation daily.

You can help your child with logging by using the Beanstack mobile app. Directions on using it are available [here](#). Students can also access Beanstack from their ClassLink login.

Thanks for supporting your child's reading!

SAFETY & SECURITY REMINDERS

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE 12 NOON



PARENT FEEDBACK



PARENT CONCERNS



Early Checkouts MUST be before
1:10pm

M.O.R.E. Afterschool Checkout
begins at 2:45pm



AWARDS WEEK

Kinder Jan. 26th at 8:00am
CJH Cafeteria

1st Jan. 26th at 9:00am
CJH Cafeteria

2nd Jan. 24th at 8:00am
CJH Cafeteria

3rd Jan. 24th at 9:00am
CJH Cafeteria

4th Jan. 25th at 8:00am
CJH Cafeteria

5th Jan. 25th at 9:00am
CJH Cafeteria

 Parent Academy
Rockdale County Public Schools
RCPS

RCPS Community, Family, and Student Engagement Presents

PARENT ACADEMY BE MORE IN 2024!

Join us for a dynamic morning focused on
Literacy and Wellness as we aim to BE MORE IN 2024!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM AT SALEM HIGH SCHOOL
ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND VENDORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM



FREE LUNCH & *CHILDCARE!
EXCITING DOOR PRIZES!

STUDENT PERFORMANCES
WELLNESS & LITERACY CLASSES
COMMUNITY & STUDENT VENDORS

*MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED TO RECEIVE CHILDCARE
Register at www.rockdaleschools.org/parentacademy or at your child's school.

 www.rockdaleschools.org/parentacademy  770-918-2695



GREETINGS READY FAMILIES!

This is an exciting new month and year for our READY team and students. The theme for the month is Community Helpers, Transportation, and the Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Holiday. As we begin the new year, we will be making new strides and accomplishments. The Books of the month are The Jacket I Wear in the Snow, The Mitten and My Truck is Stuck. The color of the month is WHITE, and the shape of the month is DIAMOND. The letters of the month will be Dd, Kk, and Ii. The focus number for January is 10. We will also be singing about snowmen and snowflakes. We will be making snowmen, snowflakes, and mittens out of various materials. The students will celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday by participating in different learning activities.

Thank you!

The READY Team



GREETINGS PRE-K FAMILIES

We hope you had a safe and wonderful holiday season! Pre-K will start the New Year off by creating new learning goals. We are so excited to hear our student's learning resolutions for this new year. Thank you all for participating in our conferences and working with us every day. The themes for January are New Year's, Martin Luther King, Jr., the 100th Day of School, and Winter reading activities. Please continue to work with your child daily on letter sounds, upper and lowercase letter recognition, number recognition, counting, name writing, and rhyming words.

Thank you!

The Pre-K Team



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

GREETINGS KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES!

Happy New Year, kindergarten families! We are so excited to begin the second semester of school. This month we will have the 100th day of school on January 18th. We will celebrate being 100 days smarter! We encourage students to participate by dressing as if they are 100 years old. Throughout the day we will do different learning activities based on the number 100. This is a fun learning day that we look forward to! In math students are also learning to decompose numbers up to 9. Students have begun to learn about the difference between living and nonliving in science. In reading we are beginning to learn to compare the experiences of characters in a story. When you read with your child at home ask them about how the characters are different or how they are the same. Please also continue to practice your child's sight words. GKIDS reports will be sent home on January 29th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

**Thank you,
The Kindergarten Team**



1ST GRADE NEWS

GREETINGS 1ST GRADE FAMILIES!

We hope you all had a safe and joyful winter break! As we enter the second semester, we are excited to continue working with our scholars.

Updates:

- February 16th: Field Trip to DATE ACADEMY
- February 28th: Field Trip to Clayton County Performing Arts Center
- All monies are due January 26th. Students **MUST** have a signed permission slip on file for each filed trip.
- Scholars have showed amazing growth within the 1st semester; however, teachers are no longer able to assist with reading CUA's. Scholars will be required to read CUA's independently. Please read with your scholar **DAILY** to help them develop into strong readers.

