

KALEIDOSCOPE

TOGETHER WE KNOW. TOGETHER WE GROW.

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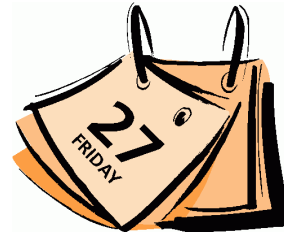
August 2019

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Dates to Know

September 2—Labor Day—No School
 September 6—Progress Reports
 September 23-27—Fall Break
 October 18—Report Cards
 November 15—Progress Reports
 November 25-29—Thanksgiving break
 December 20—End of the Semester/Quarter
 December 23-January 5—Christmas Holiday
 January 6—In-service Day for teachers
 January 7—Students Return



Tips for Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences at Your Child's School

During the school year, teachers will invite you to come to parent-teacher meetings (also called conferences). You can also ask for a conference any time.

Getting Started

What

The conference is a meeting between you and your child's teacher.

When

Your child's teacher will contact you to set up a meeting time.

Why

The conference gives you a chance to talk with your child's teacher.

Questions

What if I work during the day?

Let the teacher know you can only go to conferences at night.

What will we talk about?

Your child's teacher will probably talk about your child's grades, classwork, homework, and behavior.

What will I learn?

You will learn more about your child's classes, and find out if your child is having any problems.

What will the teacher ask me?

Teachers like to learn about students from their parents. No one knows your child better than you do. You can help the teacher by talking about:

- What your child likes to do
- Events that may affect your child (such as a new baby, divorce or death)
- Special medical or learning needs

Things to Remember

If you are invited to a conference, it doesn't mean your child is in trouble! Teachers try to meet with all parents.

You and the teacher both want the very best for your child. You can help your child by working together as a team.

This information is provided from the Colorin Colorado website. For more information, please visit this website: <https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/tips-parents-parent-teacher-conferences>



Infinite Campus

For Students and Parents

Do you check your child's grades or attendance online?

Being able to check your child's grades or attendance is a simple, easy way for you to know what is going on at school.

To sign up, send your child's name, your name, school, and grade to parentportal@pickenscountyschools.org.

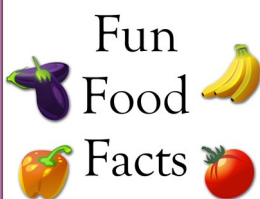
Someone will get you the information you need so you can log-in.

Don't depend on papers coming home or for your child to tell you what their grade is. Find out first-hand! Sign-up today!

IN THE KNOW

Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, make this world a beautiful garden.

Did You Know:



- Our lunchrooms serve over 500,000 lunches each year and almost 150,000 breakfast meals
- We serve over 40,000 pounds of chicken and 45,000 pounds of beef. Most of the chicken is from Georgia
- 56,221 slices of Pizza are served
- 38,000 gallons of milk are used



Keep Your Kids Healthy

Do you know why school kids get sick so often? In the early school years, your child's immune system is put to the test. Young children in large groups tend to easily spread organisms that cause illness.

"Many childhood illnesses are caused by viruses," says family physician. "All it takes is a single child to bring a virus to school for the spread to begin."

What's the best way to keep your child healthy in school? Frequent handwashing is the simplest and most effective way to stay healthy.

Remind your child to wash his or her hands before eating and after going to the bathroom, blowing his or her nose, or playing outside. Kids should soap up for as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.

More "Staying Healthy" Tips...

- Kids should use hand sanitizer before eating snacks or lunch and after using shared objects, such as a computer, pencil sharpener or water fountain.
- Encourage your child to sneeze into a tissue. If a tissue is not available, he or she should cough or sneeze into the crook of his or her elbow.
- Remind children to keep their hands away from their eyes and out of their mouths; hands are often covered in germs.
- Remind children to not share water bottles, food or other personal items. Use this simple rule: If you put the item in your mouth, keep it to yourself.



"Last but not least, it's also important for your child to eat a healthy diet, get plenty of sleep and stay current on his or her vaccinations in order to help fend off illness causing organisms," says Dr. Warsing.

Article Source: <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/keeping-your-kids-healthy-at-school/>

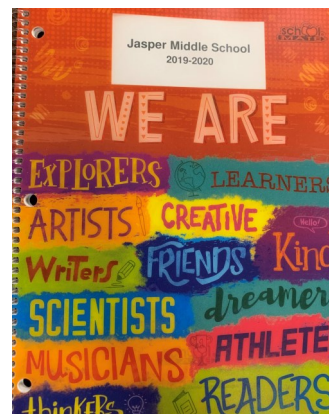


Succeeding in Middle School

Don't you wish the middle school experience came with a manual? There are many ideas of what to do to make the experience better. One thing that makes a big difference is organization. Here are some tips on getting organized in middle school:

Being organized is a B-I-G first step in middle school!

