GREETINGS FALCON FAMILIES!

October is here and we are happy to welcome crisp autumn air, fresh starts and positive thoughts! We will begin the 2nd nine weeks when we return from Fall break and we want to thank you in advance for your support as we work to continue to provide rigorous and engaging instruction for all of our students. As you review this month's important dates, please let us know if you have any questions. Enjoy the Fall break and be safe.

Sincerely,
Dr. Erica Wakefall
LEAD | LEARN | LOVE | GROW
VISION & MISSION

The **vision** of C.J. Hicks Elementary School is to be a positive learning environment where students grow into culturally, technologically, and globally competitive individuals.

The **mission** of C.J. Hicks Elementary School is to ensure the academic, social, and emotional success of all students through rigorous, individualized instruction.

VALUES

**Lead:** We believe that...
- teachers and staff should lead by example, with compassion and empathy
- providing students with leadership opportunities will allow them to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills

**Learn:** We believe that...
- professional development leads to better instruction and improved student learning
- all of our students can learn when we individualize their instruction

**Love:** We believe that...
- we must always represent our school with pride
- a nurturing, inclusive, and safe school community allows all students to succeed

**Grow:** We believe that...
- we must seek to continuously improve our instructional practices
- all students can reach their full potential when we engage them with culturally relevant pedagogy
The picture notification has been sent home. Please return the form to school by October 15 if pictures are desired. All students will take pictures even if you do not wish to order pictures.

### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>Independent Learning Day – Asynchronous lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6-8</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>2(^{\text{nd}}) Nine Weeks Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AR Period B Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 12-15</td>
<td>CogAT for 2(^{\text{nd}}) and 4(^{\text{th}}) Grade Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IOWA for 5(^{\text{th}}) Grade Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student devices (2(^{\text{nd}}), 4(^{\text{th}}), and 5(^{\text{th}})) will remain at school during the testing window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Picture Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AR Period A Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 25-29</td>
<td>Red Ribbon Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Fabulous Falcons Reception (Students ONLY)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, October 15, 2021**

The picture notification has been sent home. Please return the form to school by October 15 if pictures are desired. All students will take pictures even if you do not wish to order pictures.
Please send your child to school each day with a clean mask that is made for children to help ensure a proper fit. Check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin and that there are no gaps around the sides. If you are able to donate children's masks we would greatly appreciate it.
CJH is participating in the HealthMPowers initiative. HealthMPowers’ SNAP-Ed initiative “Empowering Healthy Choices in Schools, Homes and Communities” works where SNAP-Ed populations learn, live, play and shop. By integrating nutrition education and physical activity into the settings where children spend their time, HealthMPowers creates a culture that supports lifelong healthy lifestyle choices for children, families and communities. Stay tuned for more information from us as we take the journey on the road to becoming a healthier school community.

School visitation will be by appointment only. All visitors must wear a mask or face covering to enter the building. We thank you in advance for honoring our safety protocols.
Please be certain that your child's teacher is aware of how they will get home from school each day. We strongly recommend that you decide on a consistent afternoon mode of transportation. All transportation changes must be requested in writing using the transportation change form. Emergency transportation changes should be communicated to the FRONT OFFICE by 12:00 pm the day of (or as soon as possible) to ensure that the teacher has been made aware of the change in transportation.
We encourage all parents to "kiss and go" at the car rider lane. Students should have their masks on and be ready to exit the vehicle with all of their school essential belongings. Parents, for your safety, and so that we can keep the traffic flowing, please remain in your vehicle at all times and allow the CJH staff on duty to support the students from the side walk.

