Greetings Falcon Families!

This is the time of year when we are able to reflect on the things in life that we are most thankful for and renew our hope for what the new year will bring. During the upcoming holiday break, I encourage students to read for up to 30 minutes each day, play games that involve mathematics/problem-solving, and spend quality time with family. Please stay safe and healthy, and enjoy the holiday season.

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>School Picture Retakes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Dec. 13 – 17 | School Spirit Week  
12/13 – Holiday head wear  
12/14 – Holiday sweaters and sweats  
12/15 – Boots and fur  
12/16 – Holiday twin day & class parties  
12/17 – *Polar Express* pajama day |
| Dec. 20 - 24 | Holiday / Schools Closed                   |
| Dec. 27 - 31 | Holiday / Schools Closed                   |
| Jan. 3     | Teacher Work Day                           |

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.
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 sidewalk.

In the morning, please allow students to exit the car as soon as the car stops. Having students to exit regardless of how close they are to the front doors will help keep the traffic moving. Students should be ready to exit with their essential belongings (mask, bookbag, lunch bag, device, and coat).
In the afternoon, please have your orange car rider tag visible until your child gets into the car. Parents without the orange car rider tag must park and come into the building with ID. Thank you for helping to make our car rider arrival and dismissal process safe and efficient.

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.

Greetings READY Families!
This is an exciting month for our READY students as we enter the holiday season. We will be making special holiday crafts. We will learn about the season of winter and why we need jackets/coats and sweaters when we go outside. The color of the month is GREEN. Our shape of the month is the STAR. We will be learning about the letters Ff and Oo and the number 9. Our Book of the Month is “The Gingerbread Man.” We will also enjoy singing the familiar song Jingle Bells and making gingerbread houses and gingerbread men.

Thank you!
The READY Team

Greetings Pre-K Families!

The children enjoyed our thankful themes and science activities in November. The themes for December are going to be health and personal hygiene, holidays around the world, and holiday traditions. The children will discuss making healthy food choices and healthy daily hygiene routines and how various holidays are celebrated around the world. Please continue to work on recognizing and forming the numbers (1-20), upper and lowercase letters, and writing first and last names.

Thank you!
The Pre-K Team
Greetings Kindergarten Families!

We hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving break! It is hard to believe we are almost halfway through the school year! Just as a reminder, please send a second mask in your child’s book bag as well as a water bottle. Our instruction begins at 7:35 am, please encourage your students to wake up and arrive at school on time.

In math students have begun comparing groups of objects and will be comparing numbers 1-10. In reading, we are learning strategies to find the meaning of unknown words in a text. Please continue to study your child’s sight words with them nightly as well as reading with them for 30 minutes. While reading, ask your child about words in the text that they may not know. Have them share some of the strategies that they have learned. In science students are continuing to learn about the day and night sky for the rest of the month of December.

In social studies we are finishing up learning about the difference between a good and a service and how we must make choices because we cannot have everything we want. Thank you for your continued support! We hope everyone has a great holiday!

Thank you!
The Kindergarten Team

Greetings 1st Grade Families!

In math students have begun comparing groups of objects and will be comparing numbers 1-10. In reading, we are learning strategies to find the meaning of unknown words in a text. Please continue to study your child’s sight words with them nightly as well as reading with them for 30 minutes. While reading, ask your child about words in the text that they may not know. Have them share some of the strategies that they have learned. In science students are continuing to learn about the day and night sky for the rest of the month of December.

In social studies we are finishing up learning about the difference between a good and a service and how we must make choices because we cannot have everything we want. Thank you for your continued support! We hope everyone has a great holiday!

Thank you!
The Kindergarten Team
This month will complete a successful 2nd nine weeks of school. We will end the year by asking and answering questions about informational text, as well as creating exploratory writing on informative topics. In Math, students will enhance their math skills by learning different ways to add and subtract. Science focuses on Weather and in Social Studies scholars will explore the lives of Lewis, Clark, and Sacagawea.

Please be sure you have set up your Infinite Campus portal and complete the Parent Portal Updates to sign off on the Acceptable Use Policy. We want to thank you for being consistent with sending students to school with a mask and having your students prompt and prepared for learning each day.

Thank you!
The First Grade Team

Greetings 2nd Grade Families!

