

# Fort Collins Christian School

## Newsletter

### September 14, 2020



#### IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Thursday, September 17	Mid-term Reports
Monday, September 21 - 24	MAP Testing (grades K-8)
Thursday, October 15	First Quarter Ends
Monday, October 19	Second Quarter Begins
Wednesday, October 21	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences (School is out at noon)



#### FORT COLLINS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS A CORE VALUES SCHOOL

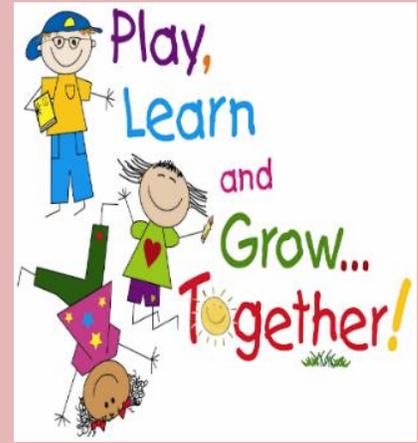
We are a core values school! We **CHERISH** our selected seven core values: **C**hrist-centered Living, **H**onor, **E**xploration, **R**esponsibility, **I**ntegrity, **S**ervice, and **H**eroism. "To acquire wisdom is to love oneself: people who **CHERISH** understanding will prosper." Proverbs 19:8



In **August** and **September**, we are focusing on the first core value of **Christ-centered Living**: Reflecting God's character in attitudes and actions. The students are given the opportunity to acknowledge classmates who show the core value of Christ-centered living every day.

## A Moving Child is a Learning Child! Part 2

This month, Mrs. Breese will share about the origins of learning: the **senses**. There are actually seven senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch, internal sense of balance, and intuition (the senses of spatial orientation and movement). The senses are the very beginning of learning. Movement stimulates the senses to collect information for the brain to analyze. The more a child moves, the more sensory stimulation occurs, which encourages learning.



**Sensory Integration:** Sensory integration is a process in which the senses work together. Putting together information from all of the senses makes it possible for us to participate in daily activities by integrating all the information we get from our senses. Sensory integration affects how we learn, play, socialize, and generally function in this world. Sensory integration supports children's growth intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially. So, multisensory play is very important for children's development. Let's provide children with a wide variety of a rich, multisensory environment in our school and home. *The Gill's Notebook "Respect the Mess"* will show you some ideas of the multisensory activities (messy play). Please read it and try some with your child(ren) at home.



**Seeing (Sight) and Early Reading:** The visual world is often our first impression of things around us. But sight is more than just clear focus. Seeing, vision and perception are three different aspects of sight that all develop simultaneously as a child grows. The four elements of seeing are focus, teaming, fixation and eye tracking. Together, this is what we call "eye fitness." Eye tracking is the foundation for reading

and requires very precise eye control. Encouraging your children to read is very important. However, it is important for you to remember that your child's eyes are still developing. Young children may not yet have eye fitness needed for the sustained, controlled eye movements of reading. However, even if your child is not ready to read by himself/herself, please remember that it is important for you to read to your child(ren) every day. When you read, naturally you talk about the story with your child. Children who are read to a lot will become good readers, and their knowledge and vocabulary will increase. This will help your children to be successful at school. If Your children are already reading, encourage them to read a lot. Please read *Gill's Notebook "When Is a Child Ready for Reading?"* to learn more about this. Please see the articles in Gill's Notebook in the separate email attachment.



## MAP TESTING

This school year all of the schools in the North American Division of SDA will adopt a new purposeful, ongoing assessment called “MAP Testing” to replace the ITBS Test.



Compared to the ITBS Testing for grades 3-8

administered once a year (at the end of September), the online MAP tests are for grades K-8, and they will be administered three times a year. We will get the results of the test a few days after completing the tests.

For schools in the Rocky Mountain Conference the tests will be held during the weeks of September 21, January 18, and April 15. This first year we will be testing Math and Reading only.

Since this test is new to everyone, the students will take a practice test prior to real testing in the week of September 14.

The students in grades K-3 will use the computers in the classroom, and the upper grade students will use their own Chromebooks to take the tests.

This is the first time we will be testing Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2. We will use the MAP Growth K-2 Test for grades K-2. This test is for pre, emergent, or beginning readers. The computer will read the question to these students.

For Grades 3-8, we will use MAP Growth 2-5 and 6+ Test.

The test takes about 90 minutes, but since these tests are not timed, they can pause them any time and let the students go out for recess or have a break, and then resume them later.

### ***\*Why are we using the MAP Growth Test?***

The test will show what the students know and what they are ready to learn, so we can help them grow.

- Whether the students know a little or a lot, they can always learn more and grow.
- MAP Growth is a chance to show how much the students know and what they're ready to learn, because the test chooses different questions for each student.
- When teachers find out what they're ready to learn, they can help the students to learn better and grow.

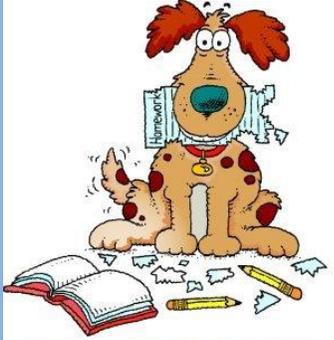
### ***\*Quest for Their Personal Best – Please encourage your child to do their best!***

- The students can climb high in their learning when they try their personal best.
- To see how big of a step they are ready to take, expect some challenging questions.
- The test is now timed, so it is important to take their time to understand the questions before answering.
- No one is expected to answer all test questions correctly.

**\*After the Test**, teachers will discuss the test results with each student and make a plan and set personal goals for them keep growing.

## SCHOOL IS A KID'S JOB

Your children work hard at school – it is their job. And to prepare for an adult job, we practice responsibility at school and at home. Responsibility is one of our core values, too. We focus on believing, “I can take care of myself. I can remember my homework; I can remember my lunch box; I can remember my



papers; I can remember to turn in my work and homework; I can remember my school supplies; I can remember to study for my spelling test on Thursday. I can remember my water bottle. This is my responsibility; no one else has to do it for me.”

Learning independence and responsibility will give your child confidence to succeed. “If you can’t be responsible for the small things in your young life, how can you be responsible for the big things late in life?” This is why we ask students to be responsible with their things and duties and to remind them of what they are supposed to do.

We have some water bottles at school to give to students if they forgot their own water bottle at home, and we are happy to share them with students. Hydration is essential, and we want our students to stay refreshed. We are eager to make sure every student has plenty of water.



## SCHOOL T-SHIRTS DAY ON WEDNESDAYS!

Most of the students got their red school t-shirts. We have ordered red t-shirts for the new students. The school t-shirt will be used for the school field trips, and **Wednesday is a School T-shirt Day!** So please make sure your child wears the school t-shirt on Wednesdays.

**They can wear jeans with the school T-shirt on Wednesdays.**



## **PARENT INCENTIVE:**

When you introduce a new student to our school and the student stays in our school for more than 6 months, the parents who introduce a new student to our school will get \$75. We believe that we have a great school. Please let other people know about our school.



## **OUR MISSION**

It is our purpose to provide a safe Christ-centered learning environment to empower students to become respectful and responsible individuals with a lifelong desire to learn.

## **OUR VISION**

It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers of the individual student through Christ-centered instruction. It is the preparation for successful citizenship in this world and the world to come. It is to instill the joy of unselfish service for others in the child.

## **OUR GOAL**

Our goal is to teach our students about a lifelong personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and also to challenge, support, and care for our students as they develop into respectful, responsible, and caring individuals.

## **SCHOOL CONTACT INFO**

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