

Principals' Notes

April 16, 2025

A bi-weekly update of information between Principals' Notes
Find Lunch Menus, forms, information and more on our website

www.champion.org/ccs

North Campus Phone: 724-593-9200

South Campus Phone: 724-455-2122

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve." *1 Corinthians 15:3-5*

Easter Break

Today is a half day for students. We will return to school on April 22nd. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless you and your family over Easter and that you might find the hope of the Resurrection in a new way in your lives! If you are looking for a church home, there are many Bible believing churches in our area that would love to have you be a part of their family!

Achievement Testing

Achievement tests will be starting when we return. Students in grades K-11 should eat breakfast or a snack and have a good night's sleep so they are ready to try their best. These are important assessments, but remember they go along with lots of other assessments that teachers make to help us work with you to chart the best path forward educationally for your child.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

Attention Parents! The week of May 5th – May 9th is Teacher and Staff Appreciation week. Ms. Jen Pizer, on behalf of PTF, is coordinating the event this year. If you are willing to help provide treats, light meals, thank you cards, treat bags, etc. to thank the teachers and staff, please contact Ms. Jen at jen_pizer@champion.org to sign up for a day and a campus. Thanks!

CCS Chapel with Brent Vernon & his pal Sam

Brent will be coming to CCS on Monday, May 5th at 9:30am!! He will have his materials available to purchase so send money along with your students. Everyone is welcome to attend!

CPR/First Aid Class – April 26th

We have CPR/First Aid class with the American Heart Association scheduled Saturday, April 26, 2025. We have openings! The time for the class would be from 8am to 4pm. If you need Pediatric CPR/First Aid for certification and/or basic life support, then this class is for you. The cost of the class is \$65. Matt Dean is the instructor for the class. Please contact one of the offices to sign up, or email info@champion.org.

School Choice Rally in Harrisburg – May 6th

We are inviting 10th-12th grade students to join us on a bus trip to see the Capital in Harrisburg and participate in a School Choice Rally. Tuesday, May 6th, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Organized by PA Families for Education Choice, the rally celebrated the voices of students, families, and educators who support educational options for all. The event highlighted the impact of school choice on over 400,000 children and featured student, parent, and legislative

speakers. Please email Coach Trevor this week when you know if your child plans to stay in school that day or take the trip with us. We would be leaving at 6:30 am and hopefully be back around regular dismissal time. Bring money for a stop for lunch on the way back through.

BLOOD DRIVE - MAY 7th

Our North Campus will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on **Wednesday, May 7** from **12:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.**

For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call **724-593-9200** or sign up online at **redcrossblood.org**.

The Christian Family & Children's Center is committed to strengthening our community through blood donations. These blood drives are our way of giving staff, colleagues and neighbors an opportunity to help save lives.

Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors. With someone in the U.S. needing blood every two seconds, blood products must be constantly replenished, according to the Red Cross.

We urge community members to donate blood and help ensure that patients in local hospitals have a supply of blood ready and waiting before an emergency occurs. There's no better feeling than knowing that your blood donation may give someone a second chance at life!

According to the Red Cross, donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. **Hope to see you in May!**

Graduation Balances

We are eagerly anticipating the end of the school year and one of our favorite events – graduation. This event is a celebration of your child's growth, learning, and experience. The 2024-2025 graduation will be Thursday, May 29, 2025, in our gymnasium. For your child to participate in graduation, your Simple Tuition Solutions (STS) account must be paid in full by May ---28, 2025. Please check your account and contact Elaine if you have any questions about your balance 724-593-9200 x102.

Wellness Policy Review

The wellness committee at CCS is in the process of reviewing our Wellness Policy. As a part of this process, we encourage lots of input into and around that policy. Take a minute to review the draft of this newest policy which is located at:

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/menu/forms/wellnesspolicy.pdf>. Please feel free to email info@champion.org any thoughts or comments or suggestions on how to improve this process.

Our next meeting is Wednesday April 16th at 1 PM and we are going to review any suggestions or changes/additions to the policy at that time. The meeting will be at North Campus if you would like to attend, or you may attend virtually. Please email info@champion.org to let us know if you plan on doing that, and we will send out the link to the meeting. Thank you in advance for your help with this important process.

