MEASURING STUDENT LEARNING

Parents/Guardians,

Bonus points for attending athletic events, for bringing in school supplies such as Kleenex, paper towels, hand sanitizer, etc., and “Extra credit” for doing extra work no matter how correct or incorrect it might be. Does this sound familiar? How does any of this reflect what a student knows or doesn’t know about the content of their courses? These “bonus” and “extra credit” points skew and inflate the grade and provide a false sense that a student is actually doing better with that course than he or she actually is.

A grade that a student earns in a class should reflect mastery of the concepts and skills being taught and assessed in that course. When bonus points and extra credit is given for things such as those previously mentioned above, the grade becomes less meaningful and less accurate in regards to the level of understanding that one has of the content for that course and no longer reflects true mastery of the content. The same is also true when a student’s grade is “lowered” a letter grade or two because they may be a day late submitting the assignment. In these situations, behaviors, both positive and negative, either improved or lowered the grade that was reported and therefore failed to represent accurately what the student knew and could do with the content of the course.

Our teachers were presented with information two years ago now and have attended several sessions on improving our grading practices. These practices are being implemented across the school in all grade-levels and content areas so our grading design is consistent. An “A” in one class should be an “A” in another.

What you will notice is that all classes have two categories within their grade book for recording grades. One category, formative/progress, is 20% of the overall grade is for everyday items such as classwork, homework, and possibly quizzes. The other category, summative/product, is 80% of the overall grade and consists of assessments. Written papers, projects, oral reports, and unit tests are placed in this category. The summative category will consist of assignments that are typically completed in the classroom under the supervision of the teacher with no assistance from others.

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- Measuring Student Learning
- Menu of Items: 1-2
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October 23, 2015

Report It!

Inside Our Classrooms

Athletic Events & Contact Information

CAMEL CONNECTION

Oct. 30 - Halloween Dress Up Day
Nov. 3rd - Fall Election; No School
Nov. 9th - CCS Board Meeting
Nov. 9th - Harlem Wizards vs. CCS Staff; CCMS Gym; 7:00 pm
Nov. 10th - Veterans’ Day Program; CCMS Gym; 7:00 pm
Nov. 16th - SBDM Mtg; Library; 6:00 pm
Nov. 16th-20th - Fall Book Fair
Nov 19th - Student Conferences; 3:30 - 7:00 pm
Nov 23 - YLD Parent Night; 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Dec 3rd - 6th/7th Grade Choir Concert; CCCHS; 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 9th - PTO Fundraising Assembly
Dec 10th - 8th Grade Chorus Concert; CCHS: 7:00 p.m
Dec 14th – CCS Board Meeting; AEC; 6:00 pm
Jan 4th – SBDM Meeting; CCMS Library; 6:00 p.m
Jan 11th – CCS Board Meeting; AEC; 6:00 pm
Jan 13th – SBDM Sub-Committee Meetings; CCMS; 2:45-3:45

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While you may have already seen “study guides” for some classes, all are required to have study guides will identify the learning targets for the unit as well as sample questions in most cases so both our students and parents understand what the learning target expects for our students to be able to do. The study guides will not, however, give the actual test questions. This is not the purpose. We want students to know and understand what is expected of them and then be able to apply that understanding to a question that they see for the first time during the assessment. If the learning target on the study guide says, “I can explain the water cycle”, students should know the vocabulary such as evaporation, condensation, precipitation, etc. to be able to explain the water cycle. If a student can use these terms with you to orally state or write out their explanation, then they should be able to answer any question asked by the teacher pertaining to this learning target. These study guides are expected to be given at the beginning of the unit so the both the student and parent can use it to prepare for the assessment. Due to the differences in courses (reading with long passages vs. math, etc.), study guides will vary in appearance from content to content.

Our teachers are also working very hard to create unit assessments that measure each of the learning targets found on the study guide. (Each target should be measured and measured with multiple questions.) These unit assessments are being collected and reviewed prior to use by students to ensure congruence with the learning targets and standards as well as to make certain that all learning targets are being measured. Feedback for improving the assessment or specific questions is then provided to our teachers.

Another item that you will most likely see is a “post-test self analysis” document. Students use this document once their test is returned to identify which learning targets they have and have not mastered based on their performance on the assessment. After students have completed the required steps for a re-take and demonstrated new learning/understanding of the concepts identified as “not mastered”, they are able to re-take an assessment consisting of questions that specifically relate to only those learning targets that they have not yet mastered. Please know that this is not simply a take and take and take again until I pass it process. Students must do additional work and show evidence of “new” learning in relation to those identified areas before they can complete the re-take questions. The purpose of this is to ensure mastery of the content. We recognize that all students do not learn at the same pace and therefore need a little extra time. The time period whether it is 5 days or 10 days that it takes to master is not important. The fact that they do at some point master the content is, however, important.

