

CFCI Community Communication

A Message From Our Leadership Team

August 25, 2023

Dear CFCI Families,

What a great first week of school! Thank you for getting your kids to school on time, rested, fed, and ready to learn! They were happy, energetic, positive, and engaged - it was an amazing time to collaborate and get to know one another.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the Beginning of Year forms. We are at a 78% PLEASE take a moment now to complete the beginning of the year forms for your child (complete one per child if you have more than one student at CFCI). We are extending the due date to Thursday, August 31st. If you do not know your student's NC ID, please just enter "1" and it will allow you to proceed with the form.



We hope you have a great week. A reminder that our littlest learners, also known as Kindergartners will be arriving and departing with everyone else this week beginning on Wednesday, August 20th. Please be patient and please, do not pull around parked cars if at all possible.

Upcoming Dates:

No School - Monday, September 4th - Labor Day Holiday

Thursday, 9/7 Curriculum Night for Grades 4-8

Tuesday-Thursday, 9/12-9/14 Middle Grades Retreat to Betsy Jeff-Penn 4H Camp

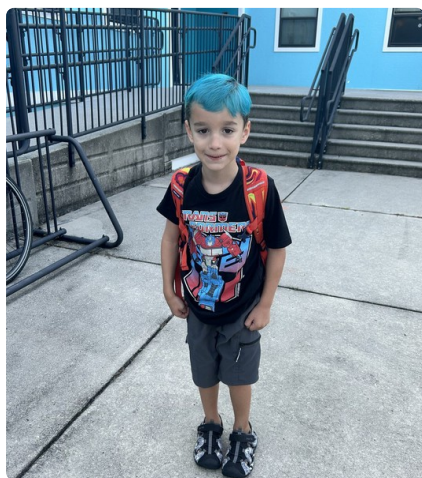
Thursday, 9/14 Curriculum Night for Grades K-3

Friday, 9/15 Designated Green Day - No School for Students

Kim and Susan, Co-Directors

Lisa C, Ben P, & Kelly - Coordinators

Beginning of the Year Starts with Big Smiles and Good Vibes! Welcome Back!!!



BEGINNING OF YEAR FORMS - PLEASE TAKE TIME TO FILL THESE OUT ASAP! Deadline 8/31

Middle Grades Retreat!

It's that magical time of the year again, folks...when our middle grades student embark on a retreat to the Betsy Jeff-Penn 4-H Camp for 3 days and 2 nights. This is our 14th year returning to this 200+ acre retreat which provides our students with the opportunity to develop critical thinking, creativity, communication, leadership, and other important life and learning skills in order to be effective and productive humans in the world.

If you have not sent in your paperwork, please do that today!

As a reminder,

The cost is \$145. It covers 7 meals, accommodations, all activities, and a small stipend (\$5/student) for driver gas. If you would like to learn more about the camp, here is the link. Check out the virtual tour. <https://www.bjpenn4h.org/>

So, mark your calendars and please consider chaperoning! :)

Remember that if you'd like to chaperone, you must go through the process at the [CFCI Volunteer Portal](#).

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Forms to Fill Out NOW for the Middle Grades Retreat - September 12-14

[Download](#)

670.3 KB

New CFCI T-Shirt - Pre-order Yours Today!! Orders Due August 29th!

Want to order a great CFCI T-Shirt? Delivery Mid-September - Click Here Now!



The Blessing Box - Can You Help Us Help Others?

"Take what you need, leave what you can and be blessed." That's the idea behind the CFCI's Blessing Box on Shipyard Avenue. Last year, during math camp, our students decided to put their math skills and energy into creating a Blessing Box. A blessing box is meant to help those less fortunate than us. Since Covid, there has been an increase in the number of homeless people in our area, and we want to help. It is being filled with essential items to make sure our neighbors and community have what they need.

Please consider donating from the following:

Canned foods with tab opening

Disposable utensils

Plastic water bottles

Tooth brush (individual)

Travel size toothpaste

Deodorant

Socks

Hairbrush/comb

Hair ties

Hats

You can drop items off at the front office or at Ms. Mintz's room. We are excited to see the impact our CFCI Blessing Box will have on our community!

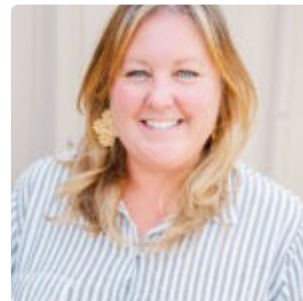


SMILE! It's School Photo Time with Jenny Ryder

Mark Your Calenders: Student Photos will be taken on October 19th and 20th. We'll share the date details once a schedule has been finalized. Also, we want and need parent/guardian volunteers to help with an after-school sibling photo session.

Wellness with Our School Counselor, Ms. Horne and School Nurse, Jen Ripa

A quick reminder from Nurse Jen, Please enter our phone number into your contacts so that you don't miss important calls from the school! Thank you! 910-362-0000



Burning Questions...What Are You Curious About?

Each Week We Would Like to Answer Questions You May Have About Our School...

