



Camp Road Middle School
September 6, 2021

Cougar News

Parler's Ponderings:

I will start with COVID updates and then it is time to move to more pleasant discussions. For the year to date we have had **17** positive COVID-19 cases. Five of those cases occurred prior to school starting so those students got a late start to the year and have since returned to school. Of the **12** cases that we have had since the beginning of the school year, most of them are returning the week of September 7. As of the end of school on Friday, we had no new cases reported. Our total enrollment is 824 students. A school must reach **5% of its total population testing positive** in order to have the school convert to virtual learning. For CRMS that would be **41** positive cases over a two week period. We are not anywhere near that number and we can stay that way if all students and families use precautions outside of school as well as during school.

I am going to repeat myself on a few things from last week:

1. "**Fully Vaccinated**" means **two weeks** after a person's second shot (or two weeks after the J&J shot which is a single dose). If your child is fully vaccinated and is identified as a close contact, the student does not have to quarantine, but parents should still monitor their child for symptoms. The parent must show proof to our school nurse.
2. When **three or more** students in a class are identified as having tested positive for COVID, that entire class is **SHUT DOWN**. That means **all** students in that class must quarantine. **In this situation, it does not matter that your child was masked.** I cannot explain why, other than it is the regulation.
3. The school has set up weekly online tutoring sessions from 4:00-5:30 PM for those students who are quarantined. There is also an earlier option two days of the week for math help. Very few students logged on last week. Maybe the work on their Google Classroom and Canvas is easy enough to do on their own at this point. That is great, but if help is needed, teachers are there. Eighth grade administrator, **Brant Glover**, is the creator of the weekly schedule. Email him if you have not received it. At this point, there is NO option to zoom live into a class.
4. Lastly, don't believe everything you hear. I heard last Sunday after my church service that CRMS had 80 positive cases. I thought I had written 8 in the newsletter but then had my

doubts, thinking maybe I wrote 80 instead of 8. I went back to the newsletter and sure enough, I had written 8. So, when you hear something outrageous, don't jump to conclusions.

Have a great holiday weekend and stay healthy.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

COVID is a word that we are all tired of hearing. Unfortunately, it has not grown tired of us. We need to continue following CDC guidelines and doing everything that we can to protect our children. Wear a mask, wash your hands, socially distance yourself and do not touch your face.

One of the best ways to protect your family is to have everyone, who is eligible, get the COVID vaccine. It will lessen your chances of serious illness and/or death.

As for quarantine, your child will not be required to quarantine if:

**They are fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated means two shots and 2 weeks past the final dose.

OR

**They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 90 days of said quarantine announcement.

Any documentation regarding the above can be sent to Camp Road Middle School, Attn: Nurse or can be emailed to melissa_darcy@charleston.k12.sc.us

As always, if your child is sick please keep them home. If you have a medical question or concern, please feel free to call the school clinic 843-406-2102.

We are here for you and your child,

Melissa d'Arcy, RN
Mary Margaret Thomas, RN
Mary Lobianco, RN

For more information from DHEC, use the link below.

<https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/Library/CR-012601.pdf>. The DHEC Care Line is also available seven days a week to answer questions you may have: 1-855-4-SCDHEC (1-855-472-3432).

COVID-19 vaccine (2nd dose information)

MUSC will return to CRMS on Tuesday Sept 7th for the second dose of Pfizer COVID vaccine.

Please arrive between 9 AM - 1 PM. Location: **(Insert)**

I was thinking inside the second vestibule?

If you are unable to visit you may reschedule with MUSC or go to any participating pharmacy and take your vaccine card. Walmart and Harris Teeter currently have walk-in appointments available.

NOTICE FROM MR. GLOVER ABOUT NEW BUS ROUTE

First Student has evaluated the current bus situation for CRMS and will make adjustments to all bus routes starting **September 7th (Tuesday)**. Below is the link. The new routes are also posted on the home page of our web site.

Link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1O_WDbhPrIZmq6zPyML6NVQrtHz8IyhZ4-OIFzaSEUG0/edit?usp=sharing

8TH GRADE PSAT UPDATE

Who: Open to all 8th grade students

When: Wednesday, October 13

Where: We will administer the PSAT here at school.

Deadline to register: Wednesday, September 15

[PSAT Parent Letter](#)

[PSAT Permission Form](#)

GOOGLE CLASSROOM 101 FOR PARENTS

The best way to gain access to your student's work in Google Classroom is through their student account. Have them log in and show you-they ALL KNOW HOW TO DO THIS!!

[Google Classroom 101](#)

ORCHESTRA COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following students who have volunteered to be on the Orchestra Council! Orchestra Council is a leadership group for Ms. Lynch's strings class.

6th Grade: Sophie Cates
Sadie Kascak
Hayden Keeney
Legare McKeehan
Olivia Shriver

7th Grade: Lexi Nutting
Murphy Dutrow
Kelsey Dodd
Lauren Kramer

8th Grade: Davis Fickling
Andrew Kulesia
Anna Martin

**On behalf of our community, a sincere thank you to YOUR
community.**

Thank you to the James Island schools and community for generously supporting the Afghanistan Refugee Relief efforts. These were the packages ready to leave Murray LaSaine Montessori last week.



Thank You Volunteer Landscapers

Six parents have already started working on their “pods”. Thanks to Chad Jones, Sarah Baldwin, Janice Adler, Ross Bridges, Kristen Mulholland, and Jen Gibson. Also, thanks to the following parents who responded later and will help as substitutes when needed: Laura Nance, Gwen Watt, Tali Wells, Chuck Craven, and Kelly Gilreath.