---

**Create your Infinite Campus Parent Portal Account**

1. View your child's attendance, assignments, grades and report cards
2. Receive important information from the district, school and teacher through Remind messages, emails and phone calls
3. Easily sign forms online and update your contact information

---

**Directions to set up your Infinite Campus Parent Portal Account**

1. Contact your child's teacher for the RCPS Student ID number.
2. Go to cjh.rockdaleschools.org
3. Click on How To: Setup Your Infinite Campus Parent Account

4. After entering the child's RCPS Student ID number and birthday, you will see an Activation Key.
   a. Right click and copy the Activation code.
   b. Click on [Manually Enter Activation Key](#). Right click and paste the activation key in the box.
   c. Create your account using your email address.
PBIS TIP-OF-THE-MONTH: CELEBRATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Celebrate your child's accomplishments, no matter how big or small! Hang up returned assignments somewhere visible (wall, fridge, taped to your bedroom door, etc). This motivates children as they see you taking note and serves as a non-verbal form of feedback.
In October we will be continuing our Fall theme. Harvest will be our theme for the last weeks in October. We will learn all about the season of Fall and we will do many activities with Spiders and Pumpkins. Our colors of the month are orange and black. Our shape of the month is the triangle. Our letter focus will be S and P. Our number focus will be 5 and 6. Our book of the month will be “The Very Busy Spider” by Eric Carle. You can find this book on YouTube and share it with your child. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Brn7LIA-_CE.

We will also enjoy singing the familiar song, The Itsy-Bitsy Spider, the fingerplay Five Little Pumpkins, and participating in engaging activities involving the season of Fall, spiders, and pumpkins. We will continue to talk about the many signs of Fall. We will explore the inside of a pumpkin and how it grows. We will be taking a virtual field trip to the pumpkin patch.

Thank you!
The READY Team

Pre-K is excited about our Fall Theme and all the fun activities we will do in October! We will have engaging lessons about the season changing and bringing the pumpkin patch to our students. Remember to continue to work with your child daily on upper and lowercase letter recognition, number recognition, and name writing.

Thank you!
We have been having a fantastic school year so far! We are busy learning about retelling stories as well as learning the different long and short vowel sounds. Please continue to read with your child for 30 minutes each night and practice your child's sight words. Learning sight words helps to make our students fluent readers! In Science students have been doing some very exciting experiments to learn about motion and force! Students are counting objects to 20 in math. You can practice this with your child at home with objects around the house. We have been learning about maps and globes in Social Studies. Please help your child to learn their address at home.

Your child's teacher should have sent you information on how to log your child in for the Independent Learning Days next week. While we have been practicing in the classroom, they will likely still need some assistance getting logged in. We appreciate your support in this. Please make sure your child brings an extra change of clothes with them in their bookbag as accidents and spills sometimes happen.

Thank you for your support and if you have any questions please contact your child's teacher.
The Kindergarten Team
First Grade is *Falling* into Reading! They will learn how to identify the different text features of a non-fiction text and continue asking/answering questions about the text. In Writing, it is all about Opinions. Students will share their opinions and reasoning on different topics. Students will learn place value and learn to explain how 10 pennies is the same as a dime. This month will finish our Magnets unit in science and begin learning about Thomas Jefferson.

Thank you!
The First Grade Team

Happy Fall Second Grade Families! In literacy, knowing sight words will help our students read with fluency and understand the written texts. In Math, we will apply different strategies to add and subtract numbers within 100. In Science, we will explain the physical attributes of stars (temperature, size, color, and brightness). This unit also includes the solar system, the moon, and patterns in nature. In Social Studies, we are learning the fascinating history of two Georgia's Native American tribes: the Creek and the Cherokee. We will also learn about Sequoyah.

**REMINDERS:**
On Oct. 4th we will have a synchronous learning day. Join your teacher in Microsoft Teams.
Oct. 5th is an asynchronous learning day. Please complete and submit the assignments to be counted present for the day.
Enjoy your Fall break Oct. 6th - 8th.
Read daily.

Thank you!
The Second Grade Team

Wow! Can you believe that we are already finished with the first quarter of this amazing school year? Our students have adjusted nicely to being back in the in-person school setting and are making strides towards making their goals. We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but with the great instruction from our super teachers, and the continued support from our fabulous parents, our students will undoubtedly be successful.