What are we learning:

Social Studies: Historical figures and their contributions to the United States, such as Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.

Reading: Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in a story, identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses and main idea/key details.

Writing/Grammar: Opinion writing, research writing, context clues and affixes.

Math: Measurement and writing/telling time

Science: Light and sound

If you have any questions, please contact your scholar's teacher!



GREETINGS 2ND GRADE FAMILIES!

We hope your break was joyful and restful. Welcome back! We have a lot to do in 2024!

We are learning:

Math – Addition and Subtraction to 1000

Reading – Asking and Answering questions and Main ideas and Key Details of stories.

Writing – Opinion writing, complete sentences and transition words.

Science – Studying matter

Social Studies – Historical figures Martin Luther King Jr. And Jackie Robinson

We are looking forward to a successful new year. If you have any questions please let us know.

Thank you,

The 2nd Grade Team



3RD GRADE NEWS

GREETINGS 3RD GRADE FAMILIES!

It is hard to believe, we have already completed semester one of the school year. Our students have truly given it their all and it is imperative we continue to work as a team and keep the momentum going. We will be working hard to ensure that all of our students are well equipped for the 4th grade. In December, students took the STAR reading and STAR math assessment. You can get an updated score for reading and math through the "Home Connect." You can use this report to view your child's reading level, areas of weakness, and skills they are ready to learn.

As we continue to work as team players, please ensure your child is reading nightly for a minimum of thirty-five minutes. Studies have shown, this will help with vocabulary expansion, memory improvement, and stronger analytical thinking skills. Math teachers want to encourage parents to continue working on mastering basic multiplication facts. Most importantly, attendance plays a crucial part in a child's academic success, please ensure your child is present and on time every day. As always, thank you for your continuous support.

**Thank you,
The 3rd Grade Team**



4TH GRADE NEWS

GREETINGS 4TH GRADE FAMILIES!

Welcome back families! We want to start by wishing you a Happy New Year! As we start the second semester, we wanted to share a few reminders.

To help the students prepare for the end of the year statewide testing, you will begin to see review classwork/homework assignments from learning targets previously taught. Feel free to review these assignments with your scholars when they come home.

Reminders:

Scholars' devices will only be sent home on the days in which homework is assigned on the computer. Please encourage your scholar to take care of the device and keep up with the device, charger, and bag.

Scholars are assigned homework Monday through Thursday. Homework is a way for students to practice what has been taught in class that day. Please encourage your child to complete and return to school the next day.

4th will have a field trip to Starlite Family Fun Center on Friday, February 16th. All students will receive a permission slip which will provide you with the QR code for payment. The cost is \$20 and due no later than February 9th. Please sign the permission slip and return it upon your online payment.

The following standards will be covered during the month of January:

Math:

- Converting 10th and 100ths
- Comparing decimals
- Adding/Subtracting 10ths and 100ths

ELA:

- Inferencing
- Informational writing
- Relative Pronouns/Adverbs
- Text Structure
- Interpret information presented visually

Science:

- Comparing and contrasting weather and climate
- Weather Instruments
- How to read and understand weather maps

Social Studies:

- Causes and main events of the Civil War

If you have any questions, please contact your scholar's teacher!