Financial Aid for Next Year

The financial aid application for 2025-26 is now open on STS. Login to STS, go to the home page, choose new financial aid application, 2025-26, enter code 24110 for CCS. Please don't wait to complete your financial aid application. Contact Val val_varesio@champion.org if you have any questions. Thank you!

Year End Trip

The permission form for our Elementary year end trip has been sent home. Please complete and return or upload the form on iChampion asap. Feel free to call Mrs. Lane if you have any questions.

ALLOUTPRAISE IS BACK!

Save the date for July 19th – ALLOUTPRAISE! Is back for 2025. It will be in the gym at our North Campus. We are excited to announce that Jason Gray is headlining the concert this year and we already have many local worship bands excited to join.

If you would like to help volunteer this day to help with ticket tracking, merchandise or be a part of this incredible day of worship in anyway, let us know at info@champion.org

Library

This week's selection is "**The Geology Book**" by Dr. John D. Morris, which offers a fascinating exploration of Earth from a Christian perspective. Part of the *Wonders of Creation* series, this nonfiction book delves into the unique design of our planet, detailing its interior, surface features, and geological processes like rock formation, erosion, and fossilization. It also covers powerful natural forces such as earthquakes and volcanoes, as well as major historical events including Creation, the Flood, and the Ice Age. In contrast to secular science, this book provides a Biblical viewpoint on the Earth's past and concludes with a vision of the New Earth as described in 2 Peter and Revelation.

Our library offers a wide range of engaging and informative nonfiction books like this one, perfect for those seeking to explore the world through a thoughtful, faith-based lens!

For more information about our library and available books to check out, please visit our website http://champion.org/center_drupal/library/. Our library is open to the community and books can be reserved online for pickup. If you need assistance creating an account or checking out a book, please call our office at (724) 593-9200. We have books suitable for all, from preschool tots to adults!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Brent Vernon & his pal Sam in Concert (He will be doing Chapel at CCS)

(Singer, Songwriter, Ventriloquist, Author-Illustrator)

May 4th during evening service at 6pm

A special event for the whole family!

Indian Creek Baptist Church in Mill Run

Brent will be coming to CCS for Monday, May 5th at 9:30am!! He will have his materials available to purchase so send money along with your students. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Camp Allegheny

Open House & Community Day

May 18th 2-6pm

For families, individuals, groups, youth groups, church groups. Minors (under 18) must be supervised by an adult.

Fun camp activities, free picnic (2-5:30pm), pony rides, archery, pond boats, climbing wall, and more.

RSVP Required for groups 10+

Email info@campallegheny.org or call 814-754-5122

FAMILY RESOURCES

Read Scripture as a Family this Holy Week

With the height of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Holy Week begins. As a family, follow along with Scripture, thought provoking conversation, and meaningful activities to deepen the impact of God's grace through His Resurrection.

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/family-reading-of-scripture/>

CHILD CARE ROUNDUP

For April, we will be working on spring themes such as flowers, baby animals, flowers and we will be talking about Easter and Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.

There is a snack signup sheet posted on the door.

**We are so proud of all our childcare students that are working so hard on potty training! Keep up the good work!

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS:

April 16: Easter party

April 17-21: Center closed for Easter

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO ENHANCE LEARNING AT HOME:

1. Spring is here! We are learning about spring weather, by talking and exploring the trees, flowers birds etc. Teach your children how to dress for the weather. Talk about changes we will begin to see with the trees, grass, rain, the wind, etc. Ask your child if they notice anything different outside? Is it windy, rainy, or sunny?
2. Go outside to play every opportunity you get. Enjoy the rain with rain boots and rain jackets! Kids love puddle jumping!
3. Make a special time to read with your child each day. Ask them questions as your reading. Find books they enjoy. Here are two a great article on language development:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/young-children-s-oral-language-development>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/activities/articles/reading-tips-parents-babies>

4. Encourage your child to read a story to you that you have read to them often. Help your child to look at the picture to tell you something about the story. Praise your child for a job well done.
5. Find ways to incorporate math each day, count snacks as you give them to your child, count your fingers, count to play hide and seek, etc. Here is an insightful article on supporting your child's math skills:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/publication/supporting-math-skills-infants-toddlers>

6. Encourage your young toddler to sit on the potty. Establish a time that they sit on the potty each day before bedtime.
7. Talk about healthy habits such as brushing teeth, eating healthy foods, and spending time outside daily.
8. Read scripture to your child often. Let them see you reading the Bible. Ask them questions about the story and share how it helps us to know and love God more.

