

Concord Road Panthers R.O.A.R.!

At Concord Road Elementary School, we believe in fostering a respectful environment that nurtures creativity, encourages perseverance, and inspires the motivation to learn.

Concord Road School has been off to a great start! The students are joyful and excited to be together again. This year, we have set two important goals for our school community. First, we will be using our formative data to meet children where they are and support them in an academically rigorous environment. Secondly, we will continue to explore the Culturally Responsive Framework.

We will continue to work on our first goal this month. Classroom teachers will continue targeted, small group instruction that is based on formative assessments. Small group instruction is an opportunity for all teachers to meet the needs of our students by adapting and being responsive in the moment. We have created an intervention block in our daily schedules so teachers have dedicated time to intervene with students who need academic support.

Our second goal is to continue to thoughtfully explore the [Culturally Responsive Framework](#) with our new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion curriculum leader Nanesha Nuñez. We are focusing on what it means to have a welcoming and affirming environment for each and every one of our students. According to the framework, a welcoming and affirming environment feels safe. It is a space where people can find themselves represented and reflected, and where they understand that all people are treated with respect and dignity. The environment ensures all cultural identities are affirmed, valued, and used as vehicles for teaching and learning.

Each month teachers will explore authentic ways to affirm and celebrate the identities of Concord Road students. We invite you to join us by talking to your child(ren) by acknowledging and celebrating all cultures. We are committed to “R.O.A.R. ing” both inside and outside of school. We have designed this memorable acronym to help students learn the value of being **R**espectful, **O**utwardly kind and caring, **A**lways safe, and **R**esponsible.

In September, we had our first zoom school-wide assembly to kick off the school year. During this assembly, we talked about what each of these concepts means and what it can look like throughout the school day by being our best selves. Our community came together to sing the Concord Road song, a moment that always gives me goosebumps!

CRS Panther Updates:

- **RULER** continues to grow at Concord Road School! Classrooms are buzzing with class charters, mood meters, and how to be your best self. RULER is the Social-Emotional program that we have been implementing with our staff and students for the past three years. RULER is a systemic approach that aims to integrate the principles of emotional intelligence. RULER is an acronym that focuses on five skills.
 - **R**-Recognizing emotions in oneself and others by reading facial expressions, body language, or tone of voice;
 - **U**-Understanding emotions by thinking about the causes and how emotions influence our thoughts and decisions;
 - **L**-Labeling emotions by connecting an emotional experience to specific words to describe it;
 - **E**-Expressing emotions means knowing how and when to display emotions depending on who we are with, where we are, and what we are doing;
 - **R**-Regulating emotions by knowing and using effective strategies to manage emotions.
- This month our science department is working with Bash the Trash. They will teach our students about sustainability, the environment, and sound energy through music. Learn more about Bash the Trash and Junk Music [HERE](#).
- Don't forget we have spirit Fridays on the first and second Friday of each month.
- Thank you to our amazing PTA for their ongoing support with the Book Fair!
- As the weather becomes colder it is important to send your child (ren) in warm clothing since we go outside for recess as much as possible. When outdoor recess is not appropriate, students will remain indoors. We are inviting students to donate board games from home. Each class will have its own indoor recess bin! Click [here](#) for the flyer.

Jennifer Darling
Principal