WOW, where did the time go! We are already in the month of December. Please don’t forget our school day starts at 7:35 am and attendance is very important.

We have been very busy this school year and have some fun things coming up. In Reading, students will be describing how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges and explaining how specific images contribute to the text. In Math, they will be continuing their Measurement unit. In Writing, we will be working on Informational writing. In Science and Social Studies, we will be working on Force and Motion and Economics (goods and services/allocations).

Important Test Dates for the month of December:
- November 30- December 3, 2021- Writing Performance Task
- December 3, 2021- Science CFA
- December 14, 2021- Science CUA
- December 15, 2021- Social Studies CUA
- December 16, 2021- Math CUA

Enjoy the holiday break.

Thank you!
The Second Grade Team
Greetings 3rd Grade Families!

As we begin to enter the most joyful time of the year, we plan to make the best out of this holiday season. Please be on the look-out for information regarding holiday parties and activities. We are continuing to implement Guided Reading during our Reading Workshop blocks, which is a powerful and efficient way to differentiate and meet the specific needs of your children. Please assist us by ensuring your child reads daily for a minimum of thirty-five minutes.

**A message from the Language Arts and Social Studies Teachers:**
In our Language Arts classes, students are working diligently with informational text. Students are working on justifying answers with evidence from the text and producing informational essays. Please encourage your child to read an abundance of non-fictional text at home. In our social studies classes, we are wrapping up European Exploration and moving towards Colonial America.

**A message from the Math and Science Teachers:**
Math teachers want to encourage parents to continue working on mastering basic multiplication facts. As students begin to tackle two-step word problems, becoming fluent with basic facts will help take away some of the frustration with word problems. In our science classes, students are ending our unit with soil. We are moving towards weathering and erosion.

As always, thank you for being great team players. Teamwork makes the DREAM WORK!

Thank you!
The Third Grade Team
Greetings 4th Grade Families!

We are soaring high in 4th grade and working hard to increase our students' reading levels! For students that get pulled out for SOAR with our EIP teacher, Ms. Waddell, nonfiction has been a focus for the last month. Some of the students read a book called Dog Heroes that provided stories about dogs who have saved their owners' lives. As an extension activity, we met with the fabulous Mrs. Foot, the 5th grade interrelated teacher, and she spoke with some students about her service dog, Kage, who comes daily with her to school. Kage performed a few tricks and even gave a paws on demonstration on how he helps with anxiety.

Another nonfiction topic we've discussed were interviews so I was proud to hear the students asking phenomenal questions that dug deeper and connected back to their reading and personal experiences. Overall, they were engaged and did a great job listening.

If your child is reading nonfiction, ask them about the following features:
- How do headings help you understand what you're reading?
- What are bold print words?
- Where is the table of contents and glossary?
- What are captions and how they can help your comprehension?
- Why are photographs important?

Thank you!
The Fourth Grade Team
Greetings 5th Grade Families!

Greeting 5th Grade Families, our day begins at 7:35 am 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. During our reading block we have been working on analyzing how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text. In writing we have been working on developing Informational/explanatory writing. In math we have been working on multiplying decimals. In science we have been learning about physical and chemical changes. Please encourage your student to do their best on all assignments.

The Winter Written Word Ramble AR Period will end December 17th, please encourage your student to read at least 35 minutes every day. Winter Break will start December 20th through January 4th. Have fun and get plenty of rest so that we may finish 2nd quarter strong. As always thank you for your support 5th grade families.

Thank you!
The Fifth Grade Team
We look forward to assisting you. Please call us at 770-483-4410, Monday - Friday. Ensuring that you have updated 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 the school.

Weekly meal kits are available to any child 18 years old or younger who is not already offered and/or receiving breakfast and lunch at school. Due to a change in participation, we have
consolidated meal pick up to only one location, Honey Creek Elementary School. The weekly meal kit pick up day and time will remain the same and will be available on Thursdays between 4:30-5:30 pm. Each meal kit includes five breakfast and five lunch meals. The weekly meal kits are provided at no cost and each child can receive one meal kit per week.

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.

Mrs. Caryn Abraham  
CJH Parent Liaison  
cabraham@rockdale.k12.ga.us
C.J. Hicks Elementary School

@CJHicksElem

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cjh.rockdaleschools.org

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