9. Pray with your child. Let them hear you talk to the Lord, encourage them to try to participate in prayer with you.

MISCELLANEOUS INFO:

- If your child has a fever or rash, we ask that you keep your child at home and visit the pediatrician before returning to childcare.
- Please make sure all blankets, sippy cups, snacks, bags, etc., are labeled with the child's name.
- We aim to play outside each day, please make sure your child has clothes that can get dirty, or clothes they can change into.

We are so thankful for your families. Feel free to reach out to us at any time with any questions or concerns!

Contact Us:

E-mail – regina_glunt@champion.org, mandy_reed@champion.org,
merle_skinner@champion.org, Monica_Zufall@champion.org

North Campus phone - (724) 593-9200 ext. 107

PRESCHOOL NEWS

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"
John 11:25-26

Happy Spring Preschool Parents!

It's dandelion season as I like to call it and with that, it's the last two months of school as well! It's such an exciting time with picnics, fieldtrips, parties, and graduation! That said, there will be lots of information, important events and dates, sign-ups, and permission forms. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY TO STAY UP TO DATE, PARTICIPATE WITH YOUR CHILD, AND ENJOY THE LAST TWO MONTHS OF SCHOOL.

Lots of important information and forms will be going home Thursday and Friday this week. There will also be a sign-up sheet at both campuses for spring developmental testing. ALL STUDENTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN THESE SCREENINGS SO PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN-UP FOR A SCREENING SLOT. THANKS!

Announcements, Information, and Reminders

April Early Dismissal Fridays: Many of you have asked about early dismissal days. Here are the early dismissal days in April: Wednesday, April 16. The early dismissals in May are Friday, May 2nd and Friday, May 30th.

Easter Events: We have a very busy few weeks of school coming up with the Easter holiday. Praise God for His love poured out for us on Calvary! What a great time to celebrate!

Preschool Developmental Testing: It's screening season as we move into the last two months of school and the children will be transitioning in kindergarten or their second year of preschool this coming fall. These screenings are required as they will provide us with valuable information about your child's progress, etc. These screenings are developmentally appropriate

and range in time from 15 minutes to 30 minutes for older children. There are sign-up sheets at each classroom or you can sign-up directly with myself. Please be sure to sign-up!

CCS Spring Concert: The preschool children will be participating in the spring concert on Friday, April 25th at 7:00 PM at our gym at North Campus! Kiddos should arrive no later than 6:30 PM. Please feel free to invite family and friends!

Preschool/Elementary Pittsburgh Orchestra Field Trip: On Wednesday, May 7th, we will be heading to Pittsburgh to Heinz Hall to hear the Pittsburgh Orchestra's presentation "Meet the Orchestra". Parents are encouraged to attend with their child. This field trip is open to all of preschool. There will be a small transportation fee associated with this field trip. The concert is free. More information and the permission form will be coming soon. If your child does not attend the field trip, there is NO preschool that day. Thanks!

Upcoming Important Events & Dates

(More information to come closer to events.)

Wednesday, April 16th – Resurrection Chapel; Early Dismissal

Thursday, April 17th – Monday, April 21st – NO SCHOOL – Happy Easter!

Friday, April 25th – Spring Concert

Friday, May 2nd – Early Dismissal

Wednesday, May 7th – Pittsburgh Orchestra Field Trip

Tuesday, May 27th & Wednesday, May 28th – Classroom Summer/Goodbye Parties

Thursday, May 29th – Graduation; NO PRESCHOOL TODAY!

