

# CFCI COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

A Message From Our Leadership Team

## Week of August 1, 2023

Dear CFCI Families,

We hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying the summer. We are writing to update you on our planning for this coming school year and to give you information that will be helpful to you and your family.

With any new year comes changes to enrollment. This year, we find ourselves looking for some amazing 8th graders to come learn with us! If you know of a family that may be looking for a spot for their 8th grader to finish out their middle school experience in an environment of inquiry and responsive teaching, please let them know about us! They can reach out to Debra Korb at [office@cfc.net](mailto:office@cfc.net). We have a couple of spots and would love to have them filled for the start of the new year! Thank you for sharing the opportunity with others!

Our Open House is scheduled for August 17th. Please see the information below. In addition to our traditional Open House, this year we are offering a New Family Orientation for Families of Grades 1-8 students. This will take place on August 17th at 4:30pm in the MultiPurpose Room. We hope to see our new families there!

Please take a moment to look through some of the information and forms contained within this communication. We are looking forward to a very busy and productive year dedicated to our school motto: **Learn, Share, Live**

*CFCI students will **LEARN** while at CFCI, **SHARE** their experiences, and **LIVE** as empowered thinkers, learners, inquirers and good people in the world.*

Have a great rest of your summer. We will see you at OPEN HOUSE on August 17th!

Kim and Susan

Lisa C, Ben P, Kelly, Ben R and Debra

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## Come to Our Open House - August 17th

Teachers are all away for the summer but our excited to come back in August to prepare for the new year! We will have our Open House on August 17th. Families with last names beginning with A-M, will come from 5:30pm-6:15pm. Families with last names beginning with N-Z, will come from 6:15pm-7pm. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school at our Open House!

## New Family Orientation for Grades 1-8 - August 17th at 4:30pm

This is a New to CFCI Family Orientation for families of students in Grades 1-8 (Kindergarten will have new family orientation during your staggered days.) We will be here to talk a little bit about the school and answer questions you might have about the start of the school year.

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## Safety Patrol

The time has come to assemble the new CFCI Safety Patrol Crew for the 2023-24 school year! Students on Safety Patrol help with the lower parking lot car drop off in the mornings alongside teachers and the leadership team. Students are chosen based on their ability to accept responsibility, assume roles of leadership, and be exemplary role models for the entire student body. This is an honor and an important role for any middle school student. If you and your student are willing to commit to the Safety Patrol for the 2023-24 school year, please complete the form in the link below by Friday, August 25th. We can't wait to get started!! on September 5th! Our target date for starting Safety Patrol

### Safety Patrol Interest Form

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## Our Partnership

The Partnership is excited to welcome new and returning families back to school! We are looking forward to another successful year working with the parents and staff of CFCI. Welcome Back!

### What is the Partnership?

CFCI Partnership is the parent/teacher organization (PTO) at the school. The group works to support the mission of the school and foster the community driven spirit we strive for. We support our students and staff by hosting school wide events, fundraisers, and providing teacher stipends and grants to cover costs of education materials for the classroom and professional development. We strongly believe parent participation, both time and financial, directly impacts the students and our school.

## Partnership Board Members for 2023-24

Chair- Joanna Rickard Henderson

Vice Chair- Erin Firth

Treasurer- Khadija Brown

Secretary- Anna Fernez

### **NewsLetter Template.pdf**

[Download](#)

53.9 KB

**Supply Lists - Check here for K-8 Supply Lists from Your Child's Teachers**

## **A Warm CFCI Welcome to Our New Faculty and Staff**

Please join us in welcoming our newest CFCI staff members! Some are familiar faces in new positions, while others are new to our school and even new to Wilmington! We are so excited to have them joining our amazing team of educators. We have a few more wonderful teachers and teaching assistants to share with you and will update the community next week! In the meantime, when you see new faces around the school this year, please stop and say hello!



**Susie Borda, 2nd Grade Teacher**



**Elane Janz, 8th Grade Science Teacher**



**Matt Babineau, 7th Grade  
Science and Specialist  
Teacher**



**Christine Ayala, K-8  
Academic Interventionist**



**Bella Holland, EC  
Teaching Assistant**



**Amy Castrovinci, EC  
Teaching Assistant**



**Steve Exum, 4th Grade  
Teaching Assistant**



**Jessica Collins, 3/4  
Teaching Assistant**

### **A Few Changes...**

This year, we have a few changes to our staffing to best meet the needs of our students which includes:

**Kimberly Cherry**, Teacher moving to Grade 3 - partnering with Ms. Sharpe

Clarissa Howe, Teaching Assistant moving to Kindergarten - partnering with Ms. Shannon  
Deb Larue, Teaching Assistant moving to Grade 2 - partnering with Ms. Michele  
Nora Schmedes, Teaching Assistant moving to Grade 5 - partnering with the 5th grade team  
Suzanne Waters, Teaching Assistant moving to Grade 2 - partnering with Ms. Borda

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## Arrival and Dismissal Info for Our Families

### Please Read Carefully Prior to the Start of School

#### CFCI 23-24 - Arrival and Dismissal Info for Families

Our main goals in these procedures are:

- keeping students, staff and families safe
- providing an efficient experience for families taking time out of their day to transport their child to school

#### ARRIVAL

School doors open at 7:45am. Students will be marked tardy if they arrive after 8:05am.

Parents/Guardians must accompany tardy students into the building from upper/lower lots to sign them in.