If You Have A Question or Are Curious About Something, Please Reach Out to: kmccormick@cfcj.net

This week: WHAT IS GLOBAL STEM?

Global STEM is a specials class that focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) content. We will be doing engaging experiments, activities, and projects to incorporate these subjects together. As appropriate, we will see how these ideas apply globally! Helping students recognize similarities in other countries, celebrating differences, and appreciating how others around the world are learning and creating with STEM. We are so excited to have found such a wonderful teacher in Courtney Lewis! She is thrilled to be bringing her love and knowledge of science and technology to our K-8 students.





Here Third graders learn about density with a homemade lava lamp!



Fourth Grade Making Warm Foam In Global STEM

Social Emotional Learning at CFCI

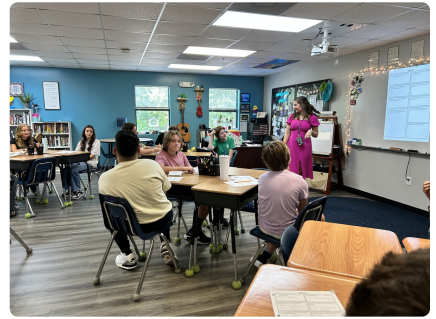
For the next month or so, our learning community is diving into learning about Self-Awareness



Self-Awareness allows individuals to assess their own strengths, challenges, and interests while building confidence and utilizing a growth mindset.

After completing the lessons provided by teachers through Everyday Speech, students should be able to:

- Give examples of how to use a growth mindset
- Define accountability
- Describe why positive self-talk can be a helpful tool
- Use "I-feel" statements to express various emotions



SIGN UP TODAY TO VOLUNTEER AT CFCI!! Volunteer sign up window is from 8/17-9/30!

Before and After School On-Site - Superlative Club - Register Today

[Click Here to Register Today ~ \(888\)-262-4322](#)

After School Van Transportation and Alternate Programming - Off-Site

BOURELLE MARTIAL ARTS
Dan 901-409-3306

CHILDCARE NETWORK
Sandra 910-392-3430

FAST (Sports-related)
Mike 910-620-5555

KIDDIE ACADEMY
910-232-0881

YMCA (Midtown)
910-515-6095

Family in Need of Transportation to Afterschool Activity in Leland!

Parent, Erica Mehler is asking for some help! "I am looking for someone to pick up my daughter from school and drive her to dance, in Leland (Brunswick Forest), once a week. It would be Mondays and Thursdays, alternating weeks." If you might be able to help out, please contact Erica at:

ericalaurenm@gmail.com or 910.876.4606

5th Grade Shines with Teamwork and Community Building!



The first week of school is always so much fun! In addition to reviewing procedures, and expectations students in Ms. K's 5th grade class spent time building teamwork and community with each other.



One of my favorites is team cup stacking! Students had to stack solo cups using a string and rubber band only!



They could not touch the rubber band or the cup. It took team planning and patients to complete successfully, but they all accomplished the task!

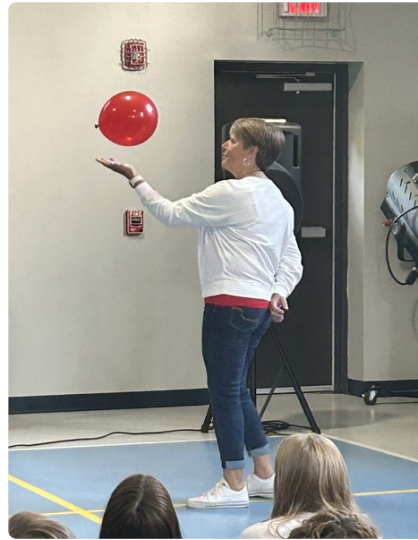
Educational Opportunity Form - Please Review for Planning Purposes This Year

[Click Here if Your Child is Pursuing an Educational Opportunity This Year](#)

Minute to Win It Tradition Middle School Tradition! 8th Grade Rules!

6th, 7th, & 8th grade had a fun and exciting Friday Morning when teachers took on challenges to the cheers of their homeroom students! These games were not only fun but also an excellent way of developing communication skills and teaching the importance of teamwork and what it means to be a good winner (and loser!). Eighth grade homeroom teachers, Cathi Mintz and Matt Babineau brought home the gold for their "team" with so much fun had by all! Great job teachers and way to go students!





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](#)

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

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 WonderWay 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 - 910-362-0000).

**Teachers and Staff Getting to Know One Another and
Becoming a Stronger Team!**



Parachutes are an excellent way to develop strength, endurance, and work on team-building skills.



Develops physical skills like hand-eye coordination, balance and mobility.



Muscles are strengthened as the core and arms are put to work in a gentle but effective way. Promotes social interaction and communication.

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@cfcf.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.

Change in Our Chromebook Protocols

For the past 6 years, CFCF 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.

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

Weekly Wellness with Nurse Jen and Mrs. Horne

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



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!

2525 Wonder Way, Wilmington, NC 28401

Telephone: 910-362-0000



Cape Fear Center for Inquiry

Cultivating curiosity for over 23 years!