

# CHESTER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



## CPESA NEWS & NOTES

Ms. Shana Harper, Principal

(803) 581-7279

Mr. Tyson Gardin, Assistant Principal

February 9, 2021



### Month of February:

Black History Month

**February 15:** Presidents' Day  
Holiday—No School

**February 22:** Bus Driver  
Appreciation Day

### Month of March:

Women's History Month  
National Nutrition Month  
Social Workers' Month  
Youth Art Month  
Music in Our Schools Month

**March 16:** Third Quarter Interim  
Reports

**April 5-9:** Spring Break



### Car Rider Line

For the safety  
of our students  
and staff,

please avoid the use of cell  
phones in the car rider line as you  
drop off and pick up your  
child/children. Please see the  
separate flyer for more  
information regarding the car  
rider line.



### From the Principal

"We ourselves feel that what we  
are doing is just a drop in the  
ocean. But the ocean would be less  
because of that missing drop."  
~Mother Teresa

As individuals, we try our best but  
often feel we are not doing enough  
to help each child we encounter.  
Everyone's contributions count  
toward the education of every child,

whether teacher, administrator,  
parent, family member, or  
another adult. Our impact on  
children's daily lives is more than  
a drop in the ocean and the  
ocean would certainly be less if  
we lost all those drops. Thank  
you for all that you do for our  
children here at CPESA. It truly  
takes a team effort to provide a  
quality, well-rounded education  
for our students, and CPESA has  
a marvelous team!

~Ms. Shana Harper, Principal  
Chester Park School of the Arts



"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh,  
the thinks you can think up if only you try!"  
~Dr. Seuss

This second nine-weeks has brought great learning and  
reflection for students, teachers, and administrators. We  
are continually thinking about the teaching and learning  
process and how to improve along the way in a year that is definitely not normal.

It is important for all of us to try to continue to think positive during these trying  
times. Thank you for your continued support of all of us here at CPESA and we look  
forward to amazing things yet to come in the second half of our school year.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any assistance.  
~Mr. Tyson Gardin, Assistant Principal



February's Focus is Self-Love. Take time for yourself to do things that you love and enjoy: Read for pleasure, Relax, Exercise, Enjoy nature, Dance, Draw, Paint, Listen to Music.

Camp Hands of Hope holds three weekend camps each year for children ages 5-18 and their families who have lost a loved one within the past 3 years. Registration is open now for the March 5-6 camp at <https://www.camphandsofhope.org/>.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at (803) 581-7279.

Angie Keels  
CPESA School Counselor



### Overdue Books

If a student has a book checked out, he or she will not be able to check out a new book until the first one is returned. We must limit students to one book at a time because books are quarantined and sanitized after they are returned. This limits the options and number of books that are available to our students.

### Caring for Your Books

Please take care of the books that are checked out from our school library. Do not eat or drink near library books. Be careful when transporting and reading them. Caring for our books allows multiple students to enjoy them.

## Nurse Notes

Students should wear a mask to school each day. Please send an extra mask in case the first one becomes unwearable.

Please put students' names in jackets/coats so we can return them to their owners if they get misplaced.

School attendance is important for a student's education, but if they are sick, they put themselves and others in jeopardy. Please follow the guidelines to the right if your student is not feeling well.

If you have questions, please call me at 803-377-9004.

Laura Hinson, RN  
CPESA School Nurse

## I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...

I HAVE A FEVER	I AM VOMITING	I HAVE DIARRHEA	I HAVE A RASH	I HAVE HEAD LICE	I HAVE AN EYE INFECTION	I HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL
Temperature of 100 degrees F or higher	Within the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active head lice	Redness, itching, and/or pus draining from eye	Hospital stay and/or emergency room visit

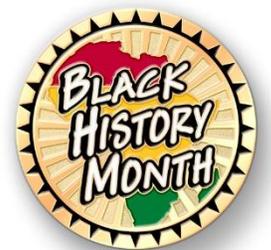
## I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...

Fever free without the assistance of medication for 24 hours (i.e., Tylenol, Motrin, Advil)	Free from vomiting for 24 hours.	Free from diarrhea for 24 hours.	Free from rash, itching or fever. I have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home.	Free from drainage and/or have been evaluated by my doctor if needed.	Released by my medical provider to return to school.
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If your child has strep throat or another bacterial infection, he/she should stay home until the antibiotic has been given for at least 24 hours and your health care provider has given permission for your child to return to school. We encourage you to seek medical attention when your child is sick and to follow your health care provider's recommendations about returning to school and other activities.

