



March 2018

Timothy Edwards, Principal

Karnesha Lovick, Assistant Principal

Dear Yates Parents & Families,

Yates students in grades 3-5 are busy in their classrooms as they build toward the SOL tests coming in May. Students in grades 2 & 3 recently won the NNPS STEM Engineering Challenge at Newsome Park! Students in all grade levels have worked hard all year and shown much progress in all subject areas, especially in reading. We're very proud of our students and want to commend them for their continued hard work and dedication. Spring Break be April 2nd-6th.

On another note, I will be accepting teacher requests through the end of May with certain guidelines that should be kept in mind. First, while I try to honor as many requests as possible, they cannot be guaranteed in all cases due to the numbers received and other factors that go into balancing classes. Second, a cap will be placed on the number of requests per teacher (maximum of eight per class). Requests received after this point for a teacher may still be possibly considered, but are much less likely to be granted. Third, it is recommended that parents list a second choice for teacher requests and/or include the characteristics of the type of teacher that they feel best fits the needs of their child. Please also keep in mind that teachers may potentially switch grade levels in some cases during the summer.

As always, please let me know if I can help or support you in any way.

Timothy Edwards

Yates Elementary School Principal

Important Dates:

March 2018

- 3/2 Read Across America Day
- 3/5-9 National School Breakfast Week
- 3/6 Marking Period 3 Interims go home-1st-2nd Grade
- 3/8 Helping Hands
- 3/9 Regular School Day for students (Snow Makeup Day)
- 3/11 Daylight Savings Time (Move clocks 1 hour ahead)
- 3/12-16 National Plant Services Week
- 3/13 School Board Meeting-6:30pm
- 3/14 Spring Picture Day
- 3/15 Yates PTA Meeting & 2nd Grade Musical
- 3/20 First Day of Spring
Statewide Tornado Drill
School Board Meeting-6:30pm
- 3/22 Middle School Welcome Night for rising 6th Graders
- 3/24 Family Forum & Resource Fair-Greater Hampton Roads Boys & Girls Club- 12-2pm
- 3/30 Regular School Day for Students (Snow Makeup Day)

KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten students are being challenged to their highest ability to be first grade ready!! In reading we expand our vocabulary through reading aloud and shared reading. We enjoy listening and reading Fairy Tales to comprehend story structure. We retell these stories with flannel boards and props to enhance our ability to communicate effectively. During lunch we look at all the milk, ice cream and snacks that are laid out for us. Wonder how much the school needs to order? That really adds up! After we all eat our snacks, wonder how many are left? We use real life problems every day to add and subtract! It is fun using the number line and manipulatives to add and subtract numbers! We review coins daily so we know how much money we need to buy snacks! After lunch, we go outside in the hot sun. It feels good to go under the shade of a tree! The tree is the object that blocks the light! We are standing under a shadow! Shadows need surface, light and an object! We make silly shadows on the blacktop! We love looking at google maps to see our Earth from a bird's eye view! Exploring with maps in our provocations, we learn about our community! Many kindergarteners bring in water bottles to have during the day. It is important to recycle plastic bottles to conserve our Earth's resources! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle... it's easy to do! J We love to learn about the world around us and how we can make a positive difference by our actions! Kindergarten strives daily to become college, career and citizenship ready! Thanks for all your support!

FIRST GRADE

First Grade is ready for some warm weather and Spring days. We are working hard each day. In math we are learning about fractions (halves and fourths) and equal shares. We are learning to count money and continue to work on problem solving. In science we are learning all about animal classification. We will be researching and writing some fun reports. Please pay careful attention the weather each day as Spring approaches so that your child has the right clothes for the weather. It's always a good idea to pack a jacket or sweater. The weather can be so crazy! Keep reading each night and learning those sight words!

SECOND GRADE

We call the time between February and Spring Break, "The Heart of The School Year". This is when the rigor of the work has increased, and the students are learning new things each day. This is the longest stretch of days without a break. Please make sure to look over the graded papers in the Thursday folder. We have begun our study of geometry and will be learning about solid shapes. Continue to work on mastering two digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. Some students still need additional practice with this skill. We will begin studying fiction again. Also, just as a reminder, please make sure your child is well rested and dressed appropriately for the weather change. We appreciate everything you are doing to help your child be a successful second grader.