Friday, May 30th – Pittsburgh Zoo End of Year Field Trip

Preschool Celebration Picnic to be scheduled

Center & School Calendar: You can view the school & Center calendar to stay up to date on school dismissals, closings, & events by going to www.champion.org/calendar. You can choose the calendars you wish to view on the left side under Shared Calendars. Checkmark the ones you want to view, and they will populate on the calendar for you. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE CHECKING THE CALENDAR OFTEN FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. 😊

Contact Me:

E-mail – jen_pizer@champion.org

North Campus phone - (724) 593-9200 ext. 149

South Campus phone - (724) 455-2122 ext. 107

Cell - (814) 521-8209

Ms. Jen

Head Preschool Teacher

Elementary Music Director

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Report Cards

Please let your child's teacher know if you are planning to come in for a report card meeting this Friday afternoon. We will also be happy to schedule online meetings or a phone call if schedules are tight. Report cards should also be posted online early next week. If you were unable to come in last time, please make sure you touch base this quarter!

Attendance and Excuses

Don't forget to send excuses when your child(ren) miss school.

Primary Fair Presentations

Projects should be turned in by Monday, April 28th. The students will be presenting their projects on Wednesday, April 30th.

Kindergarten

Hello, Kindergarten Families! This year is just flying by!!! I cannot believe it is already Easter break. Thank you so much to the ones that sent in snacks and games and party stuff!! We had a great day!! Thank you so much to Brianna, she has been such a great help with every party!!

I am sending home copies of each child's primary fair. Please practice each page and encourage them to be clear and well expressed. Continue reviewing and practicing concepts with your child. After the break we will begin testing, so please make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and ready for their day at school.

We are also enjoying the warmer days, hopefully the next few days will be beautiful.

- Kindergarten is hard at work practicing their primary fair presentations. We welcome any parent, friend, or family that would like to see them present. Make sure they have their display stuffed animal or something to show representing their animal the day of the presentation. The primary fair will be April 30th.
- In phonics we have been concentrating on blends, such as bl, ch, st, th. Blends have been a tough new concept, so as you go through the week and see signs with different letters they can blend, point it out to your child and practice them.
- In math we have been writing and counting numbers to 100. Keep practicing counting and writing numbers. We almost have it down!!
- In Bible we have been learning about the real reason for Easter. Thanks to Ms. Jen, we all have new resurrection eggs to help us retell the story. Please allow your child to share this with you!!
- In Science we have been learning about spring and plants. After break we will be planting seeds. If you would like to send any cool seeds or dirt in for us to plant, any would be appreciated.

Primary fair: April 30th

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out! You can:

- ☐ Call me at **724-455-2122 x108**
- ☐ Email me at tami_skavang@champion.org
- ☐ Call or text me at **(814) 442-9319** Or simply send a note in your child's binder.

First and Second Grade

I have sent home the facts your student has chosen to focus on for their primary fair presentation. Students will want to practice reading their facts at home to work on their presentation. We do not have much time to do this with a break, so this will have to be a focus at home. I sent home the materials for those who want to make display boards. Please make sure their Bible verse is displayed on their boards. Primary fair is coming up at the end of the month.

1st Grade

Reading/Phonics/Spelling: We finished up chapter 19 spelling test last week. We are not starting our next chapter of reading and spelling until we come back from Easter break. We have been doing practice testing this week.

Math: We will be getting ready for our addition with double digit numbers test hopefully before break. Then we will move on to double digit subtraction after Easter break. The students are doing well with it. Please keep working on practicing adding and subtracting at home. Practicing flashcards to help students learn to memorize their facts.

2nd Grade Math and ELA

We have our test on Monday over Unit #28. The students have their list written in their assignment books. In reading class, we have begun our third reader. We have been working hard on our projects this week.

We are borrowing with subtraction in Math and will have a test next week. This skill is bit tricky for most.

1st and 2nd Bible

We have been focusing on the true meaning of Easter and the Easter story.

1st and 2nd Unit – Science

We are just finishing up our chick unit. We hatched 9 chicks and have had so much fun along the way. We will be moving onto a new unit once we return from break.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Contact information

Please email at belinda_lane@champion.org or kristy_simmons@champion.org Feel free to write a quick note in your child’s assignment book. We are not always available to check email or phone during the day but will check your messages and get in touch with you asap. If you have a timely situation, please ask the office staff to tell us right away, and we will do our best to pick up or call back. Mrs. Lane’s cell phone number is 724-320-5277. Mrs. Simmons can also be reached at the school, through DoJo or 443-206-9191.