## Honoring the Arts During Black History Month

During the month of February, our Visual and Performing Arts classes will do an in-depth study of significant African-Americans and their contributions to dance, music, and visual art. From studying the origins and traditions of West African Dance Forms, to contributions during the Harlem Renaissance and the Jazz Age, to Civil Rights protests, Disco in the 1970s, and the world of Hip Hop, our students will engage in authentic learning and present their culminating performance "Black History: Arts Throughout the Ages" at the end of February. The performance will be recorded and distributed via the school website and social media access.



## CPESA

# Faculty Spotlight



Ms. Jessica Stidham is the focus of our CPESA Faculty Spotlight for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. Ms. Stidham was named the Rock Star Teacher of the Month for the Chester County School District for December 2020. Ms. Stidham is a first year teacher here at CPESA and teaches 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the CCSD Virtual Academy. Here is a little more information about Ms. Stidham, straight from the Rock Star herself.

**Where did you go to college?** During my first two years of college, I attended Midlands Technical College. After receiving my Associate in Arts degree, I transferred to Newberry College and obtained my Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

**Why did you decide to become a teacher?** I decided to become a teacher because of the wonderful roles that teachers play in their students' lives. Growing up, I had three main teachers who really impacted my life. They always made learning fun and taught me so many valuable life lessons that I hope to pass down to my students. They made each and every one of us feel so important and totally went beyond the basic definition of a "teacher". I always knew that I wanted to be just like them and impact the lives of students the way they impacted mine.

**What is your favorite subject?** My favorite subject is science because it was always fun for me growing up as a student. There are so many opportunities to learn beyond the walls of a classroom.

**Why are the arts an important part of a child's education?** The arts are so important to our children's education because of the profound benefits it has on math and reading skills, and on critical thinking skills. It also plays a huge role in providing different ways for children to learn through movement, visuals, and music.

**What does it mean to you to be named the District's Rock Star Teacher of the Month?** It really means the world to me to have been named the District's Rock Star Teacher of the Month. It was really a bright spot in this year of so much uncertainty and unknown. The hard work of my students and the amazing support of my co-workers made this generous recognition possible.

## Attendance Matters!



Any time a student is absent from school they must bring a note, whether it is from a doctor or a parent, to excuse their absence. This note should be sent no later than **FIVE days** after the student returns to school. Absences without a medical excuse or parental note are unexcused absences.

Please contact Mrs. Speer at 803- 581- 7279 with any attendance concerns or questions.

### Tardiness and Early Dismissals

Parents, we need your support to ensure students make maximum use of class time and practice punctuality. **Classes begin promptly at 8:00 am.** If a student is late, they must report to the office to be signed in and get a pass to go to class.

**School is dismissed at 2:30 pm.** Please attempt to schedule all doctor and/or dentist appointments after school hours. If this is not possible, students will need to be signed out before 2:00 pm.

## Fine Arts at a Glance



**Dance:** Students in all grade levels had an in-depth study of the classic holiday ballet, *The Nutcracker*. After the new year, schedules changed and some grade levels continued dance while other added dance to their rotation, and a few are exploring other arts areas now. Fourth grade is participating in a virtual residency with Charlotte-area artist-in-residence, Camerin Watson, to explore the solar system. Second grade is studying dances from around the world. Kindergarten is exploring the dance elements of Body, Action, Space, Time, Energy, and Relationships. After spring break, we will do a school-wide choreography project to the song "Treat People with Kindness" by Harry Styles.



**General Music:** Throughout the month of December, all music classes learned about Tchaikovsky and the *Nutcracker Suite*. We even had a "Battle of the Nutcrackers Suites" between Tchaikovsky and Duke Ellington. After all the student votes were counted Tchaikovsky was the winner. Since returning from our

winter break classes have been hard at work learning new things. 5th grade has started a project where they will be composing accompaniment and a jingle for a commercial, they create. 4th grade and 3rd grade are beginning to learn the basics of playing the ukulele. 2nd grade had begun learning proper technique in playing the piano. 1st grade learned all about beat and is now working on the song "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong to perform as part of our Black History Month program. Kindergarten is learning all about high sounds and low sounds. Pre-K are learning their instrument families and getting to see and hear real orchestra instruments in class. We are having so much fun learning and playing in music class!