**Thank you,
The 4th Grade Team**

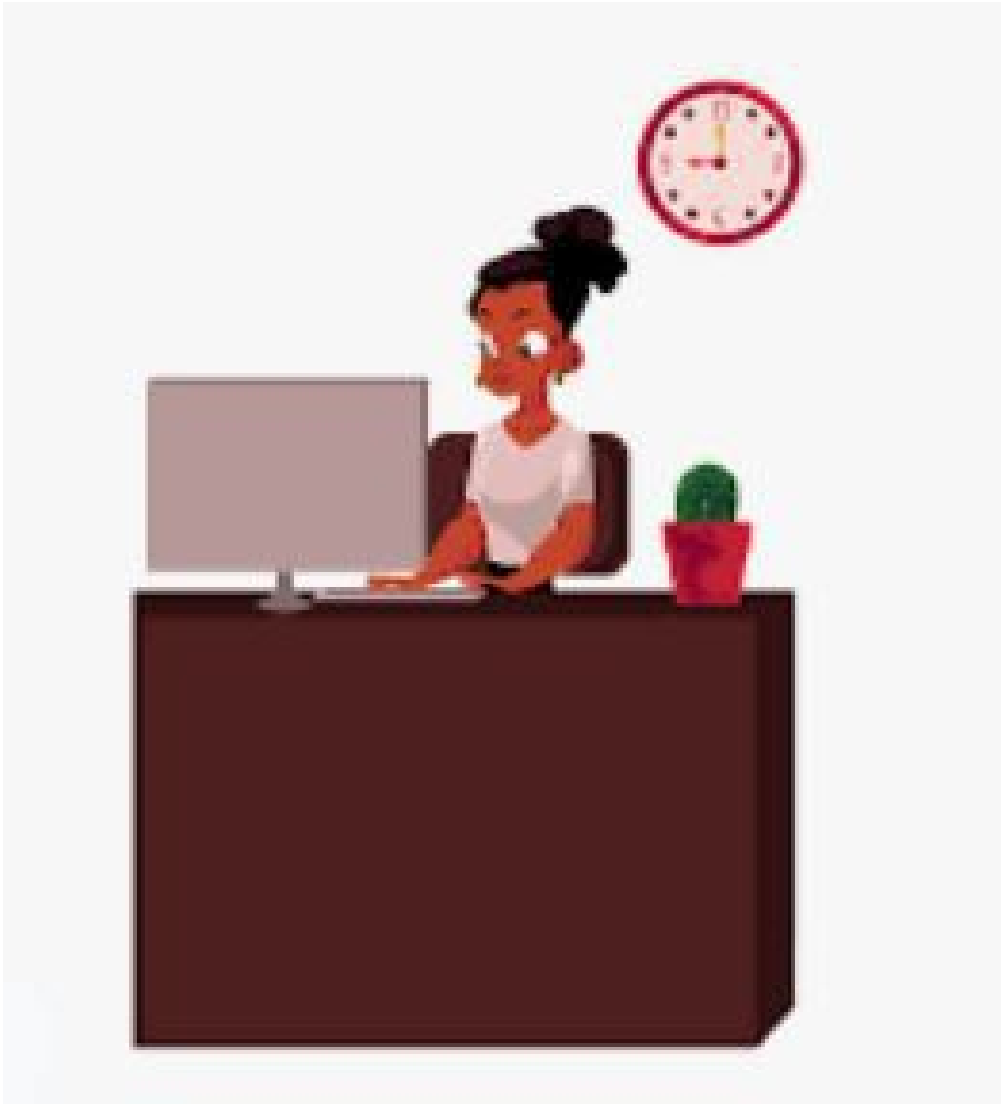


GREETINGS 5TH GRADE FAMILIES!

As a reminder, the school day begins at 7:35 and attendance is very important. Please encourage your scholar to get a good night's rest so that they are ready for a full day of learning. As we return from a much-needed Winter break, we welcome the students back for more great learning. As we

start 3rd Quarter, parents please check your student’s grades on a regular basis in Infinite Campus. Monitoring your student’s grades will help keep them on track for a successful 3rd quarter. As we approach the state testing period that is coming up this Spring, please remind your student to be present, prepared, and active during class. Please encourage your student to read at least 35 minutes every day. The students that met their reading goals will receive rewards from Mrs. Burdett. As always, thank you for your support 5th grade families.

Thank you,
The 5th Grade Team



The CJH Front Office is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am - 3:00 pm. The dedicated front office staff members look forward to assisting you throughout the school year.

