



Croc Chronicle

CONNERTON ELEMENTARY
24-25 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

March 31 - April 4 Peek of the Week

Monday 3/31	-Report Cards available on the portal
Tuesday 4/1	-3 rd Grade Reading Camp (Extended School Day) 8:00-9:30 NO LUNCH WITH PARENTS DUE TO STATE TESTING -4 th Grade Writing test
Wednesday 4/2	-3 rd Grade Reading Camp (Extended School Day) 8:00-9:30 -Calypso & Rock Band Rehearsals 9:00-9:30 -5 th Grade Writing test -Grades 3-5 Run Hard Club (3 rd -5 th grades) 4:00-5:00 -4 th & 5 th Art Club 4:00-5:30 -Wear Class Colors or Spirit Shirt -Wind Down Wednesday Read Aloud at 7:00 ("Connerton Elem. School" Facebook page)
Thursday 4/3	-Calypso & Rock Band Rehearsals 9:00-9:30 -Flag football practice 4:00-5:30
Friday 4/4	Have a wonderful weekend!

State Testing

State testing begins on Tuesday. Fourth graders will take the BEST Writing test on 4/1, and fifth graders will take the BEST Writing test on 4/2. Please be aware that students may NOT leave campus once the test has started. If students are absent on their testing day, they will make it up at a later date. Please make every effort to have your child here at school on time, well-rested, and ready to go!

We have our district MAPS science testing later in the month and then state testing starts up again in May with reading, math, (and science for 5th graders). In the month of May, we will no longer be able to have lunch with parents as we will be heavy into testing. Please note that there is no lunch with parents this Tuesday due to state testing. Thank you!

Attendance

To be considered “on track” for attendance, students may not miss more than two days per quarter. We need your help to get to our goal of 96% (or more!) of our students at school every day. At the end of May, we will be having a schoolwide carnival style celebration. Students will earn tickets to spend at the carnival by meeting their academic, behavioral, and attendance goals. Please read the messages from Mrs. Edwards throughout the week as we track attendance. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

4/7 ~ 3rd Grade MAPS testing

4/8 ~ 4th Grade MAPS testing

4/12 ~ OM States Competition – GOOD LUCK!!!, Special Olympics at CCHS

4/14 - 5/2 ~ K-5 Star CBM window

4/18 ~ No School

4/21 ~ No School

4/22 ~ Culver’s Night 5:00-8:00

4/23 ~ Astroskate Field Trip

4/25 ~ Student of the Month at 8:30 & Spirit Day (Wacky Tacky)

4/28 ~ Kindergarten field trip to Zoo Tampa

5/1 ~ All Pro Dad at 8:50 & Art Show in Cafeteria 6:00-7:30

Student Absence

Please click on the link to excuse your child from school: [Absence Form](#)

Safety Patrol Shout-Outs

Safety Steve would like to give a shout out to Earth patrol, “They took on extra responsibilities with the garden and the garbage around the campus. They are doing a great job, and I am very proud of them!”

March Madness

This month, many of our classes are participating in a school-wide March Madness Book Bracket! We have selected 16 picture books (see our bracket below) to act as our ‘teams.’ Every two days, classes will vote on which book they loved more. They send their votes in and then books move along the bracket until we have a winner! We started this week and will finish on Tuesday, April 8th! Check out these cute little “Rots” students made at home and brought in to show their classmates! 😊



MARCH MADNESS



Fun Pics

Check out our Connerton Elem. School Facebook page to see pictures from today's Growth Parade! Students made posters to showcase their growth so far this year and they were so proud!













[Like/Follow our Facebook page](#)

Our goal is to connect with you more effectively and keep you updated on all the wonderful activities and events happening at our school.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to stay informed and see firsthand the amazing things our students are doing. We encourage you to join our Facebook community and spread the word to fellow parents.

Here's how you can participate:

1. Search for our Facebook page at **Connerton Elem. School**
2. Click "Join" and follow our page.

Thank you for your support and involvement in making our school community stronger.



We know that our staff is second to none and works hard each and every day to make Connerton a great place to learn and thrive! What we don't always know are the specifics of what our staff has done to make the student and family experience GREAT! Please take the opportunity to let someone know how much you appreciate their hard work. You can use the link below or use the link on the Connerton website.

WE LOVE ALL THE LOVE YOU'RE SHOWING US!! WE FEATURE ALL OF YOUR SHOUT-OUTS IN OUR STAFF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AND IT MEANS THE WORLD TO EVERY PERSON WHO IS SPOTLIGHTED...THANK YOU AND KEEP THEM COMING!