Think of a driver’s license test. It doesn’t matter how many times you take it. Once you are able to successfully demonstrate the skills and ability to drive, control a vehicle, and obey traffic signs, etc., you gain full privileges of operating a vehicle on our roadways. You aren’t penalized with reduced privileges and/or limitations because it took you two, three, or even four times to pass.

Our purpose is to educate students and to ensure that they have mastery of our current grade-level content so they can be successful in later courses and grade-levels with the ultimate goal of being college or career ready. If you have questions regarding this information or process, please either speak with your child’s teacher, grade-level counselor, or administrator.

Respectfully,

Jason Smith, Principal, Campbell County Middle School

GO CAMELS!!
SPIRIT CHEER TRYOUTS
Basic cheer skills are required. No running tumbling or stunts required.

6th Grade Winter Spirit Try-Outs in the CCMS Small Gym
   Wednesday October 28th       6:00-7:30 pm
   Thursday  October 29th       6:00-7:30 pm

7th and 8th Grade Winter Spirit Try-Outs in the CCMS Small Gym
   Monday  October 26th        6:00-7:30 pm
   Tuesday October 27th        6:00-7:30 pm

Any student interested in trying out for the CCMS Winter Spirit Squad must have a KHSAA Physical completed by a physician prior to try-outs. If a student makes the team, they will be required to pay a participation fee (checks made payable to CCMS) and complete the CCS Drug Policy Form (provided by the coach).

Total cost anticipated, but not exact, for a Spirit Squad Member: $185.00 Midriffs $20.00, Spankies, $20.00, Warm-Up $75.00, Socks and Ribbons $10.00, CCMS Fee $60.00.

Basketball
CCMS will have two school teams for each grade level and gender; purple and gold. The purple teams will have an equal amount of home and away games. The away games will consist of traveling to various schools all over NKY. The gold teams will have a limited amount of home games. Away games for the gold teams will be played during the week as well as on Saturdays.

If a student does not make one of the school teams they can participate in the CCMS Intramural Basketball Program. The Intramural basketball program will begin in late January. Information regarding the CCMS Intramural Basketball Program will be released the week of December 7th, 2015.

Fees for basketball  1. School Team: Purple or Gold= $90.00
   Participation fee: $65.00  Shooting shirt: $25.00 (players get to keep their shooting shirt at the end of the season)

Try-Outs October 22nd - 30th, 2015: Large Gym
   October 22nd       October 26th        October 27th
   2:45-4:15 8th Grade Boys       2:45-4:15 6th Grade Boys       2:45-4:15 8th Grade Boys
   4:15-5:45 8th Grade Girls       4:15-5:45 8th Grade Girls       4:15-5:45 8th Grade Girls
   5:45-7:15 7th Grade Boys        5:45-7:15 7th Grade Boys        5:45-7:15 7th Grade Boys
   7:15-8:45 7th Grade Girls       7:15-8:45 7th Grade Girls       7:15-8:45 7th Grade Girls

   October 28th       October 29th        October 30th
   4:15-5:45 6th Grade Boys       2:45-4:15 8th Grade Boys       2:45-4:15 6th Grade Boys
   5:45-7:15 6th Grade Girls       5:45-7:15 6th Grade Girls       5:45-7:15 6th Grade Girls
Halloween Dress Up Day

Students may wear a Halloween costume on Friday, October 30th. Students choosing to participate in dress up day may not wear masks or bring costume accessories. Costumes must also meet requirements of student dress code. Students will be chosen and recognized for Most Original Costume, Scariest Costume, Cutest Costume, and Best Group by grade-level. Pictures will be taken of those recognized and shared in an upcoming newsletter.

Students participating with our Halloween dress up day must still dress according to dress code.

Staff Member of the Month (September)

Congratulations to Peggy Wolf, school nurse, for being named Staff Member of the Month. In addition to the 25+ students that Ms. Wolf has scheduled for daily visits due to a variety of health conditions all ranging in levels of severity requiring a variety of medications, she also reviews medical records of incoming 6th grade and newly enrolled students to make sure they are up-to-date and in full compliance with state immunizations and cares for those students who drop in because they aren’t feeling well. For field trips, Ms. Wolf reviews the names, provides medical information, and ensures that the teachers have the required medication for the students attending the trip. When she isn’t caring for a student, Ms. Wolf updates her health records in Infinite Campus and contacts parents/guardians to inform them of the health status of their child. Ms. Wolfe works very hard to meet the health needs of our students at CCMS to ensure their safety and well-being so they are able to be in school and focus on their learning. Thank you, Peggy for all that you do for our students! You are amazing! Go Camels!!!
Parent/Teacher Conferences

In the past, CCMS has held student-led conferences during the fall and spring trimesters. Due to parent request, this year we will have Parent/Teacher Conferences in the fall and Student-led Conferences in the spring. Teachers will be available from 3:30 - 7:30 on Thursday, November 19th for 10 minute appointments allowing for twenty conferences. To ensure all who have appointments scheduled receive their full time, please be respectful of and limit your conversations to your appointment time. Teachers will soon be sending out emails which will have a link to a schedule program that will show their available time slots. As individuals sign up, the program will update their availability.