Caryn Abraham	Front Office Clerk	cabraham@rockdale.k12.ga.us
Annslee Barker	Bookkeeper	abarker23@rockdale.k12.ga.us
Dana Cureton	Records Clerk	dcureton23@rockdale.k12.ga.us
Japonica Jenkins	Registrar	jjenkins@rockdale.k12.ga.us
Paulina Jimenez	Front Office Clerk	pjimenezramirez@rockdale.k12.ga.us

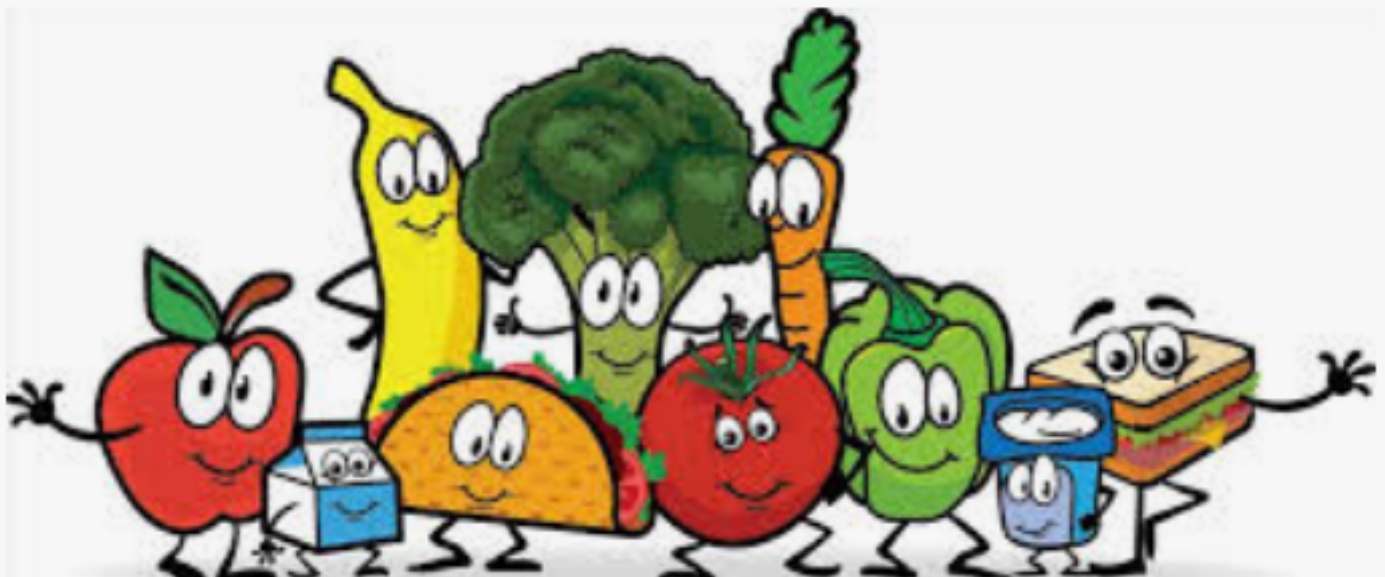


We will always be happy to meet the clinic needs of our students. Please contact our school nurse, Mrs. Berlinda Alexander, if you have any questions regarding the clinic.

CJH School Nurse

Mrs. Berlinda Alexander

balexander24@rockdale.k12.ga.us



RCPS participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and offers free meals to eligible students. As a reminder, students with over \$10.00 in negative balances receive alternate meals. Please take some time each week to take care of account balances if you are able to do so. Contact our cafeteria manager, Mrs. Kimberly Barrett, if you have any questions regarding school meals.

CJH Cafeteria Manager

Mrs. Kimberly Barrett

kbarret@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Parent Resources



We look forward to supporting our students and families throughout the school year. Please contact our Parent Liaison, Mrs. Dawn Smith, if you have any questions about school policies and procedures.

CJH Parent Liaison

Mrs. Dawn Smith

dawnsmith@rockdale.k12.ga.us



C.J. Hicks Elementary School

Email: cjhes@rockdale.k12.ga.us

Website: cjh.rockdaleschools.org

Location: [1300 Pine Log Rd NE, Conyers, GA, USA](#)

Phone: [770.483.4410](tel:770.483.4410)

Twitter: [@CJHicksElem](https://twitter.com/CJHicksElem)

LEAD



LEARN



LOVE



GROW



Dr. Erica Wakefall
Proud Principal