[Staff Shout-Out](#)

Early Dismissal & Transportation Changes

Any students needing to leave before the end of the school day must be signed out through the front office **by 3:15 pm**. After this time, students will be dismissed at our regular dismissal time of 4:00pm as we prepare for dismissal.

For safety reasons, transportation changes cannot be made through your child. All changes in transportation **must** be made through the front office by 3:15 pm. Thank you.

Car Rider Line

Please be sure you are in the car line by 4:15 each day. Our contracted time for staff ends at 4:20. To respect their time, we ask that all cars are in line no later than 4:15 pm. That will help us get our staff members back to their classrooms to finish up for the day before heading home. Once car line has ended, you'll need to park and come inside to show your ID and sign out your child(ren). Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

Bike Riders

Please make sure students are wearing helmets when riding their bike to school. Students under sixteen must wear a helmet that meets safety standards. If your child needs their helmet properly fitted, bring it to school and we can fit them. Thank you!

PTA Corner

Welcome to our family! We are thrilled to have you join us at Connerton Elementary. To celebrate and show your school spirit, we invite you to visit our exclusive spirit wear page by clicking the link below. There, you'll find a variety of items perfect for students, parents, and supporters alike.

Feel free to browse and order from our fundraiser – there’s something for everyone! From t-shirts and hoodies to hats and accessories, you’ll find the perfect way to show your Connerton pride. By purchasing spirit wear, you’re not only helping us raise essential funds for our school but also joining us in creating a unified and vibrant school community.

Your support allows us to continue funding important programs, resources, and events that benefit all our students. Whether you’re a parent, teacher, or community member, your involvement and enthusiasm make a significant difference.

Thank you for being a part of our Connerton Elementary family. Together, we can look the part, feel the part, and be an integral part of our wonderful school community.

[Order Connerton Spirit Gear](#)


**CONNERTON
ELEMENTARY PTA**

ATTENTION: TEACHERS, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

STEP #1

JOIN PTA TODAY

BY BECOMING A PTA MEMBER YOU ARE ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF ALL CHILDREN, INCLUDING YOUR OWN. ONLY A \$5 MEMBERSHIP FEE AND NO FURTHER COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED. SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE LINK.



<https://coes.givebacks.com/>

STEP #2

VOLUNTEER/DONATE

WE CAN DO A LOT TOGETHER. EVEN JUST ONE HOUR OF YOUR TIME IS TRULY VALUABLE AND APPRECIATED.

NO TIME? NO PROBLEM. THERE ARE MANY PROGRAMS WITHIN CONNERTON ELEMENTARY THAT COULD USE EXTRA FUNDING.

EMAIL US FOR MORE INFORMATION
connertonpta@gmail.com

STEP #3

STAY IN THE KNOW

AS A PAID MEMBER YOU'LL RECEIVE E-MAIL COMMUNICATION REGARDING UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS AND WHAT THE PTA HAS PLANNED.

DID YOU KNOW?
THE CONNERTON CROC'S
NAME IS CHAMP

[Sunshine State Young Readers](#)

Be sure to check out the list of Sunshine State Young Readers (SSYR) book lists for primary and intermediate grades at the links below. Students who read all the books and pass the quizzes will be eligible to participate in a fun event at the end of the school year

to celebrate! Last year, our SSYR students went to Main Event and enjoyed an afternoon of pizza and games! You can check out these amazing books from your local library or our media center

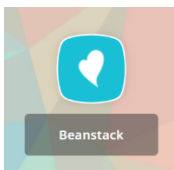
[Junior SSYR Book List \(K-2\)](#)

[SSYR Book List \(3-5\)](#)

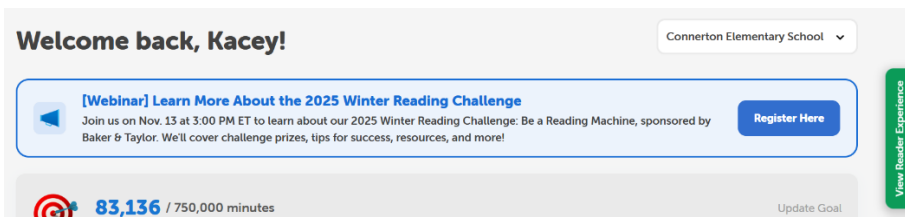
[Don't forget to log your reading on Beanstack!](#)

Keep reading and logging those minutes!

Step 1 - Find the Beanstack app on the myPascoConnect dashboard.



Step 2 - Select the green tab on the far-right side.

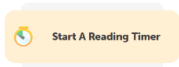


Step 3 - Select “Log Reading” on the top left side to start the timer or use the calendar to log past minutes.

