

CONLEY ELEMENTARY

SPECIAL AREA NEWSLETTER

2023-2024



Email Addresses

PE: vanceb@leonschools.net

smithk8@leonschools.net

Guidance: bryantd@leonschools.net

Music: bennittb@leonschools.net

Art: andersonk6@leonschools.net

Media: baileyc@leonschools.net

BEHAVIOR:

Special Area's behavior expectations are consistent with the rest of the campus: walk safely from place to place, keep hands and feet to yourself, raise your hand and wait to be called upon before speaking or leaving your seat during instruction, follow directions quickly, participate in the lesson, use kind words, and ask for help with challenges.

If your student is having trouble meeting behavior expectations, we will provide them with opportunities to self-reflect, take a break, try a different seat or partner if that is contributing, or to take a time-out in the classroom or in another classroom. If these interventions are not successful, we will contact you to communicate our challenges and strategies for helping them succeed and to ask for your support in getting them back on track. We will also be providing some positive rewards for students who are able to meet behavior expectations, including those who respond well to interventions should they face challenges in adjusting to the rules.

THINGS TO KNOW

Students will rotate through PE, Art, Music, Guidance, and Media weekly and will receive grades in Art, Music and PE. Eighty percent of their grade will be based on their participation in our lessons and meeting behavior expectations. Twenty percent of their grade will be based on their level of mastery of the state standards for specific units. A list of standards can be found at: <https://www.cpalms.org/public/search/Standard>.

POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 14 - 9AM - 5th Grade Winter Concert

February 1 - 9AM - Kindergarten Concert

February 2 - 9AM - 1st Grade Concert

March 6 - 9AM - 3rd Grade Concert

March 7 - 9AM - 4th Grade Concert

March 8 - AM and PM blocks - FIELD DAY

April 4th - 2nd Grade Concert

REWARD DAYS:

We are hosting grade level reward days at the end of each semester which will take place during their special area time (45 minutes or 25 minutes during early release days). If there are students who have not met behavior expectations by the end of each semester, they may be asked to sit out for a portion of that time. Or, in cases where students demonstrate that they aren't ready to play safely, they will sit out for the duration of that day in special area. We will notify parents in advance if your student is at risk of sitting out for a portion of the reward day.



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MUSIC:

In music class, we sing, dance, play instruments, learn about music history and write music using traditional and non-traditional instruments. We will be using Quaver Music as it is the district approved online curricula for all elementary music programs in Leon County. Your child has a student account which you can access from a Quaver tile via ClassLink. When your child clicks the tile for the first time, they will either land on the student dashboard or they will be asked if they already have an account. If they are asked if they already have an account, please select "no" and they will automatically be linked with the student account created by the district. Your child is not required to access Quaver independently or outside the classroom, but they may enjoy playing games, using composition tools, or listening to music between music classes. Each grade level will give a performance at 9AM in the school cafeteria. If you do not want your child to participate for any reason, please email me at bennittb@leonschools.net so I can provide an alternate activity during that time. If you would be willing to volunteer to take photographs, videotape, or hand out programs during the concert, please let me know. I am so excited to share our musical journey with your family this year.

ART:

In art class, we will learn about art from different cultures and time periods, and different ways that students can express their creativity with different kinds of materials. I will be giving out skittles, M&Ms, and/or stickers for good behavior throughout the year so please email me at andersonk6@leonschools.net if your student cannot have candy. I will also display student art around the school throughout the year and twice at the Leroy Collins Public Library, and there will be a few art contests during the year. Students will be notified about these opportunities as they come up and given a choice to submit their artwork or not, and families will be notified if their students' artwork is selected for the public library display or any art contests. If you do not wish for your student's artwork to be displayed outside of school or submitted to contests for others to see, please email me and your student can take their art home instead. If you have any art supplies you would like to donate, feel free to email me for those as well. I would like to make recycled journals and collages with students this year, so if you have any thin cardboard boxes from snacks or other recycled materials, magazines, or patterned paper I would love to use them. I look forward to making beautiful artworks with everyone this year.

GUIDANCE:

In guidance class, we focus on five core competencies, which are inclusive of social awareness, self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Some of the themes that are covered under the five core competencies encourage: a bully free zone, kindness, long-term and short-term goal setting, characteristics of a healthy friendship, calm down strategies, self-control, empathy and sympathy, self-acceptance, active listening, diversity and respect. I am looking forward to an awesome year with your child. Please feel free to reach out if you need me. My email is bryantd@leonschools.net.

PE:

This year in PE we will be focusing on improving our student's fitness and health as well as introducing a few new activities! We will be bringing back our Nutrition and Pedestrian and Bike Safety units but adding in Volleyball, Pickleball, and Footvolley. We will also be doing a new Dance unit this year. Students will learn the different skills needed to perform the various activities while learning basic gameplay strategies as well as cooperative play. Participation is key in PE and we hope to provide some fun and excitement to their school day. We are looking forward to an active school year!

MEDIA:

During the 2023-2024 school year, students will be engaged in learning about book care, parts of a book, authors, and illustrators. They will have an opportunity to create their own books, which will be shared with their families and friends. The students will be able to explore new vocabulary words and meanings. In addition, the 5th grade students will have the opportunity to focus on increasing their understanding of digital literacy, improve their computer skills, and engage in learning safe practices when using online content.