Third & Fourth Grade

This past week we spent time each day learning about what Jesus was experiencing leading up to his death and resurrection on the cross. If you can, keep talking to your kids at home, it is so important that each one recognizes the significance of what Jesus did for each of us.

Students are continuing their work on primary fair topics. We are starting to practice in class.

Some things that you can work on at home with your student are multiplication, spelling words, and Bible verses. There are also educational videos and links on iChampion!

Third Grade Math: Third graders are working on multiplication in school. Please work on fact families 1-8 at home. Students just finished a test on counting money, their next chapter is on polygons, solid figures, similar and congruent shapes.

Fourth Grade Math: Fourth graders are reviewing multiplication. Please review multiplication facts at home. Students have been working on adding and subtracting mixed numbers, please work on this with them at home, it has been particularly challenging for most of them.

Third Grade Spelling: No spelling this week, we will pick up with unit 34 the week after Easter break.

Fourth Grade Spelling: No spelling this week, we will pick up with unit 34 the week after Easter break.

Handwriting: Students are beginning to write Bible verses in cursive!

Grammar: We are learning about pronouns!

Writing: We are working on primary fair projects.

Reading Group A: Reading group A is reading and learning about informational text.

Reading Group B: Reading group B is reading learning about myths in different cultures.

History: Students are learning about Clara Barton. Students will be getting ready for a test after Easter break.

Science: Students are starting a new unit on waves. They will be learning about forms of energy that are transferred through waves such as light and sound.

Bible: This past week we focused on Jesus, his death and resurrection.

CONTACT: I love hearing from you! Feel free to e-mail me: mandy_reed@champion.org or call classroom phone 724-455-2122 x109 or cell: 724-989-1741

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SCOOP

Attendance and Excuses

Don't forget to send excuses when your child(ren) miss school.

Social Studies Fair

Projects were due April 14, presentations started Monday and go until completion, or 16th.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

We need to move the MSHS parent teacher meetings because of the trip coming back to this date. Elementary will keep this day but MSHS teachers will be contacting parents about a new date.

CCS Online

Be sure students are checking and completing all iChampion activities by the due dates. If they are turned in late that will result in points being taken off. These activities make up a large portion of students' grades. Students and parents can review their current grade averages on iChampion as well.

Middle School Trip

Middle school students and teachers will be visiting the Ark and Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky on May 8th and 9th. Any parents who would like to attend, please email

dean_pizer@champion.org asap so I have an idea of how many tickets to purchase.

Thank you!

High School Trip

May 21st and 22nd

Language Arts Classes

5th/6th Grade

We are learning about verbs in English and writing an essay on the theme "The Best Season of All." In literature, we are reading a new novel together, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.

7th/8th Grade

We are learning about various phrases, including prepositional phrases, adjectival phrases, and adverbial phrases, and how to expand and improve sentences using these phrases. Students

have begun working on a problem and solution essay. In literature we are reading the novel, *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck.

The American Novel 11/12

Students are reading and analyzing major works by American authors. All students are reading **The Giver** by Lois Lowry. Activities include extensive plot development techniques and plot mapping as well as special projects chosen by the students.

Elements of Literature 9/10

We are tackling such topics as sound and syntax, allusion and symbol, irony, and imaginative comparisons in various genres of literature, including drama, poetry, and short stories. We are finishing up Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* in class. Our next novel we will read is *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane.

Science

5/6 Science

The students did a great job with their cell models! We are now studying plant and animal classification. Ask your students what they have learned.

Geometry

Shapes, Logic, and Proofs, oh my!

Math

5/6 Math with Mrs. Marker @ tiarrah_marker@champion.org

Started Geometry introduction with angles, rays, lines, and line relationships. Will be reviewing types of angles, triangles and circular degrees before going into Polygons when we get back from break. Have an extremely Happy Resurrection Day!

Pre-Algebra

We are entering the chapter on rational numbers. Ask your student what they are.

Email the Middle/High School teachers anytime: middleschoolstaff@champion.org and highschoolstaff@champion.org

Phil 1:9-10 "And this is my prayer that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."