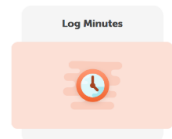


Step 4 – Select how you want to keep track:

What do you want to log?



OR



Step 5: If choosing, “Log Minutes,” enter the book title and log your reading.

Learn more about R.A.C.E. to Read Pasco! (Link to <https://bit.ly/467mSDg>)

Lunch With Your Child

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, parents are invited to join their child for lunch at a picnic table in our courtyard. **Please note your child's lunch time below and plan to arrive ten minutes early to get checked in and to the courtyard on time:**

10:55-11:25 Kindergarten

11:15-11:45 1st Grade

11:30-12:00 3rd Grade

12:10-12:40 2nd Grade

12:40-1:10 4th Grade

1:30-2:00 5th Grade

Please click on the link to sign up -----> [Lunch with your child](#)

Birthday & Classroom Celebrations

We love a good celebration! Please be sure to order any cupcakes/goodies from our cafeteria when treating the class. Unfortunately, we cannot allow any store-bought or homemade goodies. Please note that any orders must be placed 10 business days ahead of the event. The link can be found here: [Treats to order](#)

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

This is a reminder that we do NOT have park and pick up during dismissal. Please do NOT park on the grass across the street or use the Primrose neighborhood. This creates a safety issue not only for our students, but also for the neighborhood. Emergency vehicles cannot get in and out when cars are parked along the street. Thank you for helping keep our Crocs and our neighbors safe.

Charger families, please plan for pickup at the gates at 9:40 each morning. Due to teacher contact time in their contract, we had to adjust the time that teachers open their door for

students each morning. Please plan for teachers to meet you at the gate at 9:40 to honor their contracts. Thank you.

AM Arrival

•Gates open 9am

•Students allowed on campus at 9:20am

•Tardy Bell 9:50am (If you are tardy, you must bring your student to the front office for a pass.)

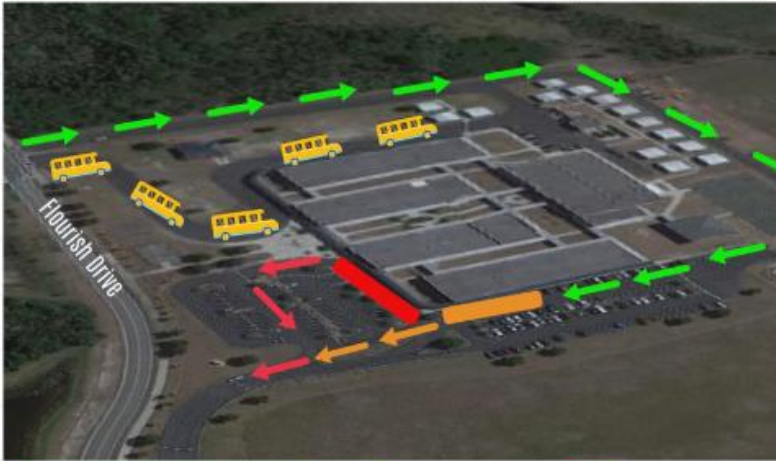


PM Dismissal

•Gates open 3:20pm. Please do not arrive any earlier as it blocks the neighborhood road.

•Car tag must be hanging. If you do not have your tag, you will be asked to park, go to the office & show ID.

•You must stay in your vehicle, there is NO park & pick up.



Enter car line (double lane)

Poles 1-6 (double lane) Exit around

Poles 7-9 (double lane) Exit straight



Please remember safety is our #1 priority for our staff & students.

Volunteer Information

The District made several changes to our volunteer requirements and application process for the 2024-2025 school year. Effective 7/1/2024, all volunteers will be required to complete a Level 2 background screening every 5 years. This background check will review records in the state of Florida as well as the national FBI database. The cost for this screening is \$41.25 and volunteers will be responsible for paying this cost. The District will pay the yearly monitoring fee for each volunteer. To keep your prints current, you must complete the Raptor application yearly. If you do not reapply by the deadline provided, you will be responsible for the cost associated with a new background screening.

Before you can be approved to volunteer for the 2024-2025 school year, you will need to complete a Raptor volunteer application and this background screening.

You can access the 2024-2025 Volunteer Application on July 1st, 2024. This application will be posted on the Volunteer Programs page of our website at the following link: <https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/hreq/page/volunteer/>.

The District partners with Fieldprint for fingerprinting appointments and processing. Fieldprint has locations throughout the county and many sites are open outside of regular work hours, including weekends. The code listed below is now active. We would encourage you to be printed as soon as possible to avoid any delays once the application opens. Please use the following directions to schedule a fingerprinting appointment:

1. Go to the following link: [FIELDPRINT SCHEDULING](#).
2. Select “sign up” if you have never utilized Fieldprint before.
3. Select “I know my code” from the dropdown menu when prompted to do so.
4. Enter the following code, “FPPASCOVECHSVol”.
5. After selecting your appointment, you will be prompted to make the payment.