David Parler



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Our Random Acts of Kindness Initiative started last week and will continue for the rest of the year. The purpose is to spread kindness in our school by recognizing students who go above and beyond to do kind things for their teachers, school staff, and classmates. A huge thank you to the following students who were caught being kind this week:

JaQuoy Legare, Cruz Connolly, Paola Lopez Soto, Hayden Keeney, Rowen Thompson, Amelia Adelsflugel, Sophia Cates, Kenneth Peters, Da’Niyah Rivers, Harrison Pait, Jonathan Vroon, Luke Williams, Andrew Katsibas, Stephen Guinee, Andrew Glick, Dayvione Kinney, Mikah Brown, Nate Irwin

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

If you are interested in coaching one of our middle school basketball teams, please contact one of the following individuals:

Brian Duffy: brian_duffy@charleston.k12.sc.us

Brant Glover: brant_glover@charleston.k12.sc.us

Andy Westergaard” andreas_westergaard@charleston.k12.sc.us

If you are interested in a job that follows the school year calendar where you can be off when you child is off, then please consider applying for one of our teacher assistant position with our Low Incidence exceptional needs classroom. Ms. Blakely is the teacher in this room. We have been unable to fill this position (listed as Job # 20849 on the CCSD job postings). The qualifications are: 60 hours of college credit, an Associate’s Degree, or Bachelor’s Degree. If you think you might be interested please reach out to Stephanie Blakely, teacher, or David Parler, principal.

Calendar

September

September 6	Labor Day Holiday, no school
September 7	Second round of COVID vaccines from Fact and Fee Day
September 8	Math MAP administered to 8 th graders, 8:45 AM-11:40 AM
September 21	Quarter 1 Progress Reports are sent home
September 24	Early Release at 1:30 PM

October

October 5	School Picture Day
October 12	6 th grade science benchmark tests
October 13	8 th grade PSAT
October 22	eLearning Day (all students learn at home); end of Quarter 1

November

November 2	Election Day; no students; teacher workday; Family Data Conferences TBA
November 9	Make up day for School Picture Day
November 22-26	Fall Break

From *The Post and Courier*, Thursday, September 2, 2021

Commentary

School nurses are under more pressure than ever. Be nice to them.

BY STEVE SCHONVELD

When your phone rings and you see it's your child's school calling, your heart probably skips a beat or two. The unknown is always the scariest. That's why, when I call parents, after identifying myself, the very next thing I say is "your child is fine."

Nine times out of 10, what I hear on the other line is a deep sigh and then something along the lines of, "Oh, thank goodness. You scared me. I don't like it when you call me!" I don't take that personally because I understand what they mean. I'm used to making phone calls that nobody else wants to make. That's part of a principal's job description.

School nurses are not used to making those phone calls. They

are health care workers who have one of the hardest jobs in the country right now. We are now in the third consecutive school year that the pandemic has affected. Teachers and school nurses have had their job descriptions drastically altered many times since March 2020.

Nurses are charged with interpreting and implementing the new rules and guidelines that come in from DHEC and the CDC almost weekly. Are we requiring masks or not? Is a close contact 3 feet or 6? If both the infected student and the close contacts are wear-

ing masks, do they still have to quarantine? What if one of them is vaccinated? What if both are vaccinated? Speaking of quarantining, are we doing 10 days or 14? What if the student is also an athlete? Does the whole team have to quarantine?

Are all the seating arrangements in the classrooms adequate for social distancing? Are the bus drivers following the established seating charts? Your school nurses must be able to answer all of those questions and more.

The last thing your school nurse wants to do is call and tell you that your child has been identified as a close contact and must quarantine, in turn missing a lot of school.

Not shockingly, the reactions they get are vast. Most are polite and understanding, but some

are not. I've witnessed school nurses making dozens of phone calls on Saturday and Sunday afternoons informing parents that they must keep their child home for 14 days. I've heard parents yell and argue. I've heard parents call nurses liars. I've heard parents lie. I've seen nurses exhausted and in tears. They did not sign up for this, and they are not in the business of keeping kids out of the classroom. They are doing their job and it is hard. Very hard.

Keep in mind that the job they did sign up for has not gone away. They're still tasked with handling all the other things that are thrown their way on a daily basis. Noses have not stopped bleeding since March 2020. Students with asthma have not stopped having attacks in school. Diabetics still need in-

sulin while in school. Students still need to take medicine throughout the day. Headaches, stomachaches, toothaches and injuries at recess have not gone away. On top of everything else, they're also now responsible for administering COVID tests at school. The pressure is real and it's intense.

School nurses develop relationships with the students just like teachers do. They form bonds with parents and grandparents. They've had to deal with the news that a student's parent has passed away.

They know family members of students in the school who have succumbed to COVID. Three minutes after they receive or deliver devastating news, a student may walk into their clinic with a stomachache and throw up all over the floor. They clean it up

just like they always do.

The reality is that you have no idea what your child's nurse has been through before they call you to deliver news that they don't like making the call any more than you like receiving it. Be nice to your school nurse; your child's health depends on it. If the school nurse quits, it'll be up to us administrators to provide health care, and I'll be sending kids home more often than they do because I don't react well to blood.

If you can't be nice or even respectful when you answer the phone, then let it go to voicemail. School nurses will leave a message. They always do.

Steve Schonveld is the middle school principal at Orange Grove Charter School.



Schonveld