A message from Language Arts Teachers and Social Studies Teachers:
In Reading, we have just concluded a unit with informational text, and we are now moving back to literary standards. We will work on analyzing story elements, and learning strategies to help us comprehend what we read. In writing, we have just finished opinion essays with ThinkCERCA. Parents you may view your child's grades and writing pieces in step 6 of ThinkCERCA. The module is called Homework Questions. We will now revisit narrative writing. We will place a heavy focus on including dialogue and strong sensory details in our writing pieces. In social studies, we just finished our unit on American Indians and where they settled in America. We will now begin learning about European Exploration.

A message from Math and Science Teachers:
In math, we have just finished our first unit, and have taken the Unit 1 Math Common Unit Assessment. This unit covered rounding to the nearest ten and hundreds place, two and three-digit addition and subtraction within 1000, making and interpreting picture graphs, bar graphs and line plots. You may view your child's assessment score on Schoolnet through ClassLink.
Please continue to practice with your child their basic multiplication facts, as Unit 2 will begin to focus on multiplication and division. In the area of science, we have completed Unit 1. This unit focused on the habitats of Georgia, as well as adaptations that help animals survive in their habitats such as camouflage and mimicry. The students really enjoyed this unit.

Always remember, we are a team, and we are dedicated to help. Never hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher via email or remind.

Thank you!
The Third Grade Team

In reading we are focusing on identifying details and main idea in the text. In addition, students will begin learning about theme. In social studies, the students will finish learning about the creation of the United States and its government. Please assist us by encouraging your child to read 30 minutes daily. Reading helps students to continue develop with their writing, vocabulary, and comprehension. In math the students will dive deeper into mastering how to solve 2 digits by 2-digit multiplication problems using strategies. We will then transition to applying what we learned in multiplication to division.

The students will be expected to be able to divide up to four-digit dividends by a one-digit divisor. To help ensure your student is successful with these standards, please have your child
practice basic multiplication facts daily. They may do this with flashcards, Moby Max fact fluency, or First in Math. In science we will begin our new unit after fall break by learning about what cause us to experience day and night, seasons, and moon phases. The students will have a science project to show their understanding of that unit. As always thank you for your support. The year is off to a great start!

Thank you!
The Fourth Grade Team

---------------------

Thank you all for a great start to the 2021-2022 school year. Our day begins at 7:35 and attendance is very important. Encourage your child to get up early and come to class on time.

We have been very busy this past month. The students have been learning many new concepts and reviewing some old ones. We have been working on various comprehension skills in reading. In math we have worked on place value relationships and order of operations. Please encourage your student to do their best on all assignments. The AR Period B will Start on October 11th, please encourage your student to read at least 35 minutes every day.

Have fun and get plenty of rest over the Fall Break so that we may finish the semester strong. As a reminder, please help motivate your student each day for continued success. Encourage them to complete all daily assignments. With your help, we look forward to a great school year.

Thank you!
The Fifth Grade Team
We look forward to assisting you. Please call us at 770-483-4410, Monday - Friday. Updating your Infinite Campus Parent Portal account will make it easier for us to support you when you call. As always, we are happy to help.

The CJH Front Office Team:
Mrs. Sonya Dill, Bookkeeper
Ms. Japonica Jenkins, Secretary/Registrar
Mrs. Paulina Jimenez, Front Desk Receptionist
Mrs. Cheryl Julien, Front Desk Receptionist

We look forward to serving all of our students' clinic needs. If you have any questions for the clinic, please call our clinic assistant at the school or contact her by email.

Ms. Louise Bailey
RCPS will not process applications for free/reduced-price meals as all meals will be served to students at no cost through June 30, 2022. If you have any questions about our school food and nutrition program, please call our cafeteria manager at the school or contact her via email.

Mrs. Jacki Hayslip
CJH Cafeteria Manager
jhayslip@rockdale.k12.ga.us

We look forward to supporting our students and families this school year. If you have any questions about school policies and procedures, please call our parent liaison at the school or contact her via email.