THIRD GRADE

We continue to 'March' through third grade. As you've noticed, the expectations continue to increase and we are learning more and more. The books and passages the students are reading are getting longer and their endurance is increasing as they work on tasks. When reading fiction at home, ask your child about the important events, problems, and outcomes in the story. Discuss words that could describe the underlying message, or theme, of the book. At least once a week have them read aloud for you from some type of text. In math we're finishing up with fractions and working on graphing and analyzing the information presented. As you talk with your children, present them with word problems they can solve. Relate them to things you do at home. Look for a letter coming home later this month about possible SOL prep beginning after Spring Break.

FOURTH GRADE

The 4th grade is excited to study the American Revolution and take a field trip to Colonial Williamsburg at the beginning of this month. We have been working with Fractions, and continuing to practice finding evidence and looking close at complex text. Using measuring tools to practice working with fractions at home would greatly benefit them here at school as well. Please continue to read with your child at home nightly. Thank you for all of your support!

FIFTH GRADE

The fifth graders have been learning many things this month. In math, we are adding and subtracting mixed numbers with renaming, and in reading, we are identifying the main ideas of paragraphs and passages. In writing, we are continuing to work on expository writing to explain, give directions, and give reasons to support what we are saying. In science, we are learning about energy, electricity, and sound. Whew, we have been busy. The fifth grade team would like to thank you for having your child read nightly and for having your child review his/her multiplication facts, math skills, and science nightly.

Counselors Corner



Attention:

5th Grade Parents & Students



Middle School is coming!

During the March classroom guidance lessons, I will be talking with the 5th grade students about middle school transition.

I will also be registering them for their middle school related arts classes this month. They will receive a “middle school option sheet” where they choose their related arts class option. It needs to be returned as soon as possible.

The character trait for March is Cooperation: Teamwork; acting together to achieve a common goal.

The following tips may help you develop a family that cooperates and works together toward common family goals:

- Schedule household chores at a time when all members of the family can work together to finish them. Initiate a fun project that involves all family members (a garden, jigsaw puzzle, homemade pizza, etc.).
- Catch your child cooperating (or attempting to cooperate) and offer your encouragement by verbally showing your appreciation; material rewards are not necessary.
- Dinner Discussion: Have each family member share about an experience when a cooperative attitude helped them complete a project on time.
- Dinner Discussion: Remind each other how cooperation in the family keeps things running smoothly. Thank each other for their cooperative spirits. Media
- Discussion: Watch a favorite T.V. show together and discuss whether the main character has a cooperative attitude. Would more cooperation change the outcome of the plot?
- Media Discussion: Discuss cooperation needed when children are playing video games.
- Have a discussion about cooperation in the family. In what ways do you cooperate with each other, and how does that make the family run smoothly? In what ways do you not cooperate enough, and how does that make things difficult or unpleasant?

Make a family cooperation chart and see if you can do something about improving the cooperation within the family. For one week keep a daily record of all the things you do that require cooperation (at home, at school, and everywhere else). At the end of the week give yourself a grade on how cooperative you have been. For every act of cooperation, put a specific dollar amount (\$.10 to \$.25) in a Cooperation Jar. Save the money until there is enough for the family to enjoy a fun activity together.



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ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Getting your Yates Mate to school on time, everyday, helps set the stage for a successful day!

- Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classrooms at 9:05am.
- The front doors are locked at 9:05 am. Please ring buzzer and walk your student to the Main office to sign them in and receive a Tardy pass. Excessive tardiness often lead to academic struggles, so please be sure to have your child at school on time and ready to learn everyday.
- If your child is absent, the absence will be “unexcused” until a note explaining the absence is submitted to the Attendance Secretary.

As per Newport News Public Schools policy and the Code of Virginia laws, a note must be submitted within 5 school days of the student returning to school.

The new focus this year will be addressing excessive absences. The districts goal is to have all student’s miss less than nine days or less per school year.

- Truancy proceedings will take place for excessive tardies and absences.
- Please send in any change of address (proof of residency is needed ie. Utility bill/lease agreement).

You may also email attendance notes directly to our Attendance Secretary at: elizabeth.marshall@nn.k12.va.us

Hello Yates Families! Thank you all for your continued support! We will be looking for new PTA volunteers and Board Members for the next school year. If you are interested in a position or would like to help in any way, please contact me. We need your help in order to succeed! There are many fun activities planned for your students in the next months, to include our annual Spring Dance that will take place in April. Please watch your weekly Thursday Express for further information. I can be reached at amy.slaughter@verizon.net or president@yatespta.org with any questions or concerns.