

# CFCI Community Communication

A Message From Our Leadership Team

September 2, 2023

Dear CFCI Families,

Thank you for your patience this week as our littlest learners began school on Wednesday, we had full school dismissal in the middle of a rainstorm, and we had our first day of remote learning due to the weather concerns around Hurricane Idalia! Everyone took the week and our days in stride, and we are very happy with the way the year has started!

We continue to have openings in Grade 4, Grade 7, and Grade 8 - so if you know of a student in those grades that might be interested in attending our school please have them get in touch with us right away. We are allowed to enroll new students up until 9/20. Student enrollment affects our funding in a public charter school...so let us know if you know someone! Thank you!



Upcoming Dates:

No School - Monday, **9/4** - 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

We look forward to another amazing week with your children. Thank you for your support and care as we begin what promises to be an incredible year of fun and learning.

Kim and Susan, Co-Directors  
Lisa C, Ben P, & Kelly - Coordinators  
Debra & Ben R - Front Office

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## Request from the Office. No Deliveries From Outside the School During the Day!

A friendly request from the Front Office. We are asking that you please do not order food from outside vendors to be delivered to the school during the school day to your students. This creates an unanticipated influx of work for the front office and creates undue stress for the classroom teachers. If your student forgets their lunch or snack, the school has a limited number of items that we can share. Thank you for your cooperation.

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## Lower Playground Refresh is a Huge Success!







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## Middle Grades Retreat Fast Approaching!

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](#).

### **SKM\_95823081712450.pdf**

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

[Download](#)

670.3 KB

## All About Me Sharing in Miss Michele's Classroom Utilizing a Document Camera!



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## 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.

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## Burning Questions...What Are You Curious About? This Week - Curriculum Nights!

This week we want to talk about our Curriculum Nights which begin this week. Curriculum Nights at CFCI will take place on Thursday, September 7th for our Grades 4-8 parents/guardians and Thursday, September 14th for our K-3 parents/guardians. The purpose of curriculum night is for parents and guardians to meet with classroom teachers, support teachers and our specialist team to learn about grade level curriculum and expectations for the school year. We hope many parents/guardians are able to attend the curriculum nights. If you have any questions, please contact your student's classroom teacher or Director of Education, Kim McCormick.

Have you got a question about CFCI? We want to try and answer it for you or find someone who can! Email [kmccormick@cfc.net](mailto:kmccormick@cfc.net) if you are curious and would like to know more about CFCI!

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## Swallowtails - an Exquisite Observation for Grade 5

This week students in Ms. K's class worked on writing like scientists! We spent days observing swallowtail caterpillars on our own, then we came all together to observe and record what we noticed and what we wondered about. They will work on researching these questions next week as we wait for butterflies to emerge!







## 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.

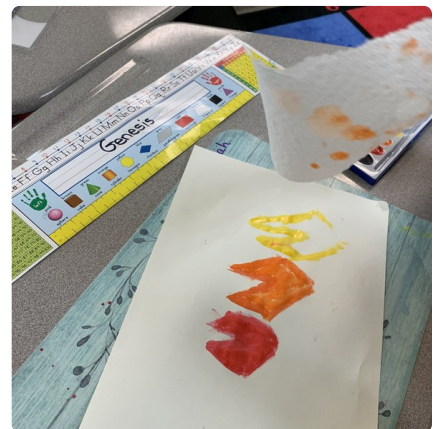
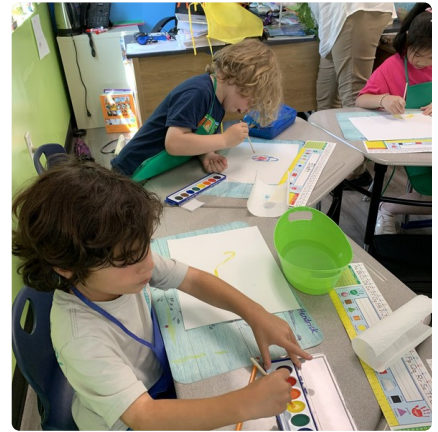
**After completing the lessons provided by teachers through Everyday Speech, students should be able to:**

- 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

## Getting Colorful with Watercolors in First Grade!

Painting is a way for children to do many important things: convey ideas, express emotion, use their senses, explore colour, explore process and outcomes, and create aesthetically pleasing works and experiences.





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

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**Cooperation and Communication with 8th Grade PE**  
**Students stay connected & work together to keep the balloon up around the gym.**



## Block 1 - 8th Grade PE



## Block 2 - 8th Grade PE



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## Middle Grades Art Classes

Middle Grades Art Students:

Please remember to bring in a plain white poster board and your sketchbook next week. Reach out if you need assistance with these.

Thank you!

Ms. Michelle

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A green hexagonal poster for the 'FEMME in STEM' event. The background is a light green with faint white hexagonal patterns and scientific icons like a DNA helix, a microscope, and a beaker. The text 'FEMME in STEM' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'FEMME' in pink, 'in' in yellow, and 'STEM' in pink. Above the text, there are five hexagonal images: a woman in a lab coat working with a small animal, a group of women in blue shirts on a boat, a woman in a lab coat working with a small animal, a group of women in blue shirts standing together, and a woman in a lab coat working with a small animal. To the right of the top images, the text 'Women today making a difference for tomorrow.' is written in yellow. Below the main title, the date and time 'Saturday, Sept. 16 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.' are written in yellow. Below that, the text 'Meet leading scientists and find out more about their work at the Aquarium and in the community.' is written in dark blue. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'GILLS CLUB' with a shark silhouette and the text 'Love sharks? Girls, ages 11-14, can join the Gills Club local chapter.' At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM Fort Fisher' with a fish silhouette. The website 'ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher' is written in the bottom center.

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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

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## 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](mailto:ericalaurenm@gmail.com) or 910.876.4606

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## Educational Opportunity Form - Please Review for Planning Purposes This Year

**Click Here if Your Child is Pursuing an Educational Opportunity This Year**

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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 CFCL.

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

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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 be 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

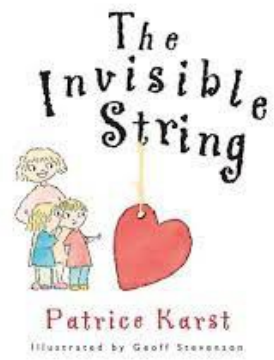
### Separation Anxiety

Many kids and teens experience separation anxiety or school refusal, especially at the beginning of a new school year. Here are some tips that parents & guardians can follow to help ease the transition back to school:

- Be supportive and understanding of their fears, yet firm! Explain that not going to school is not an option



- If they complain about feeling sick, explain that sometimes worry or fear can cause physical symptoms as well, such as a stomachache.
- Praise them for even the small accomplishments! Reward and praise for waking up, getting dressed, and getting in the car.



For our younger students, check out the following books to help children with separation anxiety:

- *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst
- *Wilma Jean the Worry Machine* by Julia Cook

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Olivia Horne, School Counselor, at [ohorne@cfcfi.net](mailto:ohorne@cfcfi.net)

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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 CFCFI!

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2525 Wonder Way, Wilmington, NC 28401

Telephone: 910-362-0000



**Cape Fear Center for Inquiry**

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