- ◆ When creating a way of staying organized, it must work for the one who is needing it — therefore, let kids have a voice in how they are being organized.
 - ◆ Whatever plan you come up with, stick to it!
- 1) Write assignments down. This is a huge deal. Students are changing classes and working with a team of teachers. Homework increases and while students have the best intentions, forgetting to do something because you didn't write it down can pose problems when the assignment is due.
 - 2) Students are provided with an Agenda at Jasper Middle School. Assignments and homework can be written each day, and students can also write in upcoming things like tests, projects due, etc.
 - 3) Parents are not required to sign the Agenda nightly, but are encouraged to keep an eye on what their students are learning. Newsletters will also contain important, upcoming dates.



****Plan for Long-Term Assignments and Exams:** This is another area where parents can be of great help. Kids don't see "long-term," they see "now." That can prove to be disastrous when it comes to academic success. Those due dates can sneak up and leave a student in a panic that leads to a poor grade because s/he hasn't planned well. Finishing huge assignments last minute and cramming for tests are definitely NOT the way to go!

Source: <http://www.parenttoolkit.com/academics/news/back-to-school/motivating-middle-schoolers-a-parent-s-guide-to-navigating-academics>.

School Websites:

- Harmony: <http://harmonyele.pickens.k12.ga.us>
Hill City: <http://hillcityele.pickens.k12.ga.us>
Tate: <http://tateele.pickens.k12.ga.us/>
JMS: <http://jaspermid.pickens.k12.ga.us/>
PJHS: <http://pickensjr.pickenscountyschools.org/>
PHS: <http://pickenshigh.pickens.k12.ga.us/>

Questions or Suggestions?

**Contact: Destini Shope,
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Email: destinishope@pickenscountyschools.org

Mental Health Matters, too!

When your child comes in from school, one of the first things we ask is, "How was your day?" If it was a good day, we move on. If it was a bad day, we may ask what happened that made it difficult. Then we move on.

It is important for our children to know that we have a genuine interest in how their day went, but it is so much more than that. It gives us a time to hear about challenges, how our children learn to resolve conflicts, and all the positive things that can make a good day great. Take some time over the next few months to create some new questions to help you in asking your child about their day. Steer clear of all yes or no questions; the conversation ends too quickly!

Here are some conversation starters that might help!

- 1) What was your favorite part of the day?
- 2) What made you smile today?
- 3) What are you most grateful for?
- 4) What was your least favorite part of the day?
- 5) Tell me something that made you laugh.
- 6) Did everyone have someone to play with at recess? Who did you play with?
- 7) Who did you sit with at lunch today?



School Counselor SPOTLIGHT

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Have concerns
about your child?
Reach out to their
teacher or
counselor.

School Counselors Work to Build Bright Futures!



Pickens County School District is working hard to grow readers and leaders! One of our goals is to help families be able to help their children in the area of reading. We have included some activities for you to enjoy with your child! Have other ideas? Share those with Destini Shope at destinishope@pickenscountyschools.org.

READ TO ME

It's important to read to your child, but equally important to listen to them read to you. Children thrive on having someone appreciate their developing skills.

What you'll need:

Books at your child's reading level

What to do:

- Listen carefully as your child reads.
- Take turns. You read a paragraph and have your child read the next one or you read half the page and your child reads the other half. As your child becomes more at ease with reading aloud, take turns reading a full page. Keep in mind that your child may be focusing more on how to read the words than what they mean, and your reading helps to keep the story alive.

If your child has trouble reading words, you can help him or her in several ways:

- Ask the child to skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and then say what would make sense in the story for the missing word.
- Guide the child to use what he or she knows about letter sounds.
- Supply the correct word.
- Tell your child how proud you are of his or her efforts and skills.

Listening to your child read aloud provides opportunities for you to express appreciation of his or her new skills and for them to practice their reading. Most importantly, this is another way to enjoy reading

SHOPPING YOUR WAY WITH WORDS

Use your weekly shopping trip as an opportunity to help your child develop reading and writing skills.

What you'll need:

- Paper and pencils
- Newspaper ads
- Supermarket coupons

What to do:

As you make out your grocery shopping list, give your child a sheet of paper and read the items to him or her. If the child asks for spelling help, write the words correctly for him or her to copy or spell the words aloud as your child writes them.

Ask your child to look through the newspaper ads to find the prices of as many items as possible. Your child can write these prices on the list and then look through your coupons to select the ones you can use. Take your child to the supermarket and ask him or her to read each item to you as you shop.



For more fun activities like these, visit our source for ideas:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/25-activities-reading-and-writing->

2019 PICKENS SCHEDULE	
8/16 *	Denmark
8/23	Stone Mountain
9/6	@Pepperell
9/13	@White County
9/20	Chamblee
9/27	@Gilmer
10/4 **	SE Whitfield
10/11	@Heritage
10/18	NW Whitfield
10/25	@Ridgeland
11/1 ***	Lafayette

* Scrimmage ** Homecoming *** Senior Night

It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get back up. - Vince Lombardi



GO DRAGONS!