The following is a list of offenses that disqualify individuals from approval. [Disqualifying Offenses](#).

Any other felony offenses, crimes against children, and/or violence will be reviewed in accordance with the District’s Professional Review Committee. This committee is responsible for reviewing background screenings for employees, vendors and volunteers.

Please note the average processing time for reviewing and approving background screenings is 30 days. We encourage you to complete your volunteer application and background screening early so that you can be approved to volunteer for upcoming events and opportunities for the 2024-2025 school year.

We know this additional background screening places a financial responsibility on our volunteers, but the District believes this step is necessary to ensure we have up to date background information pertaining to all adults that interact with students and staff on our campuses. Our students’ safety is always our first priority.

[Algebraic Excellence for Every Student](#)

Parent Edition

Our Mission- To enhance Algebra 1 outcomes for all students.

Our Vision- Empowering every Pasco County student to successfully apply mathematics in college, career, and life.

Current Reality- We have created a vision both as a district and as a math team that includes high expectations for all our students. The district vision has been ingrained within all aspects of work in our system. We continue to see more students accessing higher levels of math within their K-12 career. The goal of this work is to increase proficiency, provide opportunities for students to access higher levels of math and communicate a vision that includes high expectations for all students.

Our Current Math Identity- Starting in 2021, Pasco began looking forward to both the implementation of the B.E.S.T. Standards for Mathematics and new high quality instructional materials. A team was assembled to review the materials and craft a cohesive vision and framework for equitable mathematics instruction in Pasco classrooms.

Our Commitment

Pasco County's Math Priority is to build teacher capacity to deliver high quality math instruction in K-8 resulting in greater student Algebra Readiness.

We will accomplish this by:

- Developing the belief of all stakeholders in the principles of growth mindset and that all students can learn and apply mathematics at high levels
- Providing a Parent Toolkit
- Feedback surveys and Focus Groups Structures for various stakeholders
- Consistent communication highlighting Algebra Readiness awareness

We define Algebra Readiness as: Demonstrating the foundational skills acquired to support proficiency at each grade level.

We define high quality math instruction as:

- Developing and implementing standards-aligned, grade level mathematical tasks

- Responsive to student needs
- Effective and intentional implementation of the math instructional framework
- Intentional and consistent integration of the MTRs

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced Teacher Efficacy
- Improved Student Proficiency
- Increased Student Engagement and Ownership

Why is this necessary?

“Numerous studies show that algebra readiness is correlated with future academic success, including major benchmarks such as graduating from high school, attending college, and securing future employment.” Curriculum Associates

<https://www.curriculumassociates.com/about/press-releases/2024/03/new-curriculum-associates->

Resources and Tips for Parents of Third Graders

Pasco County Schools aims to ensure that all third-grade students have the necessary reading skills to be successful in grade four and beyond. To be promoted to fourth grade, a student must score a Level 2 or higher in reading on the statewide standardized English Language Arts assessment. The English Language Arts assessment will be administered in May.



Reasons to read more

Beers, Kylee & Probst, Robert. *Disrupting Thinking: Why How We Read Matters*. 2017



Builds Knowledge



Improves Achievement



Increases Motivation



Increases Vocabulary



Improves Writing



Builds Background Knowledge



Improves Understanding of Text Structures



Develops Empathy



Develops Personal Identity

Encourage your child to read at least 30 minutes a day and to finish a chapter book per week.

To access digital text for your child to read at home:

As a courtesy, Pasco County Schools provides all students with access to digital resources through myPascoConnect. Please assist your child in selecting appropriate books, articles, videos to build knowledge around topics of interest.

Help your child select texts they want to read.

- Talk to your child about their interests (i.e. space, sports, dance, music, animals, video games, robotics, and etc.)
- Make connections to topics they are learning in science, social studies, reading so they can continue to build content knowledge.

Encourage your child to read different types of literature and informational text.

Here are some sample questions you can ask your child when they are reading.

Literature/Fiction

Fables, fairy tales, folk tales, legends, myths, poetry, verse, mystery, science fiction, historical fiction, etc.

- What lesson did you learn from the story?
- What challenges does the main character face and how do they overcome those challenges?
- How do the illustrations contribute to your understanding of the text?
- What are some of the key events in the story?

Informational/ Non-fiction

Magazines, newspapers, non-fiction books, research, speeches, infographic, biography, etc.