- Students in grades **K-3** + any older siblings will be dropped off in the lower lot, utilizing the Wonder Way entrance.
  - Parents are allowed to line up in their cars on the back side of the MPR beginning at 7:30am. Please do not arrive prior to 7:30am, as this will block the parking lot for our staff.
  - Cars begin pulling forward at 7:45am (please do not pull forward before this time).
  - We ask that you pull all the way forward before stopping to let your child out of the car. Car greeters will be stationed to assist your child.
  - All children will walk on the sidewalk (in one direction) and enter the building using the K1 doors (on the left side of the building).
- Students in grades **4-8** will be dropped off in the upper lot, utilizing the Shipyard Blvd. entrance.
  - Car greeters will be stationed to greet students.
  - Please do not let your child out of the car before 7:45am.
  - Students will walk down the sidewalk and enter the building through the Middle Grades door.
  - If you arrive at 8:05am or later, your child is tardy and needs to be signed in by an adult in the front office. You may park in the upper lot and walk down, or drive around and park in the lower lot. Do not let your child walk down after 8:05am, as the middle grades doors will be closed and locked at this time.

#### DISMISSAL

- Students will begin exiting the building at 3:05pm.
- Students in grades **K-3** + any older siblings will be picked up in the lower lot.
- Students in grades **4-8** will be picked up in the upper lot.
- Families of students whose last name starts with letters A-M, we kindly ask that you begin arriving at 3:00.



- Families of students whose last name starts with letters N-Z, we kindly ask that you begin arriving at 3:15.
- We kindly ask that as much as possible, you do not arrive before your designated dismissal time. This helps us to prevent dangerous traffic stacking on Wonder Way and Shipyard Blvd.

**Car Signs for Dismissal:** At Open House you will also receive car signs for your family, babysitters, etc. You will write the names of the child(ren) the car will be picking up in black marker. It is important that whomever is picking up keep this car sign posted **all the way** through the carline. Please do not take them down after the caller calls their name as all staff need to see the names of students being picked up to be able to quickly identify who should be in which car. In the lower lot, you will be asked to move to Wonder Way to wait for your child if a second call is necessary and a staff member will walk them down to the car.

Please direct any individual questions or concerns to Ben Rose ([brose@cfci.net](mailto:brose@cfci.net) - 910-362-0000).

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## Lunches

We will once again be teaming with My Hot Lunch Box to provide lunches from local restaurants to our students. Our plan is to begin sometime mid-September. We will be sending additional information to families when everything is ready to go.

Also, if your family is in need of free or reduced lunches/snacks, please reach out to Ben Rose ([brose@cfci.net](mailto:brose@cfci.net)) in the front office with help filling out the form. The form is included in our Beginning of Year packet but we are here to help you get what you need.

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## Change in Our Chromebook Protocols

For the past 6 years, CFCI has been a 1-1 school with students having access to Chromebooks in grades 2-8 and iPads in Grades K-1. During that time we have had many opportunities to assess the benefits of having a 1-1 program at our school. These include:

- Increased student engagement and participation
- Increased familiarity with technology that helps prepare our young learners for a more tech driven world
- The ability for teachers to access unlimited digital resources such as apps, interactive websites, digital media, games and more
- Increased equity in our learning environment

Along with the benefits, we have found that there have been challenges that include increased screen time and budget concerns (including management of devices.)

This past school year, our Technology Committee had many discussions about the 1-1 program. Looking to mitigate some of the negative aspects while supporting students and teachers with what has become an important tool in our learning environment, we have decided to try a new approach to our 1-1 program for this school year. Our plan is to limit the use of chromebooks to the classroom, they will no longer go home with students each day. Instead, chromebooks will assigned to classrooms (not students) and be available as a resource for students during the

school day. The intent is to be purposeful in how students utilize chromebooks for learning and minimize the amount of damage that is occurring with chromebooks traveling from classroom to classroom as well as from school to home. On occasion, a teacher may assign a special project that will require students to take a chromebook home but this will be an exception to the norm. The technology committee, classroom teachers, school leadership, students, and families will all be a part of monitoring the usefulness and merits of this new plan. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We appreciate your support and look forward to a successful implementation.

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## Exceptional Children Information for Parents

Preparing for the beginning of the year. Please consider these tips from NC DPI to help create a smooth and enjoyable start to the 2023-2024 school year.

### 08.02.23 Preparing for Beginning of the Year.pdf

[Download](#)

145.9 KB

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## Weekly Wellness with Nurse Jen and Mrs. Horne

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### Social Emotional Learning for All

This year we will be utilizing curriculum resources from Everyday Speech to provide our students with the social emotional skills they need to be successful in the classroom and in their everyday lives. The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) defines Social Emotional Learning (SEL) as *"the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions."*

SEL has been shown to:

- Improve test scores
- Increase student motivation
- Decrease dropout rates
- Decrease student fights and other violent behaviors
- Reduce emotional distress, including anxiety, stress, and social withdrawal



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# What's Happening In and Around Our Classrooms

Each week we will include photos and articles about all the great things happening in and out of our classrooms. The learning is never ending at CFCI!

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**2525 Wonder Way, Wilmington, NC 28401**

**Telephone: 910-362-0000**



**Cape Fear Center for Inquiry**

Cultivating curiosity for over 23 years!

A close-up photograph of several bright yellow sunflowers with dark brown centers, filling the background of the page.