



NEWS FROM THE GROVE



OGMS Parent Newsletter

Counselor's Corner

Each month, we will feature information or reminders from our principal, counselor, librarian, and other staff members. This month, our counselor Mrs. Carol has some brief information regarding our new state testing.

You may have heard your child referring to the ATLAS test when he or she comes home. The ATLAS test is our new state testing program that is replacing the ACT Aspire. As with any test, we ask that you encourage your child to do their absolute best, get plenty of rest, and eat a good breakfast (we all test in the morning).

We just recently finished the writing component of the test, but we still have a few important test dates that we'd like you to know so that you can mark these on your calendars.

ATLAS Science Interim Test - Thursday, March 14th

ATLAS Summative Test - May 7th, 8th, and 9th

Please make sure your students are here on time on these days, and try to schedule doctor and other appointments for other days that are not testing dates.

To Do:

Download our Paragould App available for iPhone and Android.

If you haven't set up a Rooms account yet, contact your child's homeroom teacher!

From our Office:

If you're making transportation changes, they need to be made before 1:30 pm.

ECLIPSE 2024



We are incredibly excited about the opportunity to be in the path of totality during the April 8 solar eclipse. Please remember that this is a day we will be out of school. We know you may have plans for April 8th in the works, but here are a few things some of our science teachers have suggested to get in the celebratory spirit for the eclipse:

- Go visit the Paragould meteorite at the Paragould Museum!
- Get eclipse-safe glasses from your local Greene County Library (#safety)
- Pick a eclipse-themed snack for the day (moon pies, star crunch cookies, etc) and a safe viewing spot to observe the eclipse!
- Check the Paragould Chamber and DownTown Paragould websites for eclipse events and news!

2024 yearbooks are on sale for a while longer! Order online at www.jostens.com for quick ordering, or through Mrs. Dinkins to reserve your copy!

BUY YOUR Yearbook

Student and Parent Important Reminders



IMPORTANT

Has your child been absent? A note from you or your child's doctor is due within two days of your child's return!



NO SCHOOL
Friday, March 29.



SPRING BREAK
March 18 - 22
Return to school March 25



Report cards come home
Thursday, March 14!

Upcoming Events**March 8**

Last day of 3rd quarter

March 12-13

Donuts with Grownups

March 14

ATLAS Science Interim
AR 3rd Nine Weeks
Celebration
Report Cards Come Home

March 15**Awards Assemblies**

6th grade: 8:45 am

5th grade: 10:00 am

March 18-22

Spring Break

March 25

Return to School!

March 29

NO SCHOOL!

April 1

Edulastic Test #4

April 8

Eclipse Day - NO SCHOOL!

April 8

Family STEM Night 6-7 pm



OGMS appreciates your
help!

March is National Reading Month!

OGMS LOVES helping our students become lifelong readers and learners, and March is just the month to promote such activities.

Here are some things you can do to celebrate at home:

*Find and listen to an audiobook or short story podcast.

*Read a book aloud as a family - take turns reading, or have a specific family member read each night. (Yes, it's **definitely** still okay to read to your middle schooler!)

*Check out our local bookstore and library for great reads! Comic books, graphic novels, chapter books, picture books, audiobooks - it's ALL reading!

Librarian Note:

Next month we start our school-wide read and would LOVE if families read the book with their middle schoolers during this time. We always send home a reading schedule, but we know with sports and music and other after school activities, time every afternoon isn't available. Just keep reading when you can; don't stress about getting behind! We want families to use this school read as a way to bond, discuss, cheer, laugh, or cry over the characters in the book and their shenanigans.

Protect your middle schooler from the downsides of social media

The average middle schooler spends an alarming nine hours a day engaging with social media. And not everyone your child's interacts with online is a real friend. Who has 639 friends in real life anyway?

The US Surgeon General recently issued a warning about the effects of social media use on youth mental health. Since the frontal cortex of the brain (which is in charge of managing distractions and planning ahead) is not well-developed in adolescents, they are vulnerable to the damaging effects of social media, such as sleep loss, distraction and depression.

To protect your middle schooler:

- Talk about privacy. Remind your child not to share personal information online with strangers. Also talk about how nothing posted on social media is private.
- Set limits. Don't allow devices at mealtime or during family time. Keep devices out of your child's bedroom overnight.
- Talk about what is appropriate to post and what's not. If your child wouldn't want the whole world to see it, it's probably not OK.
- Stay connected. Follow your child's social media accounts and make it clear you will look at them.
- Tell your child to come to you about any content that seems upsetting or concerning.
- Create a family account. This lets your middle schooler stay in touch with friends, but in a safer space.

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The district has placed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Parent Notification Forms on our website.

<http://paragould.k12.ar.us> Click on Menu from the top of the district's website, then the ESSA parent notification link for access to these forms. If you would like a copy of the documents feel free to stop by the office.