- What are you learning from the text?
- What have you learned from the text features in the text?
- What are the most important points and details presented in each text?
- What are you still wondering that you want to learn more about?



Section 1001.20(5), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be promoted to fourth grade, a third grade student must score a Level 2 or above on the statewide standardized English Language Arts Assessment. Also, a parent of a student in grade 3, who is identified anytime during the year as being at risk of retention, may request that the school immediately begin collecting portfolio evidence.

www.pascoschools.org

Pasco County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex/gender, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, age or genetic information in its education programs, services or activities, or in its hiring and employment practices. For more information about equity policies, visit <https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/equity/>

2024-2025 Student/Teacher Calendar
Revised - Board Approved
11/05/2024

NOTE: This calendar is for Students and Teachers ONLY. Revised work calendars will be provided at a later date.

July-24				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

8-12 FTE Survey Week

August-24				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
•	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

5-9 Teacher Planning Days - No School for Students
 6 Secondary Meet the Teacher
 7 Elementary Meet the Teacher
 12 **STUDENTS' FIRST DAY**

September-24				
	2	3	4	5
6	9	10	11	12
13	16	17	18	19
Ⓟ	23	24	25	26
27	30			

2 No School - Labor Day
 20 Progress Reports
 26-27 Hurricane Helene Closure

October-24				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	Ⓟ
28	29	30	31	

7-11 FTE Survey Week
 7-14 Hurricane Milton Closure
 15 Teacher Planning Day - No School for Students
 18 End of 1st Quarter
 25 Report Cards (Grades Due 10/23)

November-24				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	Ⓟ
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

15 Progress Reports
 25-29 No School - Thanksgiving Break

December-24				
	2	3	4	5
6	9	10	11	12
13	16	17	18	19
20	23	24	25	26
27	30	31		

23-31 No School - Winter Break

January-25				
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	Ⓟ
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

1-3 No School - Winter Break
 10 End of 2nd Quarter & Semester
 13 Teacher Planning Day - No School for Students
 17 Report Cards (Grades Due 1/15)
 20 No School - M. L. King Jr. Day

February-25				
	3	4	5	6
7	10	11	12	13
14	17	18	19	20
Ⓟ	24	25	26	27
28				

3-7 FTE Survey Week
 14 No School - Teachers and Students
 17 No School - Presidents' Day
 21 Progress Reports

March-25				
	3	4	5	6
7	10	11	12	13
14	17	18	19	20
21	24	25	26	27
28	Ⓟ			

13 End of 3rd Quarter
 14 Teacher Planning Day - No School for Students
 17-21 No School - Spring Break
 31 Report Cards

April-25				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	Ⓟ	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

17 Progress Reports
 18 No School - Teachers and Students
 21 No School - Teachers and Students





May-25				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	•

1-30 State and District Assessments
 26 Memorial Day Holiday
 30 **STUDENTS' LAST DAY**

June-25				
	2	3	4	5
6	9	10	11	12
13	16	17	18	19
20	23	24	25	26
27	30			

2-3 Teacher Post-Planning Days
 16-20 FTE Survey Week
 TBD Report Cards

NOTE:

-  = Non-school day for students & teachers
-  = Non-school day for students
-  = Staff Professional Development Day
-  = Work day for Teachers
- Ⓟ = Report Cards
- = First and Last Days
- Ⓟ = Progress Reports

1st qtr	40	
2nd qtr	45	85
3rd qtr	40	
4th qtr	47	87

Community Involvement Flyers



WHIT'S
FROZEN CUSTARD
made fresh daily
Land O' Lakes

Give Back Thursdays

Supporting
Connerton Elementary

October 10th
January 30th
March 13th
May 8th

2024-2025 School Year

7906 Land O' Lakes Blvd, Land O' Lakes, FL
f whitslandolakes @whitslandolakes

Valid only at Culver's of Land O' Lakes

7700 Land O' Lakes Blvd
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638
(813) 528-9057

2024-2025
School Year

Culver's



JOIN US FOR
Scoopie Night!
Supporting Connerton Elementary

September 17th
December 10th
February 25th
April 22nd

Valid only at Culver's of Land O' Lakes

7700 Land O' Lakes Blvd
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638
(813) 528-9057

2024-2025
School Year

Culver's



All Pro Dad

All Pro Dad Chapters provide an opportunity for dads to spend quality time with their children before school to strengthen their relationship. Come see what it's all about!

Join us on the following
Thursdays from 8:50-9:20:
September 5th
November 7th
January 9th
March 6th
May 1

Contact: Coach Serrano 813-346-1800
<https://www.allprodad.com/>

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