



Principal's Message

Families,

Happy Spring! Hopefully, the weather will feel like spring soon. We hope you had a terrific break. We missed your kids, and we're glad to be back in action! April will be a productive month. Here's what you need to know:

We are approaching the final quarter of school, which means the end is near (too soon for my taste)! We still have lots to teach until "testing season" begins in May. PTA has awesome activities for families as well. Check out the schedule on the back so that you can mark your calendars.

I want to make a special note of rising *Kindergarten Orientation* on Monday, **April 16 at 1:00**. This is a time when the families of next year's kindergartners come to school to learn about Coates, complete or submit registration paperwork, and spend time in classrooms. It's obviously important to parents who have a 4 or 5 year-old at home, but I need your help even if that does not apply to you—PLEASE share the news with your neighbors. It's so important that our newest stars get registered for school. Our staffing is dependent upon the number of students registered. When families register late in the summer, we run the risk of having to "de-staff" or lose a teacher. Thanks for spreading the word.

We continue to work hard on promoting the Coates Mission in all classrooms. If your child is in grades 3-5, they also have "Ready to Shine" class with Mrs. Mani. Ask them about the tasks they've been working on and how they're learning to be strong individuals (high achievement, responsibility, grit), collaborative teammates (communication skills, empathy) & bold thinkers (risk-takers).

We hope to see as many parents as possible at upcoming PTA events like Movie Night, Chick-Fil-A night, and International Night. Thanks to the many who came out today to support the Fit Run (pictures on Coates Facebook). Thanks for making us the great community we are!

Finally, get ready for *Teacher Appreciation Week* from May 7-11. Think about ways that you can let the teachers know they are valued and appreciated. Besides any personal cards or notes, parents can also publically acknowledge their teachers at the FCPS Cares page: <https://www.fcps.edu/careers/employee-recognition-programs/fcps-cares-program>

As always, thanks for working with us and sharing your children with our staff.

Jesse Kraft, Proud Principal



The Cat in the Hat helps us celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday



The Odyssey of the Mind team perform for the teachers

Contact Coates:

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Mark Your Calendar

April 11—PTA Meeting 6:30pm
April 12— Class & Individual pictures
April 13—PTA Movie Night (Coco!), 6pm
April 13—End of third quarter
April 16—Kindergarten Orientation/Registration, 1pm
April 16 -- Teacher Work Day / Student Holiday
April 25—AAP Parent Orientation *(only for parents of students found eligible for Level 4 services)*, 6pm
April 26—Quarter 3 Progress Reports Sent Home
April 30—PTA Family Night Out—Chick-Fil-A

Looking Ahead to May

(SOL Testing Schedule Below)

May 7-11—Teacher Appreciation Week!
May 18—PTA International Night

Parents,

If you buy any food products with a **Box Tops for Education** logo, please cut out the logo and send it into school with your child. If we collect enough box tops, we can cash them in for money for school! There's a place to deposit Box Tops in the lobby!



SOL Testing Schedule for Gr. 3-6

The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests are required in grades 3-6 in reading and mathematics. Grades 4 & 5 have additional tests. SOL test score reports will be sent home on the final day of school. SOL tests do not determine if the student will be promoted to the next grade level, but overall school performance determines each school's accreditation.

May 14 Gr 6 Reading	May 21 Gr 6 Math	
May 15 Gr 5 Reading	May 22 Gr 5 Math	May 29 Gr 4 VA History
May 16 Gr 4 Reading	May 23 Gr 4 Math	May 30 Gr 5 Science
May 17 Gr 3 Reading	May 24 Gr 3 Math	

Some students who barely miss the passing score may be eligible for a one-time retake. The school will be in touch with you if your child is in this situation. This testing schedule is also on the Coates website at <https://coateses.fcps.edu/event/sol-testing>

Are there any other big tests at the end of the year?

Yes. K-6th grade students will take the iReady assessment in reading and math in mid-May or June. This is a new screening assessment in all FCPS schools. As usual, teachers in grades K-5 will also give their students the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) at the end of the year to determine their current reading levels. The DRA helps us see growth this year and helps next year's teachers know the right level of challenge to provide in August.