

Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School



Parent Newsletter

December 6, 2018

Principal's Message

Families,

Can you believe it's December already? I'm not sure where the time went, but I can tell you that we have been using it well!

Our teachers are moving through the FCPS curriculum and enhancing it so that we go beyond the standards of learning (SOLs). We do this wherever we see an opportunity to accomplish the Coates Mission, which demands that we push our students to be strong individuals (high achievement, personal responsibility, grit), collaborative teammates (empathy + communication skills), and bold thinkers (risk-taking). Below are a few examples of how we work to use the school day to teach these life skills to all of our kids:

- In math class, all teachers have a rigorous curriculum that includes opportunities to stretch students' thinking. At Coates we also double-down on problem solving! At least weekly, we give students "open-middle" problems (google it!). This regular exposure to meaty problems pays off when we have quarterly performance tasks (large, complex problems or scenarios which have multiple pathways to a correct outcome (and more pathways to incorrect outcomes!). These are a real test of stamina (grit) and teamwork (when kids can work with partners/groups).
- In "specials" classes, we make the connection to the Coates Mission regularly. Try singing in harmony in music class, or strategizing how to score in handball in PE without collaborative teamwork. Art is a constant exercise in bold thinking as students find their creativity. Some grades go regularly to the Ready to Shine lab where they face games and challenges that were designed with the mission in mind. In the computer lab, we work on challenges like the Hour of Code. Kudos to our specials team for innovating especially ambitious projects and challenges for our 3rd graders last month during their "Ready to Shine" week.
- One thing the Coates Mission calls for is the teaching of empathy. As you know, all Coates teachers are committed to the Positivity Project this year. We continue to use regular class meeting times to explicitly teach and promote specific character strengths as a school. Appreciation, Kindness, Integrity, etc. are part of the Coates experience, and the idea that other people matter is a constant theme around here!
- As principal, I've been watching our teachers do their part to make their instruction match the mission, and it inspired me to do something new. Starting last week, I began teaching a series of lessons to all students in grades 4-6 on public speaking skills. The "Talk Like a Boss" class is an effort to give them the communication skills that will transcend their learning of the SOLs and have real life applications.
- And...there are so many other examples of our teachers striving to do bigger things for your kids. This list barely scratches the surface. Watch Coates Facebook for an ongoing display of examples!

I share this hoping that you, as a parent, will also promote and model these ideas at home. If you have a story about when you wanted to give up, but showed grit instead, tell it to your child. If you have to use communication skills or take risks at work, talk about it with your family. Your examples serve as models for your family. We can work together to make the Coates Mission a reality for our kids.

As always, thanks for sharing your kids with us.

Jesse Kraft, Proud Principal of Coates ES

Contact Coates:

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Message from PTA

Coates Family,

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold and joined us for an amazing Movie Night on November 16th. We truly appreciate the Gentlemen’s Club and the male volunteers who coordinated the event for us.

Before the movie, we held a brief PTA meeting and we are so excited our membership voted to cover the cost of a cultural arts assembly for our students! We also voted to provide \$2,250 from our Fall Festival proceeds to the overall cost of field trips for both the 4th and 6th Grades. It is an honor to provide these additional benefits to our school community.

We were also so grateful to see so many families come out for Chick-Fil-A night this past Monday. We should have a check from the restaurant soon, and it’ll be reflected in our next budget.

We hope you have a great winter break. Happy Holidays!

Yours In Service,

Ms. Tisha Bowman

Coates PTA President, coatesptapresident@gmail.com

Advanced Academics Info Session

Monday, 12/10

9:30-10:30

Coates Cafeteria

Presented by Mrs. Mani, Advanced Academics Resource Teacher

This is a repeat of the presentation Ms. Mani gave at an evening session in October. Learn about how FCPS provides AAP services and the screening and eligibility process for students to be provided services. The FCPS deadline for parent applications for “Level 4” services is Jan. 10. If you did not attend the last session or cannot attend this one, Mrs. Mani can help you. Contact her at jtmani@fcps.edu



Mark Your Calendar

December 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Spirit Night Chick-Fil-A 5-8pm Kindness Week	4	5	6	7
10 AAP Parent Coffee 9:30am Humility Week	11	12	13	14 Students dismissed at 1pm
17 Self-Control Week	18 Winter Chorus Concert 7PM	19	20	21
24 Winter Break Office Closed	25 Winter Break Office Closed	26 Winter Break Office Closed	27 Winter Break Office Closed	28 Winter Break Office Closed
31 Winter Break Office Closed	Jan 1 Winter Break Office Closed	Jan 2 Winter Break Office Open 9-1:00	Jan 3 Winter Break Office Open 9-1:00	Jan 4 Winter Break Office Open 9-1:00

Jan. 11—PTA Movie Night
Jan. 18– 3 hour early release

Jan 21 — Martin Luther King Holiday (No School)
Jan 25 —Teacher Workday (No School)