Wellness Policy

With the recent cold weather, a number of students have been bringing coffee and/or hot chocolate to school in the mornings. Please know this is not permitted per our SBDM Wellness Policy. Students will be required to dispose of these drinks prior to entering the building. Click here for a copy of the Wellness Policy.

SBDM Sub-committees

We need parents and guardians to serve on our SBDM sub-committees. Our committees will be meeting once per month most months at 2:45 pm. Please see below for a schedule of our meeting days. If you are interested and are able to serve on a committee, please email your name preferred committee to jason.smith@campbell.kyschools.us. To maintain balance and keep numbers within our committee limits, individuals may be assigned to a committee other than the one requested.

Name of Committee:

Assessment
Curriculum and Instruction
Planning
Program Review
School Culture and Resources (Students)
School Culture and Resources (Staff)
School Culture and Resources (Parent and Community Engagement)
Wellness

Dates of Committee Work:

September 30th
November 11th
December 2nd
January 13th
February 3rd
March 2nd
May 4th

Time of Meetings: 2:45-3:45
Save the Date!

Ticket order forms will be coming home with students after fall break, or you can use the attached form, or purchase on-line at www.harlemwizards.com
The Harlem Wizards are coming to CCMS – Monday, November 9, 2015

Mark your calendar now! Campbell County Middle School will be hosting a Family Night of basketball slams and jams featuring the Harlem Wizards on Mon., Nov. 9, 2015 at **CCMS at 7:00 pm.** Doors open at 6:00 pm. They will be playing against our very own “**Camels**” *made up of Campbell County Schools’ faculty and basketball players!*

Get your tickets early to be sure you get the ones you want!!!

- **General Admission Tickets pre-sale**
  - $10.00 ($12 at the door)

- **Reserved Seating Tickets (only oo available)**
  - Seats in bleachers behind Courtside seats.
  - $15.00 ($17 at the door)

- **Courtside Plus Tickets (only 1 available)**
  - Courtside Plus “ticket holders” get a 10 minute meet and greet with the Wizards in a private room before the game, a Wizards lanyard and courtside seating on the floor.
  - $25.00

**Special Opportunity to “Join the Wizards Team” for warm ups:** Wizard jerseys may be purchased for $45.00 for those who want to “Join the Wizards Team” including shooting and drills on the court with the Wizards throughout the 30 minute warm up period and special reserved seating immediately behind the Wizard bench. General Admission tickets are required. Jerseys may be pre-ordered to ensure proper sizes and seat availability by checking your size and how many you need! Payment and pick up are at the game.

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**Ticket and Jersey Order Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUTH Size</th>
<th>ADULT sizes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____ Small</td>
<td>_____ Small</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ Medium</td>
<td>_____ Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ Large</td>
<td>_____ XX-Large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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My Name _______________________________ Student Name _______________________________

School _______________________________ Teacher _______________________________

# of Tickets

- **General Admission:** _____ at $10 = $______
- **Reserved:** _____ at $15 = $______
- **Courtside Plus:** _____ at $25 = $______

Total Amount Due: $________

Return to School and make checks payable to CCMS PTO. Your tickets will be sent home with your child.

Questions? Contact Evelyn Dietz at eedietz@aol.com or 513 519-2148
Bring in your Box Tops!

Yes, CCMS wants your Box Tops!

Box Tops support our CCMS students through the FRC!

Please save Box Tops and have your student drop them into the box in the lobby.
Campbell County Schools

Report it!

SafeSchools Alert is our district’s tip reporting service. If you have information about a threat to our safety, do your part and report it! And remember, you can remain anonymous.

4 EASY WAYS

http://1075.alert1.us
1075@alert1.us
859.838.1313
Text your tip to 859.838.1313

REPORT TIPS ON:
- Bullying
- Intimidation
- Harassment
- Weapons
- Drugs
- Other

For emergencies, always call 911. All tips submitted to our SafeSchools Alert system are taken seriously and will be acted upon. Please be responsible with your submissions.
PBIS is a program designed to teach appropriate behaviors. With PBIS appropriate and acceptable behaviors for stated and taught to students. When students meet the expected behaviors they are recognized with positive comments. When students are not demonstrating the expected behavior, the desired behavior is “re-taught” to the student and if needed, appropriate supports are provided to help the student to be successful with meeting the desired behaviors.

At CCMS, our general expectations are - Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe...Be a Camel! To further define these expectations, every area of the building (classrooms, hall, gym, cafeteria, etc.) have specific expectations that are stated in student friendly language and explained to the students. Expectations for the Classroom are shown below.