**P.E.:** Students in physical education learned about proper forms for dribbling and shooting a basketball. All classes have worked on different forms of exercise to increase their endurance. During

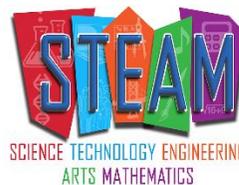
the months of February and March the students will work on problem solving activities.



**Strings:** In the orchestra class, we have been adjusting to the growth of our class sizes with both cohorts meeting at the same time and the addition of some returning students. The students have expanded the number of notes they are playing and our now reading music in standard notation from their orchestra text. They are playing with and without accompaniments. The fingerboard has been introduced and we aim to add two more fingerings shortly. We also continue to work on pre-bowing activities to get us ready when that time comes.



**Visual Art:** There are a lot of exciting projects happening in art class! 5th grade is working on color theory through a series of projects to master color vocabulary. They just finished the 100-color challenge where they were given only the primary colors of red, blue and yellow. They were able to experiment on mixing to see how many colors they could create. 4th grade has their cardboard city sculptures on display on the school stage. This was their favorite project and they will be able to bring these home next week! 4th and 3rd grade are working currently on a Black History Month project that will be the backdrop for the school presentation. They are each creating a story quilt square like the fiber artist Faith Ringgold's work. 2nd grade is learning about camouflage. They are creating an artwork with a chameleon who is hiding within the drawing. 1st grade is diving deeper into color by creating a monochromatic paper collage. Kindergarten is in the process of learning about the northern lights and creating a painting to represent what they have learn about their color and dance through the sky.



**S.T.E.A.M. Lab:** In the STEAM Lab, classes have just completed a "Snowflake Project". The students first learned how snowflakes form. Then they designed their own snowflake using symmetry and fractions (1 whole,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). The next step was for students to create their design using fractional parts of Q-tips (whole Q-tips,  $\frac{1}{2}$  size, and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). Finally, the students added the total number of whole Q-tips used in the snowflake adding up (2) -  $\frac{1}{2}$  size to make a whole, and (4) -  $\frac{1}{4}$  size to make a whole. Other projects we are working on include - 3D marshmallow designs, learning about the rock cycle, and learning about sound.

## In the Classrooms...



Health Month.

.Pre-Kindergarten has just finished learning about shadows and Groundhog's Day. Information will be coming home this week regarding a home poster project for Black History Month. In the coming weeks, we will study Night and Day, Valentine's Day, friendships, the letters Nn and Vv, and Dental



We are having a great time in Kindergarten and learning so much each week. We are learning our letters, sounds, and sight words in ELA. We are also learning to write words and simple sentences. In Math, we can count to 100 and are learning to add and subtract. Please keep practicing these skills at home. 😊

First grade has been learning about informational text and how to write a "teaching book". The students have been excited to read books about snow and animals during the winter season.



They learned a lot about where animals go in winter. They even had fun building "dens" for their animals using marshmallows and toothpicks! In math, students have been busy with problem solving by reading /listening to problems and finding the missing/unknown addends and differences.



In reading, we are working on story elements, analyzing characters in our stories, and identifying text features and their purpose in non-fiction texts. In writing we are working on crafting writing pieces about our opinion. In math we are working using strategies to add and subtract two-digit numbers with and without regrouping. In science we are working on magnetism and force and motion. In social studies we are working on government and civics.



Third grade is ROCKING along! In science, we are finishing our unit on rocks and minerals and transitioning into slow & fast earth changes. In social studies, we are continuing to learn about China. Our next country to study is Italy! We worked hard on multiplication & division. We will cover time, fractions, and perimeter next. In ELA, our first project will be a brochure focusing on a famous African American for Black History Month. Finally, we will prepare for a poetry slam!



Fourth grade is beginning to take a journey through our solar system. We will learn about the planets, seasons, constellations, and moon phases. In math, we will begin to dive deep into fractions. In ELA, we will learn how to become expert opinion writers. 3...2...1....BLAST OFF INTO LEARNING!!!



Fifth Grade is on a ROLL with writing Informational Books that taught us how to play video games, how to ride a BMX bike, how to take care of ball pythons and much more! In science, we did research on the types of Ecosystems and presented PowerPoint Presentations. In Math, we got along with fractions, how to add, subtract, divide and multiply. We are moving on to divide with whole numbers and unit fractions. For Social Studies, we will be doing a hall of fame about famous African Americans from South America for Black History Month.